

UNION VALE TOWN BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2021

UNION VALE TOWN HALL 7:30 PM

PRESENT: Supervisor Betsy Maas

Town Council: Kevin Durland, Steven Frazier, Kevin McGivney, John Welsh

Town Clerk: Andrea Casey

Highway Superintendent: Ed Kading

Town Attorney: Jeff Battistoni -Absent

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

Motion to Approve Minutes

Councilman Welsh made a motion to approve the October 21, 2021 meeting minutes as written seconded by Councilman Durland and all were unanimously in favor.

Supervisor Report

• Town Board members have received the list of warrants/abstracts; cash receipts, escrow reports, Building Dept. report, performance vs budget report and lists of all deposits made in both the General Fund and Highway Fund.

- Cash Flow: 109% of goal and 90% of expenses for the month of October
- Cash balance in the General Fund \$3,867,437.00 Highway Fund \$444,006.00
- Supervisor Maas explained there was too much money in HRA needed to be transferred to a few other places where needed, also extra money in contingency fund.
- AOT training was increased to \$1,600.00 due to more newly elected officials
- Court clerk was increased from 12k to 16k as this position was combined from 2 people to 1 and now a part-time job possibly from 8:30am-1:30pm
- \$500 was removed from the Data Collector position as it is currently vacant
- Assessors office was given \$500 for training expenses as he is new
- More money was added to Audio/Video equipment hopeful Optimum will give 10K
- General Contingency is up to \$26,993.00
- \$5000 was added to the Animal Control Officers line for kennels, ASPCA canceled all contracts in Towns where they were not ACO
- The CAC was moved from line A7620 to A8710 and \$500.00 allocated
- Social Security and Medicare went up \$200.00
- Health Insurance decreased to \$35,000.00
- \$8800 was added to Highway Machinery Equipment budget from the overstated HRA

Budget Highlights for 2022:

- Town Tax Rate per Thousand went down from \$3.06 to \$3.04
- The General Fund is Flat from 2021 & the Highway Fund is going up \$3,460
- This Budget is \$67,643 under the Tax Cap for 2022
- Total town taxable assessed value increased to \$622 million (0.8%)
- Summer Camp & Pool, excellent attendance numbers and brings in revenue
- Rental Income from Properties, Solar Development & Events
- Clothing Shed in Recycling Center, hopeful to generate \$200-\$400 a month
- Mortgage Tax met by March
- ARPA Funds (\$236K on hand) and potential refund FEMA for Hurricane IDA (\$27K)
- Health Insurance Premiums up 4% but total cost to the Town went down 7.4%
- Year- round employee and elected officials wages up by 3%
- Building Department Fees and activity up (YTD) 39%
- Recycling Center Fees are up (YTD) 7%
- Town Revenues projected to increase 11%
- Recreation Department was big success in 2021. Will contribute over \$300,000 in revenue in 2022
- Interest Income expected to increase in 2022
- Budget includes Meeting Room Media and Town Hall Telephone System upgrades

Included in the mailed copy of the budget is the full capital plan for projected capital spending. These items include, Furnace Pond Dam, roof for the park and senior center, trucks, highway garage windows, highway garage barn repairs and digitizing building department files. Supervisor Maas noted the Fire Department Budget increased 8% due to the need for more ambulance coverage.

Councilman Welsh noted that more than half of the town revenue comes from sources other than property tax.

Board Member Reports

Councilman Frazier- no report

Councilman McGivney- no report

Councilman Durland- no report

Councilman Welsh was busy with election and budget related information.

Highway Report

Superintendent Kading reported on the “Five-year Road Maintenance Plan”

2022

- Clapp Hill
- Cutler Lane
- Cole
- Barmore
- Hoofprint (Eng. Study – prep for 2023) May need a drainage easement
- Tymor Park (including parking lot)

There is also an issue with Wisseman Road regarding drainage which is not on the list but needs attention

2023

- Tompkins
- Verbank Village (Route 82 to Duncan)

2023 (continued)

- Brush Hill
- Milewood
- Hoofprint – if not completed in 2022

2024

- O’Brien Hill
- Blueberry (if construction is complete on homes in the area)
- Rickes

2021

Resurfacing Completed:

Shaughnessy

Verbank Club

Mallory (to what was done prior)

Old Camby (from prior point to the end)

Robinwood

Mr. Kading noted that he received a letter from one of his suppliers that all prices would increase 20% due to the current economy. The crew has been out cleaning ditches and culvert pipes and doing regular road maintenance along with winter storm preparations. Blacktop plants will be closing soon so they will do as much patching as possible as the weather allows.

Town Clerk Report - Clerk Casey reported Document Shredding day is scheduled for Wednesday, November 24th. Everyone is welcome to bring up to 4 file boxes to Town Hall for the event. The time will be posted on the town website either the Monday or Tuesday prior.

Public Comments on Agenda Items- None

Board & Committee Reports

CAC (Conservation Advisory Council)

Chairwoman, Akiko Busch, spoke about the newly printed 19 NRI maps in large scale and gave a brief background on the purpose and mission of the maps. They range from aerial, to topography, elevation, wetland, etc. Ms. Bush explained a few of the maps in detail pointing out the purpose and benefits of these and interesting information about the wildlife that inhabit these areas. She encourages everyone come to Town Hall and take a look at these maps. Ms. Busch also updated the Board on a CEC grant that Union Vale qualified for. This is a \$5,000.00 action grant through the CEC from NYSERDA. After they learn what action was accepted the CAC will make a recommendation to the Town Board. She also spoke about the reforestation project citing over \$800 dollars was raised and 100 trees planted including sugar maple, tulip poplars and others. This was an effort to keep Union Vale carbon neutral. They hope this is an annual program with the help of CAC member Lisa Martel, the local Girl Scouts, Parks Department and Brian Scoralick from DC Soil & Water.

Recreation/ASP/TGTT- Councilman Welsh read the report prepared by Director Alison Croke. They attended Vail Farm’s First Annual Trunk or Treat, hosted our own after-school Halloween party. Attendance at our Halloween Movie Night was affected by cold weather and rain. We are exploring ways to reach out to families and schools to grow attendance at our after-school program; our TGTT full and half days continue to have excellent attendance. The next event is The Grand Illumination on December 4th. The community is invited to join us for a visit from

Santa, roasting marshmallows around the fire pit, arts & crafts for kids, followed by the Grand Illumination of the holiday lights at Tymor Park.

Animal Control Supervisor Maas noted there was no written report but the Highway Superintendent may have a shed that will need heat and electric with a fence that could serve as a kennel, however she asked if any one else has other ideas to bring them forward.

Constable Report- Councilman Durland read the report. Constables patrolled 562 miles of Town Roads and properties and filled the explorer with 42.2 gallons of gasoline. The 2 court dates had 65 cases on the docket with 29 actual appearances with no incidents to report. 10-2-21- Assisted motorist with disabled vehicle. 10-14-21- Assisted State Police with traffic for a deer car accident. 10-16-21- Security for Gaelic Festival at Tymor. NYS Constable training is scheduled for December 4th – 5th. Will be providing traffic control for Bloomer Road Holiday Light display from November 26- December 28.

Annexation of Tymor Park Parcels Update- Supervisor Maas spoke Annexation update, 3 judges read over the 800-900 pages of material and make a recommendation or can request a trial or more information, whatever they see fit. There are unsure of any definite timeline but the information has been submitted and the Town must wait until the courts respond.

Changes to Preliminary Budget- Supervisor Maas reviewed this during her report.

Potential revisions to Town Code: Shared Driveway & Private Roads- Supervisor Maas stated after a few conversations the potential changes will be that they are up to Town standards, that it should allow for emergency vehicles to turn around, and things of that nature. The Town Attorney had advised to have these discussions and put it in the Town Code. There is currently no maximums on shared driveways which is unusual and a potential deficiency. They will have another discussion in January and proceed from there.

Motion to change Board Meetings from Thursday to Wednesday 2022

Discussion: Supervisor Maas noted changing to a Wednesday would be advantageous to have a business day following the meeting which will allow vouchers to be paid on that Thursday and help process faster.

Motion: Supervisor Maas made a motion to change the Town Board night from Thursdays to 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30 PM for 2022. This was seconded by Councilman Welsh and all were unanimously in favor.

Resolutions

Resolution #34-2021 Adopting NRI Maps

Resolution #35-2021 Authorizing Annual Reforestation Program

Resolution #36-2021

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

Public Comments on Town Issues

Charles Nivens Bloomer Road, noise issues near the area of his home, has filed a complaint with the Code Enforcement Office. He had questions about the town code decibel level and how to enforce it.

Councilman Frazier spoke about the current vote for library funding that took place on November 2, 2021 and wanted to revisit funding the library after speaking with many residents and doing research on other Towns library operating expenses.

Supervisor Maas asked this be tabled as they are not prepared to have this discussion tonight, further discussion ensued.

Motion to Fund Library

Councilman Frazier made a motion to make a one-time payment to Beekman, Millbrook and LaGrange libraries in the amount of \$77,935.00 to get our residents back into the library system and proposes that be paid out of fund balance. This was seconded by Councilman McGivney and a roll call vote was requested.

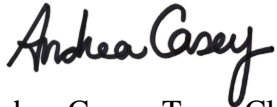
Councilman Durland-	Nay
Councilman Frazier-	Aye
Councilman McGivney-	Aye
Councilman Welsh-	Nay
Supervisor Maas-	Nay

The motion failed to pass. Supervisor Maas said they will resume conversation about this issue in January and invite community discussions to ensure this is done properly.

Motion to Adjourn

At 8:23PM Councilman Welsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Supervisor Maas and all were unanimously in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrea Casey, Town Clerk