

October 7, 2013 – WORK SESSION

The Work Session of the Town of Dickinson Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Michael A. Marinaccio promptly at 5:31 PM on Monday, October 7, 2013 in the Town Hall, 531 Old Front St., Binghamton, NY.

The members of the Town Board present were:

**Michael A. Marinaccio, Supervisor
Danny F. Morabito, Councilman
Thomas J. Burns, Councilman
Sharon M. Exley, Councilwoman
Stephen M. Gardner, Councilman**

Also attending:

**Oliver N. Blaise III, Esq., Town Attorney
Wanda R. Broczkowski, Town Clerk**

ATTORNEY

CONTRACT FOR PROSPECT TERRACE FIRE COMPANY (PTFC) RECEIVED

Attorney Blaise updated the board and reviewed the past contract terms and the proposed PTFC contract. Previous contracts have been for 5 years duration. There has been no contract price increases for 20 years in district No. 3. This contract includes a larger increase of \$12,000 in the first year and then a \$5,000 increase every year thereafter for the life of the contract.

2014: \$77,000.00
2015: \$82,000.00
2016: \$87,000.00
2017: \$92,000.00
2018: \$97,000.00

These increases are in part due to New York State required mandates that they must pay for as well as anticipated equipment and vehicle purchases. The Public Hearing will be heard next week on Tuesday, November 15th at our regular meeting and PTFC representatives will be available.

BROOME COUNTY ROAD PRESERVATION LAW STATUS

Attorney Blaise has nothing specific to report, but stated there are ongoing negotiations between his office, the County and **Delta Engineering**. His office is waiting Delta Engineering's response to their concerns about the proposed law. We will not be required to take any action if nothing comes out of this as our law covers this topic. One benefit for our Highway Commissioner is he would receive a book of scientific sampling with a list of our town roads and their condition for referral. Hopefully he will have something next month to report on.

WASTE MANAGEMENT (WM) CONTRACT

Attorney Blaise has the final WM contract and Supervisor Marinaccio will sign off on it this month. The Town Clerk will then forward it to WM tomorrow for their signatures. We are ahead of schedule and all on track with the WM contract.

CHAIR

OCTOBER REGULAR MEETING

Supervisor Marinaccio reminded all the regular meeting for October is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15th at 6:00 PM due to the Columbus Day Holiday on Monday the 14th.

BROOME COUNTY BUDGET AND TAX CAP

Supervisor Marinaccio will attend the BC Budget meeting on Thursday, October 10th at the County. He noted there were some significant salary increases for top management and was disappointed on that. The County budget includes scheduled returns to towns. It is now in the hands of the Legislature for their review.

The Town worked diligently on our budget and we are still under the tax cap. All services are still in place. It appears like our town spending is down this year.

It should be noted if taxes are not raised it can take up to 9 years to catch up with lost revenue by staying under the tax cap.

The 2014 budget public hearing will be scheduled next week.

BROOME DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER (BDC)

On Prospect Street, Broome Developmental Center (BDC) has taken over the St. Stan's church complex. Currently they house sex offenders in the building. There have never been any complaints but we will continue to keep the lines of communication open with the State.

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE MEETING

Supervisor Marinaccio reported on the meeting the Department of Transportation (DOT) held here on September 26th regarding the Pedestrian Bridge connecting Old Front Street to Bevier Street and to Otsiningo Park. Many residents were present providing a lot of good input. It will take a year or more to conclude the study and proposed plan of action. Mr. Marinaccio does suspect they would like to do away with the bridge and instead install sidewalks along Front St. The concern of Commissioner Kie for the Town is the maintenance especially in the winter months. There will be more meetings and public hearings.

ASSESSOR POSITION

Supervisor Marinaccio stated the successful candidate will be announced next week at the regular meeting on Tuesday, October 15th. The salary is down \$5,000 because the present assessor was here a long time with more experience.

PROJECTS IN THE TOWN

Mr. Marinaccio reported Code Enforcement Officer Rafferty sent him information on the following renovation projects ongoing in our Town:

ACHIEVE in phase II with interior renovation for multi-million. **United Methodist Homes** on Front Street an 18 month project involving 3 buildings for a \$3 million renovation as well as the **Fairfield Inn** on Front Street is reconstruction of the lobby, lower levels, complete facelift, new furnishings, and all guest rooms will be redone with new bath fixtures, wall paper, tile and furnishings.

TOWN OF FENTON LIBRARY PROJECT REQUEST

Supervisor Marinaccio was contacted by the Supervisor of the Town of Fenton to request the Town contribute to their town library as many residents from Port Dickinson and the Town of Dickinson use this library. Mr. Marinaccio and the board did not see any benefit and since it would affect our budget we decided we were not interested. Our residents consider the SUNY Broome Library located in the Town of Dickinson as their library.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW (BAR) BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that next week we will consider appointing Ron Ruffo to the BAR to replace Samuel Cucci whose term is up and is moving to Florida in the next few months.

SUNY BROOME COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR A NEW YORK MANUFACTURING INITIATIVE

Supervisor Marinaccio was asked to meet with SUNY Broome President, Kevin Drumm. He would like to discuss a New York facility for private enterprise which would promote a small manufacturing business on the SUNY Broome campus. It cannot be a service industry. The board wants to be certain to protect our neighborhoods so we do not end up with anything to offend our community. It initiative is to bring in a company tax free for up to 10 years. They do need to go to the Town of Dickinson for approval before they proceed. Councilwoman Exley is concerned with all of the new buildings including the student housing and now this. It seems very incongruous and makes no sense by putting a manufacturing site on a public college campus, which has limited acreage. We shall see.

PUBLIC WORKS

1. During the recent rain storm on Monday, the brush pick-up was suspended and the highway crew cleaned catch basins. Some tree limbs on Boland Road were tended to.
2. Phelps Street survey for Mrs. Burke was ready and complete for our review.
3. Don from the Town of Chenango water department requested the Town of Dickinson take over the billing for the 22 properties on Hickory and Forrest Hills Blvd. They are Town of Chenango residents on our system and they are currently being billed through the town of Chenango. We do charge the Town of Chenango for their water usage and there is a big price difference of \$7,000 to \$10,000, creating a shortfall. The major problem is our Dickinson sewer rates are up and would be a considerable increase in their total bill. We cover the maintenance of the lines, which is a large expense for us. We thought Chenango should be the ones to notify the residents of this change. The Town Board feels they should pay their share. We lose money absorbing the rate increases and we cannot afford to lose any more money.
4. Commissioner Kie presented and reviewed the Phelps Street survey with the members of the Town Board. The top piece in Brandywine Heights was purchased by the Town during the tenure of Joe Winterstein, which includes a 50 foot right-of-way. It will be designed as open ditch with no utilities although there are existing NYSEG poles with no current connections that would need to be moved. 1.12 acres would be obtained by the Town. Granting us an easement also gets her access to the area. The Town would need a right-of-way to store equipment and supplies during the construction of the road. The road build would be hired out. The Town of Dickinson will be responsible for all road maintenance once it is built. Per attorney Blaise, we have tentative approval but would need to send the survey to Mrs. Burke's attorney. Commissioner Kie will provide a copy to Attorney Blaise for review with their real estate attorney. Supervisor Marinaccio stated if we can save even one (1) life it would be worth it.

CODE

No code issues.

UPDATE OF SUNY BROOME SMOKING BAN

Supervisor Marinaccio asked if before the board convened was there any public comments. Angela Stevens-Skorko of 30 Boland Road, a resident near **SUNY Broome**, Community College was here at the meeting representing the residents in her neighborhood. It's an ongoing problem of students smoking 24/7 on residential streets. She noticed there is a communications disconnect and that we all need a plan. No one realizes or knows that everything has ceased on the discussions. The only plan the school has is they just stop smoking, but nothing is being done with this non-designated smoking area. The residents are concerned this situation is affecting the value of their homes and now in addition with the new student dorms being constructed there is concern of how this situation will affect them. Supervisor Marinaccio is requesting Angela be the chair of this resident group and to set-up a meeting after the 1st of November with the Town and he will contact Debbie Morello of **SUNY Broome** to attend this meeting. We recognize they will be watching to see how we handle this situation as **SUNY Binghamton** campus plan is to institute this same smoking ban policy.

On motion by Supervisor Marinaccio, the work session was adjourned by motion of Councilman Burns and seconded by Councilman Morabito at 6:36PM to go into executive session.

At this time the Board went into executive session regarding a personnel matter to discuss a certain individual.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda R. Broczkowski
Town Clerk