May 16, 2024 Public Hearing and Regular Town Board Minutes

Present: Supervisor Paul Aubertine, Councilwoman Heather Miller, Councilman Tim Maloney, Councilman Alan Wood, Keith Brass, Highway Superintendent Bill Pond and approximately 40 visitors. Absent: Councilman Wiley, excused.

Supervisor Aubertine called for the pledge of allegiance at 6:30pm.
Councilman Wood made a motion to open the public hearing on the Restore NY grant for Carleton Villa at 6:30pm, seconded by Councilman Maloney. All members present voted AYE.

Supervisor Aubertine set the ground rules for the meeting stating that there will be no back and forth conversations and that everyone wishing to speak will address the board and not each other. He also explained that the public hearing was being held solely on the restoration of Carleton Villa.
Supervisor Aubertine invited Scott Burto to speak on the grant.

Scott Buro explained that the grant was an annual grant used for the refurbishing of vacant and abandoned buildings. Scott said that the town agreed to be the advocate for the grant in 2021, and that there would be no expense to the town. He explained that this grant is specific to restoration of the Villa, for the roof, walls and windows. Scott said that it is a 2.25-million-dollar grant.

Supervisor Aubertine reiterated to the audience that the town will not have any expenses on the villa or the grant.
Privilege of the floor:
Bob Shimp – Mr. Shimp said that he hopes the town will go for the restoration of the Villa. He said that the Villa needs work done on it to bring it back and that it is a landmark in the town of Cape Vincent. Mr. Shimp said that it has the potential to employ a lot of people. Mr. Shimp said that it is not infringing on the fort. He said that he feels it will have a good impact and bring diversity to the area.

Julie Rogers – Mrs. Rogers said that she lives on Carleton Dr. and that they can see the Villa from their home. She said that when she heard about the Villa restoration she was excited. She said that to see it fall apart is heartbreaking. Mrs. Rogers said that she loves Cape Vincent and that it is rich with history. She said that she was in attendance to support the project.

Todd Beaton – Mr. Beaton said that the Villa is a gem that is hidden. He said no-one else has what the Villa is. He said that a lot of people see the Villa as they pass by the Island. Mr. Beaton said that the Villa needs to be resurrected and he asked for consideration of this.

Gary Beaton – Mr. Beaton said that he has been looking at the Villa for over 45 years. He feels that it is a shame to have it deteriorate. Mr. Beaton said that he is supporting the restoration 150% and added, “Let’s Get Er Done”.

Tyler Lowe – Mr. Lowe said that he is in the business of restoring structures and he found out about the Villa and had to see it, so he reached out to Mr. Clapp. He said that he is looking over the Villa and it is similar to other structures that he has refurbished. Mr. Lowe said that he flew to New York from Florida just to attend the meeting.

John Healy – Mr. Healy said that 25 years ago he went into the Villa and thought then that if someone could just fix this up it would be a draw for Cape Vincent. He said it is a shame that there are some people who don't want this to happen.

There being not further discussion, Supervisor Aubertine entertained a motion to adjourn the public hearing.
Councilman Wood made a motion to adjourn the public hearing and open the regular meeting at 6:40pm, seconded by Councilman Maloney. All members present voted AYE.

Privilege of the floor:
Mike Couglar – Mr. Couglar introduced himself as the President of the Tibbetts Point Historical Society. He said that there are a lot of rumors about NY State Parks taking over Tibbetts Point. He said that he saw the Supervisor Paul Aubertine on the news reporting that the town is working with State Parks to do this. Mr. Couglar said that he was disappointed that the Supervisor did not mention the Historical Society or all the work and money they have spent at Tibbetts. He said they have been taking care of the property. He talked about a zoom meeting that he and Marty Mason had with State Parks and he at that time asked if they intended to let the Historical Society stay where they are. He said that they told him they would. Mr. Couglar said that the Historical Society has a lot of money and they would help to purchase a better shingle for the pavilion roof when the town repairs it. He talked about a high wind resistant shingle.
Highway Superintendent Bill Pond said that the shingles are a wind resistant double coverage tee-lock. He said that the highway did some repairs, and are not in a position to do any more work there because they are gearing up for road paving.
Mr. Couglar said that they will be power washing the ramp. He told the board that the lawn guy was doing a good job; he has his heart in the game.
Mr. Couglar asked about the fence. Supervisor Aubertine said that they still waiting for approval from National Parks before they can install the fence.
Supervisor Aubertine said that for the record, he did give credit to the Historical Society in his news clip, but it was cut out.

Todd Beaton – Mr. Beaton said that he is requesting that the board kill the proposed sewer project. He said that he did not like the slick way the engineer talked about the survey and who counted the results. He said that the seasonal population is renting and paying taxes. He said that this is a $15,000.00 bill that they don't need. Mr. Beaton said that there are no documents saying that there is seepage into the river.

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

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

Supervisor Aubertine said that the Audit committee, he and Councilman Wood, audited the Town Clerk's Financial records and they found everything to be in order and they had completed the report of the audit.
Councilman Maloney made a motion to accept the audit report of the Town Clerk's financial records, seconded by Councilwoman Miller.
Reports
Highway – Bill Pond said that he has received the CHIPS reimbursement in the amount of $185,000.00. He said that last year he did not realize the State had changed the dates for filing and he filed late.
Bill said that the tub grinder is gone and the transfer site is again accepting mattresses and box springs. He said that they have cleared the beaver dam and will replace the culvert pipe. Bill told the board that they will be doing quite a bit of paving for the County, and that the County will be paving town roads, Bates and Dablon Point.
Bill reported that the crew had attended flagging school. He also said that they have swept all the intersections. Bill said that they have stock piled stone for use and will update his 284 agreement. Bill said that he will be attended Highway School in June. He said that they are now getting fuel from Buell Fuel, who uses Christman as their satellite company. Bill said that the company is on the OGS approved list and if it does not work out , he will switch companies.

Recreation Park – Keith Brass said that they have had the usual events, and the Poets and Writers have starting meeting again. He said that the Lion's Club has booked the building for their pancake breakfast for the rest of the year. He said that the pickleball court is open and being used.

Water – Keith Brass reported that the pump replacement is moving forward, and that there was a brief shut down. Keith said that they helped the village with two water main breaks. He said that the meter reader was down at the Mud Bay tank and that the prison tower was reading at 92% for the entire town.

Councilman Maloney asked Bill Pond if the men would receive certificates from their flagger training and Bill told him they did.

Supervisor Aubertine said that he would just like to take a moment to acknowledge the passing of Councilman Dan Wiley's father. He said that Harold Wiley served as a town board Councilman for 28 years, he said that Mr. Wiley served on the TI School Board, American Legion, Lion's Club and that he was a veteran. Supervisor Aubertine called Mr. Wiley a special guy. He said that he was revered by many and his absence will be missed. He said that Mr. Wiley was so active and he jammed a lot into 95 years.

Supervisor Aubertine said that the engineers are moving with water district #7. He also said that he heard from Matt Cooper, Barton and Loguidice, that there seems to be more funding available. He said that it is time sensitive, but, Supervisor Aubertine said that the board has stated that they will not move forward with the district creation until they have an open meeting for questions and answers. He said that he is not comfortable moving forward with this until then.

Councilman Wood reported that he had attended the Zoning and Planning board meetings. He said that both boards have a lot going on now.

Councilman Maloney said that he is working out of town now and was not able to attend the village and ambulance meetings. He said that he is staying in touch with them, and that the contract with the ambulance is ready for the Supervisor's signature.

Supervisor Aubertine said that Councilwoman Miller is now the liaison with the Chamber of Commerce.
Resolutions
Resolution #37
Resolution #37 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #37 agrees to make Stainless Steel curb stop rods and pins Standardized equipment for all new water installs and for replacements.
There was no discussion. All members present voted AYE.
Resolution #38
Resolution #38 was moved by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Maloney. Resolution #38 is to resolve that the town board supports and will sponsor an application for Restore NY funding for Carleton Villa, Carleton Island Rd Lot 1, for the restoration of the Carleton Villa regarding the roof, walls and windows. And it further authorizes the Supervisor to sign the applications and any agreements required by ESDC for grant funding as a result of the application.
There was the following discussion. The board discussed their support of the restoration and that the grant is for the restoration of the Carleton Villa only. Roll call vote was taken: Supervisor Aubertine AYE; Councilan Wiley Absent; Councilman Maloney AYE; Councilwoman Miller AYE; Councilman Wood AYE.
Resolution #39
Resolution #39 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilwoman Miller. Resolution #39 is to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Ambulance agreement for services for the year 2024.
There was no discussion. All members present voted AYE.
Resolution #40
Resolution #40 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #40 is to authorize the Supervisor to transfer $65,000.00 from the General Fund to the Water District #7 Capitol Fund.
There was the following discussion. Supervisor Aubertine said that because the town has not yet secured the BAN, that the town needed to make a transfer. He said that this amount will be reimbursed when the BAN is secured. All members present voted AYE.
Resolution 41

Resolution #41 was moved by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Maloney. Resolution #41 is the Standard Work Day Reporting Resolution for NYS Retirement.
There was no discussion. All members present voted AYE.

Bills: H4, V9, $51,139.66; H1 Club St V10, $1,535.00; Highway, V82-100, $21,442.68; WD #2 V65, $1,777.68; WD #3 V60,61,64,65,66,67, $1,811.91; WD #4 V60,61,64,66,67 $2,086.45; WD #5 V59,60,61,64,66,67 $3,342.29; WD #6 V64,66,67 $915.04; General Fund V176-212 $26,125.46; Ambulance V 204 $20,833.00.
Councilman Wood made a motion to approve of the payment of the vouchers, seconded by Councilwoman Miller. All members present voted AYE.

Councilman Maloney made a motion to adjourn at 7:17pm.

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Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk