

June 18, 2020

Regular Town Board Meeting

Present: Supervisor Edward Bender, Councilman Alan Wood, Councilman Dan Wiley, Councilman Marty Mason, Councilman Paul Aubertine, Highway Superintendent Bill Pond, Water/Recreation Park Superintendent Keith Brass, and 2 visitors.

Supervisor Bender called the meeting to order at 6:30pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to accept the minutes of May 21, 2020, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to accept the minutes of May 28, 2020, seconded by Councilman Mason with the following corrections.

The deficit figure should be \$481,000.00 not as written \$ 481.00, and discussion regarding the referendum for water district 7 should read that it was Councilman Aubertine who wanted the Super Majority vote, not Councilman Wood, and that Councilman Wood wanted to accept 50% plus one. All members voted AYE with corrections.

Reports

Recreation Park – Keith Brass reported that the tennis court is open for singles games, and it the State has not allowed doubles games as of yet. He said that he has had some opposition to his signs stated “Singles Games” only. Keith said that he would like to open the restrooms and that he has a plan in place for cleaning and disinfecting.

Keith reported that the Board of Elections has hired a company to come into the building to clean before the election and they will be coming in the day after to clean again.

Keith said that the sewing group would like to start using the building again and that they gave him a plan for cleaning and social distancing.

Keith asked the board if they would like him to open the building. Councilman Aubertine said that his feels it may be time, but they have to follow the criteria.

Keith also reported that the girls fast pitch softball league would like to hold their tournament at Recreation Park. He asked the board how they felt about this. Councilman Wiley said that all activities have been cancelled and he felt that the board can't do for one and not for all.

Councilman Mason suggest that Keith ask them for their plan on how they will keep everyone safe, and a decision be made at the next meeting after their plan is reviewed.

Keith also reported that there are wedding receptions booked for the summer. Councilman Mason suggested that before approval is given they must submit their plan. Councilman Wiley said that he thinks that Keith should approve the safety plans submitted and that he should not have to contact the board for this.

Councilman Mason made a motion to open the Recreation Park building with a stipulation that a disinfection plan be submitted prior to approval, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. All members voted AYE.

Highway – Bill Pond reported that the water line for the transfer site has been installed and he thanked Keith Brass for his help getting this done.

Bill also spoke to the board that he has been in touch with Jim Lawrence from County Highway and that there are 2 culvert pipes on the Branch road that need to be replaced. He said that they would like the town to do the work and that the County would supply all the materials. He said that the County considers the culverts as bridges, and that they would like the town to take those over.

Councilman Wood asked Bill if he wanted to do this, and Bill said that he would. He also said that this would be unexpected income that he didn't count on.

Councilman Wiley made a motion that the town accepts the bridges on the Branch Road, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. All members voted AYE.

Bill said that the County has provided hand sanitizers to the town and he has distributed them to the various offices. Bill said that they are mowing and hauling stone. He said that they have had a few repairs on vehicles.

Bill reported that the truck he ordered last December is at Temco and they will start to put the equipment on it in November. Bill said that the CHIPS money will help to pay the major portion of the truck. He said that he did check to see if he could use his CHIP reimbursement for the purchase of the truck and he found out that he could. He just needs to submit a cancelled check, showing that he paid for it.

Bill told the board that he needs to replace some culvert pipes and that he would like to spend \$8,000.00 to purchase the pipes.

Councilman Wood made a motion to approve the purchase of the culvert pipes in the amount up to \$8,000.00, seconded by Councilman Mason. All members voted AYE.

Supervisor's financial report – Supervisor Bender gave an overview of the fund balances and reminded the board that the town will have a shortfall in sales tax revenue.

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

DANC – Councilman Aubertine said that he has a letter from Greg Knapp that the town needs to submit an application to DANC so that he can connect to the water line. Keith Brass said that Gregg has attempted to do this and needs the town to submit the application on his behalf. This will allow him to tie directly into the regional water line.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion that the town submit to DANC the application on behalf of Gregg Knapp, to allow him to connect to the DANC regional water line (water district 2), seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Keith Brass will do the install work.

LWRP – Councilman Wiley said that Jane Rice and Erika Touser are reviewing section 2 and 3, and that he has asked them to provide updates

Youth Commission – Councilman Wiley said that all activities are cancelled. He has been approached by someone to have T-Ball, and he said that the person wants to do it just to give the kids something to do. He is not looking to be paid. Councilman Aubertine said that he would like to encourage getting the kids

outdoors. Councilman Mason said that the town budget is frozen and they need to make sure the coaches know they won't be paid.

TI School – Councilman Wiley said that the budget passed and stayed below the 2% tax cap.

LDC – Councilman Wiley said that they will be meeting face to face as some are not comfortable with meeting via zoom. They would like to meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.

The board discussed the idea of changing the historical classification of Tibbetts Point. This will allow the town to offer the grounds for more activities. The board said they feel it is time to contact Assemblyman Walczyk and Senator Ritchie for help.

Matt Cooper – Matt Cooper talked to the board about water district #7. He said that he is aware a petition was filed for a referendum, and that there was a sufficient number of signatures. Matt told the board that this special vote does not qualify with the Governor's regulation that suspends voting until September 15. He explained that regulation is applied to projects that have been formed or are already started. He did explain that the time line to hold the vote is not less than 60 days or more than 75 days. This will mean the vote timeline is August 2 through the 12. Matt also said that the board will need to accept the petition and decide if they want to allow for absentee ballots.

Councilman Wiley asked how many parcels the petition represented. This information will be given to him.

Matt told the board that a voter list will need to be created and eligible voters are the deed holders. He said that it is one vote per person, regardless of the number of parcels you have. The board discussed the date to hold the vote.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion that the referendum for the creation of water district #7 allow absentee ballots, seconded by Councilman Mason. There was the following discussion. Councilman Mason asked that the application requesting an absentee ballot be reviewed before it is mailed out. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Aubertine asked Matt if there were updated numbers for the water district #7 debt service. Matt said not at this time and they are still working on the WIIA grant.

Councilman Mason said that he would like to look into water district #4 and compare the seasonal users consumption compared to the year round residents. He said he would like the users in water district #7 to have an idea of their actually water costs. He said that he would like to see a letter go out to water district #7 users explaining that the engineering report shows a higher rate. Keith Brass suggested comparing water district #1 instead of #4 because there are more seasonal users in that district. The board discussed the rates, and the vote. It was decided to allow Matt and Michelle Bouchard to schedule a meeting with Attorney Russell and get answers to some of the questions discussed.

Matt said that he would also like to discuss the sewer district; he said that the only affordable area would be along the river, the water district #1 area. He said the board could send out an interest survey and that he has one drafted. Matt discussed with the board three ways in which the property owner can respond; paper/mail response; link to a survey site; QR code survey. The board discussed these

options and decided to maximize the response options. Matt said that they need to discuss with the village getting a better user rate.

Councilman Aubertine said that he finds the debt service to be shocking. Matt said that the state wide average is \$900.00. Matt also talked about the trailer parks, and that the EDU could be consistent with the water EDU. Councilman Aubertine said that he is not comfortable spending the money on the survey now. Councilman Wood said it is a moot point and they need to continue on with the survey. Councilman Wood made a motion to mail out a survey to the property owners in district 1, that the survey include the three options, and that a return stamped self-addressed envelope be included, seconded by Councilman Mason. Supervisor Bender, Councilmen Mason, Wood, Wiley voting AYE, Councilman Aubertine voting NO.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Bender said that he met with John Moser who is the Vice President of the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Historical Society. He said that it was a good meeting and he looks forward to talking with him again.

Supervisor Bender said that he has contacted Randy Fipps from Samaritan Medical Center and expressed his concern that the clinic is still closed. He said that he doesn't want to lose the clinic and feels that a meeting with Samaritan should be set up. Councilman Mason agreed and said he would like to have one as soon as possible.

Supervisor Bender said that the financial information for Club Street was submitted, and now they have learned that the information needs to be submitted electronically. He said that Tim White has done this.

Tim White talked with the board about the Club Street project stating it is actually two different grant projects. He is the project manager for the 15629 project. Tim said that he is expecting an electronic approval to show up any day now. He also said that Ben Davis Tree Company will remove the trees next week at the Swenson house. Tim told the board that bids on the asbestos abatement are in, and he would to give the highway department first right of refusal in taking the house down.

Councilman Mason said that the town received a village tax bill and wondered if that expense could be paid from the BAN. Tim said that he wasn't sure, but will look into this.

Councilman Discussion

Councilman Mason said that he talked with the owner of the clinic building to discuss the possibility of the town not making the clinic payment at this time. He said that after talking with her, she is in the same boat as everyone else; she has to make the payment. He said that she is in no position to forgive the payment at this time.

Councilman Mason said that there is a company in Clayton that will build the trusses for East End Park. He said that he spoke with Colonial Welding and they will make the brackets for the trusses. He said the pavilion will be moving forward again.

Councilman Wiley said that he would like to have another discussion the Ron Trottier. He said he would like the boards blessing to speak with the Mayor Golden and they will get together with Ron Trottier.

The board discussed this and told Councilman Wiley they think it is a good idea to have a conversation with Mr. Trottier again.

The discussion of opening the doors to the town office was discussed. Town Clerk, Michelle Bouchard said that some of the employees in the office aren't quite comfortable with this idea. Discussions on how to better protect everyone were put forward and the board said they would like the highway to hang acrylic shields in each office and court room.

Councilman Wood made a motion to open the door of the town office to the public on July 1, after acrylic shields have been hung, seconded by Councilman Mason. All members voted AYE.

Michelle Bouchard talked with the board about a situation in which one of the employees' vehicle caught on fire, and she had to call 911. She said that her phone just spun the number and would not connect. She said that she used the phone in the Supervisor's office and it connected with a Verizon operator. Michelle said that it took several minutes to answer his questions and then he connected to 911 dispatch. The board agreed this is not acceptable. Councilman Aubertine said that he would like to have an RFP drawn up to send out to other companies.

Michelle Bouchard talked with the board about grounds at Tibbetts Point. She said that she helped clean up the grounds and that it was very overgrown. She told the board that it had been awhile since this has been done. The board discussed options to keep the grounds cleaned up and to put this in the 2021 budget. Councilman Wiley said that he would like to have a three stage clean up proposal put together and have it go out to bid.

Michelle also talked with the board about having a liaison between the town board and the Tibbetts Point Historical society. She said that she and Supervisor Bender talked about it and felt it would be a good idea. She suggested Supervisor Bender and herself. The board agreed that there should be some connection and agreed to have Supervisor Bender and Michelle Bouchard be the liaisons.

Resolutions

Resolution #31

Resolution #31 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. Resolution #31 is to appoint Craig Stevenson as the Vice Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the remainder of the year and to move Mike Nebbia from an alternate position to a regular board member, term to expire Dec. 31, 2021.

There was no discussion, all members voted AYE.

Resolution #32

Resolution #32 was moved by Councilman Mason, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #32 authorizes the Supervisor to transfer \$15,000.00 from the General fund to the Capitol Proposed Water District #7 fund for a budget amendment.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #33

Resolution #33 was moved by Councilman Aubertine, seconded by Councilman Mason. Resolution #33 acknowledges the receipt of petitions from residents in the proposed water district #7 area for a

referendum on the creation of the district and that the board accepts the petition as presented, setting the date of August 8, 2020 in the town offices and the time to be determined.

There was the following discussion. The board discussed the vacancies on both the Zoning and planning boards

Councilman Wiley made a motion to have the town clerk advertise the board vacancies, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. All members voted AYE on the motion. All members voted AYE on the resolution.

Resolution #34

Resolution #34 was moved by Councilman Mason, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #34 is the NYS Retirement Standard Workday resolution.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Bills: Highway, \$139,789.77; WD #1, \$4,280.69; WD #3, \$158.81; WD#4, \$671.36; WD #5, \$194.13; WD #6, \$189.36; Club Street Project, \$750.00; General Fund, \$25,011.63.

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

Councilman Wood made a motion to adjourn at 8:25pm.

Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk