

March 16, 2020

Regular Town Board Meeting

* THIS MEETING WAS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC BECAUSE OF THE CORONAVIRUS - UNDER THE DIRECTION OF GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO, MEETINGS CAN BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS - THEY MAY BE LIVE STREAMED*

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

Supervisor Bender opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

There was no privilege of the floor.

The minutes of the February 20, 2020 meeting were accepted by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

The Supervisor's Financial Report was reviewed.

Councilman Wood made a motion to accept the Supervisor's Financial Report, seconded by Councilman Mason. All members voted AYE.

Supervisor Bender told the board that they need to discuss the contract with Scott Burto for Grant Writing services. He told the board that the contract is due for renewal and that he has talked with Mr. Burto, who will be happy have the contract continue the same as last year.

Councilman Wood said that he had a problem with the contract paying out a percentage to Mr. Burto when a grant is awarded; he believes it should be when the grant funds are received. He said Mr. Burto now receives a percentage of the grant award, and it may be years before the town receives any funds.

Councilman Mason said that he agreed with this, as the town is paying out a large amount of money to Mr. Burto, and the town has not received the money yet.

Councilman Wiley said he believes that if the grant is awarded, he should be paid. He said that Mr. Burto has done the work, the grants are approved; he has done his job and should be paid. Councilman Wiley said that he feels Mr. Burto is doing a good job, and he does not want to have the board drag their feet.

Councilman Wood said that he believes Mr. Burto should not be paid if the grant money does not come to the town within two years.

Councilman Wiley said that if Mr. Burto does not do a good job, then the board could let him go, and he would be out of a job.

The board discussed Mr. Burto's job performance and agreed they are happy with what he has done to date for the town.

Councilman Aubertine also said that he feels Mr. Burto should be paid when the funds are dispersed.

The board discussed Mr. Burto's liability policy, saying that they would like to see the policy.

Councilman Wood said that he would like to shorten the contract period to six months.

Councilman Aubertine said that he does not like that idea because it would disrupt the momentum.

Councilman Wood made a motion to extend the contract with Scott Burto for one year as long as the board receives a copy of his liability policy, within 45 days, in particular, that the town would be reimbursed for money they paid out, if the grant monies are not administered, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Aubertine said that he would like to remind the board that, through no fault of anyone, New York State has pulled grants.

Supervisor Bender said that he feels Mr. Burto has put in a lot of work on the grants for the town.

Resolutions

Resolution #22

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to table Resolution #22, stating he feels it contains a lot of subjective opinions. He said that he agrees that New York is a Home Rule State, but feels the resolution is worded with a lot of opinions, seconded by Councilman Wood.

There was the following discussion.

Councilman Wiley said that he would like the resolution to be about Home Rule across the board. He said that no one wants to give up home rule.

Councilman Wood said that he would like to have community response.

Councilman Wiley said that he would like to have a motion for the resolution to be written differently and passed at this meeting.

Councilman Aubertine withdrew his motion to table Resolution #22.

Councilman Wood made a motion to move Resolution #22, seconded by Councilman Mason.

Resolution #22

Requesting the Withdrawal of the state Budget's Energy Siting Amendment

WHEREAS, New York State is a Home Rule State, which basically means that any and all powers of the State emanate from the people of the Local Municipalities, AND

WHEREAS, all Village, Town, Cities and Counties with in the State are all treated equally with respect to our Home Rule rights, NOW BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town of Cape Vincent formally requests this budget amendment be withdrawn before the budget is voted on.

All members voted AYE.

Resolution #23

Resolution #23 was moved by Councilman Mason, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #23 is to authorize the Highway Superintendent to enter into a contract with RMS Gravel, Inc. for the purpose of screening a total of 8,000 US Ton to make 3/8" minus sand, and that the board accepts the price quote of \$4.00 per US Ton.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #24

Resolution #24 was moved by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. Resolution #24 is to agree that the Transfer Site extend its winter hours of operation until further notice because of the recent employee work restriction implemented by the Governor because of Covid-19.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Aubertine said that he has had a request from a resident in water district #2 for a new Sensus meter, and he asked Councilman Mason if this could be done. Councilman Mason said yes, he thought it would be easy enough for Keith Brass to do.

Councilman Wiley said that the old ambulance has been donated to the County to be used as a mobile Covid-19 testing vehicle. He said that the ambulance squad had gowns and masks and they have restricted anyone to go downstate and if they do, they will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days.

Councilman Mason said that the Village of Cape Vincent has asked if the town has money budgeted for LDC. Councilman Wiley said that the town did not have a budget line for this but agreed to give \$20,000.00 to the LDC.

The board discussed what actions should be taken to keep the employees safe from the Coronavirus pandemic. They also discussed regulations being set in place by Governor Cuomo.

Councilman Wood made a motion to close all town buildings to the public effective immediately, until further notice, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members voted AYE.

Bills

Councilman Wiley made a motion to approve the payment of the vouchers, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to adjourn at 7:25pm.

Michelle Bouchard, RMC - Town Clerk