May 17, 2023 Regular Town Board Meeting

Present: Councilman Paul Aubertine, Councilman Dan Wiley, Councilman Alan Wood, Councilman Time Maloney, Keith Brass, Highway Superintendent Bill Pond and approximately 13 visitors.

Absent: Supervisor Marty Mason, excused.

Councilman Aubertine, in his capacity as Deputy Supervisor, ran the meeting in Supervisor Mason's absence.
Councilman Wood made a motion to open the public hearing regarding the LWRP report/plan at 6:15pm, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members present voted AYE.
Privilege of the Floor: No one signed up to speak.
Deputy Supervisor Aubertine explained to those present that the Public Hearing was a step in the process of adopting the LWRP plan.
Councilman Wiley said that the LWRP plan has been a 6-year process and is to guide the direction the CVLDC will take to keep in compliance with other agencies and meet the needs of the community.
Scott Burto said that the village has a plan, and they have been updating and expanding it. He said that the LWRP plan will make sure goals are met and he reviewed a few of the projects.
Councilman Maloney said that the plan will help with funding agencies as they will see we have a LWRP in place. Scott agreed saying the funding agencies weigh additional points on applications if the municipality has a plan in place.

Kathy Pierce asked if the plan would impact the planning and zoning boards, and should they be notified of the guidelines.
Scott said that the projects will have to reviewed by the boards to make sure that the projects meet the plan.
There were no more comments.
Councilman Maloney made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:22pm, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members present voted AYE.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to open the public hearing regarding the Spectrum Northeast franchise agreement at 6:22pm, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members present voted AYE.
Privilege of the floor: No one wished to speak.
Deputy Supervisor Aubertine explained that the public hearing needs to be held before the franchise agreement can be renewed. He said it is a 15-year contract.
It was asked if there was a fee escalation clause, and if the fees will increase. Scott Burto said that the State mandates what the fees are to be.
Councilman Wood made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:23pm, seconded by Councilman Maloney. All members present voted AYE.

Deputy Supervisor Aubertine called the regular meeting to order at 6:23pm.
Privilege of the floor:
Michael Docteur – Mike said that he would like to talk about the gravel pit property. He said that when he was on the town board some years ago, they went through the process of renewing the pit license with the DEC. He said that they had to use an archeologist as part of the renewal process, and the board

discussed using that property for water. He said that the archeologist told them there was good water there, and said it was 5,000 gallons of water per day on the surface. He said it was one of the largest and cleanest aquafers in the area. He said that he is bringing it up because he would hate to see the property sold. He said that the town might not need the water now, but could need it in the future. Mike also talked about how the village is supplying the water and how the town of Watertown is looking to upgrade their system and how costly it will be. Mike said that at the time, the town board spoke with an engineer and they were giving a cost of .19 cents per thousand gallons for pumped, chlorinated water. Mike said that clean water could be an issue for the County. He said it is a great opportunity for the town.
Councilman Wiley asked how you would differentiate the aquafer from other business that are in the area. Mike said that he would not have that information.
Councilman Wiley and Mike discussed the issue they had some years ago renewing the gravel pit license, that the company drawing water in that area did not want the town to renew the license.
Mike told the board that he feels he would be remiss if he did not share the history of the property, and how important he feels it is to the town.

Councilman Maloney made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 20, 2023 and the May 4, 2023 meetings, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members present voted AYE.

The Supervisor's Financial report was reviewed. Councilman Wiley made a motion to accept the Supervisor's Financial Report, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members present voted AYE.

Bills: General Fund, $24,395.14; Highway, $14,274.99; WD #1, $20,020.22; WD #2, $3,060.02; WD #3, $2,033.76; WD #4, $2,147.99; WD #5, $1,950.30; WD #6, $754.25.
Councilman Wiley made a motion to approve of the payment of the vouchers, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members present voted AYE.

Reports
Highway – Bill Pond reported that they have been filling in pot holes, mowing shoulders, and making minor repairs. He said that the date of delivery for the new mower is now pushed back to the end of June. Bill told the board that they are paving County Rt. 6 and it is going good so far.
Bill said that he needed to bring Kevin Jackson, Jr. on earlier than he thought at the transfer site. He said that he called his current employer and he is ok with Kevin not giving the two-week notice. He said that Kevin has started. Bill asked the board about providing uniforms giving the boot allowance. The board told Bill that Kevin should get the uniforms and the boot allowance.
Bill also discussed his fuel report computer. He said that he has had it repaired several times, and it is down again. He said it won't work at all now, and he is not able to do his fuel reports.
Mike Docteur, Docteur Environmental addressed the issue with the board too. He said that the system is a dial up XP and is not supported any longer. He said that he did a thumb drive backup, and tried it on a different computer, but it didn't work. Mike discussed a new system with the board; he said that it is a cloud-based system. He reviewed two types and gave the board prices. He said that Bill would need to do something real soon.

Bill discussed with the board that he will need to purchase sand. He said that Bach is selling sand to Hanson, and he is trying to buy from them.
Bill said that his men are asking about the Juneteenth holiday, as they have not gotten an answer from the board. Deputy Supervisor Aubertine told him that it is on the agenda and they will be discussing it.
Bill told the board that the Historian, Jean Ebert, asked him to put up a sign at the Market St. cemetery honoring a few Revolutionary Soldiers who are buried there. He said she has planned to unveil the sign at a ceremony scheduled for Saturday.

Recreation Park – Keith Brass said there has been the usual clubs, meetings, parties and a celebration of life held in the building. He said that they are putting the screens up at the pickle ball court.
Water – Keith reported that they are doing water turn ons, water installs and have repaired a valve. He has two new water installs on the Humphrey Road. Keith told the board that he is still waiting to complete his field report to turn into the insurance company regarding the damage done by lightning to the water main on Rte 12E.

Tim White spoke to the board about the Playground and Tibbetts Point grants. Tim said that he is trying to set up a meeting with Sen. Walczyk after the legislative session ends in June. He said that he is also working with Darrel Aubertine to help with moving the grant along. He said that they should see some results in a couple of weeks.
Tim also talked about the Tibbetts Point grant stating that he has received updated vendor pricing and he said he should be back on track with DASNY on a GDA.

Deputy Supervisor Aubertine said that Vincent Aubertine, a water user in Water Dist. #5, has been charged 5 edu's for his dairy farm and he sold his herd some years ago. He said that he now should be charged for 3 edu's. Deputy Supervisor Aubertine said that Vincent is not asking for a reimbursement for his overpayment but he is requesting that the town credit his account for the overpayment. He said that he talked with Tina Maloney and the credit would be in the amount of $680.00. Deputy Supervisor Aubertine said that Vincent also had a water leak that was never addressed.
The board discussed this and based on what the board has done in the past, they feel they have set a precedent.
Councilman Maloney asked if the water was quantified. Keith Brass said no.
Deputy Supervisor Aubertine said that at the end of 2021, the readings show the usage went down.
Councilman Wood made a motion to credit Vincent Aubertine's water bill $680.00 for one year, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members present voted AYE.

Deputy Supervisor Aubertine asked the board members if they had had an opportunity to review Attorney Burrow's response to Michael Franklin's inquiry on an assessment.
The board discussed Attorney Burrows remarks that this is a matter for the Board of Assessment review, and it would not be appropriate for the board or the town clerk to interject.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to pay Sharon Nebbia $100.00 to take the minutes on grievance day, seconded by Councilman Wood. All member present voted AYE.

Councilman Wiley said that the CVLDC will look at a grant from NY Forward for a bike lane along the highway. He explained that the CVLDC wants to apply for the grant, but aren't in position to because they don't have their 501-C3. He said it would have to go through the town or village.
Deputy Supervisor Aubertine asked if the CVLDC would have the 501-C3 by the grant timeline. Scott Burto said it is still 6 months out.
Deputy Supervisor Aubertine asked if there would be any upfront fees regarding the grant. Scott Burto said there would not be, and there would not be any cost to the town.

Councilman Wiley reported on the Lenten Fish Fry held at the American Legion to benefit a fund, set up in his brother's name, to train new candidates to be an EMT. Councilman Wiley said that they raised $5,000.00.

Councilman Maloney reported that he attended the ambulance meeting and they are moving forward with the reconstruction of the building they bought.
Councilman Maloney also reported that he had taken Horizon Ariel to the Islands for drone work. He said Fox, Grenadier and Linda Islands are done and he had given the information to the assessor.

Deputy Supervisor Aubertine said that 10 months ago the highway crew came to a board meeting to discuss their vacation pay and a solution to add Juneteenth as a vacation day, and the highway workers would work that day to make up for their vacation time.
Deputy Supervisor Aubertine said that the board failed to address this and he would like to move forward with amending the personnel policy to add the holiday. He said that there are a few other areas that need to be corrected such as the transfer site. He told the board that the term "Transfer Site Manager" to "Transfer Site Operator", as it is now under the highway umbrella.
Deputy Supervisor Aubertine said another correction would be to offer the employees to be paid one-week vacation pay if they don't use all of their vacation time at the end of the year. He said this was an issue that has also been discussed by the board, and he would like to address it in the personnel policy. Another area is to delete the duties of Tourism Manager, as this person is no longer an employee of the town.
The board discussed the issues and agreed with Deputy Supervisor Aubertine that it had been ignored and they should act on it.
Councilman Wiley made a motion to amend the personnel policy to reflect the addition of Juneteenth as a paid town holiday, the correction from Transfer Site Manager to Transfer Site Operator, allow for a one-week paid vacation to employees if they do not use their time in a year, and the deletion of the job description for the Tourism Manager, seconded by Councilman Maloney. All members present voted AYE.

Resolutions
Resolutions #31
Resolution #31 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #31 is to authorize Barton and Loguidice to submit the WIAA grant application for funding for Water District #7. There was no discussion. Roll call vote was taken:
Supervisor Mason, Absent; Councilman Wiley, AYE; Councilman Aubertine, AYE; Councilman Wood, AYE; Councilman Maloney, AYE.

Resolution #32
Resolution #32 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Wiley. Resolution #32 is to accept the Spectrum Northeast, LLC franchise agreement renewal and to authorize the Supervisor to sign the renewal agreement.
There was no discussion. Roll call vote was taken.
Supervisor Mason, Absent; Councilman Aubertine, AYE; Councilman Maloney, AYE, Councilman Wiley, AYE; Councilman Wood, AYE.

Councilman Wiley made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition at 7:12pm, seconded by Councilman Wood. Councilman Wiley invited Scott Burto to join the Executive Session. All members present voted AYE.

Councilman Wood made a motion to come out of Executive Session and reopen the regular meeting at 7:35pm, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members present voted AYE.

Scott Burto reviewed the Environmental Assessment Form, SEQR, with the board regarding the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan. The board answered all questions on the SEQR application.
Councilman Wood made a motion to declared the SEQR for the LWRP Plan a negative declaration, seconded by Councilman Wiley. Roll call vote was taken.
Supervisor Mason, Absent; Councilman Aubertine, AYE; Councilman Maloney AYE; Councilman Wiley, AYE; Councilman Wood, AYE.

Councilman Wood made a motion to adjourn at 7:40pm.

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Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk