



TOWN OF WILLSBORO

5 FARRELL ROAD WILLSBORO, NY 12996

518-963-8668

**TOWN OF WILLSBORO
TOWN BOARD MEETING
WILLSBORO VISITORS CENTER
February 20, 2025**

ATTENDES-Dereck Crowningshield, Patrick McCauliffe, Travis Crowningshield, Victor Putman, David Atkins, Mike Phinney,

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

CALLED TO ORDER @ 6:30pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisors Report

Correspondence

-Bobbi Paye

-Codes & Zoning 2024 Report

-David Galarneau requesting reappointment this year.

-Essex County Community Resource

Town-

-Hathaway Park RFQ responses for playground/fitness trail project planners are in and there are nine (9) responses. Gilliland would like to give these to the Parks Commission to look at and bring back the top three (3) to the board and then ask for pricing with the top 3.

-Local Waterfront Redevelopment Plan came back and came back with questions. Speed limits and charging for moorings. This will all go to public hearing when the review is back.

-Summer Program -Willsboro Central School is going to partner with the Town to have the Willsboro-essex Summer program again this summer. Advertising for counselors, etc for summer program applicants. Jenna Ford will be coming back this year as Director. She meets all requirements this year with age, education and will start the process

-Comprehensive Plan Committee met and discussed all the tasks that were in the RFP grant. The RFP planner was released and a response should be returned within the week.

-Water Project- Gilliland discussed with Peter Paine the adjustment to the easement and he is willing to sign the agreement when he returns in March from Argentina allowing the town to cut trees.

-The money coming from the Lake Champlain Basin program to the Adirondack Land Trust had an agreement to not have the Town be involved financially and now with the Government situation this might be a problem. When the land goes to closing the Town would have to take out a BAN for the cost and then it would be passed to the Adirondack land trust and then the Lake Champlain Basin program would pay the town within 45 days. The interest on the BAN would be paid with the excess money from the grant. It would actually be zero cost to the town. Gilliland has recommended that it not move to closing until there is a solid commitment from the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

-Waste Water Treatment Plant EPG, Mark Swazzo stated that they are writing the report and we should receive it within the next few months. It will then be sent to the Environmental Facilities Corporations Plan and hopefully will qualify the town for money to fix the dry bed problems.

County-

-gilliland had a meeting with DEC leadership and the biggest discussion was when the County would be getting paid. The state is over one million dollars behind in paying the county for solid waste. The state promised that they would be getting paid in March. Gilliland stated the county is under no obligation to accept solid waste from any state agencies.

- Franklin County dispatch temporarily moved to Essex County due to the prison crisis that is happening, due to the fact that the dispatch is directly across from the prison.

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

Roll Call-

Christian, Benway, Sheehan, Sayward, Gilliland

Ayes- 5

Nyes-0

Clerks Report-

The clerk's office in the month of January took in \$4015.00 paying \$1.00 to NYS Ag and Markets. Decals for the month took in \$25.00 of which \$23.62 went to the State and the town's commission was \$1.38. Water and Sewer took in \$60,096.25. I collected \$2,171,332.38 in property taxes. To date I have paid \$228,558.00 to the Fire District, \$1,909,060.08 to the Town and \$700,000.00 to the county.

Sayward made a motion to accept the Clerk's report. Christian seconded the motion.

All in favor.

DPW

- Plowing snow and fixing equipment has been what the DPW has been doing. Chains, hoses and tires are all going to happen this time of year. The men did an excellent job with the last snow storm. It has been a very busy month and the overtime is crazy.

Water/Sewer-

Everything has been going well with both plants.

An alarm started with the wastewater plant and the screens were packed with babywipes. These wipes even though they say are flushable. After hours of cleaning these out they cleaned the other screens also. They will be doing a back wash to try to help with the breakdown. Gilliland will call the Champlain Valley Senior Community to remind them to not flush wipes.

**Ambulance District- Written report submitted by Kira Crowningshield
Youth Commission Report- Written report submitted by Krissy Leerkes
Parks Commission Report- The Parks commission will be working on the RFQ responses.
Zoning Report- written report submitted by Jonathan Franke
Codes Report- None
OLD BUSINESS-**

Benway made the motion to authorize Supervisor Shaun Gilliland to sign, to amend the estimated expenditure for the 2024/2025 season by extending the municipal Snow and Ice Agreement for an additional 5 year period. Sayward seconded the motion.

**Roll Call-
Christian, Benway, Sheehan, Sayward, Gilliland
Ayes-5
Nyes-0**

Sheehan made a motion to not sign the lease agreement for the Point Road soccer fields that was proposed by Diddle LLC. Benway seconded the motion.

**Roll Call -
Christian, Benway, Sheehan, Sayward, Gilliland
Ayes-5
Nyes-0**

Benway made a motion for Supervisor Gilliland to produce and release an RFP for work to upgrade Higby Park. Sheehan seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Sayward made the motion for Justice Morgan to apply for a Joint Court Assistance Program grant through the Office of Court Administration for records retention in the basement of the Town Hall up to \$30,000.00. Sheehan seconded the motion.

All in Favor.

NEW BUSINESS-

Discussion was had about the 4th of July celebration and where to set the fireworks off and where to have the fireworks shot off from. Possible a day time event Friday July 3rd with fireworks to follow and a parade Saturday morning the 4th of July. Gilliland will talk with the sheriff's department, DEC and the fireworks company and bring their thoughts back next month.

Comments/Resolutions from the Board- Benway asked if the highway can find another place to dump the mulch and Crowningshield said yes and once that is done we will let the public know where it will be.

Public Comment-

David Atkins- questioned the large increase in the general fund on the budget this year.

Mike Phinney- Asked what was going to happen to the soccer goals at the point soccer fields.

Dereck Crowningshield- asked for further discussion on the codes/zoning for the 2024 report and the amount of pay for the positions.

Victor Putman- DEC wants to put in a trap for the salmon in the river if the owner of the property will allow it. Salmon restoration has had to lay off 3 people.

Benway made the motion to hire Jenna Ford as the Director for the Willsboro-Essex Summer program. Sayward seconded the motion.

Roll Call -

Christian, Benway, Sheehan, Sayward, Gilliland

Ayes-5

Nyes-0

Gilliland brought up the discussion of the town board holding a public hearing to have the Willsboro court go to only having one judge. Discussion was had and decision to table.

Christian made the motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Sayward seconded the motion.

Entered into executive session @ 7:36pm

Open regular meeting 7:41pm

Adjourned @ 7:42pm

Submitted by Susan Thompson