

February 18, 2021

Regular Town Board Meeting

Present: Supervisor Edward Bender, Councilman Dan Wiley, Councilman Alan Wood, Councilman Paul Aubertine, Councilman Marty Mason, Highway Superintendent Bill Pond, Keith Brass, and 7 visitors.

Supervisor Bender opened the meeting at 6:30 with the pledge of allegiance.

Privilege of the floor:

Debra Suller – Debra asked for a definition of Resolution #17 that will be presented to the board for action.

Councilman Wiley told her that the town is submitting an application for a change of the status of the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse property and the board is required to pass the resolution to start the process. He told her that the change in the status will allow the town to do more with the property as the National Historical Site requirements are restrictive.

Mickey Orvis – Mickey spoke to the board about the Rosier Light District. He explained that the levy line on his tax bill for the lights are higher than his town tax amount. He said that he FOILED information, did some background research and he gave a little history of the district. He also told the board that in the past, he had presented the town board with a petition to dissolve the district and the town pays the districts bill. Mickey prepared packets of information and asked the board to review as it will explain what his intention is.

The minutes of the January 21, 2021 were accepted by Councilman Aubertine, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Supervisor Bender invited Robert Martin, Planning Board Chairman to address the board. Bob spoke to the board about his term as Chairman and the zoning law update that the board completed, and he spoke of current and future laws they are working on. He told the board that they worked for over 2 years on updating the zoning law holding extra meetings and working nights and weekends to finish it. He said that they are also holding more special meetings which make it necessary to hold two meetings a month instead of one. He said that the board has worked hard for the town and he is there to ask the board for a pay increase for all members.

Councilman Wiley asked him what amount they want, and Bob said that he had no figure in mind, but it would be nice if they receive the 3% that others received at budget time. Councilman Wiley said that he wondered if they should raise the special meeting fee. Bob told him that he feels the board should review and seriously consider raising all the fees related to zoning and planning. Councilman Wiley said that he feels the town would not be where they are today if it wasn't for the planning board.

Councilman Wood asked Bob how much time is spent on each application, and Bob told him all total of four hours. The board will discuss this.

Reports

Recreation Park – Keith Brass reported that they have had a few meetings and the sewing group has been using the room. Keith told the board that they have finished with the kitchen and will start on the restrooms.

Water – Keith Brass reported that he and John will be doing some training by participating in online and in person classes. He said that the annual water conference will also be online this year. Keith reported that they had to dig up a curb stop, and that John Lawrence has cleaned out fire hydrants and Keith has shoveled them out.

Highway – Bill Pond told the board that the new plow truck has been delivered and that he has had it undercoated. He said that he had an appointment with DMV to register the truck, but he needed a certified paper regarding the truck's weight. Bill told the board that Tracy equipment will provide this paperwork for the town and will register the truck. Bill said that he completed the CHIPS paperwork and has turned it in. He said that the Governor has taken 20% off the amount to be given.

Bill told the board that a truck he had repaired has now passed inspection and he will put off the purchase of a new truck for now. He said they have had a few breakdowns and he has had the oil water separator pumped out. Bill told the board that Scott Wedel has his CDL permit. He also reported that the crew has done a lot of plowing and they have helped the village with snow removal.

Bill told the board that he has signed the emergency shared services paperwork for the State with the option of a four year renewal. He said this will lead to less paperwork. He spoke with Jim Lawrence and was told that the county has a fair amount of work to do on County Rte. 6, the Tibbetts Point Road. The road work will be along the shoreline.

Councilman Wiley said that they have heard from the County that the sales tax will be reduced, and now a 20% reduction on the CHIPS funding and he feels that the towns should get together and fight it.

Councilman Aubertine attended the Association of Town's virtual conference and he said that the many of the Governor's recent decisions were hit hard.

Councilman Mason said the Highway Association should lobby for this.

Councilman Mason asked Bill Pond if he will be putting the new truck on the road and Bill said that they have the older truck rigged up with the sander and will be using it as he would like to hold off using it for the remainder of the winter, if he can. He said the season is almost over, but the truck is ready to go if they need it.

Supervisor's Financial Report – Supervisor Bender reviewed his financial report.

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

DANC – Councilman Mason said that there will be a virtual DANC meeting on Feb. 24 at 4pm.

LWRP – Councilman Wiley said that parts 1 and 2 of the report are completed, and they had received some push back from the State on parts 3 and 4. They are being corrected.

Youth Commission – Councilman Wiley said that they are starting to gear up and baseball meetings are scheduled for this month.

LDC – Councilman Wiley said that they will be meeting on Thursday. He said that they are after a couple of new members and are working the 501-C3 status.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Bender said that he has talked with Mary Ann Dermady from Barnard and Docteur regarding the insurance for Tibbetts Point. He said that she is working on premium quotes. Councilman Wiley said that he has reviewed them and the coverage and he feels that if they can give blanket coverage for the same costs he would like to go with that. He said that the town can't afford to use Historical Replacement materials. He said that NYMIR will not cover the building if the town has to use Historical Replacement costs.

Councilman's Discussion

Councilman Mason said that during the Village board meeting they discussed the LDC contract and they feel the town should reimburse the LDC the \$31,000.00 used for incentive reimbursement. Councilman Mason said that he agrees and that the town should take the money from the bank. Councilman Aubertine asked if the money could come from the grant when it is awarded and Councilman Mason said no, it should come from the BOND. The board will discuss this further at next month's meeting. Councilman Mason said that Mayor Golden, Trustee Youngs and himself met with Planning Board Chairman Jeff Herpel regarding Justin Vrooman's planned development on Bay Street. He said that it was explained to them that the planning board approved the project, but Justin also needed approval from the DEC and the Dept. of Health and that he did not have appropriate plans to submit to them.

Councilman Wiley discussed the Club Street project and the engineering firms the board spoke with regarding the waterfront. The board said that they were happy with all the firms, but one in particular stood out.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to appoint Edgewater Associates from Michigan and their partner MRB Group from Syracuse, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. There was the following discussion. Councilman Aubertine said that he was very impressed that the firm's first step will be to meet with the community and introduce themselves and go over their ideas.

Councilman Wood said that he felt it was important to note that they specialize in waterfront development.

Councilman Aubertine also said that the firm also specializes in grant writing as well. He said that under normal circumstances, the town would have Scott Burto, the grant writer, do this, but they may want to use the firm. He said that he understands the town can't pay Scott through the grant, and he feels it is important that the board discuss this.

Vote was taken, all members voted AYE.

Councilman Wiley said that he had a conversation with Mike Couglar and he, Mike Couglar and Scott Burto will meet via zoom to address the application for reclassification.

Councilman Wiley asked Bill Pond if the town received any REDI funds and Bill told them they did and it was for Dablon Point Road.

Councilman Wiley said that he would like to discuss Scott Burto's contract. He said that he had sent around a worksheet that he prepared with three options.

Councilman Aubertine said that he likes the idea of incentive pay instead of a flat salary and he wishes that the board had the foresight to lay out the contract that way. Councilman Wiley said that he likes using the incentive pay. Councilman Wiley said that Scott wants to make sure the board knows he will see each project through to the bitter end and he knows the board was concerned about this.

Councilman Aubertine said that this makes sure the grant writer sees the whole project through as opposed to up front pay, and you couldn't blame them if they see another project and then focus on that project instead of seeing it through.

Councilman Wood said that he wanted it this way all along.

Councilman Mason asked if Scott was looking for upfront money and Councilman Wiley said yes, \$30,000.00, the same salary. Councilman Wiley said that his proposal is to use the same contract and leave the salary as it is, keep the incentive as it is and just break the incentive up into three percentages. The board discussed the amounts that would be distributed during budget years.

Councilman Wiley said that he will discuss the contract with Scott Burto as the board has discussed. He said that Scott may counter, and he will let them know.

Resolution

Resolution #17

Resolution #17 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #17 is to agree to submit an application for reclassification of the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse grounds which will allow the town to use the property with fewer restrictions.

There was no discussion. Roll call vote was taken: Supervisor Bender AYE; Councilman Wiley AYE; Councilman Wood AYE; Councilman Aubertine AYE; Councilman Mason AYE

Town Clerk Michelle Bouchard requested that her books be audited. Supervisor Bender and Councilman Wood will do the audit Feb. 23, 2021 at 9am.

Michelle also told the board that she is almost done with the Employee Health Safety Plan, and that it will have to be adopted at the March meeting. She asked the board to review it prior to the March meeting.

The board discussed Rosier Light District and the costs levied on tax bills. Councilman Mason said it is no different than a water district; all residents in the district must pay because they benefit from it.

Councilman Wood said that he feels the town should pay for it. The board discussed this and Councilman Mason will check into it.

Bills: General Fund vouchers 47-86, \$240,316.92; Highway vouchers 29-47, \$23,468.33; Water Dist. 1 vouchers 17-30, \$24,089.03; Water Dist. 2 voucher 20, \$1,743.89; Water dist. #6 vouchers 21-30, \$872.22; Water Dist. #5 vouchers 17-30, \$2,261.67; Water Dist. #3 vouchers 18-30, \$1,696.14, Water Dist. #4 vouchers 18-30, \$2,198.13.

Councilman Mason 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 into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition at 7:50pm, seconded by Councilman Mason.

Councilman Wood made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:17pm, seconded by Councilman Aubertine.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to adjourn at 8:20pm

Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk