

Sept. 3, 2020

Public Hearing and Special Meeting Town of Cape Vincent

Present: Supervisor Edward Bender, Councilman Paul Aubertine, Councilman Dan Wiley, Councilman Marty Mason, Councilman Alan Wood and approximately 6 residents

Supervisor Bender opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:00pm to interview a candidate for the Planning/Zoning Board vacancy, seconded by Councilman Mason. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Mason made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:20pm and open the Public Hearing regarding the amendment to the Common Water Law, Local Law #2 of 2020, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Supervisor Bender called for public comment on the amendment. No one wished to speak.

Councilman Mason made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:25pm, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Judges Colleen Knuth and Roger Fix spoke to the board about changing the salary of the Court Clerk from an hourly pay to a salary paid position. The Judges explained that a salary is set and there are times when the Court Clerk is working more hours than what is allowed. They said this is especially true during the times that they have to serve as the Judge on call to do arraignments for the County. They explained the CAP court and how it operates. This was created to better serve the public during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to change the Court Clerk salary from hourly to a salary paid position beginning January 1, 2021, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members voted AYE.

The Town Clerk told the board that Keith Brass received one bid on the John Deere snow blower.

Supervisor Bender opened the bid.

Councilman Wood made a motion to accept the bid of \$25.00 from Dan Mussot, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. All members voted AYE.

Resolutions

Resolution #38

Resolution #38 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. Resolution #38 is the adoption of Local Law #2 of 2020, an amendment to the Cape Vincent Common Water Law to add the Water Standards for water installations.

There was no discussion. Roll call vote was taken:

Supervisor Bender AYE; Councilman Aubertine AYE; Councilman Wiley AYE;

Councilman Wood AYE; Councilman Mason AYE

Resolution #39

Resolution #39 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. Resolution #39 is the appointment of Charles DeRose to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a one year term.

There was the following discussion. The board had originally intended to appoint Mr. DeRose to the Planning Board, however, it was agreed that because the Zoning Board of Appeals has two alternate seats vacant, they agreed it would be better to appoint Mr. DeRose to fill one of the two vacancies. All members voted AYE.

Tim White spoke to the board about the Club Street project. He said that the grant paperwork was submitted in early June and that the process has slowed down. Tim said that DASNY also has added a new grant approval step.

Tim said that they can't tear the Swenson house down yet, and another company is submitting a quote for the asbestos abatement.

Councilman Wiley asked if DASNY will give funds, or does Tim have to turn in expenses. Tim said that they have to turn in expenses, and then they review the expenses and not all are accepted. He said that every contractor has to be a registered contractor with the State of New York.

Tim White gave a report on the Ambulance stating that they have \$81,000.00 in their account of which the town gave \$62,000.00. He said that they made their first payment in March for the new ambulance. Tim discussed the Medicare, Medicaid, and Veterans payments made for service.

Councilman Mason said that he knew that TIERS has a contract with the prison to be reimbursed, and he asked Tim if they had thought about doing the same thing. Councilman Mason said that they should negotiate with them for a higher rate. Councilman Mason also asked if the facility gave a donation.

Frank Dolan and Bob Ewing spoke to the board about the Chamber of Commerce. Bob said that he is now the President and they have 3 vacancies on the board. Bob reviewed that the Chamber had cancelled all of their events because of the pandemic.

Frank Dolan said that he wanted to thank the board for their support. He said that they are going to be hiring a new Director as Shelley Higgins will be retiring in July 2021. Frank gave an outline to the board on the position, stating that they will make it a full time position from May through October, 30-40 hours per week at \$18.00 per hour. November through May will be 20 hours per week. He said that would make the projected salary \$30,000.00. He said that they would like the town to contribute \$20,000.00 toward the salary and another \$10,000.00 for advertising. He said that this will be saving the town as they won't be paying benefits.

Bob and Frank told the board that they do not want to rent an office space over the winter, and would like the Director to work from home. They are working out details as to where the copier will be stored. They discussed the Chamber of Commerce budget, and that they want the new Director to take on an initiative to increase membership. They also reviewed the events and the revenue that it brings to the Chamber of Commerce.

Frank told the board that he hopes the town will use the Bed Tax revenue to help offset the allocation the town has budgeted for them.

Councilman Wood asked them what the Village budgets for them, and Frank said that they had budgeted \$15,000.00, but received \$11,000.00. Councilman Wood said that he would like to see the Village commit more funding as the majority of the business is located in the Village.

Councilman Wiley said that he wanted to remind them that the town will still be paying for Shelley after she retires because of the town's portion of benefits.

Councilman Aubertine said that the town is working on a plan for the future that will remove the town from paying retirement benefits as this is a major expense to the taxpayers.

Councilman Wiley said it scares him that they can't attract more young people to get involved and take over some of the events. He said he would like to have more young people get involved in French Festival, stating that he is afraid French Festival will fizzle without them.

Councilman Wiley said that because the town has given such a large share of the Chamber's funding, he would like the town to be involved in the interview process for the new Director. The Councilman all agreed. Frank said that the Chamber would have no problem with this.

Frank and Bob thanked the board for their consideration and their past generosity.

Councilman Wiley said that he thought that the area in front of the Dollar General looks bad. He said that the store is mowed, but along the highway area there is tall grass and weeds. He also said that there is a wood panel that he thinks needs to come down. Supervisor Bender said that he will speak with the store manager.

Councilman Wood made a motion to adjourn at 7:35pm

Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk