

October 10, 2022 the regular Town Board meeting was held in the town hall beginning at 7:00 p.m. with Coun. Raymond and Coun. Barber absent. Sup. Ferguson led the pledge to the flag.

A motion to accept the previous month's minutes with one correction was made by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Brown and all were in favor. A motion to pay the audited bills was made by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Brown and all were in favor.

**Old Business:** There is no Engineer Report to date for the Town Hall upgrade potential project.

**New Business:** The Town of Dresden Procurement Policy still needs to be amended for the Sewer District #1 EPG engineer proposal. Sup. Ferguson has not met with the town attorney but will be meeting with him on Wednesday, October 12, 2022. An email will be sent to all board members once the meeting is finalized. Suzy Shad addressed the board about the importance of not losing the Grant and that the town needs to move along quickly as the deadline for all paperwork expired on June 30, 2022 and that EFC has been patient with the town to get all the proper paperwork together to move forward. The Procurement Policy and the recommended checklist will be fully discussed during the meeting with Sup. Ferguson and Matt Fuller, the town attorney. Ms. Shad requested a commitment from Sup. Ferguson once he had completed the meeting with Mr. Fuller and he agreed to answer her by Thursday.

Discussion about taking Sheep Meadow Lane on as a town road was able to be conducted. Highway Superintendent, Rick Hobus, was in attendance at the meeting and he was giving insight on what it takes for a private road to become a town road. The Town of Dresden does not have a current policy on record for taking over roads and maintenance. Mr. Hobus feels that it isn't possible at this time due to resources to add any more mileage to the inventory but has agreed to be available in case of emergencies when needed. The main request for the town to take over the road has to do with the plowing during the winter time. The state has recommendations for towns to follow but there are no requirements by law. Mr. Hobus replied that there are needs to be a clear contract with an independent to maintain the winter snow removal and that the homeowners association have a clear policy for payment of those services from all the residents that live on the Lane.

Sup. Ferguson handed to the board the Preliminary 2023 Budget. There needs to be included any bank loans and/or BAN amounts plus a new appropriation titled "POPS" in the highway budget will need a line item number that will be given by the state auditor. There are some impacts to the highway budget this year. The fuel amounts have increased due to the rising cost of it. Also, sand cost for the winter is up 38% from last year and salt cost is up 31.71% and since the town is still without a Teamsters Contract for the last 10 months there will also be a wage increase once the contract is passed because of back pay. A budget workshop will be held at a later time before the adoption of the budget deadline and will be posted for the public to be able to attend.

Ms. Stipins-Gang requested to be added to the agenda for the meeting to discuss "Integrity" of the board. There hasn't been a complete town board in several months with no explanation from Coun. Raymond. Coun. Barber is recovering from illness so he is unable to attend. The 2021 AUD was due by February 28, 2022 and was filed late according to the Office of the State Comptrollers and when asked about the extension in April, Sup. Ferguson replied he received a verbal extension. The state requires a written extension to be filed before the deadline and there was no verbal permission given. There is no Long Term Planning for the Town of Dresden as recommended from the 2014 audit by the OSC nor any documents available from a FOIL request made. It is time for the residents of Dresden to expect more from the elected officials that represent the public.

**Highway Superintendent's Report:** There were two accidents during the last month. One included a culvert that came through a window while Erich Hobus was in the vehicle and the old loader lost the brakes while Warren Gordon was operating it and it dropped down 100 feet on an embankment and was stopped by a tree. Neither operators in the incidents were seriously injured and we are thankful for that. The new truck ordered last year will not be here for the winter season. It has been delayed and will most likely arrive during March. The roof on the town garage is being repaired.

The monthly bills for September are as follows:

GEN-\$6206.62 HWY-\$279649.73

SD#1-\$1903.46 SD#2-\$4936.24

**Public Comment:** Stephanie Copeland announced that the LGPC is currently accepting public comments regarding its Proposal Wastewater Management Regulations which includes the Septic Inspection Program and will be welcomed until Wednesday, November 30, 2022 and that the proposed law can be found on the LGPC website. A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday November 22, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. and can be attended in person at the Fort William Henry Conference Center or via ZOOM. Information may be found at lgpc.ny.gov. The town is in support of this initiative.

There were no further discussions and a motion to adjourn was made at 8:27 p.m. Respectfully submitted,

Marcinda Wilbur Dresden Town Clerk

**Attendance:** Stephanie Aiken Copeland, Barbara Gries, Pat Greenough, George Gang, Anda Stipins-Gang, Kathy Fox Gable, Mary Labrie, Margaret Stoutenburg, Kevin Davidow, Suzy Shad, Caton Deuso-Whitehall Times