

Town of Dresden
October 14, 2024
Regular Town Board Meeting
Beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Sup. Tall, Coun. Wilbur, Coun. Diekel, Coun. Borden, Town Clerk Wilbur, Hwy. Sup. Hobus

Absent: Coun. Brown

Attendance: Tom Mowatt, EJ Conzola-Whitehall Times, Warren Gorden, Kim Brown, Stephanie Aiken-Copeland, Chris Navitsky, Mary Labrie, Tom Labrie, Paul Diekel, Jane Carter, Kathy Jablonski, Mary Ann Hollander, Rick Carter

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. Borden and was seconded by Coun. Wilbur and all were in favor.

Old Business: Sup. Tall explained to those in attendance the total cash balances of all accounts are about \$700,000. \$400,000 is in an interest bearing account and cash forecasting and planning for each account will allow us to keep nearly all of the monies earning interest. The budgets since 2019 would have had us depleting our cash reserves by \$622,494. Fortunately we did not actually bleed out about \$575,000. Our costs have been increasing and we have not increased our tax levy to cover for this and will now end this year with around 30% reserve and therefore is not sustainable. The budget officer and the budget committee are continuing to work on the budget and will address this in new business down the road.

Coun. Wilbur gave an update for the Sewer District #1 project. There has been no reply from the state yet on the Engineer Report and there should be something in a couple weeks. Once Labella's gets a reply, it will forward the report and give it to the town attorney to be finalized. The test pits are needed for both directional drilling and open style and will need to be done sometime in November as winter is approaching. There can be no work done without the work authorization and it's in progress to be completed by the attorney. Currently there have been no loans for funding taken out for the project. The Operation and Maintenance fees will be used to alleviate a larger loan, and as of last June it stands at \$229,000. The Town Supervisor is open to exploring alternative means of funding the project. A continuation of the draft Sewer Lateral Permit and Determination Application discussion is ongoing. The committee went over each page of the application and the process of administering the application. Bill Borden will have to sign off on the permit for properties located in the Sewer Districts. As for maintenance, Bill Borden is aware of the shed being built and structures greater than 144 square feet need a permit from the town. The garage project on Elm Tree Path is still in discussion and it is understood construction will not continue until a resolution of some sorts is found. The new pump has arrived and has been installed in District 1. The bank balances will be available at the next meeting. The town really needs to look into someone to take over the Superintendent's position in the near future. It would be nice if someone with enthusiasm and the ability to learn quickly would come along Bill Borden to help out. It is recommended that the town have a GPS map of the sewer districts showing the sewer system for easy reference and what it would cost to have the maps done.

Further discussions in regards to the Chubb's Dock, it was explained that the easement for the use of the road is specific for the use by the firetrucks to reload water. The fire companies have explicitly clarified that they cannot use the access due to the road being so narrow. The road cannot be improved without widening beyond the easement and permitted by the DEC. The town has filled potholes with material by the road crew. The road has always been narrow and has been maintained for passage, yet the spring thaw brings more water than usual and therefore is flooded. Discussion continued about installing a dry hydrant for the firetrucks to refill at the brook located near the station or from the cistern in the brook at Leclair's property. The road to Chubb's Dock has been maintained for passage by the highway department.

Highway Superintendent Hobus updated the board on the water run-off situation with the Grant/Farley complaint. The crew installed a 15 inch pipe into Lake Road and used 175 feet of cloth and installed a catch basin. The cost to do the project was \$6,000 in parts and \$6,000 for labor. Lake Road will be part of the town's repaving effort and it should help next year. The changes will include how the water goes down the road. There is no crown now, and the natural pitch comes to the barn and down the south side of the road. These changes should help the Farley's but the Grant property is too far back from the road and likely won't help much. The Town Justice's Internal Audit still needs to be completed.

New Business: Coun. Diekel explained the budget process on how the town prepares for the adoption of the next year's budget. The tentative has been given to the board from the Town Clerk. The tentative becomes the preliminary and after a public hearing it is moved to adoption by the board. The next meeting will be November 11, 2024 and the Public Hearing will be held to propose, vote, and finally adopt. Jane Carter inquired about the use of the CHPE funds that will eventually be disbursed to the towns affected by the project and how to strategically use the funds for the town. The funds cannot be used to reduce taxes but for capital improvements and community upgrades. There has been rumors that the monies could begin in 2026 but nothing is sure yet.

Sup. Tall will begin the migration of the town financial records into Quick Books Online in the next few weeks.

In attendance for the meeting was Lake George Water Keeper, Chris Navitsky for the purpose of withdrawing from the litigation regarding ProcellaCOR. Since the court case was not won, it is irrelevant to remain bound by the resolution passed on June 10, 2024, Resolution #26-2024, joining any litigation opposing the application of ProcellaCOR in Lake George. All the towns have withdrawn and Dresden is the only remaining town. The LGA will continue sharing the science of use to the public and will be collecting data and results and be posted online. The analysis will be used in the future, and the LGA will reserve the right to revisit if litigation is necessary. **Resolution #35-2024** titled **Resolution to Withdraw as Plaintiff in Litigation Regarding ProcellaCOR Testing on Lake George** was introduced by Sup. Tall, a motion to pass was made by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Borden and a roll call vote is as follows: Sup. Tall-AYE; Coun. Wilbur-AYE; Coun. Diekel-AYE; Coun. Borden-AYE; Coun. Brown-ABSENT. The resolution passed. **Resolution #36-2024** titled **Resolution to Realign Committees and Eliminate the Open Space Air Committee** was introduced by Sup. Tall, a motion was made by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Borden and all were in favor. **Resolution #37-2024** titled **Resolution to Establish the Ad-Hoc Sewer Status and Risks Committee** was introduced by Sup. Tall. The committee will collect information with forecastable expenses and risk associated with objectives to enhance the planning process and provide a greater transparency to the community. It shall collect and organize data and assessments into a multi-page table that will aid the Sewer Board and Town Board in short term and long term planning. It will operate with a limited lifespan and exist for a specific purpose for the sewer district. The Sewer Law as it is written is made up of three town board members and 2 members of the district therefore creating a quorum of the town board leading to efficiency issues. Therefore, the Ad-Hoc Committee will be comprised of one or two town board members and zero, one, or two members of the district. Coun. Borden has reservations to the committee because of all the effort put in by Suzy Shad and Pat Keenan being set aside and slowing down the current progress thus far. A motion was made by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Diekel and a roll call vote is as follows: Sup. Tall-AYE; Coun. Wilbur-AYE; Coun. Diekel-AYE; Coun. Borden-ABSTAIN; Coun.. Brown-ABSENT. **Resolution #38-2024** titled **Resolution to Enter into a Contract for Medical Testing Services** was introduced by Sup. Tall. A motion was made by Coun. Diekel and was seconded by Coun. Borden and all were in favor.

Highway Superintendent's Report: The Lake Road project was covered earlier in the meeting. The winter sand is all done. The culvert project on Mosier Road will make the road back to two lanes instead of one.

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

The monthly bills for September were:

GEN-\$2,742.27 HWY-\$38,927.63 SD#1-\$4,214.10 SD#2-\$1,764.32

Public Comment: It was discussed about the town having its own garbage pick-up, like Putnam Station has. It may be addressed at another time in the future.

There were no further discussions and a motion to adjourn was made by Coun. Borden and seconded by Coun. Diekel at 8:57 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Marcinda Wilbur, Town Clerk