

**The Regular Meeting of the Town of Dickinson Town Board was called to order with the pledge of allegiance by Supervisor Michael A. Marinaccio at 6:00 PM on Monday, February 13, 2023 at the Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, New York.**

**The members of the Town Board present were:**

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

**Also in attendance:**

**Keegan Coughlin, Esq. Coughlin & Gerhart  
Susan M. Cerretani, Town Clerk  
Wendi Evans, Deputy town Clerk  
Code Enforcement Officer Kyle Doyle, Public Works Commissioner Joel Kie, Town Assessor Jack Cahill, Town Engineer Ron Lake, SUNY Broome President Kevin Drumm, and 22 members of the general public signed in.**

## **CHAIR**

## **SUPERVISOR’S REPORT**

### **Supervisor’s Report February 2023**

Before we begin our meeting, I would like to have everyone join me in a moment of silence for the sudden and unexpected passing on January 14 of David Morford who had served as a volunteer fire fighter and fire department board member for the Prospect Terrace Fire Company for many years.

Supervisor Marinaccio announced that Town Clerk Susan Cerretani will be officially retiring as of March 3, 2023.

Mr. Marinaccio also announced that long-term, twenty-year employee, Administrative Assistant Beverly Wike will also be retiring on March 3, 2023.

The Supervisor stated that the Town is going through an expected transition period. The entire Public Works Department retired last year; Public Works Commissioner Kie carefully planned and replaced each of the employees. The Justice Court also had a similar transition of the court clerk staff last year. Ms. Wike has been training her replacement Darrell Dennison since July and we are going to have a new Deputy Town Clerk as well.

1. I reviewed the credit card monthly charges and found no issues.
2. **NYS DOT** has agreed to make repairs to some streetlights at the intersection of Front and Old Front Street.

**SUPERVISOR’S REPORT CONTINUED:**

3. The solar company whose project is on hold due to the moratorium informed me that they will begin harvesting trees on the property that they now own. This can start any day.
4. There have been complaints regarding issues with 7 N. Ely St., there are several juveniles living there and police are often called to address the issues. Due to their ages, I could not foil for the reports. The sheriff’s department is doing all they can. Neighbors have called child protective services but so far nothing has been done. We will continue to monitor this issue.
5. I received a check for \$19,769.88 for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter housing of out of county inmates.
6. I received a check for \$291,553.50 for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter sales tax revenue. That brings us to a total of \$1,119,409.01 for 2022. We estimated income for \$900,000 for 2022.
7. I have the 2022 Town Building Permit Report. A total of 82 permits were authorized for a total construction cost estimate of \$1,033.55. The majority of the permits were for roof replacement with additions and alterations totaling 37 permits. The largest construction cost was for Starbucks estimated at \$330,000.
8. On Thursday, February 9, there was a large police presence at the Red Roof Inn. I was told that there was a mental health issue with one of the hotel occupants and I believe that someone was also arrested there for check fraud.
9. I have been invited to and will attend a State of the State presentation which will be held on Feb. 16, 12 noon at the **SUNY Broome Culinary Center**.
10. I attended a meeting at the **NYSEG Headquarters** on Friday, February 10. There were a few other municipal officials in attendance. I found the meeting to be very informative and was impressed with the **NYSEG** officials detailing the present and future projects that they are and will be working on. I asked about their capacity for electricity being generated by solar farms and other electricity generating projects in our region, especially since there are many solar farm applicants and projects in process in our region and especially in our town. Presently they have the capacity but that may become an issue in the near future. I also asked about the many electricity failures that have been occurring in our town and the **Town of Chenango**. They have crews replacing transformers, trimming trees, and installing a new device called a trip saver that replaces a standard fuse on their lines and minimizes sustained outages due to temporary faults. I questioned whether or not **NYSEG** and other energy providers will have the capacity to provide electricity for the future based on high demand of electric vehicle usage and the transformation of buildings and homes to all electric. They stated that this could lead to potential issues, and they are meeting with state and federal officials to discuss the challenges that they will face.
11. The **NY State Comptroller** stated that Sales Tax for 2022 increased by 12.7%. Some of that increase was due to inflation, consumers paying higher prices for goods and services.

