Nov. 21, 2024 Regular Town Board Meeting

Present: Supervisor Paul Aubertine, Councilwoman Heather Miller, Councilman Tim Maloney, Councilman Dan Wiley, Councilman Alan Wood, Highway Superintendent Bill Pond and approximately 13 visitors.

Supervisor Aubertine called the meeting to order at 6:30pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Privilege of the floor:

Butch Cullen – Butch said that he wanted to talk about the Carleton Villa project. He said that it is a complex project as it is located in a historical area. He said that if the actions of the board are not in strict accordance with the Zoning Law, everyone will lose. He said that he will continue trying to express his concerns with the Planning Board. Butch asked for a funding update.

Supervisor Aubertine told him that the town currently has $15,000.00 in the escrow account and requests for reimbursement have been sent in. He also told Butch that Barton & Logudice has stopped working on the SEQR. Supervisor Aubertine said that once the $15,000.00 has been exhausted, the board will request more.

Neale Farrell – Neale said that last month he attended the town board meeting introducing himself as the Chamber of Commerce liaison. This month he is attending the meeting to let the board know that he is no longer the liaison and that the Chamber’s Executive Board will be replacing him.

Councilman Wiley asked Neale what happened to cause this. Neale replied that he feels he has no value as a board member because the Executive Board is making all the decisions and he has no input.

Claude Phelps – Claude introduced himself as a retired Highway Superintendent, and said that he saw the stress on Municipalities regarding asset management and he said that the need for signs is high.

He said that he and his wife started a company, Data Collection Services, and they had just finished doing data collection for Bill Pond of all the signs in the right-of-way in the town of Cape Vincent. He told the board that there was a total of 360 signs.

Claude reviewed the inventory binder he gave to Bill, and said that all signs have been labeled. He reviewed that the signs are not high enough, and that is because our area has so much rock. He did recommend a rock drill or pounder that the highway department invest in.

Claude also told the board that he has talked with Henry from NYMIR and explained what he was doing and that Henry had thanked him for helping the town with loss prevention.

Councilman Wiley asked if this was a one and done service and Claude said that he there should be a 3-year re-evaluation done on the signs. He said that a sign rotation policy would help the town if there is a lawsuit.

The board and Bill thanked him for attending the meeting and for performing the sign survey.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to accept the minutes of the Oct. 19 and Nov. 7, 2024 minutes, seconded by Councilman Wood. Supervisor Aubertine, Councilmen Wood and Wiley, Councilwoman Miller voting AYE. Councilman Maloney voting AYE on the Oct. 19 minutes and abstained on the Nov. 7 as he was not in attendance.

Councilman Maloney made a motion to accept the Supervisor’s Financial report, seconded by Councilwoman Miller. All members voted AYE.

Reports

Highway – Bill Pond said that County Rte. 4 is complete for the year. He said that they will put a hot top on next year.

Bill said that Mutton Lane has been paved and shoulders are done. He said that they have taken Capt. Jacks down and it is cleaned up. He said that the trucks are being outfitted for the winter, and that the storage container had been delivered.

Bill talked to the board about the fish ladder at Wilsons Bay. He said that a tree had fallen on the fence around it and it was destroyed. He said that he couldn’t replace the fence and will use a grate to help with the water flow and to keep the beavers out.

Bill said that the hydraulic pump on the John Deere excavator needs to be replaced and he couldn’t find a replacement for less than $30,000.00. He said that Mike Liebman reached out to some of his contacts, and found one for $10,000.00 plus shipping.

Bill said that he has had his truck undercoated and he has purchased new undercoating equipment from Detail This.

Recreation Park – Keith’s Recreation Park and Water report was read by Michelle Bouchard in his absence. Keith reports that the usual monthly activities were held in the building along with a benefit dinner and a celebration of life. His report also states that they had put down a stone pad for a memorial picnic table.

Water - Keith’s report stated that they had been doing winter shut offs, and they did a new install in water district #1. They did have a water main break in water district #1. He also reports that they had helped DANC with filling in holes along the regional water line.

Councilman Maloney said that he spoke with Brian Nutting from DANC and he said that the rail bed needs to be mowed, and that each township will be responsible for paying for the mowing in their section of the rail bed. Bill Pond said that John Lawrence did mow the Capes end of the waterline.

