

December 17, 2020

Joint Town and Village Meeting

Present: Supervisor Edward Bender, Mayor Jerry Golden, Councilman Aubertine, Councilman Mason, Councilman Wiley, Councilman Wood, Trustee Youngs, Trustee Sperry, Trustee Bonney

Absent: Trustee Ewing

Supervisor Bender called the meeting to order at 5pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Councilman Wiley spoke to the boards regarding the Inter-Municipal Agreement for the Local Development Committee. He said that the town agreed at their last meeting to extend the IMA through March 15, 2021 which will allow the two boards to address concerns, and focus on the LDC budget, especially with regard to the 60/40 split between them and the budgeted amounts between the village and town.

Mayor Golden said that he feels this would be a good idea. He said that the village has just renewed, with a renew date of November 1. Mayor Golden said that he would not mind changing their date to March 15, 2021 and he asked his board members present how they felt. All Trustees present agreed to the date change.

Trustee Youngs said that Scott Burto, the planner, will work with them and submit his pay schedule.

Councilman Wiley said that he would like to go through the IMA with changes that he feels need to be corrected or deleted; they are as follows:

A) Page 1 - #3 He would like to correct the verbiage to read that the LDC will explore grants and have control of the grants, with the blessing of the boards

Councilman Aubertine agreed saying that he feels they should be the one to head the grants and he feels that having 3 boards control is does not work because it allows for miscommunication and mishandling of who is responsible for what task.

Councilman Mason said that #2 should be removed.

b) Page 1 -Under "Now, Therefore" #2 – Councilman Wiley would like to remove that the Town Of Cape Vincent shall act as the fiscal agent, and replace it with the LDC be responsible for this.

c) Page 1 - #3 Councilman Wiley said that he would like the budget to be developed by the LDC and given to the town and village prior to their budget discussions.

Councilman Wood said that the budget should be due to the town by Oct. 1 of each year.

d) Page 2 - #4 remove line "d"

Councilman Wiley said that the LDC will file for a 501 C3 classification.

Trustee Youngs said that the filing fee for this will be \$1,500.00, and she said that the Corp. classification will set it apart.

Councilman Aubertine said that he understands it to be that as it stands now, the LDC is a standing committee, until the 501 C3 classification is created.

Councilman Aubertine said that he feels there should be some oversight of the LDC as he feels that this is lost if the LDC board appoints their own members.

Mayor Golden said that the village and town can have a representative attend the meetings.

Trustee Youngs agreed stating that this will help the LDC stick to the goals, and they will not be able to pick what projects they want to do without the village and town boards consent.

Councilman Aubertine said that he does not like the idea that the LDC board can just spend money as they see fit, because they have to answer to the tax payer.

Mayor Golden said that the grants are typically 50%-75% matching funds and the village and town will need to know what grants the LDC is working on for budget purposes.

Trustee Youngs said that she would get a copy of the contract that the Clayton Development Corp. uses. She said that then they can have an attorney look at it to make it work for the village, town and LDC.

e) Page 2 – #4 a,b,c,d Councilman Wiley said that he would like to keep 4 a and b, but scratch c and d. He said that he felt the Improvement League and the Chamber of Commerce was not in a position to make decisions, but he would like to ask them for recommendations. All present agreed.

Trustee Bonney said that he would like to address the issue of the LDC needing approval for every single dollar they spend. He said that he agrees with Councilman Aubertine that the tax payers need to be addressed, but he does not want the process of the LDC getting approval slow down the process.

Councilman Aubertine said that there will be a 7 person board with the Planner as the Chairman and he wanted to know if the Planner would have a vote on projects.

Mayor Golden said that he sees the Planner as a nonvoting member.

Councilman Wood and Councilman Wiley agreed that the village and town board members that are to serve as the liaison will also be a nonvoting member.

The boards had a discussion on the number of members to serve on the LDC. There was a discussion on the right 7 people to serve on the board, the proper language in the IMA to allow for help from outside membership, and on ad-hoc committees.

f) Page 3 -#7 Councilman Wiley asked if January is the best month for the election or appointment of officers as stated in the IMA.

All agreed that is was and it was decided not to change #7.

g) Page 3 - #8 Councilman Wiley said that he felt the committee needs to meet two times a month. He said that he feels the board can't engage themselves meeting just once a month.

Trustee Sperry said that he would like to suggest to them to meet two times per month, but feels that when they meet should be left up to them. All members present agreed to leave it up to the LDC board.

Councilman Wiley said that he would also like the verbiage to read that the LDC reviews the bills to be paid and that they decide what bill will be paid.

Councilman Mason said that the bills do need to be reviewed.

Councilman Aubertine said that he feels the section stating the committee should recommend to the Town Board what bills need to be paid should be stricken.

Mayor Golden agreed.

Councilman Aubertine said that he feels the Planner should be hired by the LDC moving forward.

Councilman Wiley agreed, but wants the village and town to approve it.

Both Councilmen Aubertine and Wiley agreed that they would need an out too, if the Planner does not work out.

There was discussion on who approves of the Planner. It was decided to put in specific language to allow the LDC to choose the Planner and the village and town to approve.

h) Page 3- # 10 Councilman Wiley said that the renewal date for the IMA should be done annually instead of the three year period as written. All members present agreed to the date for renewal will be January 1 of each year.

Councilman Mason said that he would like the boards to meet September 1, and at this meeting the LDC should present their budget.

All members present agreed that the village, town and LDC should meet twice a year.

Mayor Golden set the meetings to be held in March and September and that this verbiage should be added to the IMA.

The boards had no other changes to make.

Councilman Wiley talked about the last meeting the village and town had regarding the amount of money the village said the town owed for the LDC budget. He reviewed the amount of money the town has spent to date on the Club Street project. He said that he would like an agreement that the two are even.

Mayor Golden said he was fine with that, but wants to remind everyone that the LDC needs to be funded.

Councilman Wood made a motion to adjourn the special meeting at 6:15pm.

Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk