

At the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Elmira, Chemung County, New York held Monday, March 16, 2020 at 7:00 PM at 1255 West Water Street, Elmira, NY, there were

Supervisor: Neil Milliken
Councilmember: Thomas Milliken
Councilmember: Scott Bush
Councilmember: Albert Lucarelli
Councilmember: Ron Allison

Others present
Town Clerk- Tammy Stein
Attorney- Scott Moore

**Resolution #67-20
Annual Audit Minutes**

By Mr. Allison

Seconded by Mr. Bush

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the departmental annual audit for 2019 on February 20,2020.

Aye- Bush, T. Milliken, Lucarelli, N. Milliken, Allison

No- None

**Resolution #68-20
Minutes**

By Mr. T. Milliken

Seconded by Mr. Allison

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 20,2020.

Aye- Bush, T. Milliken, Lucarelli, N. Milliken, Allison

No- None

**Modification to Agenda
By Mr. Lucarelli**

Seconded by Mr. Bush

Supervisor N. Milliken stated the following communication has been cancelled: Chemung County Department of Aging and Long Term Care RE: Public Hearing held Tuesday March 30th to review the legal and financial tools that persons need in order to ensure that their future long term financial and health care needs are met

**Resolution #69-20
Financial Report**

By Mr. Bush

Seconded by Mr. Allison

Supervisor Milliken reviewed the Town's Financial position as of February 29, 2020 and stated we are in a good financial position. The February 2020 bank statements and year to date Fund Balance reports were provided to the board. Motion was made to accept the Supervisor's report for February 2020.

Aye- Bush, T. Milliken, Lucarelli, N. Milliken, Allison

No- None

Report by Supervisor Milliken

Since our February 20th Board meeting, we held a public workshop session of March 11 lasting from 7:00PM to 8:40PM. The Board reviewed several items, some of which require Board action and are included in the resolutions later in tonight's agenda. I will summarize the workshop for the minutes.

The Board was introduced to Michael Ruocco, an experienced police officer whom Chief Barr has asked to be hired on a part-time basis to help with traffic duty and Wednesday Court. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions of Mike and he seems pleased for the opportunity.

I, along with Board member Allison, met with representatives from Chemung Canal Bank to discuss Town participation in their ICS ("Insured Cash Sweep") program. In effect this program increases the safety of Town monies in the bank by making all of our deposits insured. Participation adds no fees or additional bookkeeping.

I was contacted by the County Executive's office with the request to express Board opposition to proposed legislation in Albany that will remove what they consider significant local authority regarding the siting of renewable energy projects. While not likely having a major impact on our town, the Board consensus is to generally resist, without good reason or prior consultation, the loss of control over our local affairs.

Board member Tom Milliken attended the annual Association of Towns meeting in New York City, and shared what he learned from the sessions we attended. The information was received with interest by those of us who could not attend, some of which will be incorporated into TOE practices as we are always looking for ways to stay current and in compliance with a rapidly changing environment.

As I mentioned in my report from last meeting, we have been looking into the Town accepting credit cards for financial transactions from residents. This is in response to increasing requests by our residents to do so. Thanks to Clerk Tammy Stein for doing the research, and we have found a system that meets our criteria – processing transactions at no cost to the town, and a system that has been time proven and recommended by other municipalities.

Some of you might be familiar with a plan to construct pickleball courts in the town Park down near the community center. It has been discussed for a year or two but now seems ready to start. I have been told pickleball is very popular with our residents, and they have taken the initiative to raise the money and find donated help and equipment from many local contractors. This will expand the use of our park for new users with activity growing in popularity, and will in no way displace any other activities previously held. I would like to personally recognize Chuck Liberatore who has been spearheading this initiative from the beginning, and look forward to watching the construction progress.

An update on the project to digitally scan the town's records. The Police Department has been completed. The County will next be scanning records in Code Enforcement starting in mid-April.

Lastly some information on the Town's actions regarding the corona virus concerns. We have been continuing all services while incorporating additional precautions. Supplies have been ordered for disinfecting surfaces here in the Town Hall to protect employees and visiting residents. I have particular concern for the Community Center, which has many more residents coming and going than the Town Hall. I asked Patty Carozza, our Center director to contact users in the highest risk group (elderly) to express our concerns and to encourage them to consider postponement of their events. Patty has re-evaluated the facility cleaning protocols and has increased the extent and frequency of the processes,

particularly in between users in preparation for the next group. I have ordered a supply of sanitizing hand cleaners, germicidal and viricidal wipes, disinfecting spray and disposal towels for her use, which as you can imagine is backordered but should be arriving shortly. She is also in possession of the latest CDC and New York State recommendations for facilities like ours. I have been participating in a weekly conference call with County officials, who have been doing same with State health officials, for the latest alerts and recommendations. So, to summarize, we are following recommended precautions and are plugged into the proper sources for the latest advisements. The Board wishes our residents the very best as we deal with this together.

Resolution #70-20

Audit of Bills

By Mr. Milliken

Seconded by Mr. Allison

Resolved that all claims in the total amount of \$84,133.40 were audited and approved for payment when in funds.

Aye-Bush, T. Milliken, Lucarelli, Allison, N. Milliken

No- None

Communications

Foster's Disposal Services, LLC RE: Rate increase

~~THIS HAS BEEN CANCELLED: Chemung County Department of Aging and Long Term Care~~

~~RE: Public Hearing held Tuesday March 30th to review the legal and financial tools that persons need in order to ensure that their future long term financial and health care needs are met~~

Chemung County Department of Aging and Long Term Care RE: Distinguished Volunteers of the Year Awards

"Notice of Project" from Hunt Engineers regarding Hendy and other school projects, Part 1 of Environmental review as part of SEQR process

Department Reports:

Due to the Covid – 19 awareness the Department heads were excused from attending the meeting but asked to submit a report:

Code Enforcement Officer, Eric Crandell submitted a report containing permits that his office issued in February. He also informed the board he received an emergency directive from Jonathan Keough, Director of Environmental Health for the Chemung County Health Department, to give a list of every assembly occupancy in the municipality and the occupant load for each (how many people are allowed in there). This would include Town Hall and the Town Community Center, as well as all the churches and businesses where people gather.

Buildings and Grounds Caretaker, Scott Eschbach has worked on samples of signs to be made and placed in the park. He has also placed signs around the park restricting dogs from being on the infields as there was damage done to the fields and owners are not picking up the dog wastes. Baseball and Softball are on hold but he has been working on the fields. Scott is getting ready to start on the upgrading storage at the Community Center.

Recreation Director, Patty Carozza informed the board that they have been working hard at keeping the Center clean and disinfected. She said some groups are postponing events. Patty has been keeping up on the new changes and keeping in touch with the renters to make sure they are complying with newly released updates. She stated that Scott will be working on the renovations soon at the Community Center to make more storage room.

Police Chief, Tom Barr reported on his department's monthly services.

Deputy Highway Superintendent, Matt Davis stated they have completely refurbished the box on

the one-ton truck at west end and the box on a six-wheeler dump truck. They have been out cold patching pot holes in West Elmira and East Hill. The highway crew has been trimming and cutting trees, focusing on the streets they anticipate paving this year. Several trees were taken down on First Street between Arcadia and Albermarle Street as they were a danger and a hazard because they were right on the edge of the road. First Street in the same area on the southside of the street is going to get excavated four feet wide, two feet deep and 150 feet long to stabilize the edge of the road because the soil that is currently there now is mainly silt, doing this now will give the area time to settle for when we pave. Ditching has been taking place on Deerfield Road and the whole length of Oak Hill Road. Sweeping of the roads has started on East Hill, ditching on Bowlby Road will begin soon. Ditching and some grading of May Road took place also. The street sweeper was in the city helping them, along with other municipalities getting their streets cleaned up after the winter debris for a week. One man was at the County Compost Facility operating a loader along with a County employee to grind a massive pile of brush. It has been a very busy start already to our season.

Discussion

Councilmen Lucarelli let the board know that the County has signed an agreement with Fujitsu for broadband. He also said with the current situation, the recent fire on Church St and the house on Lexington with the pigeons we should be looking at the cleanliness of the homes and the Town.

Councilmen Allison stated that they should request a list of homes that need to be worked on or cleaned from the Code office.

Resolution #71-20

Set date for April Workshop

By Mr. Bush

Seconded by Mr. Allison

Motion was made to set the date of April 14, 2020 at 6pm for a Workshop meeting.

Aye- Bush, T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken

No- None

Resolution #72-20

Appoint Maria Quagliana as 2020 Pool Director

By Mr. T. Milliken

Seconded by Mr. Bush

Motion was made to appoint Maria Quagliana as pool director for the 2020 season.

Aye- Bush, T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken

No- None

Resolution #73-20

Appoint Mike Ruocco as part time Traffic District #1 Officer

By Mr. Allison

Seconded by Mr. Lucarelli

Motion was made to appoint Mike Ruocco as a part time Traffic District #1 Officer effective March 16, 2020.

Aye- Bush, T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken

No- None

Resolution #74-20

Adopt a Complete Street Policy

By Mr. Lucarelli

Seconded by Mr. Bush

WHEREAS, the purpose of a Complete Streets Policy is to empower and direct citizens,

elected officials, government agencies, planners, engineers, and architects to use an interdisciplinary approach, when possible, to incorporate the needs of all users into the design and construction of roadway projects within the Town of Elmira, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Elmira wishes to ensure that the appropriate designs and construction of roadways within the Town will accommodate the safety, convenience, and comfort of motorists, cyclists, pedestrians including those individuals requiring mobility aids, transit riders, and neighborhood residents of all ages and abilities, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Elmira recognizes that this Complete Streets Policy also includes the incorporation of this community's values and as such will be mindful of its environmental, scenic, aesthetic, historic and natural resources in any such design and planning, and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets design features and practices include, but are not limited to: sidewalks, proper street lighting, signage, crosswalk and crosswalk devices, highway improvements, and parking areas in order to promote healthy and safe activity by users.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Elmira recognizes the importance of creating this Complete Streets Policy as listed in the whereas within the Town to assure safe travel by all users including motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, public transportation riders & drivers, and people of all ages and abilities, including children, youth, families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Elmira will attempt to draw upon all possible funding sources to plan and implement where possible Complete Street elements to make implementation economical feasible, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Elmira will consider incorporating Complete Streets design features and practices in the planning and design process into any construction, reconstruction, retrofit, maintenance, alteration, or repair of streets, bridges, or other portions of the transportation network wherever feasible.

Aye- Bush, T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken

No- None

Resolution #75-20

Agreement with GovPay to accept credit cards as a form of payment

By Mr. Bush

Seconded by Mr. T. Milliken

Resolved that the Town of Elmira will contract with GovPay in order to accept credit cards as a form of payment.

Aye-Bush, T. Milliken, Lucarelli, Allison, N. Milliken

No- None

Resolution #76-20

Opposition to proposed NYS Legislation regarding Renewable Energy Siting Process

By Mr. T. Milliken

Seconded by Mr. Allison

WHEREAS: This proposed amendment could be passed with the budget by April 1, 2020 replacing the current Article 10 process with a radical new method for siting renewable energy projects, and

WHEREAS: This amendment will remove any meaningful input from citizens, towns, counties, local environmental groups and community businesses regarding the siting and regulation of renewable energy projects, and

WHEREAS: The new proposed process is structured such that scientific data, or testimony from qualified experts, will have little bearing regarding siting regulations and approval, and

THEREFORE: The Town of Elmira Board expresses its opposition to the passing and adoption of this proposed change.

Aye- Bush, T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken

No- None

Resolution #77-20

Agreement with CCTC regarding ICS program

By Mr. Allison

Seconded by Mr. Bush

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Town of Elmira Board to safeguard public monies as much as possible, and

WHEREAS, our designated bank has introduced to us a program called ICS (Insured Cash Sweep) that upon enrollment would insure the entirety of TOE deposits with the FDIC, and

WHEREAS, this program is used by other municipalities and school districts in our region and has been found to be of merit, and

WHEREAS, this program is endorsed by both the Association of Towns and the Office of New York State Comptroller, and

THEREFORE, The Town of Elmira Board intends to enroll in the ICS program through Chemung Canal Trust Company

Aye- Bush, T. Milliken, Allison, Lucarelli, N. Milliken

No- None

On a motion by Mr. Allison and seconded by Mr. Bush the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm

Tammy Stein, Town Clerk