Councilman Maloney asked Bill if the highway department would be able to mow the waterline, Bill said Yes, that the highway could do this.

Councilman Maloney said that he asked Brian if Cape Vincent mowed its section, would they still have to pay the fee, and Brian said they would.

The board was upset about this and said they will discuss it further.

Supervisor’s Report

Supervisor Aubertine said that at the Dec. 5 work session he would like to invite Matt Cooper to discuss the potential sewer project. He said that the town did not qualify for the recent attempt in funding. Supervisor Aubertine said that he wants to meet with Matt and decide to move forward or to put the project to bed.

Supervisor Aubertine said that there are revised dock plans and he will get them to the board members. He said that he wants to see the permitting move forward, and he recommends that the town does move ahead.

Supervisor Aubertine said that Mike Alteri is reviewing the temporary fence plans for Tibbetts Point. Then it can be submitted to George Robinson for approval and the board can continue the journey toward the transfer of the property.

Councilman Wood said that the Planning Board was working on updating the subdivision law and no action was taken on the Carleton Villa project.

Councilman Maloney said that the ambulance squad is making great strides and moving forward with improvements.

Councilwoman Miller said that she attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting and she said they have a lot of work to do, but she is hopeful that they will get back on track.

Tim White – Tim reviewed the Club St. projects, stating that there was 101 tons of debris taken from the demolition of Capt. Jacks and that he is getting project signs made up to be placed at the site. Tim also said that he, Supervisor Aubertine, Councilman Wiley, Trustee Pam Youngs and Mayor Golden have monthly meetings with the Dept. of State and he feels that a lot of issues get covered.

Christine Stark asked about the revised dock plans and wondered if there would be a place for public comment.

Supervisor Aubertine said that they are still designing and after permitting the design is considered 30% completed, then it will be put out for public comment. Christine said that they will need to go a long way to get the word out as to why the design changed.

Town Clerk, Michelle Bouchard said that an email from David Powers is letting the town know that an IMA needs to be set up between the town and village for water purchase for water district #7. She said that the board needs to authorize the Supervisor to contact the attorney and have him create the IMA.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to move forward with the creation of an IMA between the town and village for water in water district #7, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Michelle reviewed with the board that there is one vacancy on the Board of Assessment Review, 2 vacancies on the Zoning Board and 2 vacancies on the Planning Board.

Councilman Maloney made the motion to authorize the town clerk to advertise the vacancies, seconded by Councilwoman Miller. All members voted AYE.

Michelle asked the board if any action has been taken with the Rosiere Light re-districting request made by Micky Orvis. Supervisor Aubertine said that he is working on it.

Resolutions

Resolution #66

Resolution #66 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Maloney. Resolution #66 is to set the date of Dec. 5, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Recreation Park building for a Public Hearing regarding the Restore NY Communities Initiative grant for the Carleton Villa project on Carleton Island.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #67

Resolution #67 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilwoman Miller. Resolution #67 is to authorize the Highway Superintendent to sign the amended Jefferson County Snow and Ice agreement for the period of Jan. 1, 2023 through Dec. 31, 2027.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #68

Resolution #68 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #68 is to approve to pay Data Collections Services the amount of $6,180.00 for sign survey and inventory on all town signs, AND be it further Resolved that the invoice #1002 be split between the General Fund and the Highway.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #69

Resolution #69 was moved by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Maloney. Resolution #69 is to declare the following items as surplus equipment and to be disposed of either for sale or deposited in the electronic waste bin: Kyocera Taskalfa 405ci; Kyocera Ecosys M2540idw; Sensus Water Auto Read system.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Bills: WD #1, $42,120.83; WD #2, $1,971.94; WD #3, $6,703.75; WD #4, $3,504.05; WD #5, $1,723.81; WD #6, $1,421.33; General Fund $61,380.42; Highway, $50,281.84; H-H4, $89,564.34.

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

Councilman Maloney made a motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel and Contract issues at 7:30pm, seconded by Councilman Wood.

Councilwoman Miller invited Lorrie Moss, Patty Bach, Neil Farrell and Christine Stark to join the board in Executive Session.

Councilman Wood made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:41pm, seconded by Councilman Wiley.

Supervisor Aubertine made a motion to adjourn at 8:42pm.

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 Michelle Bouchard, RMS – Town Clerk