

Town of Dresden
September 9, 2024
Regular Town Board Meeting
Beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Sup. Ferguson, Coun. Wilbur, Coun. Brown, Coun. Diekel, Coun. Borden, Highway Superintendent Hobus and Town Clerk Wilbur

Attendance: Jeanne Ferguson, Sheri Wescott, Kim Brown, Thomas Mowatt, Margaret Stroutenburg, Pam Denison, Warren Gordon, Anda Stipins-Gang, George Gang, Paul Diekel, Scott Brown, EJ Conzola-Whitehall Times, Scott Farley, Charles Tall

Sup. Ferguson 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 Coun. Diekel, Coun. Brown, and Sup. Ferguson were not in favor to accept them as disbursed.

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

Old Business: The Justice Internal Audit has not been completed. When Sup. Ferguson asked if the Town Clerk's Audit has been done, Clerk Wilbur requested for the third time for the Council to please come and complete the audit.

New Business: Councilman Wilbur was contacted by Judy Casler about the Town being interested in installing AED machines in the town buildings. The cost for them will be around \$1,237.00 and \$25.00 for shipping. When Sup. Ferguson asked the board if they would be willing to have them installed and they all agree. There was an interest from the board to have Ms. Casler attend a future meeting with more information. The monthly financials were given to the board and are on file in the clerk's office.

There will be a Sewer Meeting held in the Town Hall Wednesday, September 11, 2024 beginning at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the test holes sites. Three of the four homeowners where the test holes need to be dug are in agreement to allow the holes to be dug. During the meeting on Wednesday, the town attorney will be discussing steps that will need to be taken to deal with the fourth homeowner. Coun. Diekel would like to be included in the town matters for the Sewer District emails.

An engineer map was made available to the town for John Ripp. He will be redirecting his septic system and the plans will intersect with town property along the road. Mr. Hobus stated that the plans will not interfere with highway activities as far as ditching and plowing. Mr. Ripp is looking for an easement to proceed with the project and the board is in agreement for it to proceed. However, it was requested to have the town attorney look over the plans before anything begins.

Sup. Ferguson stated that the town idle monies will begin to be invested in NYCLASS this week.

The next item on the agenda was ProcellaCOR findings and Coun. Wilbur read an email he received from Hulets Landing ProcellaCOR about the recent findings. The email is available to anyone interested in reading the results. Summary points include the herbicide killed a lot but not all of the milfoil (EWM). It has not been completely eradicated. Degradants are still in the water and the soil. They last longer in the environment than ProcellaCOR. In Blair's Bay there are still healthy EWM as well as auto-segmenting which is when the tips of EWM release from the plant but not the roots. There are clouds of algae visible over the dead EWM. It is likely the decaying plants released nutrients and organic matter on which algae feed, causing them to multiply and create blooms. There is more information online at the Lake George Association website.

Sup. Ferguson brought up about having the Town Clerk's office moved to the town hall. Town Clerk Marci Wilbur responded to the board and to the audience that there is no provision in Town Law that gives the board the authority to dictate where the clerk's office is located. The same response was given in June 20?? when the board decided to take a vote on the clerk's office being moved to the town hall.

Sup Ferguson inquired of Ms. Stipins-Gang about what she wants for the Town Supervisor. She replied that she would like to have one that is responsive and answers calls. Also she would like for them to be honest and tell the truth. She would like the town hall to be ADA compliant for the court system as well as having the wiring for the town hall completed. The upgrade to the wiring has been completed.

Scott Farley inquired of Mr. Hobus about the issue with the water ponding on his property as well as with Jaqueline Grant's driveway. The water moves down Lake Road with the pitch of the road tipping away from the south side of the road. This would allow the water to travel down the north side. The town will be continuing to address the issue as much as it can. The driveway to Ms. Grant's house is on state land and the town doesn't own any rights to it but will try to remedy the problem as much as they can. Mr. Farley was visibly upset with Mr. Hobus' response to the issue and left. There was further discussion about the alleged removal of a culvert and that is why the problem exists.

Coun. Diekel handed to the board members a list of committee assignments and would like to gather to have discussions in each category at a future time. She has slated the dates to be September 24th and 25th.

Coun. Borden contacted the Whitehall Elementary School to inquire how many Dresden students are enrolled. She was told there are around 40. Coun. Borden would like the town to host a Halloween Party for the children and will be looking for any input as well as any donations of goodies to help out. There is \$595 left in the Celebration Appropriation line to be used.

Sup. Ferguson read a letter of resignation from the Supervisor's Clerk, Sheri Wescott. Once he finished reading hers, he went on to read a resignation letter for himself. His last day of employment for the town will be September 14, 2024 for the purpose of retirement. The resignation letters are on file in the clerk's office. He stated that for his health and wellbeing his time would be better spent with family.

Highway Superintendent's Report: Mr. Hobus stated that in the future paving will be completed on Lake Road and Catden Road. The weed program is done for the 2024 season with working for 10 weeks. A discussion came up about the use of the fire department parking lot by the construction crew for the powerline. There has been some destruction to the pavement and it should be addressed to Kiewit or United Civil so that the firehouse budget will not be affected by the damage.

Public Comment: Mr. Thomas Mowatt responded to the crowd that the ProcellaCOR findings and results are not as sure as the LGPC had let on during their presentations to surrounding towns, including Dresden. He has been taking samples from the LaChute River in Ticonderoga and there has been evidence of ProcellaCOR in the samples and traveling into Lake Champlain since Lake George empties into Lake Champlain from the LaChute River. After months of contention between the LGPC and the LGA, they are now teaming up for the betterment of the Lake. Paul Diekel asked if there has been anything done to the road leading to Chubb's Dock to bring it up and he was told that material has been brought down to the road. The dock is owned by the DEC and not the town and that the APA will not allow any additional material to enter into the lake so there is nothing else that can be done to the road.

The board entered into Executive Session at 8:07 for Contract Negotiations and the meeting will immediately adjourn as they come out of the session. The board came out at 8:48.

No further discussions. Respectfully submitted, Marcinda Wilbur, Dresden Town Clerk