



TOWN OF WILLSBORO

5 FARRELL ROAD WILLSBORO, NY 12996

518-963-8668

TOWN OF WILLSBORO TOWN BOARD MEETING WILLSBORO TOWN HALL July 10th, 2024

ATTENDEES-Michael Phinney, Terry Pulsifer, Mark Buckley, Robin Pierce, Greg Gordon, Carol Dickerson, Darren Dickerson, Victor Putman, Roger Sayward, Lloyd Wilson, Travis Crowningshield, Barbara Paye, Krissy Leerkes, Felix Lawrence, Lawrence

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

CALLED TO ORDER @ 6:30pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Review of minutes from the June 12th Board meeting. Sheehan was asked at the previous meeting to clarify if she is needed to be on site for the summer program and she clarified with the Health Department that she does not have to be on site. No further comments or corrections. Unanimously accepted as submitted.

Carol Dickerson spoke and thanked the town for the money that was given to the Reber Cemetery. She asked if they could be put in the next year's budget also. Barbara Paye also asked to be put in the Budget for Lake View Cemetery. This money helps both cemeteries to pay the yearly expenses and help the associations to remain independent and not be turned over to the town.

Supervisors Report

Correspondence-

- Letter from Teamsters union that the contract is up on the 31st of December 2024 and want to schedule contract negotiations.
- A draft contract from the Department of State was received for executing the grant for the comprehensive plan update. The Planning board and Town board was given this to review.
- Appraisal of Stoker property was given to the board.
- BAN payment notice for the Salt/Sand shed was received from the bank and will come due on June 12th. The town will pay off \$500,000.00 and roll the ban for \$300,000.00 and budget for payments in the next three years. The total project cost was \$633,220.22. The state reimbursement was \$325,016.8.
- 2024 Grievance results memo from the accessor and the results were sent to the board.

Town-

- The grant was submitted for the Lily property land acquisition. The cost of the property acquisition is \$840,000.00, the additional cost of the grant would be for developing the property, building roads, parking lot, etc.
- Town board was given a copy of the draft contract for sale between the Adirondack Land Trust and the Town to purchase the Lily property. This is 100% contingent upon the receiving of a 100% grant funding and the life of the contract is 3 years.

-Parks grant for the Hathaway Park is still under review at the Department of Parks in the State financial system.

-A video conference with the Department of Public Service with Supervisor Gillilland and [Patrick McCauliffe](#) was asked to review the operations of the Willsboro Bay Water System. Our attorneys were asked to approach the Public Service Commission concerning this, due to it being left in the air since the system was abandoned and the town was asked to provide services of operation and maintenance. The town is asking the Public Service Commission to decide on a final operator.

-The board was given the accountant's report. There is no date when this will be final.

-The DPW truck will be ready for delivery in the next two weeks.

County-

-Wayne Wright, director of Real Property is retiring.

-The Dog Control Kennel is put on hold as the whole county is having a crisis with this problem. The Board of Supervisors asked Gillilland to organize a task force to look at the county building its own facility for dogs.

-The fairgrounds has a small stage that is in major need of repair. The County is renting a portable stage this year and will purchase one that can be transported to different locations in the future.

- The State has still not paid the \$900,000.00 that is owed in back solid waste payments.

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

Roll Call-

Sayward, Sheehan, Christian, Benway, Gillilland

Ayes-5

Nyes-0

Town Clerks Report-The clerk's office in the month of June took in \$ 34,342.64 paying \$1.00 to NYS Ag and Markets and paying NYS Health Department \$22.50 Decals took in \$1,268.00 of which \$1214.84 went to the state and the town's commission was \$53.16. I attended a clerk's workshop at the end of June that was, as always, very informative. I did not have the time to really check with other clerks that have the Williamson software for the clerk's office as I hope to have done, but as soon as I do I will bring all the information for you to review.

Sayward made the motion to accept the Clerk's Report. Benway seconded the motion.

All in Favor.

DPW-

-First roadside mowing is almost complete.

-The new plow truck is in Plattsburgh.

-mowing lawns has kept everyone very busy with their regular duties as DPW are two men short.

Water/Sewer- Written report was given from Patrick McCauliffe.

Ambulance District Report- Written report was sent.

Youth Commission Report-Written report was sent from Krissy Leerkes and she also gave a verbal report.

-a grant was received to obtain new soccer goals and equipment, first-aid kits, pug nets, stipends for adult referees.

-Fundraiser Golf Tournament will be at the end of July.

-Soccer sign-ups will be different this year due to the transitioning of uniforms. It will be done several nights to make it easier with having to replace all uniforms.

-Stephen and Ethan Leibeck will be doing soccer clinics this year and the Youth Commission will be sponsoring 2 nights for all kids to come.

-The County is looking at working with Community Resources and Adirondack Sports Council to look at sports tourism in Essex County. Outside of the Youth Commission, there are two groups of children that have traveled for two years to play soccer and an older group of girls that travel to play basketball also. Leerkes meant with this group to talk about the needs, she would like to entertain the idea of a building in the county if not in Willsboro. She stated this is a huge need for all ages.

-Leerkes asked if the town would consider allowing all youth in the Willsboro community to golf for free as long as they were accompanied by an adult with a paid membership or paying for golf. This would be one adult per child.

Parks Commission Report- No Report was given.

Old Business-

-West Sand Pit

Robin Pierce brought back to the board that the Shirley Family and Pierce family are willing to extend the contract to 10 years. The pricing will be \$2.25 per yard. Mark Buckley was asked to attend the meeting to discuss reclamation costs and permits. Crowningshield gave the figures of getting sand from the two plants. Darren Dickerson from the public spoke that he was against this. There was much discussion about Pros and Cons.

Sayward made the motion to draw up a contract for a five year with a ten year option with Robin Pierce and the Town of Willsboro for the sand pit and the supervisor to negotiate the contract. Benway seconded the motion.

Roll Call-

Sayward, Sheehan, Christian, Benway, Gilliland

Ayes-3

Nyes-2 Sheehan, Christian

Sayward made a motion for the supervisor to execute the contract for sale contingent on grant funding for the Lily Property with the Adirondack Land Trust. Beway seconded the motion.

Roll Call-

Sayward, Sheehan, Christian, Benway, Gilliland

Ayes-4

Nyes-1 Christian

New Business-

Sayward made the motion to hire Austin Strong as HEO/CEO at union starting rate. Sheehan seconded the motion.

Roll Call-

Sayward, Sheehan, Christian, Benway, Gilliland

Ayes-5

Nyes-0

Vinny Duso, a temporary employee at the golf course, will be asked to also fill in at the DPW to do grounds work while John Mitchell is out.

Benway made the motion to accept the gift of land 150 feet long, between the Bouquet River and Gilliland Lane from the Nature Conservancy. Sayward seconded the motion.

Roll Call-

Sayward, Sheehan, Christian, Benway, Gilliland

Ayes-5

Nyes-0

Alan Thompson gave his resignation from the Parks Commission. Gilliland asked Lloyd Wilson if he would like to be Chairman of the Parks Commission. He stated he needed time to think about it.

Sheehan gave an update on the summer program.

-Co-directors are doing an outstanding job.

-registered campers are at 83.

-drop off and pick up will be changing tomorrow to make things smoother.

-cooperative extension will be coming every Wednesday to do a project with the children.

-Essex initiatives gave a \$2000.00 grant for swimming and lifeguard.

Gregg Gordon stated that he believes he has found someone to be the secretary of the Zoning and Planning boards and also believes he has found someone to chair the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Barbara Paye asked if the Town Board could adopt a policy for zooming all the board meetings and that maybe more people would be more involved. She also asked if the town was paying for the chemicals that DEC was putting in the lake. Gilliland stated the town is not paying. He also stated that the board left it up to the zoning and planning board if they wanted to zoom the meetings and the town decided to not do it any longer because the attendance was always 0-1 people attending and the camera systems were always a struggle.

Felix Lawrence stated that his grandfather's banner was flying in the Town of Moriah at the VFW. He has questions about the meeting last year. He received a letter from the Town of Willsboro attorney stating that the town board has no authority over the American Legion with the way it manages the banner project. He questioned why there was such a long discussion last year. He stated that everyone last year was operating under the assumption that the board did have some authority and that is why it went on for 15 minutes. Gilliland stated he disagrees and that the town operates for the American legion and the program. Lawrence asked If the town operates for them? Gilliland stated that the Town DPW puts the banners up, takes them down and stores them and maintains the permit. Lawrence has a concern, what happens in the future if another group comes to the board and requests their banners to be put up on a different topic and different subject? Gilliland stated that they will decide if they will support that. Lawrence stated that in his understanding of the law that the town has already created a public forum and the town would be constrained by that. Gilliland stated that they are not lawyers and that he or his attorney can talk to the town's attorney. He encouraged the board to get a legal opinion about the future.

Bud Wilson commented that he is truly impressed with all that the board does and thanked them.

Victor Putman reported on BRASS.

-crib repair application is waiting on DEC.

-national weather service is upgrading the national flood announcements.

-lamprey treatment along the river

-BRASS grant is still in process.

-river cleanup and planted 1400 trees.

Motion was made to enter into executive session to discuss a contract negotiation at 8:09 pm.

Entered back into regular session @ 8:25 pm No final decisions were made.

Sayward made the motion to allow the supervisor to negotiate the sale of 13 Stoker Lane property for sale and proceed to contract and closing upon agreement. Sheehan seconded the motion.

Roll Call-

Sayward, Sheehan, Benway, Christian Gilliland

Ayes-4

Nyes-0

Abstain-1 Christian

Comments/Resolutions from the Board- none

Adjourned @ 8:09 pm

Submitted by Susan Thompson