



TOWN OF WILLSBORO

5 FARRELL ROAD WILLSBORO, NY 12996

518-963-8668

TOWN OF WILLSBORO TOWN BOARD MEETING WILLSBORO TOWN HALL October 9th, 2024

ATTENDES: Polly Belanger, Win Belanger, Victor Putman, Greg Gordon, Mike Benning, Ruth Benning, Becky Crowningshield

BOARD MEMBERS: Steve Benway, Lorilee Sheehan, Scott Christian, Shaun Gilliland
Sayward- Excused

CALLED TO ORDER @ 6:30pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Review of minutes of the August 14th board meeting. A change to the motion of Morgan Drinkwine being appointed. Sheehan seconded the motion.

Unanimously accepted as changed by the clerk.

Supervisors Report

Correspondence-

-Letter from Rupert Darling complaining regarding the slope of the road in front of his house. This letter had 6 signatures of neighbors. Supervisor Gilliland and Highway Superintendent went out and evaluated the road.

Town-

-Golf course closed October 1st. Golf course/soccer fields lease. Gilliland sent a response to Diddle LLC and has had no response.

-Reber Sand pit lease status. That will be addressed in old business.

-Eligible for Clean Fleets NYSERDA grant- \$10K. The highway would like to purchase cordless equipment with this money.

-Contact by the Adirondack film production and this fall on Corlear Drive and Willsboro Bay there will be a Bear Grylls Episode production. They will be filming October 24th-26th. Three other movies over the next 18 months will be filmed in Willsboro.

County-

-Blacktopping will have to be pushed off until next year.

-Budget has a 4-million-dollar gap. They are working with a budget that uses a lot of fund balance that is under cap and another that breaks the cap.

-NYSP are leaving the common dispatching area to Ray Brook.

-Dangerous packages going to BOE's throughout the state of NY. Fentanyl and suspicious powders. All personnel that are anywhere near the incoming mail have to carry Narcan with them.

Review of 2025 Tentative Budget-

- 15% increase tax cap is \$1,547,281. Tentative is \$1,788,691
- Employee all benefits account shifted to general
- \$100,000 salt shed BAN payment with interest
- Hathaway Park cost share
- Library cut to \$10K
- 4% increase in personnel accounts, health insurance increase (5% active, 30% retired)
- Cost shares on EPG & Comp Plan grants.
- Requested Change for Preliminary Budget Highway to repair .1 acct from contingency \$50,000.
- Hire additional DPW for Parks
- Hire a Contractor for meter delivery and installation.

Special Board meeting and public hearing to review and discuss Tentative Budget Tuesday 22nd of October @ 6:30pm.

Sheehan made the motion to accept the warrant. Benway seconded the motion.

Roll Call-

Christian, Benway, Sheehan, Gilliland

Ayes-4

Nyes-0

Sayward- Excused

Clerks Report-

The clerk's office in the month of September took in \$18,236.48 paying \$1.00 to NYS Ag and Markets and \$45.00 to NYS Department of Health. Decals for the month took in \$4,840.00 of which \$4,573.07 went to the State and the town's commission was \$266.93. Water and Sewer took in \$4,340.51 this month. Please notice the DEC report, the state went to paper licenses to save money this year and none of it reflects back to the town. It actually cost the town more money as we have to use our paper and ink to print these out.

Benway made a motion to accept the Clerk's report. Sheehan seconded the motion.

All in favor.

DPW- No report

Water/Sewer-

2 leaks on Middle Road were replaced. The dead end of Vista and Lake Shore on the lower side of Buena Vista a small area was replaced.

-curb box repaired on boat launch road.

-still working on the lead/copper service line inventory.

-sewer plant is working so well that they will do a clean in place next week on the membranes to prepare for the winter. The UV system has been shut down for the year.

-Bay Circle will be shut down as weather dictates.

Ambulance District Report- written financial report submitted and Rebecca Crowningshield gave a verbal report.

Youth Commission Report- written report was submitted by Krissy Leerkes

Parks Commission Report- Next meeting will be October 23rd @ 5:00pm.

OLD BUSINESS-

Sheehan made the motion to appoint the following volunteers for the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee- Larry Charbonneau, Anna Reynolds, Tom Dwyer, Barbara Paye, Tess Grubb , Jonathan Franke. Benway seconded the motion.

All in favor.

The sand pit lease the lawyers from both parties have been working on and now the Shirley's family has come back and changed the lease agreement from 10 years to 5 years with a renegotiation of the price after 5 years. Gilliland stated that at this point because of it getting late in the season, the Highway needs to get sand for the winter and Travis Crowningshield has gotten a price of \$6.00 a ton from Jointa Lime. Gilliland feels that the 5-year lease would be unfavorable to the town.

Benway made a motion that the town would purchase the sand from Jointa Lime at \$6.00 a ton for this year. Sheehan seconded the motion.

Discussion- Christian stated he would like it to go out to bid. Gilliland stated that the town could piggy back on a county bid or on another town's bid.

Benway revised the motion to purchase sand from Jointa Lime not to exceed \$20,000.00. Sheehan seconded the amendment to the motion.

Discussion- Sheehan asked what happens if the highway needs more than \$20,000.00 in sand? Gilliland stated that he would recommend that the highway superintendent come back to the board. Benway stated that another option is it could go out to bid and the highway superintendent could purchase sand as needed in the meantime. Christian stated he wanted it to go out to bid.

Benway made the motion for the purchase of sand to go out to bid. Sheehan seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Sheehan made the motion to hire Vincent Duso to Public Works as a laborer/trainee at a rate of \$18.00 an hour. Once he meets the requirements, he will be moved to a labor position for buildings and grounds and parks. Benway seconded the motion.

Discussion- Christian asked if this could be a temporary position until John Mitchell returned to work and then revisit the position. Sheehan stated that this position was because of the development of Florence Hathaway Park and the maintenance and that this position was to help

with building and grounds. The Parks commission put in a budget request to have this position put into the budget. Christian asked where the money was coming from and asked what if the budget doesn't pass?

Roll Call-

Christian, Benway, Sheehan, Gilliland

Ayes-3

Nyes-1 Christian

Supervisor Gilliland called for a 10-minute recess.

Called the meeting back to order.

NEW BUSINESS-

Christian made the motion to introduce Town of Willsboro Local Law #1 draft of which was provided by the county attorney. Local Law #1 of 2024 to exceed the tax cap with a public hearing to be set for October 22, 2024 @ the Willsboro Town Hall. Sheehan seconded the motion.

All in favor

Discussion- Christian asked if it was 3% of the 1.6 million is all that is allowed. Gilliland stated it is 2% plus adjustment put in by the comptroller. An increase of approximately \$46,000.00.

Christian made a motion to hold a special board meeting immediately following the public hearing with the purpose to review a possible bid for sand and to approve the tentative budget to convert to the preliminary budget. Sheehan seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Christian made the motion to hold a public hearing on the Preliminary Budget on Thursday November 7, 2024 @ 6:30pm @ the Visitors Center. Sheehan seconded the motion.

All in favor

Christian made the motion to classify the proposed IGA Hardware Store Project as a seeker type 2 with no major impact to replace the building. Benway seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Comments/Resolutions from the Board- none

Public Comment-

- Mike Benning asked what the situation of the golf course is and he was told you could not golf anymore. Gilliland stated it was closed but that you can still golf on the course.
- Gregg Gordon asked with the last resolution that the planning board would not have to have a seeker and that the zoning officer would be aware. Gilliland stated that is correct.
- Win Belanger stated that last month the town board went into executive session to discuss the golf course and this month that Gilliland stated he sent a letter to Diddle LLC. He asked if the public could know about the contract? Gilliland said that there are four issues that need to be fixed. 1-The Soccer fields and golf course are in the same contract. 2- The current irrigation system cannot be fixed or upgraded and it is recommended that we put in a well within the 1st year to have an engineered plan. 3-Alcohol would be prohibited completely on the golf course. 4-The golf course would be shut down by 6pm every day.

Supervisor Gilliland informed the board and public that recently he went for a routine physical and it was determined he had a heart murmur and further testing determined that he has a prolapsed mitral valve with 65% leakage and he will have to have open heart surgery and would be out for a while.

Adjourned @ 7:40

Submitted by Susan Thompson