

April 19, 2024

Regular Town Board Meeting

Present: Supervisor Paul Aubertine, Councilman Dan Wiley, Councilman Tim Maloney, Councilman Alan Wood, Councilwoman Heather Miller, Highway Superintendent Bill Pond, Keith Brass and approximately 14 visitors.

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

Privilege of the floor:

Todd Beaton - Todd told the board that he was there representing the mobile home parks to discuss the proposed sewer district. He thanked the board for their time and the chance to speak. He shared the preliminary report with the board and discussed the issues that he had with it. He said it is a boiler plate report without a field testing report. He also said that it spoke of water leakage into the river, but showed no evidence of pollution. He said that the plan was painted with a broad brush to be used as a scare tactic. Todd also said that there were no field water sampling reports.

Todd said that the parks are seasonal and that there is no mention of what will be done to winterize the pumps for the winter.

Todd said that the project is too expensive and that the value is unattainable. He also questioned what happens when the power goes out.

Todd asked the board to be careful with the funding, he asked the board to consider his concerns and cancel the project.

John Healy - John said that he was there representing Maloney's Trailer Park. He said that the survey only went to 25% of the population and does not represent the people who live in the parks. He said that he was told the village's sewer system is over designed, which he finds hard to believe. He feels that the engineer should not have done the survey as it is biased.

Tippi Haag-Olson - Tippi said that she was there to speak about the Rights of Nature. She thanked the board and explained that the Rights of Nature is a world wide movement to protect natural resources. She said that it is a soft touch to recognize the river's as an important asset. Tippi spoke of a resolution that she would like the board to pass.

Supervisor Aubertine asked her what rights the board would be giving the river that it doesn't already have.

Tippi said that it would recognize the ability for a person to bring action on behalf of the river.

Councilman Maloney asked if there was a corporation involved. Tippi said that corporations are allowed but no corporation is involved.

Lou Santy - Lou told the board that the proposed sewer district would put a financial burden on his tenants that they cannot afford. He referenced a similar project that his wife went through and he said it was not a good experience for her. He said some of the similarities were funding and the amount it is to cost each property owner. He said that the pumps are buried and vented. He said that visually it is not a good sight.

Councilman Wood made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 21, 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 Wood. All members voted AYE.

Reports

Highway - Highway Superintendent Bill Pond said that the road signs have been checked, meeting requirements set by NYMIR.

Bill told the board that he received an email that the highest bill for the tub grinder was \$33,000.00.

Bill said that they have cut trees and limbs along County Rte. 4 and the men have attended EMTA training. He also said that someone is messing with the fish ladder at Wilson's Bay causing the water levels to raise.

Bill told the board that they will be paving the Tibbetts Point Road, and then going to County Rte. 4 to finish the project for the County.

Recreation Park - Keith Brass said that they have had the usual meetings, birthday parties and the baseball games have started. He asked for a schedule of the games. He said that they have also put the tennis nets up. Keith told the board that the calendar with reservations for use of the recreation park building is filling up fast. He said that July and August are already full. Keith told the board that Nicole Paratore contacted him seeking permission for the French Festival Committee to hold a DPAO concert on the ball fields. Keith said that he has several questions and concerns about this, and he does not want to make the decision on his own; he would like the town board to weigh in on this.

Keith said that they will have 700 to 1000 people, they want to use the field behind the building for parking, and they will be selling alcohol.

Councilman Wood asked if French Festival was for this event. He said that he has attended several meetings in which they discussed an event between 7-9pm.

Keith said that he made it very clear to Nicole and DPAO that permission should come from the board regarding an event like this.

Supervisor Aubertine said that he needs more details.

Councilman Wiley said that he is concerned for the ball fields and asked if this was a fund raiser for French Festival. Keith said it was.

Keith will talk with Nicole and have her attend the May 2 meeting of the board.

Keith reported that the spring turn ons have slowed down. He said that they have been doing restoration work and that he has approval from DANC for Yerdon's water install.

Keith also reported that he needs to send a letter to the towns along the DANC water line that the pumps will be shut down for 4 hours for pump replacement. He had a copy of the letter he wants to use, and asked Supervisor Aubertine if he wanted to sign the letter or did he want Keith to sign. Supervisor Aubertine said that he would sign the letter.

Matt Cooper - Matt Cooper, Barton & Loguidice, told the board he prepared an update memo for them. He said that they have received the 3rd party engineering comments regarding the proposed sewer district. He said that the funding agency requires this to be done and they pay for it to be done; it does not cost the town anything.

He said that one of the biggest factors in the report suggests that the project be done on the west side only. He said that this was where 60% of the support was for the project. Matt said that he would turn over all survey results to the town. He said that the funding deadline is June and he would discuss residents concerns at a meeting. He said that ultimately it is the people's say.

WD #7 - Matt said that the project is finalizing its design stages. He said that an archeologist has been out digging test holes. He said that the project will go out to bid by fall, construction to start in fall, and completed summer of 2025.

WD #9 - Matt said that they are preparing to start the study and needs the Supervisor to sign the authorization to begin.

Matt said that the pump replacement is in progress. He said that he also has assisted the Planning Board regarding the Carleton Villa project and will assist on an as needed basis.

Tippi Haag Olsen asked if the property owner opts out of the sewer service, will they still need to pay the debt. Matt said they would have to pay a debt charge.

Sue Healy said that the trailer parks have many more residents that did not receive a survey in which it is reported that 60% were in favor. She thought this percentage would change if the park residents had a say.

Mr. Bono said that he would like to avoid percentages, and asked for actual numbers please.

Keith Brass said that he wants to know the parts list for water district #7. He said that he wants a standardized list. Matt said that he would like to have a list from Keith of the parts that he wants.

Keith discussed the trouble he has had with parts.

Supervisor's Reports

Supervisor Aubertine said that the referendum vote tally is 374-Yes - 143-No. He said that the absentee ballots need to be counted yet.

He said that the larger grant was awarded to the town and the Trottier boathouse will be used toward the match.

Supervisor Aubertine said that the referendum has forced him to put some items on the back burner, so he would like to turn the work session into a meeting. He asked the town clerk to advertise as such.

Councilman Wood asked the Supervisor to introduce the newest board member. Supervisor Aubertine introduced Heather Miller as the new board member.

Supervisor Aubertine thanked Councilman Maloney for contacting the State Parks regarding the new fence at Tibbetts Point. He said they met with George Robinson and he said he will give his ok, if the State Parks are ok with the fence.

Councilman's Reports

Councilman Wood said that he attended the Planning Board meeting. He said there were a lot of attorneys in attendance. He said that he told the planning board that they have the full support of the town board regarding Carleton Villa. He said that he told them they need to follow the zoning law.

Councilman Wiley said that school's budget hearing is set for May 7. He said that the budget figures have come down a bit.

Councilman Wiley said that he is very excited that the referendum passed.

Town Clerk, Michelle Bouchard, told the board that she, Supervisor Aubertine, Highway Superintendent Bill Pond, Dave Christiana and Keith Brass had training on Prevailing Wage from the Dept. of Health. She also told the board that she will be attending the Clerks Conference in Alban and will be gone from Sunday to Wednesday.

Resolutions

Resolution #30

Resolution #30 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Wood.

Resolution #30 is to hereby authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement with Municipal Solutions, Inc. for services regarding water district #7.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #31

Resolution #31 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Maloney. Resolution #31 is to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement with Barton & Loguidice for engineering services for the creation of water district #9 study. There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #32

Resolution #32 was moved by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Maloney. Resolution #32 is to authorize the Supervisor to sign the proposal to provide civil and environmental engineering review services for the proposed Carleton Villa project with Barton & Loguidice. There was the following discussion; The board asked if the fees for this service would be reimbursed. Supervisor Aubertine said they would. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #33

Resolution #33 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #33 is to agree to change the Grievance Day to the First Thursday after the Fourth Tuesday of May each year, AND BE IT FURTHER, RESOLVED that the board rescinds Resolution #25 of March 21, 2024 regarding Grievance Day. There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:28pm to discuss land acquisition, seconded by Councilman Maloney. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Wood made a motion to come out of Executive Session and resume the meeting at 8:00pm, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Wood made a motion to research the small strip of land, that is for sale, next to the recreation park property along James Street for possible purchase, seconded by Councilman Maloney. All members voted AYE.

Bills: General Fund #130-#175, \$87792.61; Lite Dist., \$67.83; Ambulance Dist, \$20,833.00; Highway #65-81, \$22,102.29; Club St Project, #7-#8, \$14,481.74; WD #1 #48-#58, \$20,017.92; WD #3 #50, 51,52,55, \$1,165.25; WD #4 #50-52-55, \$16,387.66; WD #5, #49-50-51-52-55, \$946.52.

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

Jarrold Radley asked if the board will know the percentage of surveys returned vs those not returned. The board will check.

Jarrold asked if the project will be on the west side only, won't the district boundaries need to be changed. He said that this will take the prison out, and he would like answers.

Joe Bono - Joe asked what the costs would be if they only address the west side. He asked who would be responsible for installing the electric entrances. He asked if there was a study on how many will be using pumps and power supply. Joe said he feels this was an unfair survey as 9 parks did not get to include their residents.

Joe thanked the board for listening to them.

Councilman Maloney said that the project is not set in stone and he thanked them for voicing their concerns.

Supervisor Aubertine said that no other action will be taken by the board until there is an informational meeting.

John Mason - John asked if the board is working to save the prison, he said they need to be pro-active. The board responded that they are doing everything in their power to keep it.

Councilman Wood made a motion to adjourn at 8:12pm.

Michelle Bouchard, RMC - Town Clerk