

November 7, 2016 – WORK SESSION

The Work Session of the Town of Dickinson Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Michael A. Marinaccio at 5:30 PM on Monday, November 7, 2016 in the Town Hall, 531 Old Front St., Binghamton, NY.

The members of the Town Board present were:

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

Also attending:

Oliver Blaise, Esq., Attorney for the Town
Susan Cerretani, Town Clerk

Also in attendance:

Code Enforcement Officer Stephen Rafferty, Town Engineer Ron Lake, Public Works Commissioner Joel Kie, Administrative Assistant Beverly Wike, Planning Board Chair/Town Historian David Wasser and one member of the general public.

CHAIR

Supervisor Marinaccio opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting at 5:30 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2017 BUDGET

Supervisor Marinaccio gave an overview of the 2017 budget in comparison to the 2016 budget:

- Last year's total tax levy was \$637,000. This year's total tax levy is \$630,000 which represents a .275% increase.
- Spending was up a little more than ½ of a percent.
- Revenue is estimated to up by 4% for 2017.
- 3% increase in salaries across the board. Last year elected officials received no increase.
- No change in services
- Elimination of Garbage District

Port Dickinson Fire Department did not meet the 2017 budget submission deadline for the fire protection contract, therefore the board members agreed to use the figures that were budgeted. One of the new services added a few years ago for **TOD FPD #3** is **MED TEAM** coverage. The **MED Team** is dispatched along with every medical call over a "B" classification. Supervisor Marinaccio would like to approve a multi-year contract rather than a one year contract.

3 year contract proposal:

1. Year one (2017) at the 2016 rate of \$29,146 (late request \$29,646)
2. Year two (2018) at \$30,146
3. Year three (2019) at \$30,646

We will need a resolution to schedule a Public Hearing next week for December's meeting.

Supervisor Marinaccio closed that portion of the Public Hearing at 5:47PM

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PUBLIC HEARING: 2017 WATER RATE ADJUSTMENT

Supervisor Marinaccio explained the proposed water rates changes:

Current rate: \$10 for the first 100 cu ft

Proposed rate: same \$10 for the first 100 cu ft

Current Rate: \$4.05 per 100 cu ft for 101- million cu ft

Proposed rate: \$4.50 per 100 cu ft for 101- million cu ft

Water is billed on a per quarter basis. The Town has absorbed increases over the past few years.

A resident asked if the Town is reimbursed for water main breaks and water usage by the Fire Department.

Public Works Commissioner Kie responded that we are credited for water but not sewer. The Fire Department needs to notify the Town when they are practicing and training so that the water usage can be deducted off the sewer bill. Public Works Commissioner Kie stated that every Monday the Water Department checks the 15 master pits to monitor usage for the week and track for leaks.

Supervisor Marinaccio closed the Public hearing at 6:03 PM.

THE AGENCY GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

Supervisor Marinaccio attended the groundbreaking ceremony for **The Agency** on October 17th and had the opportunity to say a few words.

AOTV MEETING

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that there will be no **AOTV** meeting in November. The December Holiday meeting will be held December 15th at **Little Venice Restaurant**.

SOLAR ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Town of Dickinson **Solar Energy** committee comprised of resident Jim Love, Code Enforcement Officer Steve Rafferty, Town Historian and Planning Board Chairman David Wasser, Attorney for the Town Oliver Blaise, and Councilman Steve Gardner held a meeting last week. Supervisor Marinaccio sat in on the meeting and remarked that he is very impressed with the committee's discussions.

WATER SHUTOFF FOR UNPAID WATER/SEWER BILLS

Supervisor Marinaccio would like the Board to start thinking about making changes to the penalty structure of the water billing. Over \$100,000 of unpaid water/sewer bills goes to taxes each year.

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In most cases the Town gets the money back; however there is a potential risk of losing those monies if a property goes into default. Attorney Blaise stated that if the board considers changing the penalty percentage it would be set by board resolution, not by Local Law. The question was raised - How long has the 10% penalty been in effect? Answer: Quite some time. The County makes the Town whole at the end of January.

FOLLOW UP WITH MEGA CCA

Supervisor Marinaccio had a follow up meeting with Danielle McMullen from **MEGA**. Mr. Marinaccio still has concerns and would like to learn more in order to have a clear understanding of the program.

TAX EXEMPT PROPERTIES

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that 65% of our Town properties are tax exempt.

ATTORNEY

DISCUSSION/RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2017 BUDGET

Attorney Blaise will prepare a resolution for next week adopting the 2017 Budget.

DISCUSSION/RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2017 WATER RATE ADJUSTMENT

Attorney Blaise will prepare a resolution for next week adopting Local Law for 2017 water rate adjustment.

UPDATE CODE FOR DUMPING AND FILL PERMITS AND FEES

Supervisor Marinaccio commented that the Town Board's responsibility is to protect our residents. Mr. Marinaccio would like to leave the permit requirement as is, otherwise it becomes a civil matter. After a discussion there was a consensus to keep the fill permit requirement and revise the wording regarding "refuse." Town Engineer Ron Lake and Code Enforcement Officer suggested that we might add that upon inspection an engineering study may be required by the Town at the expense of the applicant.

DISCUSSION/RESOLUTION: ADOPTION OF ADAMS STREET CUL DE SAC AND COLLEGE VIEW ROAD AS TOWN ROADS

Attorney Blaise stated that the resolution will be prepared for next week's meeting regarding the adoption of the Adams Street cul de sac and College View Road as Town roads.

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CABLE FRANCHISE LEGAL AGREEMENT

The Town received an offer from the **Cohen Law Group** to conduct an audit of the Town's **Cable Franchise Agreement**. Attorney Blaise reached out to them and asked for the details of the offer. Typically, the auditor will be paid on a percentage basis of monies recovered, with no direct charge to the Town. However, this firm charges a flat fee of \$5,900. Attorney Blaise stated that he would not recommend proceeding with this company's offer.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Commissioner Kie will make a recommendation at next week's meeting regarding sewer fees and permit applications for hookups. Mr. Kie also reported that the Water Department is called upon to shut off water as an emergency call outside of working hours when in fact it is not an emergency situation.

Public Works Commissioner Kie reported that there was a crisis on Sowden Street. A contractor building the sound barrier wall drilled into a 12 inch gas main. One line has been shut off and another line has been crimped. Mr. Kie will be meeting with NYSEG about making the repairs. At this time a water main is exposed with a thermal blanket on it.

Public Works Commissioner Kie reported that leaf pickup is going good.

Monday, November 7th was the last day for yard waste pickup for the Town of Dickinson and Tuesday, November 8th will be the last day for yard waste pickup for the Village of Port Dickinson. This notice has been publicized on the Town of Dickinson website, the **Binghamton Press** newspaper and online at www.pressconnects.com.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Nothing to report.

ASSESSOR

Nothing to report.

COMMENTS

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that he received a letter from **BOCES** stating that they will no longer be digging on site and will re-forest the problem area.

Supervisor Marinaccio reported that he received a notification from the **Office of the Comptroller** regarding the net refund allocation from the **Joint Sewage Water Treatment Plant** that we will be receiving a refund. The Town has elected cash as the method of distribution in the amount of \$318,632. These monies will go into the sewer fund.

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Supervisor Marinaccio received a call from Margaret Scarinzi from the **Land Bank** regarding the property located at 22 Bellaire Avenue. The property is vacant due to a fire. Mr. Marinaccio will be meeting with Ms. Scarinzi on Wednesday for information and further discussion.

Councilwoman Exley reported that the County Legislature passed a resolution for a company to do a study on the feasibility of using the **Hillcrest Depot** as a Regional Shelter. They now want to amend that agreement to add **Broome Developmental Center** as a Regional Shelter. It is on the Legislative Agenda for November 20th.

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARDS

Planning Board Chair David Wasser reported that there will be no Planning Board meeting in November due to scheduling problems. The Planning Board will consider the County's recommendations at the December meeting, one recommendation regarding solar energy.

On motion by Supervisor Marinaccio, the work session was adjourned into executive session regarding a litigation matter on a motion from Councilman Morabito and seconded by Councilman Burns at 7:00 PM.

Executive Session adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cerretani
Town Clerk