

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Review of the Minutes 8 July 2015 Town Board Meeting

Discussion: None

(Sayward/Lustig)

Guests:

Adirondack Nature Conservancy – Big Woods Update (Connie Prickett & Shea Flanagan)

Ms. Prickett introduced the Nature Conservancy and what their efforts have been in the Adirondacks.

Ms. Flanagan discussed the Big Woods/Willsboro preserve to be renamed by the WCS students via a naming contest. She discussed the three key focuses of the Conservancy:

- 1) Integrating a professionally designed network of trails that will protect the river side life. Ms. Flanagan noted that the Conservancy's sites are set high with the trail –
- 2) Ecological identification and scientific reporting
- 3) Educational material development

Updates:

Official parking approved by WCS for the upland trail and general trail network within the preserve. Ms. Flanagan noted that the trail will be multi-use. Ms. Flanagan noted that the draft trails plan can be provided upon request. She noted that they may encounter problems such as the existing issue with ATV traffic. Ms. Flanagan noted that they will be increasing signage and placing boulders in high use locations. She also discussed fishing access improvement and requested suggestions from the public. Ms. Flanagan discussed the placement of an official kiosk at the preserve entrance(s) and requested Town assistance.

Miss Prickett provided her contact information for those that are interested in providing suggestions for the project.

Brenda Sayward – Sewer District Rates

Ms. Sayward discussed the sewer and water rate increase. She noted that she is a multi-family property owner and that the increase from \$305 to \$ 450 (water) \$ 1308.36 to \$1747.56 (sewer). She noted that she understands that there will be a large increase and that there will not be a way to provide low-income housing should that take place. Ms. Sayward noted that there has to be a better way to spread the charge out. She noted that she called the Town of Blackbrook who utilizes meters to charge the residents within the district. Ms. Sayward noted that she contacted the Town of Peru who utilizes meters as well. She noted that 1296\$ per year for water/sewer. Ms. Sayward asked who decides the increase. Mr. Gilliland stated that the increases were decided because the districts were nearly

bankrupt due to the cost of doing business. Ms. Sayward asked how the rates were determined. Mr. Gilliland noted that it was written in a policy (Sewer District 1994, with updates thereafter). Mr. Gilliland noted that the Town is under an Order on Consent by the DEC. He noted that a new sewer law will need to be written as one of the requirements of the order. Mr. Gilliland noted that a sewer committee will be established and the rates will be reset. Ms. Sayward noted that there is a great district for water than there is for sewer. She noted that rates will cripple the low-income apartment building owners. Ms. Sayward asked why the Town of Willsboro is not metered. Mr. Gilliland noted that a grant was issued to the Town in 2005 for water meters (\$375,000), but was never executed. Mr. Bruno noted that it is a known fact that a sewer district management works better under meters. Ms. Belzile asked if the residents could put their own meter in. Mr. Gilliland noted that the Town would honor it if the residents would like to do that but that it would have to allow for the water/sewer superintendent to capture it from the road. Further discussion ensued about the rate increase and how it would affect the landlords and tenants. Mr. Bruno suggested that the user list be checked over for accuracy. Mr. Gilliland noted that the Town is actively pursuing funding for the project to help offset the costs. Ms. Sayward questioned the rates that were established for the Champlain Valley Senior Housing. Mr. Gilliland made note of the income survey and stated that only 40% of the surveys have been received. The multi-family property owners noted that their tenants will not do the survey that they have tried to approach them. Mr. Gilliland noted that the US Census American Fact MHI will have to be used if the surveys are not completed. Mr. Gilliland asked that all of the owners write letters expressing their concerns about the impact on the residents and business owners to the Town, Assemblyman, Congresswoman, etc.

Reports:

Supervisor:

- 1) Correspondence: Barbara Paye – ZBA Request, Whallonsburg Grange 100th Anniversary Celebration, Annual Work Permit DOT
- 2) County: Tax Sale, Generator Improvements at the jail, salary discussions,
- 3) Town:
 - a. Summer Camp
 - b. WBWC/Seasonal Water District Effort (Mr. Gilliland discussed the development of the seasonal water district and the Town's request for petitions of the super-majority of district users),
 - c. Golf Course lease Negotiation 9/2,
 - d. Tent (Utilized for events at various recreation venues within the Town),
 - e. Senior Nutrition Site Update (9/1 the Reber Methodist Church will be assuming the Nutrition Site), Income Surveys (Previously discussed), Streambank Stabilization project discussion meeting took place yesterday and noted that the project will begin late next week or early in the following week, Dam Removal project will need 100 cubic feet of flow per second to allow for work to commence.
- 4) Motion to accept the Supervisor's Report, Operating Statement, Warrant (Lustig/Benway)
 - a. Roll Call: Benway, Sayward, Sheehan, Gilliland, Lustig

Town Clerk (Lustig/Benway)

Highway

Mr. Crowningshield noted that the mowing has begun and that ditching is nearly completed. He noted that the department's generator blew while work was being done on the pavilion project. Mr. Crowningshield noted that it is a highly used at locations where power is not available or if power is lost. He noted that a Honda generator is 1800\$ Taylor Rental and \$2200 at Dames. Mr. Crowningshield noted that he would like to split the purchase between the Water Department, General and Highway (Benway/Lustig) Roll Call: Benway, Sayward, Sheehan, Gilliland, Lustig

Mr. Crowningshield discussed Tony Stoker's retirement. He noted that he would like to move Perry Marsha over to buildings and grounds and hire a new individual. Mr. Gilliland noted that would be brought up later.

Youth Commission – Ms. Karen Arnold noted that the soccer season is coming up and made note parent meeting on Tuesday for the soccer season. She discussed the game schedule. She also discussed Ms. Carrie Pierson's resignation as of 9/1. Mr. Gilliland called for a motion of appreciation for Ms. Pierson's service. Mr. Lustig made the motion which was seconded unanimously.

Noblewood Camp – Mr. Drinkwine discussed the success of the season and the variety of activity for the children. He noted that the amount of children was down entry wise, but consistent throughout the summer. Ms. Arnold noted that the Youth Commission had great feedback.

Parks/Recreation –

Gateway Trail Marker - Mr. Drinkwine asked for approval of the purchase and reimbursement of the trail marker signs for \$127 for 200 markers.

Noblewood Pavilion - Mr. Drinkwine discussed the notion of advertising Noblewood as a wedding venue at the up-coming bridal (Lustig/Benway) Roll Call: Benway, Sayward, Sheehan, Gilliland, Lustig

Mr. Bruno asked about lighting from the pavilion to the parking area. Mr. Gilliland stated that he will get back to him on that.

Golf Course – Mr. Gilliland noted that the Town is about \$16,000 in the black right now. Mr. Gilliland noted that he spoke with Deputy Rice about the cart vandalism. He noted that Deputy Rice informed him that he notified the individuals that they will be arrested and not permitted to do the derby should they not pay the pay. Mr. Drinkwine noted that on a positive note the Golf Course earned 7500\$ in 9 days during the month of August.

Old Business:

- 1) WWTP Consent Order Influent Meter - 1795\$ for the item (Benway/Sayward) Roll Call: Benway, Sayward, Sheehan, Gilliland, Lustig
 - a. Mr. Crowningshield discussed Mr. Murphy's concerns regarding the lack of communication from Cedarwood.
- 2) WWTP Rebuild Bond Public Hearing Assignment (Sayward/Sheehan)
 - a. Amount of Bond: \$1,890,650.00
 - b. Meeting Date: August 26th
 - c. Mr. Gilliland explained that in order to pursue additional financing and funding. He noted that it doesn't mean that we have to use the money.
 - d. Guest Comment: Mr. Putman noted that the legal notice must be in the paper at least 10 days in advance.
- 3) Streambank & Dam Removal Projects with Sheehan & Sons – Mr. Gilliland discussed the idea of a Clerk of the Works. Mr. Gilliland noted that he would have to abstain, that Ms. Sheehan would have to abstain, and that Mr. Benway would have to abstain from the voting due to whom it involves. Ms. Sheehan suggested that Mr. Sandblom needs to be contacted and noted that she does not feel that \$50,000 needs to be used for additional oversight. Mr. Lustig asked if Mr. Haffner should be questioned regarding the lack of quorum.
- 4) Streambank & Dam Removal Contracts with Sheehan & Sons
 - a. Resolution for Supervisor to sign contracts on behalf of Town of Willsboro as amended with recommendations by town counsel
 - b. Streambank Stabilization contract and the Dam contract (upon amendment) (Lustig/Benway)

New Business:

- 1) Tony Stoker Retirement & New Hire –
 - a. Appoint Mr. Marsha as Dog Control Officer (Benway/Lustig)
 - b. Heavy Equipment Operator New Hire – Mr. Gilliland discussed the wage rate based upon the Union contract for January 1. He discussed further the “straight time wage rate”. Mr. Gilliland stated that the Town Counsel reviewed the item. Mr. Gilliland recommended that interviews and hiring be authorized for TJ Benways level and move Mr. Benway to Mr. Stoker's position. Mr. Crowningshield noted that it is getting difficult to hire somebody because of the low wage rate. Further discussion ensued regarding the wage rates. Mr. Benway suggested that the Town advertise for a heavy equipment operator and discuss the salary based on the qualifications of the applicants.
(Benway/Sayward) Roll Call: Benway, Sayward, Sheehan, Gilliland, Lustig
- 2) VIC Vandalism – Lock or Surveillance
 - a. Mr. Gilliland noted that surveillance would cost \$970 and \$120 for a DVR lock box. He noted that he is not sure that a lock box would be necessary. He noted that there has been damage done to the facility. Mr. Gilliland stated that it is up to the board as to whether they want to lock the doors or do surveillance. Mr. Lustig noted that he does not feel that the facility should be locked, that the Visitor Center was established with

the notion of keeping the facility open for the public. (Sayward/Benway) Roll Call:
Benway, Sayward, Sheehan, Gilliland, Lustig

- 3) ZBA and other town officer boards – remote meeting policy
 - a. Mr. Gilliland discussed the notion of remote meetings. He noted that the State has amended the law requiring meetings to stay within the Town to allow for remote meetings as long as they are advertised as such. Mr. Gilliland stated that he feels that the Town needs to set a policy on that since the State has changed the law. He noted that he will research the wording to try to get a good policy and bring it back to the board. Mr. Benway stated that he has been to committee meetings where Skype has been used and it didn't work for him due to the lack of quality video. Mr. Lustig noted that he feels that the board members need to be there, unless it is an emergency situation.
- 4) Out of District Water Connection Request – Leary
 - a. Mr. Gilliland noted that Mr. Leary has come forward with his request. He noted that he would like to hold it in abeyance until the Town knows what is going on with the Wilkin's Water Company. Mr. Benway asked if those that are out-of-district users will become part of the benefit district. Mr. Gilliland noted that those within the district will be taxed on the seasonal water. Mr. Gilliland discussed the map, plan and report for the district and the process required.
- 5) Discussion – Barns, Commerce Park Future
 - a. Mr. Gilliland noted that the Town needs to figure out what is going to happen with the Cornell Barns.
 - b. Mr. Gilliland noted that the IDA will probably give the property back to the Town or the WDC because no movement has occurred. He noted that he is waiting on the County to write their contract on a solar park. Mr. Gilliland noted that some people have suggested an ATV park. Mr. Lustig asked who would actually own it. Mr. Gilliland noted that it will more than likely go over to the Town.
- 6) Resolution of Congratulations and Appreciation for Service for Tony Stoker motioned by Mr. Lustig, seconded unanimously. Mr. Gilliland noted that it is the Town's intent to have a retirement party for Mr. Stoker.

Public Comment:

ESPC Contract – Mr. Putman noted that Mr. Sandblom is on vacation limiting his response. Mr. Putman noted that 20,051\$ for inspections on the Streambank Project. Mr. Benway noted that Milone and MacBroom had a cost estimate as well.

VIC Security – Mr. Smith suggested surveillance on the back door as well.

Champlain Milling – Mr. Smith asked about the status. Mr. Gilliland noted that Mr. Sherman is presently prepping the site and that construction is planned to begin in October. He noted that estimated opening of work is set for late spring/early summer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm. (Sayward/Sheehan)

Respectfully,

Ashley R. Blanchard
Deputy Town Clerk