

November 6, 2017 – 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 6, 2017 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, Deputy County Executive Kevin McManus and two members of the general public.

CHAIR

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

PUBLIC HEARING #1: 2018 BUDGET

Supervisor Marinaccio gave an overview of the 2018 budget:

- 3% salary increase for the staff
- 9% increase in the cost of health insurance
- \$5,000 increase for the Prospect Terrace Fire Protection District as per contract
- \$500 increase for the Port Dickinson Fire Protection contract as per contract
- 11% increase in spending for the town
- Remained under the tax cap
- Property tax rates increased from \$2.34 per thousand to \$2.50 per thousand. The increase amounts to approximately 16 cents per thousand for the average homeowner.
- The budget was published in the newspaper and on the Town of Dickinson website

Hearing no comments from the floor, Public Hearing #1 was closed at 5:34 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING #2: NO PARKING ON A PORTION OF FOREST HILLS BLVD

Attorney Blaise explained that a request was made by a resident to restrict parking on the North side of Forest Hills Blvd from house number 48 to the corner of Hickory Road for safety reasons. The resident who requested the change was in attendance and thanked the board for considering her request. Letters were distributed to the surrounding neighbors informing them of the proposed change. The board will vote on the Local Law at next week's Town Board meeting.

Public Hearing #2 was closed at 5:39.

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PUBLIC HEARING #3: 2017 WATER AND SEWER RATE ADJUSTMENT

Supervisor Marinaccio opened Public Hearing #3 at 5:40 pm.

Attorney Blaise explained that our water and sewer rates are set in town code so we have to make changes by Local Law. After reviewing the budget it was proposed that water rates be raised \$2.00 per 100 CF and sewer rates lowered \$2.00 per 100 CF.

Comments from the public:

Resident Jim Love commented that the rate change will affect those residents on septic.

Supervisor Marinaccio closed the Public Hearing at 5:45 pm.

MENTORING DAY NYS ACCESS-VR

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that the town participated in **Mentoring Day** on October 18 and it was a great success. The students learned about local government from all the town departments, toured the town offices and had a pizza lunch. The Supervisor hopes to have the Town participate again next year.

BDC FACILITY AND DRUG ADDICTION CENTER

Councilwoman Exley recently attended a meeting at **Broome Developmental Center**. Representatives from **Syracuse Behavioral Health**, the **Broome County Health Department**, **Senator Akshar**, **Assemblywoman Lupardo**, **Assemblyman Crouch**, and **Sheriff Harder** were in attendance. Councilwoman Exley reported that the meeting was very informative and touched on these important points:

- Phase I – 50 detox beds
- Phase II – will be warm hand off to inpatient facility
- Budget
- State has pledged to pay up to 3 million dollars a year
- No county tax dollars used
- Won't be handed off to Broome County
- Should not affect **New Horizons** or other local programs
- There will eventually be a family component to help loved ones in treatment

DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE KEVIN MCMANUS PRESENTATION

Supervisor Marinaccio welcomed Deputy County Executive Kevin McManus to address the board members with an update on the State of the County.

Mr. McManus touched on several key issues:

- County proposed a 1.84% tax increase – the Legislature cut it to 1.5% tax increase
- Last year's fund balance was 5.5 and now it is down to 250
- Instituted cost saving measures
- Under tax cap
- No sales taxes will be taken from towns and villages
- Shared services – entered into a new pharmacy coalition

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- 49 positions unfunded
- Drug treatment center
- Funded more Public safety positions in the DA's office
- \$300,000 in small business loans administered by Broome County IDA
- \$150,000 rural communities economic development fund
 - Supervisor Marinaccio stated that the town does not qualify, however Mr. McManus is going to check into it.
- Highway Department – paving 40 miles of road
- Develop airport in the future
 - Increase service to Detroit
 - Pittsburgh/Washington DC/Dulles
 - Business and corporate travel
 - Work on reliability
 - Other options on the table

Supervisor Marinaccio thanked Mr. McManus.

Supervisor Marinaccio asked Councilman Gardner to present the budget status of the water and sewer department. Mr. Gardner stated that he, Ms. Wike and Mr. Kie developed a spreadsheet to outline the operating expenses, debt service, water costs, and proposed projects for 2018. He stated that we need annual water revenue of \$1,041,233. The projected deficit would be \$37,233 in 2018. Projects for 2018 include N. Broad Street Water Project, Sunrise Terrace Water Tank, and Chenango Shores Hydrants (hydrants contain lead).

Many points were discussed:

- Projects need to be prioritized as to our most pressing needs.
- Supervisor Marinaccio stated that he talked to Senator Akshar about the issue. Senator Akshar suggested that the Supervisor come up with a budget and he might be able to help us out.
- Provide the Senator with information: 3 major proposed project estimates and also show our debt which would justify our need for assistance.
- Engineer Lake made the point that our residents are paying for Capital projects so therefore they are paying for nothing if there is a water leak.
- Councilman Gardner and Councilman Morabito agreed to work together on the numbers and the spreadsheet.

WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT ISSUES

Councilman Gardner and Public Works Commissioner Kie and Administrative Assistant Wike prepared a spreadsheet outlining the issues the water department is facing including payment of debt, debt services, operating expenses and proposed repairs and projects. There was a long discussion which focused on prioritizing needs and seeking additional funding for projects.

ATTORNEY

DISCUSSION/RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2018 BUDGET

Attorney Blaise will prepare a resolution for next week's meeting adopting the **2018 Budget**.

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DISCUSSION/RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2018 WATER RATE ADJUSTMENT

Attorney Blaise will prepare a resolution for next week’s meeting adopting Local Law for 2018 water rate adjustment and prepare the paperwork.

DISCUSSION/RESOLUTION ADOPTING A NO PARKING RESTRICTION ON A PORTION OF FOREST HILLS BLVD.

Attorney Blaise will prepare a resolution for next week’s meeting adopting Local Law #3 of the year 2017 no parking restriction on a portion of Forest Hills Blvd.

DISCUSSION/RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW CCA PROGRAM

Attorney Blaise informed the board that the **MEGA** program **PSC** cleared last week. Attorney Blaise will prepare a model of the Local Law adopting the **MEGA CCA** program and we will schedule a public hearing for the December or January meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS

- Public Works Commissioner Kie reported that the last phases of the **NYSERDA Grant** requirements were completed today.
- Mr. Kie made a request for board approval for the purchase of the **Trimble Geo 7X Mapping System Tool** through **Waypoint Technology Group**. Mr. Kie explained that this tool provides the capability to accurately keep track of inventory of assets such as water, sewers, road signs, manhole covers etc. The money would come out of the sewer department budget. Mr. Kie stated that if approved, he is hoping to hire a Cornell graduate student for an internship to assist in setting up the program. Mr. Kie noted that the system is compatible with the County’s system. The collected information would be on **Broome County GIS**. The cost of the system investment is \$10,070.00 and additional technical support cost of \$450 for one year and \$700 for 2 years. Mr. Kie feels there is a critical need for this.
- Attorney Blaise stated that we will need a Resolution Authorizing the purchase of **Trimble Geo 7X Mapping System** with 1 or 2 year technical support for next week’s meeting.

YARD WASTE PICKUP

Public Works Commissioner Kie reported that today was the last day for yard waste pickup and leaf pickup continues.

PARKING RESTRICTION REQUEST CORNER REPUBLIC STREET AND LOWER STELLA IRELAND ROAD

Public Works Commissioner Kie reported that there are safety and visibility issues as you turn the corner from Lower Stella Ireland Road onto Republic Street because of cars that are parking close to the corner. Mr. Kie received a request from a resident to restrict parking near the corner. This is the second time we have gotten a complaint. Mr. Kie encouraged the board members to take a look at the area prior to the next board meeting.

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Councilman Burns expressed concern that the Public Works personnel is approaching retirement age and the town will soon have to hire and train several new employees.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Councilman Gardner reported that he and Councilwoman Exley attended a meeting about New York State zombie property laws and would like to report to the board next week. Mr. Gardner stated that legislation is in place to determine if a house is vacated. We can require that the bank maintain and inspect every 30-35 days. They would have to report to the state when the mortgage on a house is delinquent for 90 days. There is a \$500 a day fine for not reporting a delinquency on a property in our town.

On motion by Supervisor Marinaccio, the work session was adjourned by motion from Councilman Morabito and seconded by Councilman Burns at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cerretani
Town Clerk