**Code Violations/Appearance Tickets**

1. 864 Upper Front St., renovations being done without a building permit (Stop Work Order)
2. 19 Jameson Rd., Box truck observed on property, per town code that is in violation of the weight limit for town roads

**SUPERVISOR’S REPORT CONTINUED:**

3. 35 Pulaski, tenants living in the attic with no means of egress in the event of an emergency, concerns about smoke detectors and CO 2 sensors not in place, this must stop immediately.
4. **Broome County Health Department** conducted a **Water Supply Sanitary Survey** of our water districts 1 through 8. After completion of the inspection, our water systems are being operated efficiently and are well managed.
5. 39 Pulaski, trailer blocking front entry to property.
6. 358 Prospect, roof work without permit, debris is stacked behind the property
7. 14 Clifton Ave., box truck openly stored and in excess of 10,000 lbs.
8. 2 True St., tires and other debris observed on the property near Glenwood Rd.
9. 84 Ridge Rd., dumping on Town right away
10. 605 Old Front St., flat screen tv laying out by the road for the last week or so
11. 63 Adams St., couch and other debris stacked on front porch. Also, debris along the side of the property
12. 20 N. Broad, house has had no work done and permits have expired

**Building Permits: None**

**Dog Control; Officer Reports**

TOWN: Total number of incidents 14. Many of which are for licensing of the dogs, more than 2 dogs in the residence, barking dogs, dog running loose, stray dogs

VILLAGE: Total number of incidents: 3. All for past due licensing

**NYSEG Utility Shutoff Notices:**

No notices received

**Next Town Board Meeting**

Our next Town Board meeting is scheduled for **March 6, 5:30 PM work session**

Supervisor Marinaccio announced the members of the **Solar Project Committee:**

Kyle Doyle, Jim Love, Mike Kenyon, Jim Harvilla, Hans VanHouten, Ron Lake, Steve Rafferty, Bob Allen, Jerry Ford, and Nathan VanWhy, Esq.

Councilperson Morabito motioned to approve the **Solar Committee** as the names were presented by Supervisor Marinaccio to begin immediately. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Burns. All in favor.

Supervisor Marinaccio addressed the residents in attendance and stated that he has been talking to **Broome County Executive Jason Garnar** and **County Legislator Augustini**. They have agreed to set up a meeting in the near future with representatives of the County, the School, and the residents. He will inform the residents of the dates and the location of the meeting. Mr. Marinaccio explained that these are the people that the residents should be talking to regarding the **Boland** property.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

• **PUBLIC WORKS**

- Councilperson Morabito reported that Public Works Commissioner Kie purchased two **AED systems**, one for the garage and one for the Town Hall, to be installed at a cost of \$120 per month each which includes maintenance, repairs, pads, and batteries.
- Getting quotes for garage sprinkler system. Will be included in the budget for next year.
- Going forward with the bonding for the Sunrise Drive project
- Councilperson Morabito asked Darrell Dennison to look into the top items we are spending our money on regarding the Highway Department to see if we can do some innovative things to cut some of those costs.

• **FINANCE**

- **TOWN CLERK MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**  
Councilperson Gardner made a motion to accept the **January 2023 Monthly Financial Report** for the **Town Clerk** in the amount of **\$934.04** seconded by Councilperson Morabito. All in favor.
- **JUSTICE COURT REPORT**  
Councilperson Gardner made a motion to accept the **December 2022 Monthly Financial Report** for the **Town Court** in the amount of **\$19,049.00** seconded by Councilperson Exley. State \$14,361.00 Town \$4,718.00  
All in favor. The November 2022 Court Report is still under review.
- **ABSTRACTS FOR APPROVAL**

On Motion from Councilperson Gardner, seconded by Councilperson Burns to approve **abstract #2** dated **February 13, 2023** in the amount of **\$683,915.93**.

Vote Ayes- 5, Nays-0, Absent-0.

- Supervisor Marinaccio voting Aye
- Councilperson Gardner voting Aye
- Councilperson Exley voting Aye
- Councilperson Morabito voting Aye
- Councilperson Burns voting Aye

Unanimously passed and noted as duly adopted. The abstract incorporated the closeout of December.

**Abstract Summary of Audited Vouchers for Funds respectively in the amount(s) of \$683,915.93.**

**Voucher #02 for February 13, 2023 in the amount of \$683,915.93.**

<b><u>General Fund</u></b>	<b><u>\$99,306.01</u></b>
<b><u>Part Town</u></b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
<b><u>Highway</u></b>	<b><u>\$41,144.74</u></b>
<b><u>Fire Districts</u></b>	<b><u>\$155,544.00</u></b>
<b><u>Light Districts</u></b>	<b><u>\$15,714.73</u></b>
<b><u>Sewer Operating Dist.</u></b>	<b><u>\$245,764.36</u></b>
<b><u>Water Operating Dist.</u></b>	<b><u>\$126,442.09</u></b>

February 13, 2023 – REGULAR MEETING

- **PERSONNEL**

- Councilperson Gardner reported that the Public Works and Highway Department is running up to standard.

- **PLANNING**

- Planning Board Chair Jerry Ford reported that the regular monthly meeting is scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Marinaccio and Councilman Morabito told Mr. Ford that the Planning Board's updated procedures are excellent and well put together.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Councilperson Gardner seconded by Councilperson Exley to approve the **January 3, 2023 Work Session Minutes, and the January 09, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes**. All in favor.

Vote-5 Ayes, Nays-0, Absent-0.

**ATTORNEY**

**RESOLUTION 2023-7**

The following Resolution was offered by Councilperson Morabito, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilperson Burns to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Dickinson, Broome County, New York as follows:

**RESOLUTION: TO APPOINT WENDI EVANS AS TOWN CLERK TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SUSAN CERRETANI EFFECTIVE END OF BUSINESS, MARCH 3, 2023. THE APPOINTMENT SHALL BE FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2023 OR UNTIL A TOWN CLERK IS SWORN IN FOLLOWING THE GENERAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 2023, WHICHEVER IS EARLIER.**

The question of adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows: All in favor. Vote Ayes –5, Nays – 0, Absent-0.

Supervisor Marinaccio voting Aye  
Councilperson Gardner voting Aye  
Councilperson Exley voting Aye  
Councilperson Morabito voting Aye  
Councilperson Burns voting Aye

All in favor

**RESOLUTION 2023-8**

The following Resolution was offered by Councilperson Gardner, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilperson Exley to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Dickinson, Broome County, New York as follows:

**RESOLUTION: APPOINTING LINDA LEE FOR THE POSITION OF DEPUTY TOWN CLERK EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 13, 2023 AT 20 HOURS PER WEEK AND \$19.00 PER HOUR.**

## February 13, 2023 – REGULAR MEETING

The question of adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows: All in favor. Vote Ayes –5, Nays – 0, Absent-0.

Supervisor Marinaccio voting Aye  
Councilperson Gardner voting Aye  
Councilperson Exley voting Aye  
Councilperson Morabito voting Aye  
Councilperson Burns voting Aye

All in favor

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

- Highway Superintendent Kie reported that he has received the paperwork Municipal Cleanup Day which will be put on the agenda for the next month. It is usually held in May. We will have to pick the date for this year's event. It has to be submitted by March 1, 2023.
- Mr. Kie reported that the lights that were off for eight years are now on thanks to DOT. They are going to be doing the on and off ramp; they have some work to do on that.
- The **AED** units have been installed in the Town Hall and the Highway garage.
- No snow. The Highway Crew started clean up.

### **ZONING**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **CODE**

Code Enforcement Officer Kyle Doyle reported that fire inspections have started with businesses in the town. A couple have been scheduled and a couple have been done already.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Supervisor Marinaccio introduced Dr. Kevin Drumm, President of **SUNY Broome**. Professor Drumm addressed the thirty plus residents in attendance regarding the Boland family property which is listed as **Blue Irish Group LLC** on the deed. President Drumm stated that he received a call from the Boland family who offered the college first crack at the purchase of the property. President Drumm forwarded the offer to the Board of Trustees and the County, and they decided that they were interested in purchasing the property. Dr. Drumm stated that the college has no plans to develop the property as of today, and he is guessing that would be at least several years in the future. Mr. Drumm stated that the college will continue to upgrade the facilities that they have. The plan has always been to expand where the buildings are out on Front Street; that is where any next phase of housing would go should there be a demand for it. As it is, the dormitory is only two thirds full as we are losing population in the area. President Drumm stated that the college agreed to the appraised price per acre but now SUNY is requiring a second appraisal.

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that the property is presently zoned R-1 which does not allow for multiple dwellings; however, if the college takes over the property, the Town of Dickinson zoning laws would not apply.

February 13, 2023 – REGULAR MEETING

The floor was opened to Public Comments:

Several Town of Dickinson residents voiced their concerns over the possibility of **SUNY Broome** purchasing a 76-acre parcel of land located on a wooded hillside overlooking a residential area of **Chenango Shores**. The property is owned by the Boland family. The residents raised concerns about logging and deforestation that is now taking place and any potential development of the land. The area homes have suffered flood damage several times over the last seventeen years and the residents are concerned about the environmental impact on the community. The residents have additional concerns such as increased traffic, damage to the roads, noise, safety, and destroying the integrity of the neighborhood.

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that now that he has established a liaison connection, he will share new information as he receives it. He cannot stop the school from purchasing the property. He encouraged the residents to call his office at the Town Hall with questions and concerns. The Supervisor is looking forward to a meeting with County officials.

Supervisor Marinaccio thanked the residents for their attendance and he also thanked President Drumm for addressing the attendees.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Councilperson Morabito and seconded by Councilperson Exley at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cerretani, RMC  
Town Clerk