

Town of Dix Regular Board Meeting
Nov. 11, 2024

Present: Supervisor Dominick Smith
Deputy Supervisor Brian Ervay
Councilman Alec Moore
Councilman Jeff Meehan
Councilman Alan Gregory
Town Clerk Naomi Kingsley
Highway Superintendent Scott Yaw

Supervisor Smith called the meeting to order at followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to Agenda – Montour Falls Fire Department contract, budget transfer and executive session for personnel.

Public Be Heard-per policy. – Anthony Adams – read a letter he sent to the NYS Attorney General's office regarding the Menio property next door to him. He is requesting a building permit NOT be issued to Mr. Menio to build on the Man-Made Mountain he created.

Reports

- a. Supervisors – past month lot of time on code enforcement, none as of Friday. Looking for someone short term, 3 apps to civil service, have not seen any here; worked on budget stuff, benefit stuff, new vision program and HRA company effects the highway crew. Need to contact the 2 retirees yet. Generator issues on 17 at the tower WG looking into. Lot of water and sewer issues still. Haven't heard anything on the Swarthout assessment dispute. Dog contract later. Voting was here, seemed to go well, no complaints.
- b. Deputy Supervisor – talked to Jeremy (the sign guy) and asked about options. Will send pics to board members if they have any ideas let them know. Business in Elmira southside. He does all the work at the track.
- c. Bookkeeper - none
- d. Superintendent of Highway – doing some hit and miss mowing, shared service work with Towns of Montour and Hector, 200 tons of waste salt hauled from US Salt, prepping all trucks for winter, cold patch made for pot holes and grader paving on rough spots, been working with the State Park and State Representative on a solution for Whites Hollow, took a single man plow training course with NYS DOT. Currently over in one account but it will be reimbursed by the State. We should have the funds by December 18th. The Town has the opportunity to purchase stone from Carl States at a reduced price. Superintendent would like permission to purchase \$10-15,000.00 worth to have on hand for projects. The stone size is anywhere from 2-3 inches up to 5 inches. The Town of Catlin has a crusher that we could borrow is needed to make smaller fill.
- e. Code Officer – need someone after Friday, need 2 volunteer's to interview as the supervisor has a conflict. Councilmen Gregory and Meehan appointed.

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- f. Planning Board – have a meeting later this month
- g. ZBA - needs 1 member
- h. Town Court - nothing
- i. Dog Shelter - later
- j. Committee Reps:
 - i. EMC - none
 - ii. FD – contract from Montour Falls is a 1 year contract. Councilman Gregory received a request from Jason Hudson with the Watkins Glen Fire Dept for a meeting. The Fire Advisory Board has been reinstated.
 - iii. Landfill – holding off until January, didn't get the report to the engineers and Joel Moore leaving
 - iv. Solar – DuVall Road site is 5 acres
 - v. Short Term Rental

RESOLUTION #91 – offered by Gregory, seconded by Ervay.

Resolve to approve the October 15, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes and the October 28 Public Hearing Minutes, the October 2024 Clerk's Report, Abstract #12 Audit and the October 2024 Supervisors Report. Ayes – 4, Nays 0

AUDIT – Abstract #12

General Fund – Townwide	414 - 436	\$ 38,217.57
General Fund – Outside Village	413 - 439	\$ 310.18
Highway Fund – Townwide	415 - 454	\$ 11,834.45
Highway Fund – Outside Village	455 - 456	\$ 4,391.96
Beaver Dams Fire Dept	419	\$ 1,384.79
Montour Falls Fire Dept	420	\$ 865.49
Watkins Glen Fire Dept.	421	\$ 1,211.69
Special Sewer Fund	49	\$ 21,787.97
Special Water Fund	49 - 52	\$ 16,181.31
Trust & Agency	23 - 24	\$ 5,292.87

Correspondence: None

Old Business:

- Fagan PUD/Meads Hill updates, nothing as we have no application.
- Greener Now Application for Expansion-nothing to report.
- Water and Sewer Rates and Operations-rate suspended till further notice, pending litigation.
- 3100 Wedgewood Rd sewer issue-waiting on Smoke Test

New Business:

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- Dog Control Contract-there will be one final meeting at the county on the 21st, which is too late for our budget adoption, by law our deadline is the 20th. Joel Pierson offered 2 options; the Town will go with what he calls a “sheltering” contract. During the Dog Control Officers hours, she will take any dogs taken in to the county line where she will meet Mr. Pierson and he will take the dog to his facility. The dog owner will need to travel to his facility and pay the required fee to claim the animal. If the dog is not claimed within the 5-day limit required by law, the town will be charged a one-time fee of \$175.00. If a dog is taken after hours the sheriff’s office will hold the animal until an employee can come get it and there will be an additional \$25.00 charge. The Town will keep the portion of the licensing fee that was in the past sent to the Humane Society. If you take an average of 15 dogs at \$200.00, the cost to the Town would be \$3000.00/year. The Humane Society wants \$12,248.00.

RESOLUTION #92 – offered by Gregory, seconded by Ervay

Resolve to authorize Supervisor Smith to enter into a contract with Joel Pierson for “Sheltering Services”. Ayes – 4, nays – 0

- Holiday Pay Policy – talked last month. Should employees be entitled to Holiday Pay if they don’t work the day before and/or after the holiday unless they have vacation approved before hand by the superintendent. If they use a sick day, will a doctors slip be required or should it be left to the discretion of the board. Please be ready to vote on next month
- Zoning Law review
- Free Cyber Protection for the Town possible – tabled for now
- Corvette Fest approval – A request has been received from Watkins Glen Promotions looking for written proof from the Town of Dix stating that there is no objection to the Corvette Thunder event taking place on May 18, 2025. Approximately 120 Corvettes will be placed on North Franklin Street in preparation for laps of the Historic Old Course.

RESOLUTION #93 – offered by Ervay, seconded by Moore

Resolve to approve Watkins Glen Promotion’s application for use of State Highway/NYSDOT property for the Corvette Thunder in the Glen Festival, May 18, 2025. Ayes – 4, nays – 0

- First Aid Kits – The Town has spent \$800.00 on Cintas to manage the first aid kit at the Highway Garage. An approved first aid kit can be purchased and maintained by the Town at a much-reduced cost.

RESOLUTION #94 – offered by Moore, seconded by Ervay

Resolve that Supervisor Smith purchase an OSHA approved first aid kit to be installed and maintained at the Highway Garage and end the association with Cintas. Ayes – 4, nays - 0

- Battery Storage for Solar fields – this is becoming a big issue, as there have been issues of fires. It is allowable now in the Town of Dix. WGI will have them and we can’t do

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anything about that. The solar fields store the power in the batteries and leak it back into the system a little at a time, that way 3 phase is not needed. WGI is a state issue not our issue. Supervisor Smith is requesting a moratorium for 9 months while we get a handle on things. Supervisor Smith will contact Fagan Engineers for a proposal to advise. A public hearing should be scheduled for next month and moratorium will take place after that.

RESOLUTION #95 – offered by Moore, seconded by Meehan
Resolve to schedule a Public Hearing on a proposed Moratorium on Battery Storage for Solar Fields for the December 9, 2024 meeting. Ayes – 4, nays – 0

- Trash Masters MOU – need to have on this on file to keep working at Parmenter’s until a Special Use Permit can be obtained from the planning board.

RESOLUTION #96 – offered by Gregory, seconded by Moore
Resolve to authorized Supervisor Smith to sign an MOU with Trash Masters. Ayes – 4, nays – 0

- Set up Sick Time Retirement Reserve Account and fund it – Supervisor Smith would like to set aside in a Reserve Account \$36,000.00 to fund a Highway Sick Time Accrual account. The Town currently has 3 employees who if retired now would cost the Town \$12,000.00 per employee.

RESOLUTION #97 – offered by Gregory, seconded by Moore
Resolve to set aside \$40,000.00 in a Highway Sick Time Accrual Reserve Account. Ayes – 4, nays - 0

RESOLUTION #98 – offered by Gregory, seconded by Meehan
Resolve to authorize Supervisor Smith to sign the Montour Falls Fire Contract. Ayes - 4, nays - 0

Back to stone bid. Highway Superintendent provided proper documentation to comply with the Town’s procurement policy.

RESOLUTION #99 – offered by Gregory, seconded by Meehan
Resolve to authorize Superintendent Yaw to purchase stone from Carl States not to exceed \$15,000.00. Ayes – 4, nays - 0

Budget Transfers:

RESOLUTION #100 – offered by Gregory, seconded by Meehan
Resolve to transfer \$80,000.00 from the General Fund to the DB fund to cover the overage and will replenish the General Fund when the Chips funds are received. Ayes – 4, Nays - 0

Entered Executive Session for personnel issues at 7:43 PM

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Returned to regular session at 7:53 PM

The Highway Budget committee met with Highway Superintendent; salary will stay at \$54,000.00 for 2025.

The new tax rate for the Town is \$2.8252/1000, and the Village rate 1.4596/1000. There will be a separate line on the tax bill for the Fire Departments Rate. Between the Fire and Town there will be a budget increase of 3.9% increase overall, and we stayed under the tax cap.

RESOLUTION #101 – offered by Gregory, seconded by Moore
Resolve to accept the 2025 Town Budget as presented. Ayes – 4, nays - 1

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Supervisor Smith at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Naomi C. Kingsley
Town Clerk