

April 15, 2021

Town Board Regular Meeting

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

Supervisor Bender called the meeting to order at 6:30pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Privilege of the floor

Liz Brennan – Liz told the board that she was there to give a library report. She said that the library is open, providing services and continues with curbside pickup. She said that the media downloads have increased and told the board that a breast cancer bus will be at the library. Liz said that they will have an event called Tales on the River. This event invites people to write stories and submit them to the library.

Councilman Wood and Liz discussed the Library's budget and the amount they received in school tax revenue.

Supervisor Bender invited Bob Ewing from the Chamber of Commerce to speak. Bob told the board that the Chamber will be holding interviews on April 22, and will make a decision on the new director who will replace Shelley Higgins who will be retiring in July. Bob told the board that the Chamber will hold 4 fishing tournaments this year, and they will have more youth events. He also said that they do not have a decision on French Festival, whether or not they will be able to hold the event.

Bob told the board that he feels communication is important and he wants the lines of communication open with the town board.

Supervisor Bender invited Matt Cooper from Barton and Loguidice to speak to the board regarding water district 7.

Matt said that he would like to review the sewer district with the board. He said that nothing much has changed, and he thinks that the sewer district as laid out is feasible. He reviewed that the board received a \$30,000.00 feasibility grant and \$15,000.00 was given up front from the DEC. He said that he would like to send the feasibility report to the DEC. He said that the DEC does need to have a copy of this report. Matt told the board that he would like to send out an interest survey, and then have the board go after the remainder of the grant funds.

Councilman Mason made a motion to submit the feasibility study report to the DEC, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

WD #7 – Matt Cooper told the board that survey results have been tallied. The results are 64 answered yes in favor of the district and 36 not in favor. He said that the board needs to decide on the action to take. Do they want to proceed with the creation of the district? He reviewed with the board their options, permissive referendum or straight vote. He also reviewed with the board maps of the proposed district, and a modified map which deletes one parcel from the district.

The board discussed with Matt Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU) assessments for the district and for the property deleted.

Councilman Wiley said that he is concerned that deleting this parcel will cause trouble for the district, and that more people will want to be deleted. Matt explained that the line will cross that property and there are 3 ½ EDU assessments.

Councilman Aubertine said that he is concerned for the addition of a dead end. He said that he is concerned for water loss and contamination. Councilman Aubertine asked Keith Brass for his thoughts. Keith said that he feels the less dead ends the better. He also talked to Matt about the last parcel in the district on the corner of Bedford Corners Road and County Rte. 6 where there is a dead end. He suggested that instead of a dead end; why not put a main there and also a hydrant for the fire department to use. Matt said that this could be done.

Councilman Wiley said that he is really concerned about the deletion of the one property, he is concerned about the district financially if this is done, and he asked Matt if the town has ever done this. Matt said that it has been done, but did not have an example for the town of Cape Vincent.

Supervisor Bender asked how much the town would be pushing with the load, and Matt said that they could fill the gap with the grant. Matt told the board that they needed to apply for the WIIA grant in September. He said that board would need to form the district by August.

Councilman Aubertine said that he feels the town should bypass the permissive referendum and to a referendum for vote. Matt said that a new voter list would need to be made and there would be attorney's fees added for this service.

Councilman Mason said that he agreed with Councilman Wiley, the board would take heat for deleting the parcel and he feels that others will asked to be taken out.

Keith Brass stressed again that he feels the fewer dead ends in the district the better, he said he does not want any more dead ends added to the district.

The board discussed having an information meeting prior to August. Councilman Wiley said that he would like more communication with the potential users, he wants the facts of the district made clear and he said that he feels they should have the district boundaries finalized by the end of May.

Councilman Mason said that he agreed, the more information made available the better, especially with funding.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to hold an informational meeting for the residents in the potential water district #7, on May 15 at 11:00am, and that this meeting will be held in person and via zoom, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. All members voted AYE.

The minutes of the March 18 and April 1, 2021 meetings were accepted by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members voted AYE.

## Reports

Recreation Park – Keith Brass told the board that they have had a few meeting and they have people who are interested in using the building for wedding receptions and large parties. Keith told the board that he and John Lawrence have waxed the floor in the main room and will put the final coat on it. He said that the tennis nets are up and the mower is serviced.

Water – Keith Brass said that they are busy doing spring water turn ons, and have done one install. He said that they have 3 more to do. Keith also told the board that he will be putting in a service line on Frenz Dr. and thought that he may need an easement, but one already exists and he has located it. He also reported that they had to repair a service line to a house on the Valley Road and they had to repair to a pipe that pulled apart on the Tibbetts Point Road.

Keith told the board that he and John have attended training and that there will be a training class held in the Recreation Park building.

Keith told the board that he has a contract for the inspection of the water tower in the amount of \$1,800.00 from Atlantic Underwater Service.

Councilman Mason made a motion to approve the contract for the inspection of the water tower, second by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Highway – Bill Pond told the board that he is still waiting to hear back from the third company regarding the fence repair at the transfer site. He said that he had met with Jim Lawrence and Jim told him he would have trucks available in mid-May to haul away the Club Street house when they tear it down. Bill told the board that Jim also told him that they will be replacing all of the culverts on County Rte. 4 this summer. He originally thought that the County only wanted to do a third, but they want to do them all now.

Bill reported that they have done shared service work, swept the intersections, cleaned out ditches and driveways and he said the excavator has been repaired. Bill told the board that the repair costs are \$25,000.00, not the original \$30,000.00 that he thought.

Bill said that Scott is mowing, and they are still waiting for delivery of the new mower. Bill also reported that he has tested out the new radios and is impressed with the range that they have. He also said that the men have helped at East End Park and they have borrowed the fire department tanker truck to wash the bridges. Bill said that they will be re-grading the dirt roads.

Supervisor's Financial Report – Supervisor Bender reviewed the account balances and asked if the board members had received his report.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to accept the Supervisor's Financial Report, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

DANC – Councilman Mason said that there will be a virtual meeting April 22 at 4pm.

LWRP – Councilman Wiley said that they have had on going meetings, and their paperwork for the 501C3 status is signed and filed.

Youth Commission – Councilman Wiley said that youth baseball practice has started

LDC – Councilman Wiley said that they are working with DANC on the walking trail and that it has been suggested that they contact TILT and/or Ontario Bay Initiative for any help that they can give them.

Lighthouse – Councilman Wiley said that they had a meeting with the State Parks Historical Society to take over the grounds. He said that they are interested and that he has heard from Senator Chuck Schumer's office and they would like to write a letter of support to the town's application to change the

historical status. Councilman Wiley also spoke about Playground grant funds, and he told Supervisor Bender that Senator Ritchie's office may be sending him a letter regarding this. Councilman Wiley said that there will be a meeting with Edgewater and key stakeholders regarding the Club Street project in May.

#### Councilmen's Discussion

Councilman Aubertine said that he has a few thoughts on the three candidates that will be interviewed for the Chamber of Commerce position. He said that he would like to go into Executive Session to talk about this.

Bills: WD #1 v 43-60, \$21,578.93; WD #3 v 44-60, \$1,162.42; WD #4 v 44-60, \$133,867.52; WD #5 v 43-60, \$961.75; WD #6 v 45-60, \$2,123.96; Capital Project v 32, \$12,525.00; General Fund v 122-156, \$62,073.75; Highway v 71-91, \$35,442.20.

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

Tim White gave the board a summary update on project #15629, the demolition of the boat house, Swenson house and the restroom construction on Club Street. He went over the money spent so far and the grant funds. Tim told the board that the asbestos abatement will be done on April 19, and then the house can be taken down. Tim gave an overview of the work schedule and said that the permitting process has begun for the demolition of the boathouse. Tim and Bill Pond talked about the demolition of the Swenson house. Bill said that Jim Lawrence does not have a date set to haul the debris, but Bill said that he could take the house down, leave it, and then when the trucks come the town highway department can help load the debris.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss matters leading to appointment, employment of a particular person at 8:09pm, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to come out of Executive session and adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

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Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk