

November 7, 2022- 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, 2022, at the Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, New York and via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81246516873?pwd=VjVJQIB0R2k1QzMwRk1KQVArUi8xUT09>

Meeting ID: 812 4651 6873

Passcode: 308221

Phone: 1-646-876-9923

The members of the Town Board present were:

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

Also attending:

**Nathan D. VanWhy, Esq., Attorney for the Town
Susan M. Cerretani, Town Clerk**

Also in attendance:

**Code Enforcement Officer Stephen Rafferty, Public Works
Commissioner Joel Kie, Zoning Board Chair Jeanne Compton, Kyle
Doyle, Town Engineer Ron Lake, and resident Jim Love**

Supervisor Marinaccio announced that the Board would be going into an attorney/client privilege session at the end of the session.

5:30 PM: PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF DICKINSON FOR THE YEAR 2023

Supervisor Marinaccio opened the Public Hearing at 5:30 PM noting one member of the public present, and no participants on Zoom.

**TOWN OF DICKINSON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2023**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the preliminary budget of the Town of Dickinson for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023 has been completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk at Dickinson Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, NY, where it is available for inspection during office hours.

The Town Board of the Town of Dickinson shall hold a public hearing on said preliminary budget at Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, NY on November 7, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. showing such changes, alterations and revisions as shall have been made therein by the Town Board. At such public hearing, any person may be heard in favor of or against the preliminary budget as compiled or for or against items therein contained.

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The following are the proposed year 2023 salaries for the elected officials of the Town:

Supervisor	\$28,056.00
Town Council members (4)	\$11,860.00 (each)
Town Clerk	\$47,224.00
Public Works Commissioner	\$68,640.00
Town Justices (2)	\$25,750.00 (each)

Pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 258 of the laws of 2008, this shall serve as notice of the exemption report. The report is posted on the Town’s bulletin board, is annexed to any tentative or preliminary budget, and shall become part of the final budget.

Anyone has the right to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the entire budget or any portion thereof. Persons with disabilities who require assistance in attending said public hearing, or in furnishing comments and suggestions, should contact the undersigned to request such assistance. Communications in writing in relation thereto may be filed with the Town Board prior to the public hearing.

Dated: October 18, 2022

SUSAN CERRETANI
Town Clerk, Town of Dickinson

Supervisor Marinaccio offered some highlights of the 2023 Budget noting:

- The 2023 overall budget has decreased by five percent. No services for our residents have been eliminated or have changed; we still have leaf pick-up; brush pick-up, etc.
- The cost of health insurance increased by seven percent.
- There is a small increase in taxes. We have remained within the sales tax cap. Our sales tax budget estimate is the same - nine hundred thousand dollars.
- We are one of the lowest taxed towns in Broome County.
- Ten percent increase in salaries to keep up with inflation – cost of living. There was one salary adjustment and that was for the Highway Superintendent’s salary.
- The budget has been a challenge especially with prices skyrocketing for fuel and asphalt.

Questions:

Resident Jim Love asked if there were any capital projects for next year. Supervisor Marinaccio and Public Works Commissioner Kie replied there is work scheduled for Sunrise Drive and a new water main on a section of Sunrise Drive. We have three water tanks. The water tank in the Terrace is the oldest but is still in good shape. We own the BCC tank. The State Road tank is new. The tanks are inspected regularly and monitored. The Water Superintendent inspects them very often.

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that we will be voting on the budget at next week’s Regular Meeting. Supervisor Marinaccio closed the Public Hearing at 5:35 PM.

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5:35 PM: PUBLIC HEARING ON A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 528 OF THE TOWN CODE ENTITLED ‘VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC’ TO PROHIBIT PARKING NEAR FIRE HYDRANTS.

Supervisor Marinaccio opened the Public Hearing at 5:35 PM

**TOWN OF DICKINSON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Dickinson at Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, NY on November 7, 2022 at 5:35 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, regarding a local law entitled “A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 528 OF THE TOWN CODE ENTITLED ‘VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC’ TO PROHIBIT PARKING NEAR FIRE HYDRANTS.”

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the environmental significance, if any, of the proposed local law will be reviewed by said Town Board incident to and as a part of said public hearing.

Interested persons shall be entitled to be heard upon said proposed local law. Persons with disabilities who require assistance in attending said public hearing, or in furnishing comments and suggestions, should contact the undersigned to request such assistance. Communications in writing in relation thereto may be filed with the Town Board prior to the public hearing.

Dated: October 18, 2022

SUSAN CERRETANI
Town Clerk, Town of Dickinson

Mr. VanWhy explained that this Local Law makes enforcement easier and provides more flexibility for enforcement purposes.

Questions: none being heard.

Supervisor Marinaccio closed the Public Hearing at 5:36 PM.

**SUPERVISOR’S REPORT
NOVEMBER WORK SESSION REPORT**

1. The County will be sending a representative to our meeting next week to give an abbreviated **County Budget** update.
2. The Town of Chenango has a good number of developments taking place there: **Byrne Dairy** will be building one of their stores on Front St. in the location of where an existing office building is now in place. The **State Farm Agency** is presently there and will be relocating to the **Holiday Inn Arena** hotel. A cannabis distribution store will be moving to a location in the town once the permitting process is complete. There will be a new development at the long-time vacant **Hess gas station** on Front Street. **Pinkies Bakery** will be moving into the old **Friendly’s** building.
3. The **Sunrise Terrace Association** held their **2nd Annual Trunk or Treat** event in the town parking lot. It was well attended and went very well.

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4. I have received a few calls regarding the sighting of a fox in the **Sunrise Terrace** and **Chenango Shores** areas. I actually had one sleeping under one of my ornamental plants this past Saturday and there were no issues with that. The town does not get involved with wild animals and I refer residents to **DEC** if they have concerns. Though they are nocturnal animals, it is not unusual to see them during the day due to increase activity of squirrels, chip monks and other small animals that are foraging for food for the winter.
5. Tonight, I will be asking for board approval to sign an extension contract with **Constellation** that provides electricity rates for our street lighting and power to our various pump stations.

On a motion of Councilperson Gardner and seconded by Councilperson Burns authorizing Supervisor Marinaccio to electronically sign the two-year Constellation energy provider contract and submit it. This contract covers street lights and the pumping station.
All in favor.

6. There is a public hearing scheduled on November 28, 6:00 PM for the planning board in regards to a special permit for the solar farm application that will be located at 494-512 Glenwood Rd.

ATTORNEY

2023 BUDGET

With no further discussion regarding the **2023 Budget**, Attorney VanWhy stated that there will be a resolution to adopt the **2023 Budget** at next week's meeting.

STATUS: PROPERTY NEXT TO HIGHWAY GARAGE

Attorney VanWhy stated that we have a contract for the Town to purchase the property next to the highway garage that will be presented to the board for approval next week with a purchase price of eighty thousand dollars. They have asked to retain a twelve-foot easement on the northerly line of the property with the purpose of pushing the snow in the wintertime.

DISCUSSION: STREET WORK/UTILITY POLE

Attorney VanWhy presented the street work/utility pole amendment to a Local Law. This amendment adds to the list of activities in the town that require a street work permit to make attachments to utility poles.

TOWN OF DICKINSON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 3 CONTRACT

Contract for the Village of Port Dickinson to provide fire protection services. Supervisor Marinaccio noted that there was a slight increase: 2023 - \$32,000, 2024 - \$33,450, 2025 - \$34,150. The Supervisor mentioned that the fire department is looking for volunteers for several positions. Kyle Doyle stated that we have mutual aid and noted that the State looks at numbers for the average of personnel responding to calls.

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Schedule a Public Hearing next week for the December work session regarding the Town of Dickinson Fire Protection District 3 Contract.

RENEWAL OF THE CONSTELLATION CONTRACT

Previously discussed By Supervisor Marinaccio.

PUBLIC WORKS

- Public Works Commissioner Kie reported that there is a new house on Phelps Street. The resident has put in a request for a light pole. The neighbor is okay with it. Mr. Kie suggested that we install two more light poles on the street for a total of three. Mr. Kie stated that there is a twisty, winding section of road that should be illuminated. We will schedule a public hearing for next month regarding this request.
- The leaning telephone pole at the entrance to Sunrise Terrace is on **NYSEG**'s list.
- Mr. Kie reported that he received an **EV Connect** notice to renew the contract for the charging station. It was installed in 2017. Our maintenance contract has expired. The cost of re-signing a contract would be very expensive. It is costing the town an average of thirty dollars per month for people to charge their vehicles. The cost is outweighing the convenience. There was a discussion about whether to take them over ourselves, or bag them until we come up with a better solution. The meters were installed as part of a **NYSERDA** incentive package.
- Mr. Kie reported that next week will be the last yard waste pickup.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING BOARD

Zoning Board Chair Jeanne Compton stated that she was under the impression that the south entrance to **Starbuck's** was going to be closed off. The new traffic pattern directs the vehicles to wind around the back of the building and through the parking lot. This makes it difficult for vehicles that park in front of the building to get out.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned into attorney/client session at 6:14 PM.

The meeting was adjourned on motion from Councilperson Morabito and seconded by Councilperson Gardner at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cerretani
Town Clerk