

January 21, 2021

## Regular Town Board Meeting

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

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

Privilege of the floor – no one wished to speak.

WD # 7 – Supervisor Bender invited Matt Cooper from Barton and Lodguidice to speak to the board about the Sewer project and WE #7.

Matt said that he would like to have the survey for water district 7 goes out as soon as possible. He said that they anticipate grants to be awarded at the end of the year.

Matt presented the board with a map of the proposed stages of the sewer district along the river. He talked about the areas and projected costs, stating that the more users added it would be better for the costs.

Matt also pointed out different scenarios stating that the more users in the district the better the funding opportunities would be.

Councilman Wood asked if they would have to force everyone to be in the district. Matt said that they could make the district sewer law read that everyone does not have to connect but they would have to pay a portion of the debt. He compared this to the water district that those who do not connect are still required to pay a reduced rate. Matt said that if everyone is not in the district, it would raise the price for everyone else.

Councilman Wiley asked what the survey response rate is. Matt said that he would check on this.

Councilman Aubertine asked Matt if the user costs take into effect the Village Costs for the sewer as the district would have to be included into the village's sewer system. Matt said that the debt service would be for 38 years, plus the O & M, and the discharge fee of sewer to the village. He said that the figures do represent the village's fee to appoint, as there is not an IMA in place and the village could bill on the water meter as they do now with the village residents.

Matt said that they need to establish a need and suggest doing this after the water district 7 survey is distributed. Matt said that they could build the case that the sewage is not going into the river.

### Reports

Recreation Park – Keith reported that they have painted the kitchen and have had the kitchen stove and hood professionally cleaned.

Water – Keith said that it has been pretty quiet with shut offs. He said that they have been approved for their water license renewals and have signed up for classes.

### Highway

Superintendent Bill Pond said that they have cleaned up the tires at the transfer site. He said that he had taken a truck to Bud Albro to repair and it was determined that a cam shaft needed to be replaced. Bill also said that he had taken the backhoe bucket for repairs that the costs will be \$3200.00 compared

to \$12,000.00 for a new one. He said that they have taken the Christmas lights down on the Lighthouse. Bill said that they have been doing the plowing and sanding and have done minor truck repairs. He told the board that they have shipped the plow and wings for the new truck, so he expects the new truck to be delivered soon.

Councilman Mason asked Bill if he has seen the new truck and Bill said he saw it. Councilman Mason said that he saw a voucher for it and wondered why it was being paid for before delivery. Bill said that he needed to pay the invoice to get the cancelled check to submit with his CHIPS reimbursement paperwork. He explained that if he does not do this he would lose almost \$40,000.00 toward the truck.

Supervisor's Financial Report – Supervisor Bender reviewed the report, stating fund balances. Councilman Wood made a motion to approve of the Supervisor's financial report, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members voted AYE.

LDC – Councilman Wiley said that they have been tasked with coming up with alternative ideas for Tibbetts Point.

#### Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Bender said that he has talked with Samaritan regarding the Clinic reopening and they have said that they will reopen on April 1. Councilman Aubertine asked if they would operate under the same conditions and Supervisor Bender said that he thought so. Supervisor Bender said that he has Carthage Area Hospital on the back burner. They are interested in operating out of the site if Samaritan does not come back.

#### Councilman's Discussion

Councilman Wiley said that he attended a meeting with the Town of Lyme regarding an ambulance district. He asked the board for their thoughts. He said that he thought the board should move forward with the idea and hold an informational meeting.

Tim White said that it was an information gathering meeting and that there is a lot of information that needs to be addressed if one district services two towns.

Councilman Aubertine said that the creation of the two districts would not necessarily be a financial gain but a gain in service. He said they will probably need two rigs and need to decide the service routes.

Councilman Wiley said that there are valid concerns, and one of his is that the people of Cape Vincent stepped up and purchased a new ambulance. Will they want that new ambulance to move out of Cape Vincent?

Supervisor Bender said that the biggest advantage the town of Lyme has is that they have more time to create a district.

Councilman Aubertine asked Tim White if his board is supportive of the idea of exploring the joint effort. Tim White said how can they say no. He said the ambulance squad feels that they must help and they know that there is a lot of work that needs to be done.

Councilman Wiley said that they will have help.

Councilman Wiley said that he wanted to address the ambulance contract that the town has with the ambulance squad. He said that he feels that the board's contract with the ambulance should be approved as it reads that the town should honor the \$90,000.00. He said that the contract does not say how the town gets the money, and that he is not comfortable not renewing the contract as it is written for \$45,000.00.

Councilman Wood said that the town only budgeted \$45,000.00, and if a district is created and a tax line is added for the district, will the town be reimbursed for the funds they put in that were not budgeted.

Councilman Wiley agreed the town should be reimbursed.

Councilman Aubertine said that the town should agree to the contract to keep the wheels turning.

Councilman Wiley agreed.

Councilman Mason said that he is concerned that the spending more than what is budgeted would be an Auditor's concern.

Supervisor Bender said that he wanted to discuss the RFQ's that the town received for the Club Street project. He said that he would like to meet with the engineering firms.

Councilman Wiley said that he would like to interview 3, review the drawings and price. He said if they don't like the price, that the board can say "no" and move on. He also talked about the board choosing a preliminary engineering plan they like the best, and letting the firms know that this is their choice for the project. He said that they would then ask the firms to come up with drawings representing what they want and pay them for it. Councilman Wiley said that he is comfortable paying an additional \$20,000.00 for this.

Councilman Mason said he did not agree, that the board needs to tell the engineer what they want.

Councilman Wood agreed with Councilman Wiley.

Councilman Aubertine said that he would like to choose the design, and then put it out to bid.

The board discussed bidding the final engineering plans, picking one firm to write a tighter package and interviewing. There were differences of opinions on who to interview, what to ask for.

It was decided to meet with the engineering firms that submitted the RFQ's during the February work session

Councilman Wiley said that he had a discussion with Justin Vrooman regarding his Bay Street building project. He said that he will talk with the Mayor to find out what the holdup is with the village planning board.

Councilman Mason said that the village is not in favor of giving up the project.

Resolution #15

Resolution #15 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Mason. Resolution #15 is the acceptance of the Judge Knuth and Judge Fix audit report.

There was no discussion.

Roll call vote was taken:

Supervisor Bender	AYE	Councilman Aubertine	AYE	Councilman Wiley	AYE
Councilman Mason	AYE	Councilman Wood	AYE		

Resolution #16

Resolution #16 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #16 is to agree to renew the ambulance contract as written with the funding of \$90,000.00 from the town. Also to agree to take a loan from Citizens Bank for the unbudgeted amount of \$45,000.00 with the understanding that the ambulance squad will reimburse the town in 2022 from their tax revenue line on the 2022 tax bill.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Bills: General Fund, \$41,174.02; Highway, \$18,712.55; SW1, \$2,201.36; Sw2, \$74.00; SW3, \$40.92; SW4 \$347.07; SW5, \$114.02; SW6, \$39.61.

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

Councilman Wood made a motion to adjourn at 8:15pm.

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Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk