January 16, 2025 Regular Town Board Meeting

Present: Supervisor Paul Aubertine, Councilman Wiley, Councilman Wood, Councilman Jacobs, Keith Brass, Highway Superintendent Bill Pond and approximately 15 visitors.

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

Privilege of the floor:

Mary Farrell – Mary said that she let the board know of a zoom call with a Marketing Destination firm. She said that they have also contacted an Economic Development Consultant. She said that she sent the board a link and would like them to review it because the LDC is trying to determine what road they want to go down, marketing or destination. She said that she also attended the Village board meeting and they discussed a part time employee for events and promotion. She said she wanted the board to know they are not the same thing, but a complementary position. Mary said that the LDC will evaluate the different economic development options.

Colleen Knuth – Colleen said that she wanted to talk about the ambulance. She said that she found herself in need of the service one day while she was shopping at Aubrey’s store. Colleen said they called for the ambulance but they were told that it was in Chaumont. She asked why the Cape ambulance would be in Chaumont. Colleen said that by the time it arrived, she was feeling better. She said that TIERS also came. She said that she was not transported to a hospital because they wanted to take her to River Hospital and she did not want to go there. She said that the Cape ambulance would not take her blood pressure, that TIERS attended to her. She wants to know why the Cape ambulance did not help her.

Councilman Jacobs said that he would check into this for her.

Sarah Dayton – Sarah told the board that she just became a member of the Chamber of Commerce. She said that there is a need for someone with comprehensive oversite, being able to work with multiple groups to put together the big picture for marketing.

Councilman Wood made a motion to appoint Heather Miller to fill the board vacancy position, seconded by Councilman Wiley.

Supervisor Aubertine said that he felt Heather was a terrific board member for the short term she served.

All members voted AYE.

At this time, Councilwoman Miller was asked to join the board at the table.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to accept the minutes of the Dec. 19, 2024 and the Jan. 2, 2025 meetings, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Jacobs made a motion to accept the Supervisors Financial Report, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Reports

Recreation Park – Keith Brass said that they have had the usual meetings in the building, the ice rink is set up and has been used. He also reported that a snowmobile class was held and everyone was happy with the turnout.

Water – Keith Brass reported that they have fixed a few leaks and have done some maintenance. Keith told the board that they will need to replace a valve at the booster pump station.

Highway – Bill Pond said that he has turned in the information for the CHIPS reimbursement which will come in March.

He said that they have been doing a lot of plowing and sanding, and the excavator is fixed and running.

Bill told the board that he and the towns of Lyme and Brownville have meet regarding the request from DANC that each town mow, or pay to have the water line mowed. He said that they want to show DANC that the three towns are making an effort to meet the request. He said that he has told the town’s that Cape Vincent can mow for them and they agreed to provide fuel and help with maintenance.

Bill said that Dave and Scott have finished the breakroom and made new flower boxes for the Welcome signs. He said that Marvin helped the village restore the rocks at East End Park.

Bill said that they have been fixing road signs using the new inventory policy recently created for the town. He said that this is working out very well.

Bill said that he has received 3 quotes for a new pickup truck, and a mower. He said that he would like to have a meeting with the equipment committee soon for a truck as the emissions rules are set to change in 2027.

Bill said that Mike Liebman has been a great asset to the Highway department. The board agreed.

Tim White – Tim gave an overview of the Club Street project and the grant process. He said he is now working with the Army Corp of Engineers and the DEC for permits.

Tim said that there has been a lot of activity with the LWRP grant and he is submitting payment requisitions.

Councilman Wiley asked Tim if he is waiting for any permits and Tim told him no, as he can move without, but he would like to have the applications done and submitted. Tim said that they could move with the barricades. Bill Pond said that he has been in contact with Jefferson County and they have the right equipment to move the barricades for placement.

Supervisor Aubertine said that a temporary fence has been chosen and he will be meeting with Mike Alteri regarding this. He said that NYS Parks agencies would be happy with a temporary fence until they take over the property. Supervisor Aubertine said he is ready to move with this and turn the property over.

Supervisor Aubertine said that he has had a meeting with Jen Boss and Kylie Peck regarding the NY Forward grant. He said that they have reviewed the grant contract and it is quite lengthy. He said that Jen and Kylie told him they are ahead of the game, but they need a grant administrator. He would like to appoint Tim White.

Supervisor Aubertine said that at the January Organizational Meeting the board discussed having the attorney attend a meeting to discuss several topics and he would like to have him attend the February meeting. One topic in particular is to have him bring some clarity on the litigation with the Carleton Villa and why the Town is involved. The board agreed this would be a good idea to have Jim Burrows attend the next meeting. Supervisor Aubertine said that he feels it is important to have the conversation on record.

Supervisor Aubertine said he wanted the board to know there is a bill going through the Assembly regarding short term rental laws. Supervisor Aubertine said he would like the board to look into this and follow it closely.

Supervisor Aubertine said he will be inviting Matt Cooper from Barton & Loguidice, to the next work session to discuss how grant dollars work for any potential sewer districts.

Supervisor Aubertine said that he and Councilman Wood had a meeting with Paul DuFlo regarding the alternate vacancy on the Planning Board.

Councilman Wood made a motion to appoint Paul DuFlo as an alternate member of the Planning Board with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2026, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Wood made a motion to reappoint Noel Bonvolior to a 5-year term as a regular member of the Planning Board term to expire Dec. 31, 2029, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members voted AYE.

Supervisor Aubertine said that the board received an invite to participate in a zoom meeting regarding the Chamber of Commerce and the creation of a position of a tourism director. He said that he agrees it warrants looking into, but he is not prepared to act on an idea that was pushed together. He said that lot of changes need to be made.

Councilman Wood said he thought it was a good idea, but wants it to go through the LDC. He said the LDC has money they haven’t used. Councilman Wood said he wants to know who will pay this person.

Pam Youngs said the village has already put money in for the position.

Councilman Wiley said that he agrees, they have got to do something, but not tonight. He said that he is concerned about the Executive Director position, and then another position to man the office. He stated that in the past, the Executive Director did all of this. Councilman Wiley said that it has been discussed at meetings that the Chamber and LDC should not be duplicating services.

Mary Farrell said that the LDC would like to have an umbrella website and the LDC an put some money into this.

Sarah Dayton said she has only been to one meeting and she did not hear that there would be an Executive Director. She said that she hopes to look into what the Chamber was and what it is now.

Councilman Wiley said that he agrees something has to be done and they need to make sure they are spending the money wisely. He asked Ariel Pink, President of the Chamber of Commerce if she was aware of this and she stated that she was not aware, this was the first time she heard about it.

Councilman Wood made a motion to accept the Standard Workday Resolution, seconded by Supervisor Aubertine. All members voted AYE.

Supervisor Aubertine made a motion to appoint Councilman Wood as the town’s designee to the Association of Towns annual meeting and conference, seconded by Councilman Jacobs. All members voted AYE.

Supervisor Aubertine and Councilman Wood set the date of Jan. 28, at 3:30pm to perform the annual audit of the Judge’s books.

Supervisor Aubertine set the date of Jan. 28, at 3pm to talk with Neill Farrell regarding the Zoning Board vacancy.

Resolutions

Resolution #14

Resolution #14 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #14 is to authorize the Supervisor to sign a contract with the Volunteer Transportation Center for services. There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #15

Resolution #15 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #15 is to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract with Tim White for services as the Clerk of the Works for the LWRP Club Street project from Jan. 1, 2025 to Dec. 31, 2025, and that he be compensated at a rate of $1,000.00 per month and a rate of 3% for grant disbursements.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #16

Resolution #16 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #16 is to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract with Tim White for services as the DOS NY Forward Gant Administrator on the Club Street project from Feb. 1, 2025 through Dec. 31, 2025 and that he be compensated at a rate of $1,000.00 per month and a rate of 3% for grant disbursements.

There was the following discussion. The board told Mr. White that they are grateful for all he has done.

All members voted AYE.

Resolution #17

Resolution #17 was moved by Councilman Jacobs, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #17 authorizes the Supervisor to transfer $27,000.00 from DA599 to DA5130.2 for budget amendment.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #18

Resolution #18 was moved by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Jacobs. Resolution #18 is to agree to the purchase a 2025 Silverado 250 with plow from Reymore Chevrolet in Central Square, NY in the amount of $63,296.50.

There was not discussion. All members voted AYE.

Bills: Club St, 1-2, $29,469.44; WD #1, 1-10, $14,374.66; WD #3, 3-10, $529.52; WD #4, 3-10, $1195.98;WD #5, 2-10 $1427.12; WD #6 4-10, $503.95; Highway 1-18, $11,501.42; Gen Fund, 1-36, $26,129.63.

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

Privilege of the floor

Jarrod Radley asked how the new WD #7 is comping along. Supervisor Aubertine said that the easements are out for signatures and the attorney is working on the IMA with the village for water.

Jarrod said that he heard the Club Street renderings have changed and he would like to see the new drawings.

Tim White explained the reason for the change in the docks and said that new drawings are being created. Tim said that there still could be some more changes.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to adjourn at 7:18pm.

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 Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk