**REGULAR MEETING**

**TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN**

**MAY 17, 2022**

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Elizabethtown, County of Essex in the State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 7563 Court Street, Elizabethtown, New York on May 17, 2022.

The public could attend in person or by GoToMeeting.

PRESENT: Noel Merrihew-Supervisor

William Wright-Councilperson

Ben Morris-Councilperson

Jeffrey Allott-Councilperson

ABSENT WITH EXCUSE-Cathleen Reusser-Councilperson

GUESTS: Charlie Moisan, Jim Dawson, Evelyn Hatch, Mary McGowan, Bruce Pushee, George Onni and Harry Gough.

The Supervisor called this meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

**RESOLUTION NO. 79-2022**

Motion to accept the minutes for April 19, 2022 offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Wright. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-4 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Allott

1. WATER BOND RESOLUTION-A public hearing regard this was held previously to this meeting.

**RESOLUTION NO. 80-2022**

Motion for the increase in the Bond level from $3,025,000.00 to add an additional $725,000.00 to reach a total bonding limit of $3,750,000.00 offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Morris.

Councilperson Allott asked that this be managed so that we don’t actually see the price increase, to be frugal and to make sure the cost is justified.

ROLL CALL VOTE HELD

Councilperson Wright-yes

Councilperson Morris-yes

Councilperson Allott-yes

Supervisor Merrihew-yes

With 4 in favor and none apposed this motion passed.

1. BRONSON WAY/CLYDE MORSE-The Supervisor was asked by Clyde Morris for the Board to give a motion of consideration for the submission of the road change that has been sent to the APA for approval. There would be no cost to the town. He explained about this proposed road change. After everything is completed then Mr. Morris will come to the town for approval. Discussion on the town owning the road and what it would take for this change. Councilperson Allott expressed that the ROW’s have to be included. Councilperson Wright said that a road swap that was done years ago, floods out every time it rains and wants to make sure this new one does not. Councilperson Allott felt that the standard for the road build would be high to prevent this.

**RESOLUTION NO. 81-2022**

Motion of support for the Bronson Road change offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Allott. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-4 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Wright

1. LULL- The Supervisor wanted to let the Board know that properties that are non-compliant are being identified with the towns laws. He has asked the Board to go around town to identify properties and he said he has found 6 that will be notified in writing. Asked the Planning Board to participate. Hopefully end of May or beginning of June this will be done.
2. WATER CAPITAL-Just discussed this
3. WATER STREET BRIDGE-They are looking at an estimated time of mid-July to be finished. Traffic will be resumed on that road and it is felt that this will be a problem that will have to addressed.
4. BANNERS-A big thank you to Dan and Angie Wallace and Loren Henrichs for putting up the Veterans Banners. They rented the Town of Moriah’s lift and got it done.
5. GRANTS-Had local people that have applied for grants and one was for the Golf Course for the decking area. That one was denied. Mike Peck and Paige Saltamach applied for another grant and were award about $2000.00. They are looking at getting an Amish storage shed for all the excess equipment at the skating rink. This is the second grant that Mr. Peck has helped get. Thank you to both Mike and Paige.
6. PARKS-Update on the grant that had been applied for Memorial Park. Have expanded the consideration of that grant to include Memorial Park, Noble Terrace and the Foot Bridge Park. Should know by next month. Dog park and recreational equipment included also.
7. NYS DEC-The town was notified 3-4 weeks ago of a gas leak from one of the trucks at the maintenance house at the Golf Course. Working with Atlantic Testing and DEC. This should be resolved this week. What soil had to be dug was done and the County will haul it away. Just waiting for the testing to see if all has been removed.

10.DPW/HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT-Just received a new 544H John Deer loader through state contract. The Supervisor explained that as a General Fund will credit them for their trade in 544G. Intent is to bring the 544G to the Golf Course to replace the 910 Cat that is being used there. Will surplus the 910 Cat.

11.COBBLE HILL GOLF COURSE-A lot of tires were purchased for the carts and working on them for the season.

12.SIDEWALKS-When the Water Street bridge is complete will put out a bid for the replacement sidewalks at the far end of the street.

There are at least 5 other places that need to be replaced. Councilperson Wright asked if the town was removing the sidewalk on the one side of Water Street and was told yes. Discussion on the sidewalk and retaining wall at the old Phillips house.

13.CYBER SECURITY-There are mandates by the Insurance Companies that the town has to do. Decided to isolate the finance computer and it is now a stand-alone system.

14.WATER-ANNUAL BILLING-The water superintendent is reading the meters and the bills will go out end of May beginning of June.  
15.MUNSEY WAY-This is the driveway going up Garondah Way. The town has committed to repave the lower 50-foot section that the town dug up for water repair. If the DPW will not do this than the town will hire a private contractor by July. Councilperson Wright asked if it was a ditch line that needs to be repaved and was told yes. He said that proper ditching needs to be done.

16.Mr. Meeker who lives up by Otis Mountain, had called and asked if there could be a No Camping sign put up at the snow plow turnaround. Discussion held on this and if it’s a problem anywhere else. This will be discussed more later on.

17.DOC LOPEZ RUN-There were 120 runners. It was a nice day. They are requesting to have the finish be at the Golf Course.

18. Councilperson Allott said that a lot of work has been done on the connector trail at the Cobble Hill system. He said that there has been a paid crew working up their last week. 19. Councilperson Morris asked about the grant that had been applied for, for the decking at CHGS.

20.Supervisor Merrihew asked if there had been any issues on Bronson Way after the cloud burst that happened a few days ago. Discussion on the state of various roads after this storm.

**COMMITTEES**

21.YOUTH COMMISSION-Can access the application here at the Town Hall. The food program is still going on and there is an educational component to the program.

22.BLUEBERRY TRAILS-Have the new maps and they are great. Councilperson Allott said regarding the grant and pavilion, hopefully less than 2 weeks away from having engineer plans. Then will be going to bid on concrete, trusses etc. and applying for a permit. Was asked if people can walk up where the work is to be done and was told yes but to avoid the equipment.

23. HIGHWAY-Discussed already.

24. WATER DISTRICT-Discussed already.

25. BUILDINGS & CODES-No discussion.

26. PLANNING BOARD/ZONING BOARD-No discussion.

27. COBBLE HILL GOLF COURSE-Discussed already.

28. GARBAGE-No discussion.

**FINANCIALS**

TRANSFERS

**RESOLUTION NO. 82-2022**

Motion to approve the Transfers offered by Councilperson Wright and seconded by Councilperson Allott. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-4 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Morris

SUPERVISORS REPORT

**RESOLUTION NO. 83-2022**

Motion to approve the supervisors report offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Allott. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-4 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Allott

PAY ALL BILLS

**RESOLUTION NO. 84-2022**

Motion to pay all bills offered by Councilperson Wright and seconded by Councilperson Morris. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-4 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Allott

Resolved that the following bills be paid for the abstract period of 1/1/2000 thru 4/19/2022

General Fund A $ 5,081.47

Highway Fund DA $ 11,920.07

Garbage District $ 207.88

Water District SW3 $ 341.65

Trust & Agency TA $ 3,014.02

**COMMENTS**

-Councilperson Morris asked that when the letters for the non-compliant property owners goes out, can he get a copy. The Supervisor will make sure all Board members get one. They won’t be detailed will just be a letter. He said it is mostly property maintenance with too many things in the yard, etc.

-Councilperson Wright asked about the Memorial Day parade. The Supervisor said he talked to Jim Beaton last week but was not given any indication yes or no. He will call Mr. Tryon to see. They hope to have the fishing derby but have not heard from the folks who stock the pond. Discussion on if there will be trophies but decided to go with gift cards.

-The Supervisor said that last month he brought forward a consideration to see if there was a way to get the speed reduced in the Hamlet of New Russia. Discussion on this and that it is a State road and up to them.

-Councilperson Wright asked regarded the lights on the Pavilion at the Golf Course, are we going to put them up after 4-5 years or should he just stop and do it. The Supervisor will ask again.

-Councilperson Wright said that on behalf of the firemen, E-town Day will be happening and that last year the town put on the fireworks would they help out this year too. The town will defiantly help. Life Church has helped also. The town really appreciates all the Fire Co. does.

-911 addresses- Councilperson Wright said that the Fire Co., Ambulance Co., etc. are having difficulty figuring out where certain houses are because they don’t have their numbers displayed. This is a law. The Supervisor will talk to Mr. Zahavi about the numbers at Lincoln Pond.

-Councilperson Allott reminded the board that the Wilmington Whiteface qualifier for the Leadville race will be coming through town on June 4th. Should be about 500 bikes.

-Evelyn Hatch said she had driven up Bronson Way and it was in good shape.

-Bruce Pushee asked what properties are not in compliance. He asked about what the Grant monies will cover besides the Park. Discussion on this.

-The Board was asked if there has been a vote on a new School Building and was told not yet. Charlie Moisan explained about this.

-Bruce Pushee asked about the sewer project. Supervisor Merrihew said it will be awhile yet and gave explanation. Harry Gough asked why the Durand property is not being considered and was told that in 2006-08 it was looked at but would be cost prohibitive as would need a mile of pipe. Discussion on this.

-Mr. Gough said he would like to applauded the town for going after the sketchy properties. He would like to see the cedar railing by the Golf Course taken care of. Supervisor Merrihew said that it was going to be removed.

-Evelyn Hatch said that she feels most people in town would agree that we need a sewer system. She suggested that serious thought be given to where it is placed so that it will pass.

-Mr. Pushee asked Councilperson Allott if the Recreational Hub had started and was told no. When they get the Engineering drawings they will apply for a permit. He asked Supervisor Merrihew about the chlorination building and was told it had been submitted about 3 months ago. The Supervisor will meet with Planning if they need him to.

-Mr. Pushee said the Fife & Drum group will come on Etown Day and the Chamber will pay for it.

-Councilperson Wright asked if anyone has gone to Wadhams sewer system as they had just updated. No smell at all. Councilperson Allott said that he was going to check to see what the similarity is to the system Etown is looking at. He had gone through the entire Engineering report and what they are proposing is trucking so there is no on-site, long-term storage of sewer. The ongoing cost for this is fairly high. The actual treatment is onsite. Mr. Gough asked if anyone has looked at the Essex plant as it just got a big award.

-Supervisor Merrihew gave Mr. Pushee a paper of the next step the Planning Board needs to consider regarding a Local Law on Short Term Rentals, Air B&B’s, etc. Need some oversite on this.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet E. Cross