



TOWN OF WILLSBORO

5 FARRELL ROAD WILLSBORO, NY 12996

518-963-8668

TOWN OF WILLSBORO TOWN BOARD MEETING WILLSBORO TOWN HALL December 11th, 2024

ATTENDES- Win Belanger, Polly Belanger, Scott Bridge, Laura Bridge, Patty Schweenker, Tony D'Angelo, Jeff Marcotte, Joe Murphy, Ashley Murphy, Teresa Marcotte, Victor Putman, Jeff McKenna, Jonathan Franke, Margie Jaquish, Michael Phinney, Joseph Walsh, Rick Lowe, Travis Crowningshield, Pete Sowizdrzal, Gary Jones, Tom Doolittle, Marjory Doolittle, John Carver, Eric Cullum, Greg Gordon, Sarah Noll, Barb Rehm, Bud Wilson

BOARD MEMBERS- Steve Benway, Lorilee Sheehan, Lane Sayward, Shaun Gilliland

Excused- Christian

CALLED TO ORDER @ 6:30pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Review of minutes November 7, 2024 special meeting/public hearing and regular meeting November 13th. Accept without objection.

Supervisors Report

Gilliland thanked everyone for their support during his recent health issues and urged everyone to get a yearly physical.

Correspondence-

-Letter from DEC changing from a one year to three year inspection for the Black Ash Pond

- Email that was sent to the Town Clerk from Mitsey Major and Tom Dennis asking the Town to not get out of the golf course lease.

-Letter from DEC with an agreement for the DPW superintendent to sign an agreement with NYSDOT for emergency assistance and repairs.

Town-

-Encouraged everyone to stop by the events going on this weekend for Christmas in the 'BORO.

-Lilly Property(Frisbie Park Property)-Adirondack Land trust has closed on this property. The Town of Willsboro has received a 1.2 million dollars grant for the Lake Champlain Basin program. Adirondack Land Trust is ready to transfer ownership. The town is waiting on details to get the eight hundred forty eight thousand dollars to be transferred directly from Lake Champlain Basin to Adirondack Land trust, to eliminate the town from taking a bond out for 2-3 days.

-Comprehensive plan committee- Anna Reynolds, Chairman is moving forward at getting the committee together and then to get an RFP for a consultant.

County-

-the county was awarded a contract for the removal of the old jail. This came in a lot lower than planned.

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-CCE S&W building at the fairgrounds contract award was approved by USDA to move forward.

-approved by the EFCA

-approved the final County budget. This year several reserve accounts were set up.

-The total County budget this year is one hundred thirty one million, eight hundred and seventeen thousand, seven hundred fifteen dollars (\$131, 817,715.00) . This is 1.7% higher than last year.

Benway made a motion to accept the warrant. Sayward seconded the motion.

Discussion- Sheehan asked if the town had an estimate of cost to get the accounting done. She stated that approximately twelve thousand (\$12,000.00) has been spent and wondered how much more time will be needed. Gilliland stated that he is estimating that it will be approximately six (6) months. And he stated that the 2022 AUD was submitted and sent back and that she is going back over bank reconciliations before she can submit this. 2023 and 2024 are clean. Everything has to be properly identified and recorded. Pete Sowizdrzal asked how much is it costing the town for the Town Clerk embezzlement? Gilliland stated that the accountant cost has nothing to do with the Audit and is not because of any misconduct. With the former Town Clerk, the board has not been given any information and no member of the board has been brought in by the district attorney or the State. They have not been shown any evidence and all they know is that there are charges against her involving the town. The town has not been debriefed on the audit and probably will not be until after it becomes no longer evidence in the criminal case. Sowizdrzal asked if the town has insurance to cover any loss of revenue? Gilliland stated that his understanding is, if there were a conviction of embezzlement that restitution would be required from an accused. Sheehan stated that her question had nothing to do with that and it had to do with coding and line items and wanted to know an approximate cost for the accountant.

Roll Call-

Sheehan, Benway, Sayward, Gilliland

Ayes-4

Nyes-0

Clerks Report-

The clerk's office in the month of November took in \$2,210.10 paying \$1.00 to NYS Ag and Markets and \$22.50 to NYS Department of Health. Decals took in \$1641.00 in which \$1567.42 went to the State and the town's commission was \$73.58 Water and sewer took in \$36,671.02

I have been very busy in my office with the end of the year reports and finalizing everything to get ready for tax season. I want to take a minute to remind all of you that the Town of Willsboro has very busy and fun plans for this weekend starting Friday with cookies, drinks and raffles at the Hardware store at 5:30 and caroling and tree lighting at 6:00pm. On Saturday we kick off with a pancake breakfast with Santa at the fire house. The polar plunge is 11:00 at the boat launch with activities all day long. The library, church, senior housing ornament decorating and a chili take-out dinner at the fire house before the parade and fireworks. Please check out the schedule of events on the town website or Facebook page. Last year our supervisor wanted to have a polar plunge and he along with about 8 people took the plunge and the money went to the shriners children's

hospital. As most of you know, because of Shaun's recent surgery, he is unable to plunge this year. We have chosen the American Heart association and the Fitzpatrick Cancer Center to receive the proceeds. We challenged the Essex County Supervisors, WCS teachers and students and everyone whose lives have been touched by cancer or heart disease, which is most likely most of us in this room. Even if you aren't interested in getting into the cold water, come on down-sponsor a plunger and watch them. It's a lot of Fun!!

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

DPW-

-decoration all up for the holidays thanks to the county for bringing out their bucket truck.

-water leak on Thanksgiving morning.

-snowstorm on Thanksgiving day.

-Crowningshield has reached out to the company that put up the salt /sand shed because there is 6-8 inches of mud on the bottom of the sand, where it is getting too much moisture. They are sending up a crew next week to look at it and they may have to put a couple of chimneys in the center to get better air flow to dry it out.

Water/Sewer-

-written report submitted by Patrick McCauliffe

Youth Commission Report-

- written report with photos submitted by Krissy Leerkes

Parks Commission Report-

-they are moving forward and are ready for the RFP on the adult fitness and playground equipment at Florence Hathaway Park. Wilson will be giving that information to Gilliland in the near future.

-second project they are looking at Higby park. This basically is a clean up project to enhance the town. Put grass seed down. Put some perennials along the bank without touching the river bank. They have submitted a jurisdictional inquiry form to APA to get permission to go ahead with this project. This would include a small parking area.

Gilliland stated that Florence Hathaway Park would have to go to a bid, not an RFP because of the grant. Sheehan and Bud Wilson visited with the Adirondack Club to work together. It was discussed to possibly have a drop off for snowmobiles where the parking is for pickleball. This is the off season of pickleball.

Ambulance District Report-

-written bank statement submitted by Kira Crowningshield

OLD BUSINESS-

-Public texting service, Win Belanger contacted the texting program that was given to the board last meeting and he feels that this is not what the town needs. He feels that 10 gigabytes is not enough and he feels that a push to text like Minerva and Essex use. One Call Now is the name of the company that they use and he feels this is more of what we need. Gilliland met with Essex and Minerva and both of these towns send out less notifications than the Town of Willsboro does. This will be tabled.

-response from Diddle LLC continuing the lease for the Golf Course. This LLC has taken over the properties of the Golf Course and the Point Soccer fields from Peter Paine Sr. Gilliland stated that the Town was given a new draft lease for these properties and both properties were together on the same lease. The Town sent a response back to Diddle LLC. stating that they would like the two leases separated and there were other areas in the lease that the town objected to- there will be no alcohol of the course, every day of the week that everyone is off the course by 4:00pm, the town would not be able to service or repair any portion of sprinkler system, irrigation system and within two (2) years the town would put in a new irrigation system by putting in a well or off the town water system. It is against NYS general municipal law for the town to do any capital improvements at all. The town then got another letter from Diddle LLC. stating they had split the lease and that the previous lease that the Town signed with Peter would be extended until the end in 2025 and on December 31,2025 they would be terminating the lease for the Golf Course with the town. Gilliland shared the letter with the public and gave a financial report also. There was a lot of discussion with people from the community and the town board. A list of people interested in keeping the golf course open and being on an ad hoc committee was made. The consensus was that people would write letters to the Paines to keep it open and have a public campaign for it and get back to the supervisor by December 16th. Discussions ended and it was tabled.

Sheehan made the motion to sign the Red-lined draft Teamsters Contract for 2025-2027. Sayward seconded the motion.

Roll Call- Sheehan, Benway, Sayward, Gilliland

Christian- Absent

Ayes-4

Nyes-0

NEW BUSINESS-

Sheehan made a motion to sign the draft lease for the Practice Soccer Fields with Diddle LLC. Benway seconded the motion.

Roll Call- Sheehan, Benway, Sayward, Gilliland

Christian- Absent

Ayes-4

Nyes-0

Sayward made the motion to set January 8th, 2025 as the Town Board Organizational Meeting. Sheehan seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Sheehan made the motion to release the RFP for a competitive park design for the Frisbie Park proposal. Benway seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Sayward made the motion to release the RFP for a water meter delivery, install and commissioning contractor. Sheehan seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Sheehan made the motion to release the RFP for a Dog Housing Facility at the DPW location. Benway seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Sheehan made a motion to accept the application for out of water district user Tom Spochak (415 Bay Lane) to hook on to the main water district. He will run his own line to access the year round water. He will pay the water use fees and also pay the water tax per thousand dollars of assessed value and be on a meter. Benway seconded the motion.

Roll Call- Sheehan, Benway, Sayward, Gilliland

Christian- Absent

Ayes-4

Nyes-0

Sayward made a motion to accept the Shared Services Agreement between the Town of Willsboro and NYSDOT for (4) years. Sheehan seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Public Comments / Resolutions from the Board- None

Adjourned @ 7:58pm

Submitted by Susan Thompson