

September 11, 2023 the regular monthly Town Board meeting was held in the Town Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m.
Present: Councilpersons Wilbur, Brown, Barber, and Diekel; Supervisor Ferguson, Town Clerk Marcinda Wilbur
Absent: None

Sup. Ferguson led the pledge to the flag. A moment of silence was observed for the 9/11 tragedy.

A motion to accept the previous month's minutes was made by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Barber and all were in favor. Councilwoman Diekel requested that the meetings be recorded from now on. Sup. Ferguson replied he would send an audio copy to George Kapusinski to have it put on the town website. Town Clerk, Marcinda Wilbur, requested that a copy of the audio also be sent to her each month as well.

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

Old Business: Coun. Diekel announced that her only interest in pursuing the Chubb's Dock improvement is for safety reasons and is only seeking maintenance improvements. DVFC Chief Ed Rehm concurs with that statement so that fire trucks have access to the lake for water.

Gary Chaplin has expressed an interest to serve on the Board of Assessment Review. An appointment was made by a motion from Coun. Brown and was seconded by Coun. Diekel and all were in favor. The town still needs one more person to fill a vacancy and anyone interested should contact the Town Clerk.

A storage unit to store test chemicals for the sewer districts has been ordered. Instead of a shed, basically a storage case was ordered and shipment is in progress.

New Business: The monthly financials were given to the board and are on file in the clerk's office.

Resolution #18-2023 titled **Budget Adjustments** has a zero budget impact was put forth by a motion made by Coun. Brown and was seconded by Coun. Wilbur and all were in favor.

The truck bond payment has been made to the dealership for the new truck.

Sewer District # 1 is in need of insurance. Sup. Ferguson will get together with Bill Borden to go over coverage necessary for both of the sewer districts. At the onset of the districts there was about two million dollars in coverage.

During the meeting there was discussion about the newly implemented Volunteer Firemen/EMT tax exemption passed in the State, and the town will need to pass the local law if it wishes to participate with the volunteer fire companies. Jim Leghorn presented facts for how the volunteers will be monitored and reported to the Town Assessor. The records for the volunteers will be kept by the Fire Chief of each company. A yearly application will be mailed out by the assessor to each volunteer. The Whitehall Central School System has not passed the law yet and it would be beneficial to have the firemen attend a monthly school board meeting. The law doesn't need to be passed immediately, however, it should be passed before the end of the year. A public hearing will need to be held before it can be passed at the town level. It was suggested that a Public Hearing be held at the next monthly board meeting in October. Sup. Ferguson will discuss the possibility for the Town Attorney to attend the meeting as well. The budget process will be beginning soon and the fire companies are hoping for an increase of funds for both of them. The last increase occurred in 2019. Mr. Leghorn read of statistics and amount of money per assessed property values for neighboring towns and Dresden is by far the lowest in the area. He laid out the expenses for operating the fire companies and the mutual aid times and distances for other towns to arrive for service. Budget workshops will be set to begin in October and the Chiefs will come up with a preliminary numbers and get back to the budget officer.

Coun. Wilbur read an update for the Sewer Committee as written by Suzy Shad, who couldn't be in attendance at the meeting. She would like to recommend moving the Sewer Committee meetings to follow the regular town board meetings to make it easier for scheduling.

Highway Superintendent's Report: The crew has been working on cutting and ditching the shoulders. The high water in Lake Champlain has really assisted the weed harvesting process and the crews have been able to continue much of the removal. Mr. Hobus has received a quote from Air-Tite Insulation Systems for the spray insulation application for the town shed. The recovery money from insurance from the loader accident will cover the costs.

Public Comment: A question was posed to the town board and Mr. Hobus about the possibility of having the Marina Road paved for control of dust and pot holes due to amount of vehicle traffic during the summer as well as large trucks driving in such a small area. Mr. Hobus explained the width of the roads in the location will need to be surveyed for improvements and will likely be unwelcomed due to the standards and it would be necessary for permits from LGPC, LGA, and APA. Supervisor Ferguson stated in July that he would be posting the monthly agenda's on the town website by the day of the meetings. He forgot to post the agenda for tonight's meeting.

There were no further discussions and the board elected to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personale and immediately coming out of Executive Session would adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Marcinda Wilbur Town Clerk

Attendance: Paul Diekel, Margaret Stroutenburg, John DeLucia, Don Gellenthien, James Leghorn, Cathy Leghorn, Terr Storms, Lee Storms, Bill Clough, Rick Carter, Dan Morin, Scott Brown, Linda Barber, Bob Weilacher, Warren Gordon, EJ Conzola-Whitehall Times, Bill Borden, Marilyn Borden, Stephanie Aiken-Copeland, Ed Rehm, Pat Greenough