

Sept. 6, 2018

Special Town Board Meeting

Present: Supervisor Edward Bender, Councilman Marty Mason, Councilman Dan Wiley, Councilman Alan Wood

Absent: Councilman Paul Aubertine

Supervisor Bender called the meeting to order at 6pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Supervisor Bender said that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss land purchases. Supervisor Bender made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6pm, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members present voted AYE.

Councilman Mason made a motion to come out of Executive Session and resume the meeting at 6:05pm, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #43

Resolution #43 was moved by Councilman Mason, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #43 is for the purchase of two parcels located in the Village of Cape Vincent along Club Street as part of the LWRP Club Street project. The board wishes to make a purchase offer of \$60,000.00 for tax parcel 39.81-1-65.1 and a purchase offer of \$120,000.00 on tax parcel 39.81-1-64.1.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Supervisor Bender asked Debra Wood if she would address the board regarding the Assessor vacancy. She said that at this time she is busy gathering data from permits that have been issued, and visiting the areas where roads will be closed for the winter. Debra told the board that she feels that having an Assessor work one day a week will not benefit the town at all.

Councilman Wiley said that he would like to address the re-evaluation issues and asked her if she felt that dividing the town into zones would help. He said that he and Councilman Aubertine felt that dividing the town into zones and doing a re-evaluation of a different zone each year would make it easier. Debra said that the revalue was done in 2015 and that the town is maintaining a 100% equalization rate. She said that she is collecting new inventory for updates. Debra said that she does not think that dividing the town into zones would work. She felt it was not a fair way to do a revalue, especially when the town is already at 100%. She said that the State will notify the town when assessments seem to be down. She also explained that dividing into zones won't work for revalue as comparable are important for grievance.

Councilman Mason asked about the STAR program and she said that the laws are changing and soon the Assessor will not be involved with the STAR program. She also explained the Enhanced STAR program. Supervisor Bender asked Debra if she felt the system was working fine and she said yes. Supervisor Bender said that he feels if it isn't broke, don't fix it.

The board discussed interviewing the candidates for the Assessor vacancy and they will interview next week and hire at the Sept. 20, 2018 meeting.

Councilman Wiley told the board that he spoke with Attorney Russell regarding the Environmental Assessment form for the Club Street project. He will complete phase one of this form. Councilman Mason said they need to check for asbestos. The board discussed hiring a company that would help to determine what is in the buildings the board wishes to purchase for the project.

Supervisor Bender told the board that he met with a representative from Hosteling International to review expenditures at Tibbetts Point. Supervisor Bender said that the bottom line is Hosteling International is losing more money than the town. There was discussion on what options the board has for the property, and what they can do if either party wants out of the contract. Councilman Wiley reminded the board that they are working on a bike trail and that the Hostel may attract visitors on bikes. Councilman Wood suggested leasing the houses in exchange for work to be done on them.

Councilman Wiley said that he understands that there have been some troubles with the new phone system. He said that he talked with the town clerk and got a little background. Michelle Bouchard spoke to the board about the issues. Councilman Wiley said that he is glad to know the issues and feels that perhaps the decision to put in the new system was done to hastily. Councilman Wood agreed. The board would like to correct the issues and make it right for everyone. Supervisor Bender said that he will contact the sales representative to see if some of the issues can be resolved.

Councilman Mason made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm. All members present voted AYE.

Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk