

November 19, 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, Keith Brass and 4 visitors.

Supervisor Bender opened the meeting at 6:30pm with the pledge of allegiance.
Privilege of the floor - No one wished to speak.

Councilman Mason made a motion to accept the minutes of the Oct. 15, 2020 and Nov. 5, 2020 minutes, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Reports

Water – Keith Brass said that they have done a couple of water installs and are still doing shut offs. He said that the lights in the parking lot at Recreation Park have been fixed.

Highway – Bill Pond reported that they have finished the paving on Wilson Road and at the town office building. He said they have done the road side ditching and have done the clean-up from the recent storm. Bill told the board that they have done a little paving for the County. He said he delivered the wing for the new truck to Tenco. Bill said that they have hung up the Christmas lights on the Lighthouse, but can't guarantee they will work after the recent wind storm. He also reported that they have been working on the new office at the transfer site and he will be under budget.

Bid for Sweeper

Bill Pond told the board that he received one bid and as per the advertisement, he will be opening the bid at the meeting.

Bill reviewed the bid with the board. The bid received was from Tracy Equipment in the amount of \$43,770.00. Bill said that he would take delivery of the machine in December, it will be paid for in January and it will have a six month warranty.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to purchase the sweeper from Tracy Equipment for a price not to exceed \$43,777.00, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Supervisor Financial Report – Supervisor Bender reviewed the account balances with the board and said that they are in good shape.

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

LWRP – Councilman Wiley said that there will be meeting on December 16 to review the first 4 sections of the report for development.

Supervisor Bender told the board that he and Councilman Wiley met with the ambulance board regarding their contract and funding. He explained that it is being discussed that the town will be working on creating a Special Needs District. This will allow for the ambulance to raise funds for their operations. Supervisor Bender explained that it will work much like the Fire District, and appear as a separate line on the tax bill.

Councilman Wiley said that the ambulance board is in full support of this, and it will still allow them to bill for services.

Councilman Aubertine asked how it would be set up with regard to the town's budget. Councilman Wiley said that the ambulance would be removed as a budget line from the town's budget and it will appear as a separate tax on the town and county tax bill. Councilman Wiley said that this will also allow for the town board to appoint the board members.

Councilman Aubertine asked if they would become employees of the town and Councilman Wiley said they wouldn't and that the town does not want to go that route.

Councilman Aubertine said that he feels that by having the district on the tax bill would be more transparent as it would not appear as a budget line in the town's budget.

Councilman Mason said that he feels the people would not like a higher tax rate to fund the ambulance, but having it appear on the tax bill as a separate line will let them see the amount they are paying.

Councilman Aubertine asked if they have an Attorney that has experience in setting up special districts for Ambulance coverage. He said that he does not want to receive bad information which would happen if they hire someone who does not have the experience.

Councilman Wiley talked about the ambulance budget and he told the board that in June or July they will be running short on funds.

Councilman Mason asked if the ambulance board has met with the Correctional Facility yet, and Councilman Wiley said they hadn't.

Supervisor Bender said that he received an inventory of the town's properties from the insurance company. He said that they are inquiring about the four historical buildings at Tibbetts Point. If something happened to them, will they need to be rebuilt as per the State's historical preservation requirements? Supervisor Bender said that the town is responsible for the property and to keep the insurance in place.

Supervisor Bender told the board that the town was asked to participate in the Christmas parade. Bill Pond said that they will have a truck in the parade.

Supervisor Bender told the board that they have received a letter from Christine Stark and he asked the board to read it.

Supervisor Bender told the board that they will need to have an IMA with the village for the ambulance district.

The board discussed the recent joint meeting held between the Village, LDC, and the Town. The meeting was to discuss the LDC IMA and the amount of money the village says the town owes them in unpaid budget contributions. Councilman Wood said that the town is putting money into East End Park and he said it is a village project. He said he would like to know why the village is not helping the town with Club Street. Councilman Wood said that the village sets the budget figures for the LDC, and they don't notify the town. He said this is why the village is telling the town they owe so much money toward the budget, it accumulated and the town was never informed of the budget amount.

Supervisor Bender said that he wants to look into this stating that the town recently gave the village a piece of property that they own in the village for the new police car garage.

Councilman Wiley said that the projects that are in place are joint projects between the LWRP, the LDC, and EDR. He explained that with regarding to funding if there are organizations that are intertwined with a project it looks better on a grant application, and these projects that have multiple entities involved are more apt to be awarded a grant.

Councilman Wiley said that he put some figures together with regard to monies the town has put forward just on Club Street, without the village putting in their 40%. He said he spoke with Mayor Jerry Golden about this and gave him a figure that would represent the villages 40% of the Club Street project. He said that the Mayor is satisfied, and feels the town and village are even. Councilman Wiley said that the question is, is the town going to move forward with the LDC?

Councilman Wood suggested that the boards meet before the LDC budget is set, that the town should have some input.

Councilman Wiley said that he agreed, and wants the town and village to move together.

Councilman Aubertine said that he is for the LDC, too. He said that he would like to see everyone work together and feels that there are too many cooks in the kitchen. He said that this destroys any efficiency. He said he would like the committee to meet with Scott Burto, with liaisons from the town and village. Councilman Aubertine gave examples of how the grants and projects should be divided. He said it is so much more efficient to take these steps. He would like to have the village fully endorse the town's projects. Councilman Aubertine said that he would like to know where the East End Park stands now. He said that he does not want the LDC to break up; he wants it to continue to function.

Councilman Mason said he thinks the LDC is the key to the entire thing. They should come to the boards with their proposed projects. He said that the LDC should make the decisions.

Councilman Aubertine said that he does not want the LDC to take away the town's ability to make decisions. He said that if the town agrees to sign the IMA, it will be three boards that need to make the decisions.

Councilman Mason said that he thinks the town and village should work together, shared services.

Councilman Wood made a motion to extend the expiration date of the IMA with the village to March, to match the expiration date of Scott Burto's contract, seconded by Councilman Mason. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Wood said that the Community Library received \$7,500.00 extra dollars from the school tax budget. He said that in 2003 the library budget was \$15,000.00 and now in 2020 it is \$75,000.00. Councilman Aubertine said that the library provides a good service to the community. Supervisor Bender agreed.

Resolution #46

Resolution #46 was moved by Councilman Aubertine, seconded by Councilman Mason. Resolution #46 is to authorize the Supervisor to transfer \$11,788.95 from A232 to A8160.2 for budget amendment. There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Town Clerk, Michelle Bouchard, told the board that she has the survey letter regarding water district #7 ready to go, but she would like to have direction from the board because it will be an expense, and funds are limited. The board discussed this and Councilman Aubertine said he does not want the survey mailed out now and would like to wait until next year. All agreed.

Bills: General Fund, \$70,188.74; Highway, \$62,300.06; Club Street, \$750.00; WD #7, \$1,500.00; SW1, \$47,532.25; SW2, \$1,810.33; SW3, \$1,744.92; SW4, \$2378.18; SW5, \$2287.25; SW6, \$1488.42. Councilman Mason made a motion to approve the payment of the vouchers, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Wood made a motion to adjourn at 7:38pm.

Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk