

UNION VALE TOWN BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2020

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE 7:30 PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Maas

Town Council: Kevin Durland, Kevin McGivney (via ZOOM), Steven Frazier, John Welsh

Town Clerk: Andrea Casey

Highway Superintendent: Ed Kading

Town Attorney: Jeff Battistoni – Absent

Call to Order and Salute to the Flag at 7:30PM

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve the October 15, 2020 Town Board Meeting minutes as written, which was seconded by Councilman Durland and all were unanimously in favor.

Supervisor Report

Supervisor Maas reported that from a cash flow perspective, we brought in \$123,846 in revenue which was consistent with what was done last year but we are at 91% of the revenue we normally have. We are 84% of the expenses budgeted and we have saved money there. George Kolb, Code Enforcement Office, is at 106% of the budget goal that was put in place last year. The Town Board members have received the list of warrants/abstracts; cash receipts, escrow reports, Building Dept. report and lists of all deposits made in both the General Fund and Highway Fund. There were some changes to the budget as a result of the following: One additional person has joined the medical insurance, there was some money added to tree removal and removed the seasonal laborer as this was already captured in the snow removal line. Additionally, the quote for NYMIR came in at \$59,916 and \$65K was budgeted. It was lower because of the lack of events such as Oktoberfest, that the town typically holds. They will also be sending the Town a check for \$6,666.00 for a capitalization refund. There is still \$49,460.00 in the Contingency Fund which will be used in part, for a bill that is yet to arrive from Dept. of Labor in the amount of approximately 18K for unemployment cost claims. After the 2021 budget is adopted, it will be on the website and sent out on UnionValeMail. Although it was a difficult year, we did not raise taxes, everything is at 0%. There is \$15,000.00 in Highway Capital Reserve Fund. There will also be an appropriation for the Tymor Barn Roof which was able to sustain with repairs and going forward the Town hopes to put aside \$50,000 for the replacement when the time arises. The fund balance budget is 2.9 -3 million dollars and the Board will vote on unallocated fund balance for specific projects.

Ted Eglit, Auditor, who had computer problems did finish the audit and it looks clean.

There has been a bit of a delay setting up the Library services due to some technical issues and Kathi Wellman, Coordinator, was out on medical leave. Supervisor Maas explained the idea of “concierge library services”, meaning that the residents will be able to customize and request exactly what they want. There are book clubs and more positive community aspects. New volunteer, Joann Brown, will be assisting by walking through a group of early adapters a Zoom call to get feedback after showing them exactly what is be offered and how to utilize it. This will take place the week after Thanksgiving and Supervisor Maas will keep everyone posted.

Board Member Reports

Councilman Welsh Furnace Pond Dam has become a focal point but he has been spending a lot of time on that this week reviewing records and any documents relating to the dam and had a meeting with the engineers this past Tuesday.

Councilman Durland had nothing new to report at this time.

Councilman Frazier had nothing new to report at this time.

Council McGivney had nothing new to report at this time.

Town Highway Superintendent Report

Superintendent Kading reported this month the salt shed roof has been completed with new trim, work looks great. Crews fixed pot holes, sunken culverts and made the roads nicer to travel on. They have been blowing debris out of drainage ditches, boom mowing brush on sides of the road

and replacing plywood on the salt shed that is deteriorated. They are prepping trucks for winter and they will be ready when needed. An old pickup truck with 240,000 miles that did not pass inspection was sold for \$2,700. He is working with getting quotes for replacement glass in the garage that has been cracked. They are getting rigid foam insulation for steal casement windows to try to conserve heat. There is a new hire scheduled for December 1st, a qualified individual who is also a mechanic, Equipment Operation, CDL driver and very experienced.

Town Clerk Report

Town Clerk Casey reported on the annual document shredding day scheduled for Friday, December 11th. The truck will be at Town Hall for 1 hour, all residents and patrons of the Recycling Center are able to participate and bring 4 file size boxes for this free service. Please call the Town Clerk if you wish to be updated on the exact time since it will be unknown until the day of the event.

Departmental Report

Park Manager, Jake Gosnell submitted the following report ready by Councilman Frazier: We have been doing lots of fall leaf cleanups and mowing around both Tymor Park and Godfrey park. Still some more leaves to come down, but we are almost there. We also did an end of the season cleanup at the Memorial on the Green.

Shane has been prepping all of our trucks for the winter by doing some routine maintenance. We also moved the plows out from the long barn to the pole barn so that they are easily accessible when needed and we prepped the sander so that we are set for the winter season.

All of the outside bathrooms in Tymor Park have been winterized and are now closed for the winter season as well as the water system at the Equestrian center .

We are now gearing up for the Grand Illumination Christmas lights in Tymor Park, the lights will come on nightly starting the evening of December 5th.

We installed the final set of double doors that we had in number 8 Tymor Park road; these are located in the far end of the building facing the concession stand. The new doors came out very nice and really make the end room seem much more open and brighter

We have been doing a lot of work in number 11 Tymor Park Road. Things are progressing well and everything is on schedule and is starting to look very good.

I also wanted to make sure that I took the time to acknowledge our After School Program team, they work extremely hard every day and I think that they are doing a great job and we have had multiple parents let us know how much they appreciate the effort that they have been putting in and the work that they are doing.

Supervisor Maas read an e-mail from a parent on the ASP program, to thank Alison Croke and Maggie Collins for the program and their amazing job.

Recreation Report

ASP Director, Alison Croke submitted the following report read by Councilman Welsh: Both our TGTT Full Day and After School Programs are continuing to operate smoothly. We had several new families sign up this month, and were happy to take advantage of the warmer weather earlier this month with lots of outdoor activities for the kids. We are still taking registration for both the full day and after school programs! Please note there are weekly snapshots posted on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for those who want to get a peek at the program.

Despite having to cancel our Halloween Movie Night due to weather, we had a good turn-out for our November movie night - approximately 50 people attended. Families enjoyed watching “The Nightmare Before Christmas” in the park and delicious food from **Las 3 Americas** Food Truck and **Caboose on the Loose** Ice Cream truck. We received positive feedback from attendees, who were grateful for a family event.

Community Solar on Rt. 55 Update

Supervisor Maas reported that the site is under construction, they got their permits, the fencing is up but not painted and the shrubs have also been planted. Residents that have signed up to participate in the program should be contacted by ‘Common Energy’ which is the company that is the interface for the discount. If you have not been contacted, Supervisor Maas suggested to google ‘Common Energy, Town of Union Vale’ and sign up through that portal again.

Annexation Tymor Park Parcels

Supervisor Maas commented the Board had an attorney client meeting prior to the meeting to get organized for the November 23rd hearing. She also wanted to make it clear, as she saw a post in the Beekman Facebook page, the post did not mention Union Vale owns the land. The public hearing is for Union Vale residents and the public alike from Beekman as the Beekman Town Board will also be at the meeting to hear feedback on why it would be wonderful to get all of Tymor Park together. She encouraged residents to either attend in person or via zoom by requesting a link through the website and hopes many residents will come and speak and support the effort.

FURNACE POND DAM

Supervisor Maas reminded everyone that the Town has been waiting for the engineering analysis to be completed. As of this week they called to report they were done with their testing but, the document would be prepared within 2 weeks. They had a conference call this week to give an overview but they will also be invited to a Town Board meeting possibly in December to speak to the entire Board. Supervisor Maas stated it sounds as if, between the hydraulics, the stability, and the testing that needs to be done and anything else needed to make it last another 100 years would be estimated around \$770,000. They will get more details when the report is complete but the money for repairs is already accounted for in the fund balance without the need to borrow funds. The Town Board welcomes resident feedback on if they prefer to keep the dam with an annual maintenance plan and keep the pond or, if they would prefer to remove it at a cost of around \$500,000 and no longer have a pond.

Councilman Welsh stated that they have an obligation to the donors of the family of Ralph Conner and Jean Webster to keep the park as functional it was when it was donated unless financially or physically impossible. Councilman Durland agreed that the pond is part of one of the treasures of Tymor Park to maintain the dam if possible. He offered that maybe a survey through UnionValeMail could help get proper feedback for the residents. Councilman Frazier agreed that many residents utilize the fishing and recreation element of the pond but feels it would be prudent to get feedback from the residents. Councilman McGivney agreed it is a focal point of the Park and feels it should stay if financially feasible. There was further discussion on this topic.

Capital Reserve Fund

Supervisor Maas mentioned that they set up a capital reserve fund for the Highway Department to begin putting money aside hopefully between \$15-25K to replace a snow plow truck. The new Highway Superintendent feels a new one is not needed at the moment that the lower estimated amount would be a good place to start saving. They also hope to do something similar with the Park. She asks the Board to review the information provided about the way to use each reserve fund and determine if the funds should be for repair work as some are more restrictive than others.

Motion to Approve Update to “Paid Time Off Policy” for inclusion in Employee Handbook

Supervisor Maas reiterated that this plan was in accordance with Dept. of Labor policies that allows this, as long as it is mentioned in the Employee Handbook. The change will be, if people do not give a 2-week notice, that they could possibly forfeit their accrued vacation time.

Councilman Frazier feels it is the money the employee earned and if that person wanted to better themselves, they should have that opportunity without penalty. However, if someone is fired for just cause such as a theft, that should apply.

Councilman Durland suggested that there be a cap of 2 weeks if more than that was accrued.

MOTION TO APPROVE PTO POLICY

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve PTO policy for inclusion in the employee handbook as of January 2021 as written, on the handout provided. This was seconded by Supervisor Maas.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Frazier – Nay

Councilman Durland – Aye

Councilman Welsh – Aye

Supervisor Maas – Aye

Councilman McGivney – Abstain

The motion carries with a 3-1 vote

MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2021 BUDGET

Councilman Welsh made a motion to adopt the 2021 budget as presented. Councilman Durland seconded this motion and all were unanimously in favor.

MOTION TO PAY BILLS

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve budget adjustments, warrants, & pay bills which was seconded by Supervisor Maas and all were unanimously in favor.

Public Comments on Town Issues

Tillman – wants a library card for her and a separate one for her son, had other questions about library services and using a computer.

Councilman Frazier suggested old computers could be set up in the hall for resident use.

Glenn Morrison – asked about a strategic longer-term library plan and what that consists of. He also asked about the early adaptor group.

What is the towns plan for controlling the light display on Patrick drive?

Supervisor Maas responded about the early adaptors that is for getting feedback about various things and to tutor residents with questions. As for the Patrick Drive lights, there is nothing is changed; the traffic flow will be managed as effectively as in prior years.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

At 9:18 PM Councilman Welsh made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Durland and all were unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Casey, Town Clerk