

TOWN OF WILLSBORO

5 FARRELL ROAD WILLSBORO, NY 12996

518-963-8668

TOWN OF WILLSBORO

TOWN BOARD MEETING WILLSBORO TOWN HALL

January 11th, 2023

ATTENDEES- Justin Drinkwine, Morgan Denton, Patrick McCauliffe, Travis Crowningshield, Kyli Miller, Michael Phinney, Bobby Provost, Shea Walker, Roger Sayward

TOWN BOARD ATTENDEES- Scott Christian, Lane Sayward, Lorilee Sheehan, Steve Benway, Shaun Gilliland

CALL TO ORDER @ 6:30PM
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERVISORS REPORT-

REVIEW OF MINUTES- December 14, 2022 Sayward made a motion to accept the minutes. Benway seconded the motion. All in Favor.

Supervisors Report-
Correspondence-
Town

-Power cable through the lake- first payment will be made when the system goes on line for \$46,000 then increases through the years. Construction will begin this year.

-Local waterfront redevelopment plan draft came back for the local water plan-complete. The next work to be done on this is the harbor development plan.

-Salt/Sand Shed- Bid will be released this week.

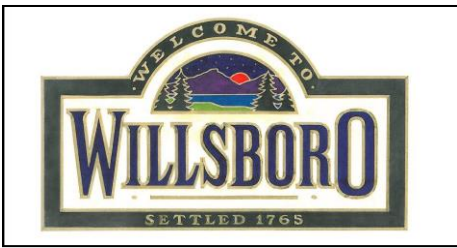
County-

-Gilliland offered a discount card to the Lake Placid Winter Games occurring the following weekend at the Ski slopes.

-Essex County awarded \$440,000 to do home renovations- to those needing assistance financially with home improvements/ renovations. It is called Pride of Ticonderoga. They will be looking to work with Willsboro with those in need.

-County finalized the town occupancy tax payments minimum \$74,000. 2% occupancy tax. Also the money that the town will receive from the AirBNB's, etc. The county will be releasing a list of what types of projects that the town can do with this money.

Sheehan asked if there was anything in this new assistance program for people who do not own their land, but own their home. The people that although do not pay taxes directly, they do through their rent. She asked if they could get help with the



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rehabilitation of their homes. She stated it's a discriminated class and not fair because anyone who has their home repaired through funding could take their home and move it. They should not be penalized because they do not own the land. She believes that possibly if they were given the money for renovations, they could save money and buy a piece of land. She asked where to go to see if this could happen, because she thinks mobile home parks are becoming a dying entity. Gilliland stated it would have to change through the state guidelines.

Sheehan made the motion to accept the Supervisors Report and Warrant.

Sayward seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Christian, Benway, Sheehan, Sayward Gilliland

Ayes-5

Nyes-0

TOWN CLERK REPORT-

In the month of December we took in the amount of \$1248.50. Paid NYS Health Department \$22.50 and \$4 to NYS Ag and Markets for Dog Licenses. We brought in \$214.50 in revenue for NYS DEC, \$12.50 of that went to the town.

The new phones are in and the only number that people can use to reach us at the Town Hall is (518) 963-8668. The message board will be ordered within the next week. It is tax season, and we are finishing the year end reports.

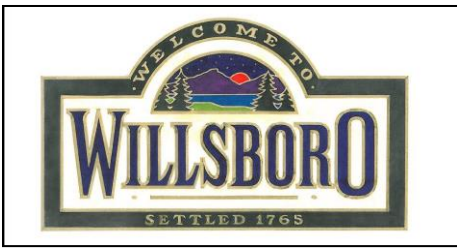
Benway made the motion to accept the Clerks report. Sayward seconded the motion. All in favor.

Highway-

Travis Crowningshield reviewed the December weather stating that there had been a few small snow storms and some rain. They have taken advantage of the warmer weather and are brushing on Lily and Coonrod Roads. CDL class was started for Terry Pulsifer, he needs a minimum of 30 hours before he can sign up for his road test. The bid was put out for a new tandem plow truck and it came in at \$168,150.00 and the Plow Equipment was \$125,797.00
Total \$293,947.00.

Water and Sewer Report-

The beginning of the month was slow and the last few weeks have been hectic. The sewer plant has actually been running very well considering the amount of rainfall that we have had in December. The problem is we will violate a permit for gallons of wastewater per day due to the amount of rainfall. The permit is for 75,000 a day and we are at 95,000. A violation has to be reported to the EPA with a DMR at the end of the month- there is no fine for this however in the report they need to state the cause and



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that the plant handled everything with no discharges to the river. He stated how well the plant has handled the water and also proud of the job the men have done.

The wet well transducer failed which shut the entire water plant down. They figured out the problem quickly and replaced the transducer. They also will replace the relay. The pilot study for the New Water Plant project, the state has decided to study to make sure the filter system will treat the water in our lake sufficiently. The engineers reached out to West Tech who manufacture the filter systems and they have a big trailer with a miniature version of the plant that we want to build that they want to park on site for 3 weeks. This will be a challenge with the size and the power they will need along with running water to the portable site and discharge. This all is the town's responsibility and will cost \$47,000 to run the trailer for three weeks. Grant money will cover the cost. McCaulffe is working at getting everything ready for this to happen. The Department of Health was notified of the possible problems of the trailer being on site, it was proposed they set up at the boat launch. He would like to have someone from West-tech come to the site and see what can be done.

Youth Commission- Written Report

EMS- Written Report

Parks and Recreation- There will be a tentative meeting on January 18th.

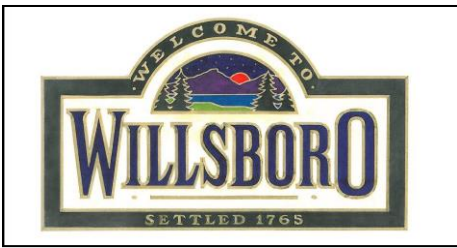
OLD BUSINESS-

Resolution for local law 1:

Governor signed a law that abides for localities- to provide a tax exemption of up to 10% of the assessed value of the primary residence of an active firefighter, volunteer firefighter/EMS- minimum of two years of service to qualify for the exemption.

Active members have to live in the same county and be full time residents. If a member of the EMS/ Fire Service was killed in the line of duty this exemption would go to an unremarried spouse for the remainder of their life. It would also go to any retired volunteer that had completed 20 years of service and living where they served. Gilliland gave the council a packet that had been put together by the county attorney to view. For this Real Property Tax Law to take effect the next tax year, the law would have to be passed before March 1st. To meet this deadline we would have to have a public hearing and vote on it at our next board meeting.

Gilliland invited EMS and Fire Department representatives to come to the meeting to share their thoughts on this. They spoke and told the board their active member rules and the board said that a list of qualifying people would be from the departments to the assessor and it would not be up to the town to do this paperwork. They would present a roster with an active member list and also those who have worked at least or more than 20 years and live within the Town of Willsboro. The Town of Essex agreed to follow with whatever we agreed upon. The EMS/Fire will come back next meeting with a written proposed qualifications.



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Benway made a motion to introduce Law 1 of 2023 for the Fire/EMS tax exemption of 2 years and hold a public hearing on February 8th, 2023. Sayward seconded the motion.

ALL IN FAVOR

A motion to Bond for a new tandem plow truck for \$295,000 was made by Benway. Christian Seconded the motion.

Roll Call- Christian, Benway, Sheehan, Sayward, Gilliland

Ayes-5

Nyes-0

R.R. Charlebois won the bid on the truck and Penco won the bid on the plow. Delivery will be approximately 14 months.

Golf Course-

The golf course contract is up and we have been leasing very old carts. We have been paying \$1367.10 a month for these carts. To renew this contract there is also a \$500 fee for Delivery and \$500 for pick up. If we get the newer carts which are 2017 carts, we will be paying \$135.00 more a cart and they will waive the pick up and delivery charge. These carts are fuel injected carts and will save a lot of money on gas. It is a 5 year lease. Gilliland will have a discussion with Mr. Paine about the Golf Course lease and as the town took over the golf cart lease when they took over the golf course, if the town gave up the golf course, the Paines would do the same.

Benway made the motion to lease the newer golf carts for a 5 year lease. Sayward seconded the motion.

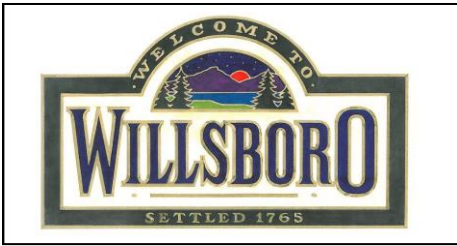
Roll Call- Christian, Benway, Sheehan, Sayward, Gilliland

Ayes-5

Nyes-0

NEW BUSINESS:

Gilliland and the Chairman of the planning board have been discussing that there are areas that need to be changed and updated in the zoning law. They have identified coherence between sections and areas that should be added because of technology ie: solar and electric charging. In 2015, a committee was appointed to write the zoning law with a consultant. Gilliland would like to assemble a committee equivalent to the one in 2015, which include 2-Town board members, 2-Zoning board members, 2- Planning board members and 3 members from the public. Gilliland stated the zoning board and planning board chairman would choose 2 members from each board and the town would be looking for 3 volunteers from the community.



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A motion was made by Benway to formalize the formation of a committee to update the zoning law. Christian seconded the motion. All in favor.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT-

Justin Drinkwine asked if the superintendent for the golf course was going to be advertised soon. He stated he is in the process of renewing his chemical license and we are going to be needing less chemicals this year because we have chemicals left over.

ADJOURNED at 7:11pm.