Sept. 19, 2024 Regular Town Board Meeting

Present: Supervisor Aubertine, Councilman Maloney, Councilwoman Miller, Councilman Wood, Highway Superintendent Bill Pond, Keith Brass and approximately 6 visitors.

Absent: Councilman Dan Wiley

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

Privilege of the floor:

Gary Beaton – Gary told the board that his biggest concern, with regard to the sewer district, is the grinder pump system. He shared a photo of a man repairing grinder pumps and he wanted to talk about what caused the need for the repair. Gary said that he would need 80 grinder pumps in his park, and he is the only one to fix them. Gary said that he reached out to the Chamber of Commerce for some assistance, but he heard nothing. He said if the district goes through, he will be out of business. Gary also talked about how beautiful the area is and "if it isn't broken leave it alone".

Cyril "Butch" Cullen – Butch said that he wanted to talk to the board about the Carleton Island project. He said that he had offered to help the Planning Board but received no response. He said he is not criticizing anyone, but he has the knowledge that could help the board. His purpose of being there is to offer help. He said that the application submitted was not complete, and there were errors. He said that now rendered down to the expenses. Butch said that he understands that the town has asked the applicant to sign an agreement to fund the project, and he is not sure if Mr. Clapp has signed the agreement yet.
Supervisor Aubertine said that the agreement was signed and a portion was paid. Supervisor Aubertine also explained that the town requested an increase of $10,000.00, and that the amended agreement needs to be signed.
Councilman Wood said the project will be zero cost to the town and that Mr. Clapp has paid.
Butch said that the town should not be in a hole over this. He said that if Mr. Clapp hasn't paid, and the project doesn't fly, then if falls on the town, the taxpayers. He said that Mr. Clapp should have paid in advance, he said it has taken him a long time to repay the town.
Councilman Wood said that it hasn't taken him long at all, it is just the process.
Supervisor Aubertine said that the agreement states that he must make the town whole.
Butch also said he is worried that the Planning Board may be putting the town in a hole with regard to the SEQR. He said that the Site Plan review should not have moved from the table until the cash flows.
Supervisor Aubertine said that Barton and Loguidice are not going any further with the SEQR at this time. He said the meter is not running at this time.
Butch says if the cash isn't flowing, something is wrong. Butch said that he doesn't care if the project goes through or not; he is worried about the cost to the town, the taxpayers, and he is worried about the situation this puts the town in. He feels that there is not enough legal work being done for the planning board. He said that the Carleton Island group brings their attorney to the planning board meetings and he said that their attorney is training the planning board on what the SEQR is.
Councilman Maloney asked if part of the problem is that the Planning Board does not utilize the town's attorney as they should be.

Butch said that he is sure that they are being careful on how much time they are using the attorney because of costs. He feels they should have more training on the SEQR. He said that a few years ago, the planning board spent thousands of hours developing the zoning laws and training to get it right.

Sarah Dayton – Sarah said that she has been watching the social media aspects of the Carleton project. She said that Mr. Clapp talks about being required to do a lot of things that are not part of the process. She said that a lot of the public are commenting that the board is not being fair or they are not doing their job and what it seems like to her is that it doesn't' t look like anyone who is commenting knows the Comprehensive Plan for the zoning requirements. She thinks there may be a place for the town to explain to the public what the process is, not to talk about any one, but just in general that the town is following a process that is part of a law. She said that the way it is being talked about in social media is that the process is arbitrary and capricious. She is worried that no matter how it turns out there will be some discord in the community.

Supervisor Aubertine said that he is in regular contact with Jim Burrows and from their discussions Mr. Burrows is on the ground helping the planning board through this. He said that he does defer to him and that the board is following his advice in going through the process and if mistakes are being done, they can't be undone.

Councilman Wood made a motion to accept the minutes of August 15 and August 28, 2024, seconded by Councilman Maloney. 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.

Reports:

Highway – Bill Pond reported that the County Rte. 4 paving project is 90% complete and they are working on the shoulders. He said they will also be paving Mutton Lane. Bill said that they have also been helping the town of Lyme with paving and are scraping and painting the front of the Museum. Bill said that he has hired Mike Liebman and he will be starting in a week. Bill also said that they will replace any sidewalks in Rosiere that were tore up during the road construction process.

Recreation Park – Keith Brass reported that the Lion's Club will be holding a benefit breakfast. He said that they have had the usual clubs and meetings. He said that the Youth Commission would like to help purchase exercise equipment to be placed along the walking trail. Keith also said that people are unaware that that there is pickleball and the walking trail at Recreation Park. Keith said that he would be putting up signs for the walking trail and pickle ball court.

Water – Keith Brass said that they did a new water install in districts 1 and 4. He said that DANC has been working on the flow meter pipe. He has completed the lead/cooper survey and he was informed that this is a running document that will need to be updated every year.

Tim White – Tim gave updates on the Club Street project. He said that the asbestos testing on Capt. Jack's showed no asbestos. He said that he has been in communication with Cody Higgins and will submit the demolition application to him at the County next week. He said that he has been in contact with Bill Pond and he is expected to demo Capt. Jack's in October. Tim said that because of the

reasonably good condition of the metal structure boat house, he is recommending that it be dismantled. He said the goal would be to dismantle the metal boat house in 2024 and demo cribs, caissons, etc. in 2025.

Councilmen/Councilwoman Discussion

Supervisor Aubertine said that the closing on Capt. Jacks is scheduled for tomorrow. He said that unfortunately, he hasn't any news on Tibbetts Point. He said he is trying to reach George Robinson to see if he could speed things up.

Councilwoman Miller said that she attended the village meeting and they discussed the lights ordered for East End Park. She gave a print out of the light style and would like that the same lights be used throughout the village with other projects.
Councilwoman Miller also said that she attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting where they discussed ideas to keep the line of communication open with the town board. She said they may want to meet twice a year. She also said that Neale Farrell has been appointed the town liaison and they want to get back on track with the board. She said that they offered to advertise town events in "What's Happening".

The board discussed transfer of the Town Clerk's bank accounts. Town Clerk, Michelle Bouchard said that she has talked with Watertown Savings Banking and had a meeting with them.
Councilman Maloney made a motion to approve the transfer of the Town Clerk bank accounts to Watertown Savings Bank, seconded by Councilwoman Miller. All members present voted AYE.

Resolution #57
Resolution #57 was moved by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Maloney. Resolution #57 is to agree to purchase a used 40' ground level office storage container in the amount of $12,680.00 from Versatile Office Trailers to use for storage of town records.
There was the following discussion.
Supervisor Aubertine said that the town records room is full and more space is needed. He asked Bill Pond to address the storage container. Bill said that the container is a construction site office container. It has electric, heat and air conditioning. He said that it would meet the requirements for storing town records. Bill said he will put the container in the cold storage area. He said they may lose room, but he will build a lean-to on the highway garage.
Vote was taken. All members present voted AYE.

Bills: General Fund, #336-365, $34,665.07/$74.26; Highway, #148-160, $3800.78; Club St, #27-36, $343,658.27; Capital Water #7, #29, $197,592.75; WD #1, #109-121, $74,057.02; WD #3, #109-121, $258.03; WD #4, #109-121, $1,168.85; WD #5, #110-121. $664.75; WD #6, #112-121, $493.86.
Councilman Wood made a motion to approve of the payment of the vouchers, seconded by Councilman Maloney. All members present voted AYE.

Councilwoman Miller made a motion to adjourn at 7:13pm.

Michelle Bouchard, RMC- Town Clerk