

March 21, 2024

Regular Town Board Meeting

Present: Supervisor Paul Aubertine, Councilman Tim Maloney, Councilman Dan Wiley, Councilman Alan Wood, Keith Brass, Highway Superintendent Bill Pond and approximately 43 visitors.

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

Privilege of the floor

Mary Farrell – Mary told the board that the CVLDC is prepared to place a full page add in the TI Sun regarding the upcoming referendum vote. This ad will be paid for by the CVLDC. She said that they are also working on a flyer to be distributed in the same locations as What's Happening. Supervisor Aubertine said that he had reviewed the information and thanked Mary and all those who worked on the ad and the flyer.

Councilman Wood made a motion to authorize the CVLDC to move forward with the ad placement in the TI Sun and the flyer, seconded by Councilman Maloney. All members voted AYE.

Mary also said that the updated CVLDC agreement needs to be updated and signed by the Supervisor.

Todd Beaton – Todd spoke to the board regarding the recent sewer survey sent to residents along the river. He said that his family owns a trailer park and he was there to represent the 80 EDU's residents in the park. Todd said that he had a lot of questions. First being if it isn't broke, why fix it?

Some of his other questions were: what is the economic advantage, location of grinder pumps, free money is never free, is there a usage tax. Todd told the board that their park has a state-of-the-art system that is tested annually, and at random. He said that the Department of Health also tests their designated swim area. He said that if the sewer district is approved, he will not connect.

Lee Edsall – Lee asked if all Cape Vincent residents were eligible to vote on the Club St. referendum and she was told they were.

Jim Bono – Jim said that he was there representing Bono Brothers, who own three trailer parks. He said it equals 165 EDU's. He told the board that the cost of the sewer district was not figured in when they bought the parks. He said that they have just installed a new system and feel that they will be paying twice. He said that he wants to speak on behalf of the residents in their parks who don't have a voice in this. He said that the people feel that the fees are affordable now. If the district goes through, they will have paid 4.2 million dollars in the 30-year span. He said the people will go elsewhere and they would have to close.

Jim said he wanted to put forth the following questions: he wants pump information, what if system dries out, who maintains and makes repairs, who will drain in the winter time.

Jim said that no one has come to look at his parks. He said that the trailers will need to be jacked up to connect, and who will pay for that. Jim said that he hopes the board will hold a public hearing on the district on a weekend when the tenants were here. He said that he feels the survey should be redone, and not by the engineer.

Tippi Hagg-Olson – Tippi thanked the board for allowing her to speak regarding the Rights of Nature. She said that she is representing a group of people who are approaching the six towns along the river. Tippy said that the Rights of Nature is a world-wide effort to protect nature, and to address the imbalance of humans and nature. She presented a resolution to the board for their consideration which the town acknowledges that the river has a right to evolve. Tippy thanked the board again and said she would attend the April meeting.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to accept the minutes of the Feb. 15, 2024 and March 7, 2024 meeting, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

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

Reports

Highway – Bill Pond reported that the propane tanks for the heaters in the Chamber office have been set. He also told the board that the Tibbetts Point shoreline project is now completed and the road will be paved from Valley Road to Tibbetts sometime this spring.

Bill said that they will put barricades up along the shoreline at Tibbetts Point for the eclipse event. Bill told the board that the crew participated in a chain saw safety course and that he and Phil Payne delivered the new truck for a pre-build.

Recreation Park – Keith Brass reported that they have had the usual clubs, meetings and Lions Club pancake breakfast. He said that there was also a winter run event held. Keith said that they have taken the ice rink down and the new floors have been installed in the building. He told the board that the gas stove needs repair and he will have someone come in to look at it.

Water – Keith Brass said that he replaced a curb stop rod and a new generator is working at the booster pump station. He said they have had a few turn ons, but are watching the temperatures and he is still working on the Lead Service Inventory, which needs to be turned in soon.

Councilman Wiley told Keith that the new floors look really good.

Matt Cooper from Barton and Loguidice spoke to the board about the steps for water district #7. He said it is still in the design phase and easements will need to be done. Matt said that they hope to start construction in the fall and be completed by 2025.

Matt reported that they are still doing a sewer district study. He reported that the funding agency hired a third-party engineering team to review the district creation and submit any suggestions.

Matt gave an update on the sewer survey stating that the surveys are still coming in and as of the meeting, 52% are in favor. He said that they are also exploring eliminating parcels on the east side because 57% are in favor of the west side. Matt said that they have a 40% survey return rate.

A question was asked if the board could have the survey's and Matt said that hard copies of the survey will be given to the board.

Keith Brass told Matt that with regard to water district #7, when the specs go out for parts he would like to be part of the conversation because there have been ongoing issues. Matt told Keith that he will meet with him to go over the specs sooner rather than later.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Aubertine wanted to discuss the quotes from Unifirst regarding first aid supplies and the AED machines. The board reviewed the quote again.

Councilman Wiley made a motion that the town switch AED lease and the medical supplies from Cintas to Unifirst, seconded by Councilman Maloney. All members voted AYE.

Supervisor Aubertine told the board that the Attorney is working on the Public Service Benefit agreement for the Museum.

Supervisor Aubertine said that for the solar eclipse event, the board had discussed closing the Tibbetts Point Road and reserving a school bus to transfer people to Tibbetts. He said that they have been informed that the town is not allowed to close any roads for the event. With that in mind, they will not be renting a bus or closing the road.

Supervisor Aubertine said that he would like to authorize the highway Superintendent to reach out to the Department of Transportation to advertise a detour around the Chaumont bridge. The board discussed this and suggested the detours be advertised on route 81.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to authorize the highway Superintendent to contact the state DOT to help the Town of Cape Vincent promote a detour to avoid the Chaumont bridge during the solar eclipse, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Supervisor Aubertine said that he would like to hire a fiscal advisor to advise the town regarding the BAN for water district #7. He said he has contacted Municipal Solutions. Councilman Maloney and Supervisor Aubertine will set a date when they can meet with them.

Supervisor Aubertine acknowledged that he has received a letter from the Village Board of Trustees.

Councilmen's Discussion

Councilman Wood said that he had attended the Zoning Board meeting, and they are asking the Planning Board to be the lead agency for the SEQR process for the Carleton Villa.

Councilman Wiley reported that the Easter Bunny would be making an appearance at Recreation Park, and he asked all to pass the word there would be an egg hunt.

Councilman Maloney said that he has had conversations with Jeff Call reminding him that the town does not have a CON or a signed contract with them.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:12pm to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Councilman Maloney. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:26pm and resume the regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Maloney.

Resolutions

Resolution #24

Resolution #24 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Supervisor Aubertine. Resolution #24 is to appoint Heather Miller as a member of the town board as Councilperson, and it was further resolved that the term will begin April 1, 2024 and will expire Dec. 31, 2024.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #25

Resolution #25 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Wiley. Resolution #25 is to change the date of Grievance day to the third Thursday of May each year.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #26

Resolution #26 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #26 is to declare the 15' Alamo Brush Hog surplus equipment and directs the Highway Superintendent to place the machine on an auction site.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #27

Resolution #27 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #27 gives the Highway Superintendent approval to purchase a used dump truck in which the box will be used to replace the box on truck #57, and the purchase amount is not to exceed \$3,500.00.

There was the following discussion. Councilman Wood said that he looked the truck over and feels Bill is making the right decision. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #28

Resolution #28 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #28 is the approval of the amendment adding water district #8 to the water service agreement with DANC.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #29

Resolution #29 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Supervisor Aubertine. Resolution #29 is to agree to appoint Barton & Loguidice as the designated engineer for the proposed water district #9.

There was no discussion. Supervisor Aubertine, Councilmen Wood and Wiley voting AYE. Councilman Maloney ABSTAIN.

Privilege of the floor:

R J Healy – Mr. Healy requested that Matt Cooper attend the next board meeting to help answer some questions that people have.

Jarrold Radley – Jarrold asked if the surveys could be FOIed. He asked what number the Council was looking for to push the sewer project through.

Supervisor Aubertine said they are not looking for a number, but an overwhelming response one way or the other.

Councilman Wiley and Maloney told the visitors that the town is collecting information to be prepared if the State of New York comes in to tell them that the town has to put in a sewer district. Councilman Maloney said that the town does not want to be without the information.

Julie Docteur – Julie said she is from Lazy Acres and has a few questions. She wondered how do they know that the prices won't raise. She said that the Department of Health inspects their system all the time. She said that they are doing everything correctly. She said that this is a big worry for them as the residents won't be able to afford an increase to pay for the district. She asked that the board take them into consideration.

Supervisor Aubertine said that the board wants to hear everyone's concerns.

Carol Thomas – Carol said she was from Angel Rock and she felt that Julies concerns are justified. She said that she is concerned that the results of the survey are different every time.

Supervisor Aubertine told everyone that the town is on a fact-finding mission to the possibility of creating a sewer district.

Bills: Highway, \$31,005.41; Ambulance, \$20,833.00; General Fund, \$50,364.83; WD #1, \$12413.56; WD#3, \$6,431.15; WD #4, \$1,904.27; WD#5, \$1,056.79; WD#6, \$670.82.

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

Councilman Wood made a motion to adjourn at 7:50pm

Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk