

At the workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Elmira, Chemung County, New York held Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at 5:00 PM at 1255 West Water Street, Elmira, NY, there were present:

Supervisor: David Sullivan
Councilmember: Scott Bush
Councilmember: Thomas Milliken
Councilmember: Ron Allison

Others present
Town Clerk- Jo Ann Sherwood
Attorney- Scott Moore

Discussion:

Pickle Ball Courts (Noise suppression Options) - Supervisor Sullivan gave a brief update regarding the removal of the nets on the Pickle ball courts based on a resident's complaint. He stated he had John Manfredi, a sound engineer; conduct a sound study on the courts on August 7. The sound decibel was 68 decibels. Normal conversation decibel is 60. The decibel for traffic is 80. He explored some noise suppression options but the panels would cost \$15,000. That is not a good option. Another option would be to plant some bushes or trees. Supervisor Sullivan stated another option would be to have pickle ball courts in the lower ball field. Attorney Moore stated that from a liability standpoint we do not have a liability in nuisance type claims. Because it is a park and something the town is focused on, it is considered a government function. In terms of liability standpoint we do not have any liability if we put the nets back up.

Fred Betschen, Upland Drive suggested that the players could possibly play at certain times of day that was not a nuisance. He had a print out of different examples of noise decibels and presented that to the board. He stated that the most popular time of day to play was between 9 AM and Noon and after 4 PM.

Bonnie Lindquist, Glen Avenue stated that there are eight woman that play almost every morning at 9 AM and they are usually done by 11 30 AM because of the heat.

Diane Berman, Sitzer Road, asked if there was just one complaint. She suggested maybe limiting the hours although some retirees do play at 6:30 in the morning.

Chuck Liberatore, Rambler Road stated that in the Villages in Florida there are 200 courts. They play from 7 AM until 9 PM. It is not an issue there and they are in close proximity to all the residents home. Supervisor Sullivan stated the town will revisit with the complainant and possible suggest maybe he could plant some more vegetation and the players could use different paddles. He hopes to meet with them this week and have an answer for the players.

Attorney Moore stated that in West Elmira, there is a Park District and they pay for all the fees for the parks through their taxes and to spend \$10,000 on the park is quite a hit to the taxpayers.

Jim Ungvarsky W. Church St. stated there is a benefit of sound and perhaps offering him music to counteract the sound of the pickle ball paddles would help.

Bonnie Lindquist said we should consider another location and to increase the size of the courts. They are willing to help raise funds for this. She is a pickle ball ambassador and gives lessons. She stated their group would like to have a Pickle ball Association as GETA has with the Town for tennis.

Patty Santulli, W. Water Street asked what the time frame was and how will it be communicated back to residents as to when the nets will be put back up. Supervisor Sullivan suggested we would communicate through our town website and an email tree. Within a week, he hopes to have an answer.

Resolution to support EHS Brownfield clean up- Board will continue to discuss this issue at next meeting.

Inter-municipal Agreement with County regarding Highway Superintendent Services- Changes were made in the agreement and Supervisor Sullivan will discuss the changes with the county.

Flooding issues- East Hill had some problems on Bowlby Road but the majority of the problems were in West Elmira.

On a motion by Mr. Bush and seconded by Mr. Allison the workshop meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.

JoAnn Sherwood, Town Clerk