

October 19, 2023

Regular Town Board Meeting

Present: Supervisor Marty Mason, Councilman Paul Aubertine, Councilman Tim Maloney, Councilman Dan Wiley, Councilman Alan Wood, Keith Brass, Highway Superintendent Bill Pond and approximately 8 visitors.

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

Privilege of the floor:

Kathy Pierce & Amy Pond – Kathy told the board that she and Amy were there on behalf of the library. She said that she saw a copy of the tentative budget and noticed that the library was not included, and they were there to ask the board to consider putting the library back in. Kathy passed out a list of services, programs, events and fund raisers the library offers. She also told the board that they have had 23,385 patron visits. Kathy said that the board should be proud of their community library. She asked the board if they should come each year to the budget work sessions to request funding.

The board said it would be a good idea.

Kathy spoke of the renovations that have taken place in the library and said it is a very busy library.

Amy Pond asked the board if they had any questions on the revenue collected from school tax. She gave the board an overview of revenue given by the other towns in the school district; Town of Clayton over \$34,000.00, DePauville over \$20,000.00 and the Town of Cape Vincent gave \$2,000.00 last year. She asked the board to reconsider, and put the library back in the budget.

Councilman Wood asked if the library received \$7,500.00 from the library levy line on the school tax bill and Kathy and Amy told him yes.

Councilman Wood said that if the figure of 23,385 people through the door of the library was correct, that is an average of 200 per day.

Amy said that they have a door counter, and the numbers can be checked.

Councilman Wood said if that was the case, he would give the library \$2,500.00.

Councilman Aubertine asked if Clayton and DePauville also received \$7,500.00 from the library levy line and Kathy told him yes. Kathy also said that personnel is a major piece of the library budget.

Supervisor Mason asked if the schools still have a library.

Amy Pond replied that they do, but are not open every day.

Kathy and Amy thanked the board for their time.

Jeff Call – Jeff said he was there to review the ambulance budget with the board. He gave a report on the number of calls and transports. He said that the staffing is good. Jeff told the board that they will operate with the same budgeted amount, and are not looking for an increase.

Jeff told the board that they have a mortgage payment now and are starting to build the garage to house the ambulance. He said they will need to replace the ambulance in about 3 years.

Jeff said that they are receiving donations for the new building. He also reported that EMT classes will start, maybe in January, and they will be free thanks to the scholarship fund.

Supervisor Mason asked if they will advertise the classes. Jeff said they would, but they don't want the County to sponsor the class, they want to do it to keep it free of charge.

Councilman Wiley asked if they had Direct Pay set up yet. Jeff said they did and it is on Council's desk waiting for approval.

Jeff also told the board that they have purchased a new Paramedic Fly Car. This gives them the ability to do their own hook ups, and all revenues stay in house.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to accept the minutes from the Sept. 21, 2023 meeting, seconded by Councilman Maloney. All members voted AYE.

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

Bills: WD #1, \$9,244.98; WD #3, \$76.06; WD #4, \$216.86; WD#5, \$372.94; WD#6, \$60.97; Highway, \$112,066.20; H4 (HD#7), \$110.00, H1, \$4,191.25(Club St); General Fund, \$21,293.53.

Councilman Maloney made a motion to approve of the payment of the vouchers, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. There was the following discussion.

Councilman Wood asked Bill Pond if the voucher for Cazenovia Equipment was for the mower and Bill told him it was.

All members voted AYE.

Reports

Highway – Highway Superintendent Bill Pond said that they have finished the County Rte. 6 Shoreline project and the Tibbetts Point shoreline repair. He said that next spring they will go back to County Rte. 6 project for any repairs that may need to be done. Bill said that they have crack sealed the roads and paved Merchant Road. Repairs have been made to the mowing tractor and truck 55.

Bill told the board that he has borrowed a man lift for building the enclosure around the new furnace for the museum, and he will be placing the tub grinder on Auctions International. He said that the new plow truck should be delivered the end of March or April next year. Bill said they have also cut down a few dead trees along the side of the roads and they will soon be putting on the plow frames.

Recreation Park – Keith Brass said they have had the regular clubs and meetings in the buildings. He said that the new refrigerator was delivered, and they have poured concrete for the water fountain.

Water – Keith Brass said that they have done quite a few shut offs and they are going well. He said that they had a few leaks that were detected by the alarms and have been repaired. He told the board that the butterfly valves are here, but he is still waiting for some parts. Keith said they will be doing 3 new installs and one needs to go under a road.

Supervisor Mason said that he spoke with Mike Alteri and the NYS National Parks have approved the fencing for Tibbetts Point and it will be going out to bid. A letter regarding the bid will be sent to the Town Clerk for posting.

Frank Giaquinto, Planning Board Chairman, spoke to the board about a zoom meeting that he, Noel Bonvouloir, and Supervisor Mason had regarding short term rentals. He said that Noel had written a

letter to the board regarding this and Supervisor Mason said the letter is in each Councilman's meeting materials.

Frank said that they are looking for the board to give approval for them to move forward to work on a law addressing this. He said that the board is talking about a Planner, and he feels the board should have the Planner write the law, not the Planning Board. He said that the Planner would have more knowledge of how it should be written.

Councilman Wood said that he is not in favor of having a short-term rental law.

Councilman Wiley said that he feels the board should look at it.

Supervisor Mason said that Jefferson County should have something in place that the Planning Board could start with.

Councilman Maloney said that he worries about the loss of homes for families to buy. He said that the loss of families living in Cape Vincent has an effect on our school enrollment.

Councilman Wood asked if the board wants to attract tourists or not. He said that he has cottage units and they are not a problem. The board explained that it wasn't the cottage units that need regulating, but a law in place to help prevent all the homes on the market from being purchased for Airbnb's.

Councilman Maloney said that he feels there should be an even mix of tourists and year-round residents.

Supervisor Mason said it is important to have year-round residents' families to support the schools.

Councilman Aubertine said that he understands what Councilman Wood is saying, but a lack of housing is not good for Cape Vincent.

Frank said that he wants a company to write the law regarding short term rentals.

Supervisor Mason reported that Ron Trottier attended the village Planning Board meeting for his subdivision of the Club Street Marina. He said that Ron has made changes that he is not in favor of, and it is not what they had spoke of. He said that the pins in the property have been set.

Councilman Maloney said that the board needs to go back to their original agreement with Ron. He said that he and Supervisor Mason looked over the maps and the property and it needs to be corrected to the original agreement. He said that they agreed on where to subdivide, and what was agreed upon and the map does not reflect that.

Supervisor Mason said that it is 15' shy of the original agreement.

They will meet with Ron again.

Councilman Wiley said that the CVLDC IMA needs to be signed. He said they are looking for a list of projects for the planner for next year and he gave the board members information regarding this.

Councilman Wiley said that the CVLDC wants something more definitive from the town to prepare the budget for the planner, Scott Burto.

Councilman Aubertine asked if Scott was the grant writer or the administrator, he said the board needs to decide.

Councilman Wiley said those are some of the questions. He said that there are a lot of unknowns.

Councilman Wiley said that the town needs to sign off on the Strategic Plan, the Comprehensive Plan. He said that Scott updated the Comp plan a few years ago.

Councilman Aubertine said that in terms of current projects and awards, those are some things that won't be on Scott's plate. He asked who will be the administrator for current grant projects. He thought Edgewater was the administrator for Club Street.

Councilman Wiley said that they don't know. He said that Scott is working on the covered ice rink, and they don't know at this time if he will be the administrator. He said that this is the information the LDC is looking for.

Supervisor Mason said that with regard to the Tibbetts Point Shoreline project, Scott has already been paid for administering it.

Councilman Wiley said that Scott's hourly fee is about a third of what most people charge. He said if they don't keep Scott around and busy, they will be at square one with someone who charges a lot more per hour.

Mary Farrell said that the CVLDC is looking for is what are the town's plans for Scott. She said they need the town to say we need Scott to write a grant, or administer a grant. Then they will work with him to determine how many hours it will take. She said they do not want to pay someone if they do not have anything to do. She said they need to know what town wants him to do.

Mary said that there are two parts: write the grant and administer the grant.

Councilman Wiley said this needs to be done quickly. He said there are a lot of "ifs".

Mary said that she would think that the town would contact Edgewater to ask if they are going to administer the big grant, and if they say yes, the CVLDC can take that off Scott's list.

Supervisor Mason will contact Edgewater.

Councilman Wiley reminded everyone that the Lions Club Breakfast will be held on Sunday.

Councilman Wood said that he attended both the Planning and Zoning meetings and all went well.

Councilman Maloney said that he attended the ambulance meeting, but there wasn't a quorum and the meeting was cancelled. He said that he was told they held an emergency meeting but he and Terry, Supervisor from the town of Lyme, were not invited.

Councilman Aubertine said that he dropped off the water installation application to the Yeardon's for water hook up with the DANC line.

Frank Giaquinto addressed the board stating he would like them to hire a company, someone else to re-write the zoning law.

Councilman Aubertine said that it is a law for the community and it should be the residents who create the law.

Resolutions

Resolution #55

Resolution #55 was moved by Councilman Aubertine, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #55 is to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Dog Control IMA with the Towns of Clayton, Lyme, Brownville for a two-year period from Jan. 1, 2024 through Dec. 31, 2025.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #56

Resolution #56 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Maloney. Resolution #56 is to authorize the Supervisor to sign the concession agreement between the Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Historical Society and the Town of Cape Vincent and that the term shall be for one year beginning Oct. 8, 2023 through Oct. 7, 2024.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #57

Resolution #57 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #57 is to declare the Hobart refrigerator located in the Recreation Park kitchen, surplus equipment, and it is to be disposed of at the discretion of the Recreation Park Manager.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #58

Resolution #58 was moved by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Wiley. Resolution #58 is the approval of the purchase of the Colorimetric Chlorine Analyzer from Hach in the amount of \$6,210.47.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #59

Resolution #59 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #59 is to schedule a public hearing to adopt the 2024 Preliminary budget on Nov. 9, 2023 at 6pm in the Recreation Park Building.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #60

Resolution #60 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. Resolution #60 is to authorize the Supervisor to transfer \$5,000.00 from the General Fund A599 to Club Street Capital fund for budget amendment.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Councilman Aubertine at 7:38pm. All members voted AYE

Councilman Wiley made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:54pm, seconded by Councilman Maloney. All members voted AYE.

Supervisor Mason motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm.

Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk