

Town of Dresden  
Public Hearing/Monthly Meeting  
November 11, 2024  
Beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Sup. Tall, Coun. Wilbur, Coun. Brown, Coun. Diekel, Coun. Borden, Highway Super. Hobus, Town Clerk Wilbur

Absent: None

Attendance: Emma Tall, Thomas Mowatt, EJ Conzola-Whitehall Times, Kim Brown, Warren Gordon, Scott Brown, Jeanne Eliseo, Mark Eliseo, Chris Yule, Duane Semcken, Jaqueline O'Connor, Eugene O'Connor, Jane Carter, Rick Carter, Scott Farley

Sup. Tall called the meeting to order and led the pledge to the flag.

A motion to accept the previous month's minutes was made by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Diekel and all were in favor.

A motion to pay the audited bills was made by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Diekel and all were in favor.

A discussion was held about the cemetery budget line item. It is difficult to forecast the future of care. Once cemetery that has traditionally been cared for is a private cemetery. This will be visited in future discussions. Once a cemetery is abandoned and in dis-repair it is the responsibility of the town to maintain it. The appropriation for the cemeteries has increased from \$5,500 to \$7,000 with no procurement explanation. It would be helpful to calculate the total cost with one. The caretaker, Scott Brown, was in attendance and he replied that it takes 8-man hours to do an adequate job with weed whacking and mowing plus there is a 7-hour spring cleanup calculated in the \$7,000 quote. He states that he mows the cemeteries 26 times a season between the third week of April until October. There is a program available through the County using youth to assist with projects in local towns. The town should consider exploring other options to try and cut costs.

Sup. Tall opened the Public Hearing for the Approval of the 2025 Proposed Budget. Those individuals wishing to express in favor of or against the proposed Budget are given 3 minutes for comments. Sup. Tall explained that NYS is the biggest land holder in Dresden assessed over 68 million dollars. The most valuable homes in Dresden are assessed another 200 million dollars. The CPHE power line will be passing monies to the communities that have been affected by the project for use to improve town infrastructure, however it cannot be used to reduce taxes. There is a 30-year yield expected. Currently it is unknown when the monies will be made available. There is a tax increase in the proposed budget. There has been no increase in 6 years. The costs have increased each and every year including health insurance and retirement benefits. If the town had increased to the maximum amounts each year it would be in such a better place financially. It can be projected that there will be tax increase for the 2026 budget. We are just paying back the monies that have been bleeding out for the past 6 years. There were no further comments, and the public hearing was closed by a motion made by Coun. Wilbur and seconded by Coun. Borden.

**Old Business:** The test pits for the Sewer District #1 still need to be dug. One quote has been submitted and we are looking for one or two more. The building permits for the properties located in the Sewer Districts are being finalized. Coun. Wilbur gave an update on the Sewer District project using the agenda from the October 2024 meeting. The agenda and the minutes from the meeting are on the town website.

Sup. Tall will be conducting the final Annual Financial Report once the budget is resolved.

**New Business: Resolution #39-2024** titled **Resolution to Accept the Proposed 2025 Budget** was introduced by Sup. Tall and a motion was made by Coun. Borden and was seconded by Coun. Wilbur and all were in favor.

**Resolution #40-2024** titled **Authorization of Automatic Debit Payments for Recurring Utility Bills** was introduced by Sup. Tall. It will allow the payments for utility bills to be automatically debited for utility payments. A motion was made by Coun. Brown and was seconded by Coun. Diekel and all were in favor.

**Resolution # 41-2024** titled **Resolution to Release Unfinalized Preliminary Engineering Report for Sewer District #1** was introduced by Sup. Tall. This report shall be released as an unfinalized preliminary report as a draft. It hasn't been fully concluded. A motion was made Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Diekel and all were in favor.

A meeting was held between Sup. Tall and Town Clerk Wilbur recently began streamlining the Town's Financial Records and Mitigation of Accounting to QuickBooks Online. Hopefully the transition will improve how the town reports expenses and revenues.

**Highway Superintendent's Report:** The crew has replaced a culvert on Mosier Road so that it has become a 2-lane road. The gravel and sand pile has been completed for the upcoming snow season. The salt will be paid with this year's funds and the amount isn't known yet. A discussion between the fire companies has been ongoing to install dry hydrants on County Route 6 and behind the DVFC. Jim Leghorn will be talking with DEC about making it happen as well as using United Civil.

**Public Comment:** Thomas Mowatt handed out a document to the board about the Breezy Bluff Cottage located on Cat Den Road laying out some of the history and that a commemorative plaque will be made to post next to the cottage.

The monthly bills for October are as follows:

GEN-\$4956.57      HWY-\$5,506.72      SD#1-\$2,479.82      SD#2-\$63.52

There were no further discussions, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m. by a motion made by Coun. Wilbur and seconded by Coun. Borden. Respectfully submitted, Marcinda Wilbur, Dresden Town Clerk