

February 18, 2016

Regular Town Board Meeting

Present: Supervisor Debra Suller, Councilman Marty Mason, Councilman Paul Aubertine, Councilman Dan Wiley, Dave Croft, Highway Superintendent Dan Hubbard, Jim Millington ZEO and approximately 20 residents.

Absent: Councilman Ed Bender

Supervisor Suller opened the Ethic Committee interview portion of the meeting at 6:30pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing the candidates for the Ethics Committee at 6:30pm, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to come out of Executive Session and resume the regular town board meeting at 7:05pm, seconded by Councilman Mason. All members voted AYE.

Privilege of the Floor: no one wished to speak.

County Legislator Michael Docteur spoke to the Board about the County radio system being put into place. He said they want to put up a tower in Cape Vincent, at the corner of Mutton Lane and County Rt. 9. He said that the size of the tower is under negotiation and it will be on County property. He said that the tower will not be illuminated because it won't be tall enough. He said the County wants to be good neighbors and he intends to talk with the town's zoning and planning boards.

Jim Millington, ZEO gave a report on the month's activity and he said he is working on a project to help with properties that are deteriorating. He would like to discuss this with the board when he has more information.

The minutes from the Feb. 11, 2016 meeting were accepted with correction by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Mason. There was the following discussion. Supervisor Suller said that in the Feb. 11, 2016 minutes Ron Jacobs should be addressed as the President of the fire department. All members voted AYE.

The minutes from the Jan. 21, 2016 meeting were accepted by Councilman Aubertine, seconded by Councilman Mason. All members voted AYE.

Reports:

Recreation Park – Dave Croft reported that there has been minimal activity in the building, with only a few meetings and a birthday party.

Water – Dave Croft reported that the prison water tower will not be up and running until April. He said that he and Keith have helped with a few frozen pipe situations. They had the generators tested and have been working on truck maintenance. Dave said that he heard from Aqua Store and they will provide a quote to do an inspection on the water tower. Dave said that the tower is due for an

inspection and will talk with the board further on this when he receives the information from the company.

Dave also spoke to the board about the quotes he received regarding the microphones for the board tables to be used during meetings. He said that the prices were anywhere from \$1,500-\$2,000. He said it is up to the board to decide what they want. Supervisor Suller spoke to Steve Weed and Steve said that the quote was in line. He said it would be more if the board wanted 6 or 7 microphones. Steve said the batteries for each set are \$10.00. Supervisor Suller asked Steve to provide a proposal and she said that she and Dave Croft will go over it.

Highway – Dan Hubbard reported that the State and County snow and ice contract have been received. He said that they had to order more salt and they have had to do more plowing because of the latest storm. Dan reported to the board that the PESH inspector came back to make sure the violations that were given at an earlier inspection had been corrected. He said they were and he received a letter stating such. Dan reported that the County has contacted DEC to acquire permits for paving a portion of County Rt 6 (Tibbets Point Rd). He also reported that Bernier and Carr will help with the mining permit which will be due in June.

Financials – Supervisor Suller gave the financial report in which she said there was not much activity. She reviewed accounts and said that the year to date looks good. Councilman Mason made a motion to accept the Supervisor's financial report, seconded by Councilman Wiley.

Village – Councilman Mason reported on the village meeting. He said that they are discussing a solar project to be placed at the waste water plant on Centre Street, and it was discussed that a community garden, with the purpose of giving the fresh produce to the food pantry, could also be placed at that location. He reported on the discussion of the landing pad for a helicopter to be used in case of emergencies located at the Centre Street property too.

ZBA – Councilman Mason reported on the meeting's events, reviewing the variances presented that evening.

Councilman Mason said that the Village Board and the Local Development Committee met with Barbara Kendal, a representative from the NYS Dept. of State to discuss the dock project. He said they met at the site and looked at 2 different sets of docks for the East End Park dock project. He said that they will gather information and then they want to have a meeting to have public input as to which type of dock structure they feel would be best suited for that area.

Machinery – Councilman Aubertine said that he would like to set a date for the town to do a road inspection. He said that he would like to meet before the inspection to go over the machinery at the garage. It was decided that the inspection will be May 5, 2016 at 9am.

Youth Commission and Recreation Park Committee – Councilman Wiley said that they have not met yet and he understands that there have been more resignations. He will find out and the board will discuss how to move forward with replacement of committee people.

T.I. School – Councilman Wiley said that the school was rated in the top 5% in financial standing. He also congratulated the combined Alexandria Bay and T. I. school girls' hockey team in their victory as Champions. He also congratulated the boys and girls basketball teams for making it to, and winning, their league playoffs.

DANC – Councilman Aubertine said that there will be a DANC meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 23 in Dexter.

Supervisor's report – Supervisor Suller said that she had attended the NYS Association of Towns meeting and training conference. She said that the conference was good and she came back with good information. Supervisor Suller said that she had completed and filed the AUD, and she said she saved the town money in professional fees by doing it in house.

Supervisor Suller said that she had sent a draft copy of the investment policy to the board members and would like to talk about it.

Supervisor Suller said that she had cancelled the Supervisor's cell phone and changed the wireless plan, which should also save the town some money.

Councilman's discussion

Supervisor Suller said that in the interest of controlling costs, she would like to instruct the Gebo law firm that only questions from the town clerk would be approved for payment. She explained that anyone, even residents, can phone Attorney Gebo. She said that the town paid \$16,000.00 in legal fees last year. Supervisor Suller went on to explain that the town clerk can't pay a bill if there is no budget money left. She said that if they do not know what the town attorney is working on they may be put in a position where the town cannot pay a bill unless budget money is moved around and she feels this is an inappropriate way to handle town funds. Supervisor Suller made a motion that the town clerk is the only person authorized to engage services from the attorney for the town. Councilman Aubertine said he would second for the sake of discussion. He said he would like to think about this or hear dialogue from other board members before he votes. Supervisor Suller said it was a suggestion from Mark Gebo and he told her that other towns were doing this. Councilman Aubertine said it made sense, but he also thinks that this would add another chain to the communication process in situations that needed to be dealt with in a timely manner. Councilman Wiley said he did not see where it would be a big deal and he would expect privacy from the Town Clerk. Councilman Mason said that he is thinking about it. Councilman Mason said he would like to table this until he has an opportunity to speak with other committee members.

Councilman Mason made a motion to table the decision until the next meeting, seconded by Councilman Aubertine.

Supervisor Suller spoke about the letter sent to the board from the Christmas Committee requesting \$990.00 for power installation to 18 poles in the village. She said the issue was brought up at the last meeting and she had asked the committee to put it in writing. Supervisor Suller asked the board if they would like to approve the request. Councilman Mason asked what amount was put in for the wreaths, and Supervisor Suller said their requested amount was \$1,000.00 and that amount was just approved to be paid. She said that this was in addition to the wreaths and would have to come out of a budget line.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to authorize the expenditure, as long as the money is earmarked specifically for power. Supervisor Suller said that they would need to get a copy of the National Grid bill. Councilman Mason seconded. Councilman Mason said he knows how it works and he has never seen a bill for the placement of the power to the poles. He referred to this as convenience outlets. He said he asked at a village meeting if there is a charge in the bill for the extra power, and no one could answer the question. He said the village pays for the power that goes to the poles and he said there would be an increase to the village bill. Councilman Mason said that there are rules that have to be followed and as the village superintendent he has to sign paperwork regarding the outlets. Councilman Aubertine asked him if he did not want to approve the expenditure until he knows the village is willing to pay the bill for the extra power. He would like to look into it and Councilman Aubertine said they need to know if the village is willing to pay for the extra power before the town authorizes the expenditure. Councilman Mason made a motion to table the decision so the board could get more information, seconded by Councilman Aubertine.

Supervisor Suller asked the board if they want the work sessions held on the first Thursdays of each month and they said yes. She said that they are to be work sessions and that the Town Clerk is not required to be present and that no decision would be made. Councilman Aubertine added that they could do this if prior notice is given and the meeting was advertised.

Councilman Wiley spoke about the Tri County Energy Cooperative presentation. He said this would be for an inter-municipal solar project. He said that that he would like to see a lot of people attend the presentation on March 3 at 7pm in the Recreation Park building.

Supervisor Suller asked the board members if they reviewed the investment policy. The board members said they had not had a chance to go over what she had sent them. She said this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Supervisor Suller said that the board had decided not to make the ethics committee selections, but will do it at the next meeting.

Resolution #34

Resolution #34 was moved by Councilman Aubertine, seconded by Councilman Wiley. Resolution #34 is to appoint Mike Saliby to a five year term as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Term to expire Dec. 31, 2021. There was the following discussion. The board asked the town clerk to advertise the vacant alternate position to the ZBA. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #35

Resolution #35 was moved by Councilman Mason, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. Resolution #35 is to establish a reserve account for the purpose of major repairs or replacement due to age and authorize the Supervisor to set aside .30 cents per thousand gallons of water used, and the resolution is to be in effect until specifically rescinded by a new resolution. There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #36

Resolution #36 was moved by Councilman Mason, seconded by Councilman Wiley. Resolution #36 is to authorize the Supervisor to establish a savings account for water districts 2 and 6, and close checking accounts for water districts 3, 4, 5, and 6. Councilman Aubertine asked why a savings account was needed for water district 2. Supervisor Suller said that it is because they need a bank account to put the money in. She said it would be taken out of the savings account and put into the water checking account to pay the bills. All members voted AYE.

Bills: Water district #1, \$47186.32; water district #3, \$1366.15; water district #4, \$14823.06; water district #5, \$2490.93; water district #6, \$1989.30; Capital Project, \$2573.68; Capital water project, \$487.50, General Fund, \$38510.19; Highway, \$103217.11.

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

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:00pm, for the purpose of discussion on potential legal liabilities, seconded by Councilman Wiley. Jim Millington, Zoning Officer was invited to attend.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:24pm, seconded by Councilman Wiley.

Councilman Mason made a motion to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:25pm, seconded by Councilman Wiley.

Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk