

Aug. 19, 2022

Regular Town Board Meeting August 19, 2022

Present: Supervisor Marty Mason, Councilman Tim Maloney, Councilman Paul Aubertine, Councilman Dan Wiley, Councilman Alan Wood, Highway Superintendent Bill Pond, Matt Cooper and approximately 4 visitors.

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

Privilege of the floor

Mike Couglar – Mr. Couglar introduced himself as the President of the Tibbetts Point Historical Society. He said that the society has done fund raising and they have money available to help with the repairs to the fog horn building and the lighthouse. Mr. Couglar said that the town's lawn guy is doing a great job and he wished to thank Bill Pond for this. Mr. Couglar also said that he is concerned that when the State takes over the property, they won't be able to run the gift shop and they would like to continue to do this. He said that he is hoping to work together with the town and keep the relationship going.

Mr. Couglar said that he thinks Churchill construction is doing a good job and he listed off other areas in the lighthouse that need repair. He said that he does not want there to be a gate at the property and is afraid that the State will install a gate.

Supervisor Mason said that the town does not want a gate to be put up either and he said that the State Parks liked the gift shop.

Bill Pond told Mr. Couglar that he has the exit signs to put in the gift shop, but he still can't get in the building. Mr. Couglar said that he has a new combination lock to put in.

Councilman Wiley said that he understands that the Historical Society still plans to split the costs of the work being done by Churchill Contracting. He told Mr. Couglar that the town will turn over the invoices they receive to them and they can pay the bill directly to Churchill Contracting. Mr. Couglar agreed to this.

A motion to accept the minutes of July 21, 2022 was made by Councilman Aubertine, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Supervisor's Financial report was reviewed. Supervisor Mason said that the sales tax revenue was down this last quarter.

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

Bills: WD #1, \$31,192.71; WD #2, \$1,785.08; WD #3, \$1,458.13, WD #4, \$2,016.24; WD #5, \$2,733.85; WD # 6, \$31,074.04; Highway, \$32,500.90; Gen Fund, \$35,9149.91.

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

Matt Cooper-Barton & Loguidice – Matt told the board that the first round of interest surveys has come back, and they are doing a second round. He told the board that the support is lagging, and 59% have responded to the survey.

Matt told the board that over the course of the afternoon, he was made aware of grant funding for the sewer project that could lower the costs by half. He said that the BIL (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) grant could be up to 15 million dollars with 0% interest. He said that they want to also apply for a WIIA grant for the project. He said that the board would need to pass a resolution declaring intent to be the lead agency in the SEQR process.

Councilman Aubertine asked what the town's financial obligations would be. Matt told him that the town had already set aside \$15,000.00 for engineering costs and these fees would go against the money set aside.

Councilman Wiley asked if there was additional funding so the project could have a bigger scope. Matt said that he did not have the answer to this.

Councilman Wood asked if only 43% were in favor of the sewer project, then why move forward. Matt said that because the costs have come down, he feels the residents may be in favor.

Councilman Wiley asked if there was a way to leverage more funds on behalf of the village and Matt said no.

After a brief discussion on the process, Councilman Wiley and Maloney agreed it should be pursued. Matt suggested doing the SEQR and submit it, then go back to the public and say this is what the costs will be.

Councilman Aubertine said, for the record, at a prior meeting he had asked Matt if he had ever seen a project receive 75% funding and Matt said "no".

Matt discussed water district 7, explaining that Rural Development held EFC back on giving the full amount of grant. He said that they have been round and round with RD, and they are holding firm with their answer that they believe the town doesn't need it and will not agree to the full amount.

Matt told the board that he is suggesting that the town decline the RD grant, decline the WIIA grant that was awarded and apply for a WIIA grant that is now up to 5 million. He said that this would help with the project costs, it would make a good cushion.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to decline the grant monies awarded by RD, and decline the \$230,000.00 awarded through the WIIA grant, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members present voted AYE.

Reports

Highway – Bill Pond reported that they have replaced culverts on town roads and that the boom mower was used to mow the other side of the guardrail hillsides. He said that RMS was able to get about 10 thousand ton of gravel, but that is shy of what he needs. He said that the pit is exhausted and RMS said that they won't be back. Bill told the board that he spoke with Bach and Company and they are interested in some sort of agreement in exchange for the pit as it borders theirs. He said he would like to discuss this with the board at another time. Bill also said that he will not be able to sell any more stone to the County.

Bill reported on the County Rt 4 road job saying that the County is on hold right now. He wants to get it completed but has to wait on them. Bill reported that they have rebuilt the platforms for the piano competition as per the request made to the town from the Arts Council.

Bill said that the new truck ordered last year has had a price increase of \$13,685.00. He said that he met with the salesman at Tracey Road Equipment and it isn't looking good for delivery this year. He was also told that if he wants to order another truck, he should do so asap to be put on a "wish list".

Bill said that they have been mowing, cold patching, and overhead door has replaced the garage door. Bill told the board that Steve Docteur will retire on Aug. 31 and he would like to hire a new person. He said that he is still waiting for bids to come in for the roller and mower and he said that truck 56 is back. He also told the board that he and Michelle were still working with FEMA regarding the Dablon Point and Wilson Bay shoreline project. He said that he has learned that he will be receiving 87% back in the repair costs.

Bill reviewed with the board a new fee schedule and information sheet for the transfer site. He told the board that he had previously made this available to them and would like them to act on it this evening. Councilman Maloney made a motion to accept the new fee schedule for the transfer site, effective Sept. 1, seconded by Councilman Wood. There was the following discussion.

Councilman Maloney asked if there should be a clarification for smaller pickup trucks and Bill said that the schedule does differentiate bed sizes and feels it won't be a problem.

All members voted AYE.

Bill told the board that he received one bid for the truck declared excess equipment. Bill opened the bid at 7:43pm. Bidder was Eddie Casler in the amount of \$700.00.

Councilman Wood made a motion to accept the bid in the amount of \$700.00 from Eddie Casler, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members voted AYE

Recreation Park & Water report was given by Town Clerk Michelle Bouchard in Keith's absence.

Rec park reports that there were regular meetings and clubs using the building. The Arts Council will be having art classes for the kids next week. The report says that they have replaced the broken and crushed pipes for drainage along the building. They are planning to put another 4" drain line with 3 small drop inlets from the propane tank to the drain pipe behind the building. This will help to prevent the building from flooding in the spring. The report says that they have removed the shot rock from the pickleball courts and put dirt in and seeded it.

Water

The water reports that they have flushed dead end blow offs and did a new install in water district 1. The water tower repairs are slated for the week of the 29th, and the gen set for the booster pump station should be delivered at the end of the month. The report states that Keith has ordered parts for a fire hydrant to repair the main valve and was told the parts would not be available until 2023. Keith is working on his budget and he had asked Tina to email the board costs to install meter pits now. The report says that Keith has found out that there has been a price increase ranging from 8 to 25% for pretty much everything. Keith offered to be available by phone should the board have any questions.

Assessor

Supervisor Mason said that the Assessor, Becky Trudell, has contacted a drone company to fly over the Islands in the fall for data collection.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Mason told the board that he has talked with Peyton from the State Parks and the Commissioner has put the proposal to take over Tibbetts Point as a high priority. Supervisor Mason said that the town received an invoice from WCP, Scott Burto regarding the grant for the Tibbetts Point Shoreline repair in the amount of \$9,000.00. The board discussed this and had questions regarding the bill and they were with the understanding that they need the GDA. Councilman Wood made a motion to table the payment of the invoice to WCP until they get more information, seconded by Councilman Maloney. All members voted AYE.

Councilman's discussion

Councilman Aubertine said that the machinery committee met with Bill Pond and the truck that Bill spoke of earlier was pushed back to another model and year. He said that they will not be able to have the truck this year. Councilman Aubertine said that Bill contacted other companies, and it's the same situation with all of them. Also, they felt the truck being purchased through Tracey was a better piece of equipment. He also said that the roller will be purchased by the end of the year and it will come out to the highway's 2022 budget. Councilman Aubertine said that Bill did order another truck but it won't be delivered until late 2024 or 2025. He also said that the highway will transfer \$10,000.00 to the water department for the sale of Keith's old truck being used by Scott for mowing.

Councilman Wiley said that the LWRP paperwork will be finalized tomorrow, and that the LDC 501c3 paperwork is complete and submitted.

Councilman Wiley said that there is a private investor who is interested in the Marina and would like to sit and talk with the owner, Ron Trottier. He told the board that the investor is looking for the town's blessing with him having a conversation with Mr. Trottier. The town discussed this and agreed he should meet with Mr. Trottier, and they encourage him to do so.

Councilman Maloney said that he did not attend the last ambulance meeting because the date was changed and he did not know it was being held. He said that Dave McIntyre is no longer a member of the ambulance board.

Councilman Maloney said that he is aware of the invoice the ambulance board gave to the town, but he says that he would like to see minutes and financial statements before the town pays the bill. The board discussed the situation with the recent bill received and the money the town has already given to the ambulance. They asked if they can give a monthly financial statement with the bill, why can't they provide a complete financial statement to the town board.

Councilman Maloney said that the ambulance board needs members.

The board set their budget work session to be held on Tuesday mornings at 7:30am and 8:30am with Tina, starting September 6 in the town office.

The board set the date, contingent on village trustee approval, for the Town, Village, and LDC annual work session for Thursday Sept. 22 at 6:30pm.

Town Clerk, Michelle Bouchard, told the board that she received a letter from the American Legion who will be renewing their liquor license and are asking the board to waive the 30-day waiting period.

Councilman Maloney made a motion to waive the 30-day waiting period to allow the American Legion to renew their Liquor License, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Old Business

Supervisor Mason said that he has heard from Attorney Burrows regarding the request from Mr. Casola for a refund on his water EDU charge. He said that attorney Burrows said that the statute of limitations is 6 years and it has been over 6 years. Supervisor Mason said that he thinks the town should pay half. Councilman Wood made a motion to have the attorney draft a letter to Mr. Casola and send it to him with the check reflecting half the amount requested, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. All members voted AYE.

The board discussed the bill received from the ambulance squad for services. Councilman Wiley said that the town has a contract with them, and Supervisor Mason agreed saying that the contract also says they need to show the board they need the funds and they have not done that yet or given minutes. There was discussion on not paying the invoice until the town has an opinion from the town's attorney. Councilman Wiley said that he would like to pay the bill, and said that they told the ambulance they would pay as needed.

Councilman Wood said he thinks the bill should be paid and then see if they receive another bill next month.

Councilman Maloney said that he would like a better idea of what they are doing with their finances before the bill is paid.

Councilman Wood made a motion to pay the ambulance bill in the amount of \$16,140.71, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. All members voted AYE.

Supervisor Mason said that he wanted to discuss the contract with Tim White for the Club Street Project. He said that because it is now complete, he would like to stop giving Tim a check every month for \$850.00 for being the manager of the project. The board discussed this and it was agreed to have the Supervisor send a letter to Tim White that the town will no longer be sending him a monthly check.

Resolutions

Resolution #46

Resolution #46 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Maloney. Resolution #46 is to authorize the Judges to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2022-2023 grant cycle up to \$30,000.00.

There was not discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #47

Resolution #47 was moved by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Maloney. Resolution #47 is the acceptance of the price increase of \$13,685.00 for the 2024 Western Star truck.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #48

Resolution #48 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. Resolution #48 is the amended bond resolution for water district #7. The amendment authorizes a maximum of \$8,334,000.00 in serial bonds for the construction of Water District #7. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #49

Resolution #49 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Wiley. Resolution #49 is to authorize the submission of a New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant application for the sewer district development project.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #50

Resolution #50 was moved by Councilman Aubertine, seconded by Councilman Maloney. Resolution #50 is to authorize the submission of a New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant application for the water district #7 project.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #51

Resolution #51 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. Resolution #51 is the agreement that the town assume the role of Lead Agency for the purposes of conducting a SEQRA/SERP assessment for the sewer district project.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm.

Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk