

February 15, 2024

Regular Town Board Minutes

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

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

Privilege of the floor: No one wished to speak.

Councilman Wood made a motion to accept the minutes of the Jan. 18, 2024 meeting, seconded by Councilman Maloney. All members voted AYE.

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

Reports

Highway, Bill Pond – Bill reported that they have been cutting and grinding trees and plowing and sanding roads at times. He said that they are back to work on County Rte. 6/Tibbetts Point Road. He said that he has earned revenue from Jefferson County in January and February because of the easy winter. Bill said that this is the first time that they have done this.

Bill reported that the heaters are installed in the Chamber office.

Recreation Park, Keith Brass – Keith said that they have had their regular clubs and meetings, and they have installed the new kitchen flooring.

Water, Keith Brass – Keith said that they helped with a water main break in the village, and replaced a broken water meter in water district #4.

He said that they are going to be replacing the pump and the water will be shut down. Keith said he feels that a letter should be mailed to the village and town residents letting them know when this will happen.

Keith said that he had delivered the water district #8 application to DANC, and he has not heard back from them yet. Keith has renewed his water license, and told the board that this will be his last renewal.

Paul said that DANC would like the town to renew the regional water agreement to include water district #8.

Supervisor Aubertine said that a petition has been submitted and certified regarding the Club Street referendum. He said that board will need to set the date.

Supervisor Aubertine said that last month the board advertised for RFQ for water district #9. He told the board that they have received two, one from Barton and Loguidice and the other from Bernier and Carr. He said that they are both very qualified, but would like to hold off on the decision until the board had a chance to review RFQ's.

Supervisor Aubertine said that the town would need to pursue a BAN for water district #7. He said that he would like to hire Municipal Solutions to help the town with the project and he would like to contact Megan Kendall to start the BAN process. Supervisor Aubertine said that he would like to get started on this.

Supervisor Aubertine said that residents along the Tibbetts Point Road have contacted him requesting that the Tibbetts Point road be closed for the eclipse because of the influx of people expected to come to our area to view it. He said that he really does not want to do this as it will seem unwelcoming to new visitors.

Councilman Wiley said that they can't close the road as the Tibbetts Point Historical Society has a lot planned for that day.

The board discussed using a school bus and all agreed that a plan needs to be put in place, not just for Tibbetts Point but for the town. Supervisor Aubertine said that this situation can't be ignored.

Visitor, Butch Cullen said that he feels the road will fill up in a hurry and that the ground would not be hard enough for parking in April. He suggested having radio communications to let people know there is no more room at Tibbetts Point for parking.

The board discussed setting up an outside fund for the costs being incurred for the Carleton Island Villa project.

Councilman Wood made a motion to set up a fund to pay for services related to the Carleton Island Villa project to cover expenses spent and that will continue to be spent, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members present voted AYE.

Councilman Wiley said that the Lion Club Breakfast was a success for the Renda family. Councilman Wiley also spoke about the sewer survey, stating that it needs to be corrected and that the CVLDC is on board to help out with the mailing of the survey.

David Powers with Barton and Loguidice said that they could provide a survey sample that would speak to where they are now in the process. He also told the board that the survey would need to be sent back to them as they will need to see specific data. He said that the survey will give the residents three ways to respond to it.

David said that they will have more concrete interest information and that they won't go on if the interest isn't there. David reviewed the loan process.

David reported that water district #7 is moving forward. He gave a tentative timeline of May thru July for easements, June thru August for DOH review, and bids done in September with construction to begin in October.

Councilman Wiley reviewed the "to do list" regarding the Club Street project.

- *Letter to be mailed regarding the referendum, containing talking points
- *Letters from the Steering Committee, Village, CVLDC, Chamber of Commerce in support of project.
- *Address Economic benefits
- *Meet with Mr. Trottier and the Figueroa's to keep them abreast of the project
- *Q & A on website
- *Compile board talking points

Supervisor Aubertine said that he thinks the Q & A is a great way to provide answers as to why the referendum needs to go through. He said that Edgewater has been very valuable in helping to break down key points.

The board discussed sending a letter regarding the vote, and the date of the referendum to the residents, and to allow for absentee ballots.

Visitor Robert Russell addressed the board expressing the importance of making the key points of the project available to the public. He said that he feels it is also important to have those people who are away find out about the referendum, and he suggested putting together a flyer. He said that the people who do not want it approved are making their point heard.

Visitor Butch Cullen said that he feels that having the project on the website under Documents is hard to find and it should have its own page.

Councilman Wood said that he attended the ZBA meeting and there were a lot of questions and answers regarding the Carleton Villa.

Councilman Maloney said that he attended the ambulance meeting. He said that he had emailed the town board members a copy of a revised contract from Jeff Call. The revised contract agrees to pay the entire amount of funds, collected through the tax levy line, to the ambulance all at once.

The board discussed the reasoning for Mr. Call's change to the payment process, but were in agreement not to send one lump sum.

Supervisor Aubertine said he is not in favor of amending the contract this year.

Councilman Maloney said that he too is not in favor of amending the contract and giving the full amount up front, but he would consider making two payments.

Councilman Wood said that he is not in favor and questioned if the board did give the funds up front and if the ambulance goes defunct, the town would be out the money.

Councilman Wood said that he attended a Citizens Advisor Committee meeting at the Correctional Facility. He said that they are looking for letters of support to keep the prison open in Cape Vincent. He said the letters are to be sent to the Governor.

The board discussed the councilman vacancy. Supervisor Aubertine said that he would like to change the March 7 work session to a special meeting to interview the candidates, and that the meeting will start at 6pm.

Town Clerk, Michelle Bouchard, talked with the board about researching another bank and she asked their permission to do so.

Councilman Wood said that the bank should be notified of this.

Supervisor Aubertine made a motion giving permission to the town clerk to research other banks for the town clerk funds, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members voted AYE.

Town Clerk, Michelle Bouchard, asked to have an audit done. Supervisor Aubertine and Councilman Wood will do the audit in March.

Michelle also spoke to the board about an email from Mike Couglar regarding a company wanting to rent the lighthouse grounds to film a short clip on area destinations.

The board had not had a chance to review the information and they will discuss this at the March meeting.

Resolutions

Resolution #19

Resolution #19 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #19 is the acceptance of Judge Knuth and Judge Fix's books after an audit.

There was no discussion. Roll call vote was taken: Supervisor Aubertine Aye, Councilman Wiley AYE, Councilman Wood AYE, Councilman Maloney AYE.

Resolution #20

Resolution #20 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #20 is to authorize the Supervisor to direct the town attorney to create a Public Benefit Service agreement between the Town of Cape Vincent and the Cape Vincent Historical Museum.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #21

Resolution #21 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Wiley. Resolution #21 is to authorize the supervisor to transfer \$30,000.00 from the General Fund to Water District #7 for budget amendment.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #22

Resolution #22 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Maloney. Resolution #22 is to authorize the Supervisor to sign an extension to the contract with Barton and Loguidice for costs associated with the potential sewer district, not to exceed \$20,000.00.

There was the following discussion. Councilman Wood asked Supervisor Aubertine if he would assure him that there weren't going to be any more extension and costs to the potential sewer district.

Supervisor Aubertine assured him that there would not be. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #23

Resolution #23 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Supervisor Aubertine. Resolution #23 is the acceptance of the certified petitions calling for a referendum. Setting the date of April 13, 2024 from 12noon until 6pm at the Recreation Park building 602 S. James St. That the proposition shall read "Shall the Town of Cape Vincent expend funds not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 in order to update and improve the Town waterfront".

There was no discussion. Roll call vote was taken: Supervisor Aubertine AYE, Councilman Wiley AYE, Councilman Wood, AYE, Councilman Maloney AYE.

Bills: Club St. Capital Project, \$660.00; WD #7, \$23,747.28; WD #1, \$35,736.14; WD #2, \$1,704.86; WD #3, \$2,986.10; WD #4, \$2,877.21; WD #5, \$3,740.16; WD #6, \$1,183.92; Highway, \$35,366.42; SM, \$41,666.00; sl1, \$78.36; General Fund, \$275,990.76.

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

Councilman Wiley made a motion to adjourn at 7:40pm.

Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk