



TOWN OF WILLSBORO

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TOWN OF WILLSBORO

**PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN BOARD MEETING
WILLSBORO TOWN HALL
November 8th, 2023**

ATTENDEES- Greg Gordon, Win Belanger, Polly Belanger, Pat McCauliffe, Mike Phinney, Victor Putman, Krissy Leerkes, Travis Crowningshield

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public hearing CALLED TO ORDER @ 6:30pm

Adoptive preliminary budget of 2024. Copies provided to the public. No public comments.

Public hearing closed at 6:31pm

Town board meeting opened at 6:32 pm

Sayward made the motion to accept the minutes from the October 11th and 25th meetings. Benway seconded the motion.

All in Favor.

SUPERVISOR REPORT- TOWN-

-Codes officer functions will be done by Terry Pulsifer, who is fully qualified and has completed his continuing education online. He has agreed to do this position until the end of the year. The zoning portion of this job, there are 2 applications. Gilliland has not met with the applicants yet and will let the board know as soon as he does.

-Sheehan brought to Gilliland a program called Pro-Housing community designation. Gilliland is writing a letter to the Office of Housing Community renewal to ask to be designated as a pro housing community. This will all depend on the number of permits for housing over a 1 year time or 3 year period. For this program, you need to put in a letter of content and they will send off a packet to fill out the rest. This grant is up to 3 million dollars.

-Salt and Sand shed is under construction. Walls are up and groundwork is being done. Black topping is near finished. The structure is due to show up tomorrow and they will start this work Monday.

-SLUDGE -Gilliland has been working with DEC on SLUDGE. DEC has forced all communities around Essex County in the Adirondack Park to act back on the sludge systems, which means you produce sludge. This is supposed to be a near harmless by-product that has other beneficial actions, such as soil emmendments. The problem with this is that it is very difficult to get land spread permits from the State of New York. All the counties have trucked their sludge to the Franklin County landfill and they are now at their limit of sludge and contaminant soil. They have put a stop to deliveries from

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other counties for the remainder of the year. Willsboro produces about 10 metric tons of sludge a year. Willsboro will be ok for a while. DEC does not have a solution for us at this point.

-Meter transition plan has almost 700 signed up or installed. We have been telling people to sign up for 2 years. If a resident is signed up for a meter and has not had the meter delivered or been able to get it installed, when the transfer of the new rate schedule goes into effect, they will not be affected. They will be on the old rate schedule until a meter can be installed. We have come to a slow down in people signing up at this time. We need to execute a transition plan and starting January 1, 2024 people will be charged in the April 1 billing under the new rates. The new rates will be \$300.00 per year for all residents not signed up for a meter. There is about \$50,000.00 in ARPA money that is used for the meters and once that is used up, people will be responsible for buying their meters.

-Christmas in the 'Boro will have a Polar plunge this year and Gilliland is checking to make sure it is ok to have it at the State Boat launching site. Indian Bay Marina has offered to have it there if DEC will not let us do it at their site. Gilliland will contact them this week.

-Water project- The design project is starting on the project. EFC did not have the paperwork needed to go to their loan committee in October. It will be going to the loan committee in December. This is short term financing, they will pay the bills during the time of construction. Gilliland told MJ to hold off on the design until it is approved with the short term financing.

COUNTY-

-County Budget is almost finished and under the tax cap. Willsboro will be \$2.66 per thousand for county taxes.

-Gilliland has been fighting a battle with DEC over the Fish Hatchery. This has been an ongoing battle and the county has asked the commissioner to hold it and closely monitor it until 2026. In 2026, the environmental protection agency is going to reclassify the total maximum daily load of Phosphorus. They will hopefully be decreasing the numbers which will help a lot.

- Roost has hired a new economic development officer for the county. They are putting together an economic development council.

-ADK Sports council is based in Lake Placid and has always been winter based. They have a full time director and staff and want to expand and do triathlons, road races, regatta, mountain biking, etc. These will be done throughout Essex County.

-Gilliland is trying to work with ag and market to get specifications on a dog facility building. This will be a holding area like the Town of Moriah has. He also has contacted a few animal hospitals in Plattsburgh.

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

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

Ayes-5

Nyes-0

Clerk's Report-

The clerk's office in the month of October took in \$7,252.50 paying \$8.00 to NYS Ag and Markets and \$45.00 to NYS Department of Health. Decals took in \$6,630.00 of

which \$6297.42 went to the state and the town's commission was \$332.58. \$52,986.35 was taken in for Water and Sewer this month. I have spent some time mapping the cemetery as we didn't have anyone in the new part of the cemetery on our map and there were quite a few buried on that side. It is important to be able to sell plots and also know where someone needs to be buried if their family member is already there. This is going to take some time but I am going to work a little at a time and hopefully can get the map in better shape than what it is now to know what is available space.

Benway made to accept the Clerk's report. Sayward seconded the motion. All in favor

DPW-

The binder has been put down in the sand building and the top will be put down Monday. The company is expected to arrive this evening with 2 loads of the metal and they will begin as soon as the blacktop is done. The building should be up in a few weeks. There were a few issues with concrete, out of square.

The highway is going to be purchasing up to 12 tires for the plow trucks, possibly 4 for another truck. This is all under state contract through Warren tire. Hopefully by the middle of next week they will have the plows on the trucks and start finishing up the dirt work on the dirt roads to be ready for winter. Hopefully tomorrow's storm is not bad because they are not ready. One truck is set up to salt with and they can throw a plow on if needed.

WATER/SEWER- It has been a very busy month with 2 high flow storms. Luckily the water is fairly warm coming into the plant and there have been no issues. They had to pass through a primary to let one tank catch up. This allowed them to stay within the permitted discharge zone. 139,000 gallons was done in one day with 113,000 the second day and that was at a plant designed for 75,000 gallon capacity. Other than a lot of man hours and sleepless nights, everything went well. Shortly after the second rain event there was a power outage from Mountain view drive. This knocked out the lift station at the bridge. They had to use the portable generator for 3-4 hours. Fortunately the rest of the town had power and this was the only place that needed the generator. They are getting ready for the new screen, which is coming from Germany. They constructed a new splash shield because the original screen came with a very insufficient splash screen to keep the spray off the floors.

A company from Chazy is bringing a similar sewer plant on line soon. We provided them with 9,000 gallons of sludge, they had roto-rooter truck it up to them last week.

The water department has been having monthly meetings with the Town of Chesterfield, Town of Essex and a group from Albany working on a source of water protection plan. Brainstorming and remedy issues before they occur. The plan is in a draft and is out for review, hoping in the next few months it will be available to the public. It is a 162 page document with a lot of good information in it. They are still actively delivering water meters, approximately 20-30 a week. The Willsboro Bay Water system has been shut down and they also at the same time winterized the golf course and will be doing hydrants next week. A service line on the point line is currently leaking under the road and they are getting the pusher ready to repair that. This will only affect one home. They have a zoom meeting with MJ engineering next week. DEC has reached out about the

permit that they currently have and wanted to completely re-do it. Given they are aware now that we are getting a new treatment plant and going to be using a different treatment process and they have a lot of questions. They will modify it until it is completed. Crowningshield stated that next week Nolan Murphy will be getting the generator all set up.

AMBULANCE DISTRICT REPORT- Was put in the council's packets. Only a partial report was given.

YOUTH COMMISSION REPORT- [Krissy Leerkes](#) was at the meeting and gave a report along with pictures of what the Youth commission has been doing all year. In 2023 the group wanted to focus on partnerships. They have a very small group of people and they are not confisated with funds. She stated that they were very fortunate to have The Town support them and that the highway department supports them as well. They have a great group of parents that never say no to the youth commission.

A great presentation was made. She asked if she could get a check ahead of time for the magician as he needs to be paid the night of the show.

Sayward made the motion to pay the magician \$450.00 for the magic show.

Christian seconded the motion.

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

Ayes-5

Nyes-0

Benway made a motion for appreciation to all the volunteers for the Youth of Willsboro. Unanimous second was made.

PARKS COMMISSION REPORT- They have a meeting coming up and no report at this time.

Old Business-

Christian made a motion to make an amendment to the Preliminary budget. The line in the general fund for the DPW deputy stipend to add \$1,500.00. Sayward seconded the motion.

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

Ayes-5

Nyes-0

Christian made a motion to adopt the 2024 Preliminary budget as presented with the approved amendment as the Final Budget. Sayward seconded the motion.

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

Ayes-5

Nyes-0

New Business-

Christian made the motion to adopt new Senior Citizen Income Limits for Senior Citizen Tax Exemption as follows

0 - 36,000.00 50%

36,000.01- 36,999.99 45%

37,000.00- 37,999.99 40%

38,000.00- 38,999.99 35%
39,000.00- 39,899.99 30%
39,900.00- 40,799.99 25%
40,800.00- 41,699.99 20%
41,700.00- 42,599.99 15%
42,600.00- 43,499.99 10%
43,500.00- 44,399.99 5%

Benway seconded the motion.

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

Ayes-5

Nyes-0

Golf course is in the black with \$10,740.00 at the end of the season. The town has gotten notice of 2 and possibly 3 unemployment claims that will total approximately \$15,000.00. This will put the golf course \$4,260.00 in the red. This happens every year and Gilliland has talked with the board before about this problem. Membership rates, greens fees and cart fees can be raised to try to cover these costs, this will be a big hit to the course. These are part-time employees that take seasonal jobs. The long term fund balance to cover the costs of replacing equipment and doing repairs. Gilliland is going to put out an RFP to look into possibly an independent contractor and get back to the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT-

Victor Putman gave a brief update on Brass. The tentative date for the salmon symposium is March 16th 2024. Win Belanger congratulated all the elected officials. Belanger asked if the Youth Commission was funded by the town and Leerkes stated it was 100% raised by the Youth Commission itself and the town oversees the sports accounts for financial reasons. He also stated that the presentation should be on the website. He stated that he would like to see put in the budget, money that could pay for someone to keep the website updated.

Sayward made the motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Benway seconded the motion.

@ 8:21pm executive session ended and no decisions were made.

Regular board meeting adjourned @ 8:22pm