

REGULAR MEETING TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN JUNE 20, 2023

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, NY 12932 and the public could attend in person or via GoToMeeting.

PRESENT: Noel Merrihew-Supervisor
Councilperson Allott
Councilperson Morris
Councilperson Wright
Councilperson Reusser

GUESTS: Angel Marvin, Michael Dunsmore, Beth Marvin, Jen Reilly, Susan Greschler, Kevin McKee, Hildegard Moore, Gerri Taylor, Trish Baker, Ingrid Carman, Louise Johndrow, Ellen Sweatt, Charles E. Moisan, Bonnie LongStay, Julie Rascoe, Kim Matthews, Alona Penny, Gordon Costin, Jack Pulsifer, Smit Marvin & Peter McNally.

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Bonnie LongStay read a letter to the Board from the Women's League. The letter expressed concerns for how the Golf Course is being managed this year. Angel Marvin expressed that every day we are losing the opportunity to make money by not opening the Club House. She said the League would like to be a part of any volunteer project and to be at the table to discuss the Course. The Supervisor spoke and invited everyone to go to the Course and look at it objectively. It's in great shape. Discussion as to when it started to become better and the mowing schedule. The Supervisor expressed he is also responsible to the other tax

payers who do not use the Course and discussed the years of terrible economics. The Course will not be shut down but have to make it work economically. Discussion on volunteers donating time. A lot more discussion on the mowing, Club House, promoting the Course and looking at the bigger picture. The League will schedule a time to meet with the Town. Mr. Dunsmore asked about the town establishing a Parks and recreation that would incorporate the Course and bike trails etc. Angel Marvin spoke about better communication and lack of trust. The Supervisor expressed how it would be helpful to have the Course members help and support and not talk badly about the Course. Ms. Marvin again expressed that they don't trust that the Supervisor is even discussing things with the Board members. She said communication is very important. Mr. Dunsmore said they have no idea what is going on and asked why not involve them in the big decisions about the course. He expressed that hopefully it's the beginning of better communication. The Town Clerk reminded everyone there that Board meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of every Month and also on-line so please attend. Mr. Costin spoke and said he has been there since the beginning. He said that the water was started before it was needed and ended up not working when it was needed because of a mechanical failure. Smith Marvin suggested having more advertising on the score cards etc. More promotion is needed and for everyone to work together. A meeting will be set up.

BUSINESS

2. RESOLUTION NO. 74-23

Motion to accept the minutes from May 16, 2023 offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Reusser. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-5 Supervisor Merrihew
 Councilperson Morris

NAYS-0

Councilperson Reusser
Councilperson Allott
Councilperson Wright

3. RPTL-SENIOR EXEMPTION-Need to amend the new Senior Exemption Local Law #1-2023 to make it more clear.

RESOLUTION NO. 75-23

Senior Exemption Local Law amended to include sliding scale options 1,2 & 3. The base exemption is to have income limits of \$25,000.00 and a final sliding scale income limit of \$33399.99 for a 5% exemption offered by Councilperson Wright and seconded by Councilperson Reusser. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-5 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0
 Councilperson Wright
 Councilperson Reusser
 Councilperson Morris
 Councilperson Allott

4. PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

RESOLUTION NO. 76-23

Motion to accept the minutes for the Public Hearing held on May 16, 2023 offered by Councilperson Reusser and seconded by Councilperson Allott. All in favor. Motion passed

AYES-5 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0
 Councilperson Reusser
 Councilperson Allott
 Councilperson Wright
 Councilperson Morris

5. SEWER-The Supervisor expressed thanks to the Town staff for all their help with the Income Survey. Was able to hit the minimum requirement of returns at almost 71%. This positions the town in a more favorable economic sense for grant funding. Councilperson Allott said it was an unbelievable effort to get these surveys done and gave thanks to all who helped he also explained the

percentages that was needed for this and federal funding. The preliminary Engineering Report has been submitted.

6. WATER-Dodson and Associates were here this AM. There was a Wetlands meeting with the APA at 3 sites. The Footbridge where the well sites are, behind the Public Health Building and at the present Chlorination Building. All 3 have been determined non-jurisdictional. The hope is for drilling to start in late fall. The town itself will do the work at the Spring house. Councilperson Wright asked if the Master Meter has been place at the Spring house and was told not yet.
7. VERIZON-The Supervisor shared a picture of what the new Verizon antenna will look like and its placement. He discussed how Verizon has been contacting various towns in Essex County to lower their lease payments.

RESOLUTION NO. 77-23

Motion to accept the new antenna(s) for Verizon contingent upon the town receiving a new contract with 2 five year extensions, no decrease clause and the present escalator remains. This will not leave the table until documentation is seen for this. This motion offered by Councilperson Wright and seconded by Councilperson Allott. All in favor. Motion passed.

Councilperson Wright said we might have to take a cut because Verizon is who most people use around here. Councilperson Reusser wanted to make sure the final decision will be when the Board see's the contract.

AYES-5	Supervisor Merrihew	NAYS-0
	Councilperson Wright	
	Councilperson Allott	
	Councilperson Morris	
	Councilperson Reusser	

8. AHI-Adirondack Health Institute is a non-profit that helps sign people up for health insurance. They would like to do this at the Town Hall and the Board had no objection to this.

RESOLUTION NO. 78-23

Motion for AHI to use the Town Hall offered by Councilperson Reusser and seconded by Councilperson Wright. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-5 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0
 Councilperson Reusser
 Councilperson Wright
 Councilperson Allott
 Councilperson Morris

- 9. NYS-DEC-As an update, the dirt at CHGC that needs to be removed will be done by the County. Still waiting for them to do it and it will be taken to Clinton landfill.
- 10. ATLANTIC TESTING-They have reengaged with DEC. Councilperson Wright asked if the riverbank had been looked at lately. Discussed about it being 10-15 feet undermined.
- 11. The Amish shed was delivered today at Noble Terrace. This will be used for storage. Herb Clark delivered it and The Supervisor had the John Deere brought up so work on the Dog Park can be started. Councilperson Wright would like to meet with the workers as some of the work has already been done.
- 12. Jack Pulsifer will push the brush dump back. He explained that he will have to get fuel at the Golf Course as he is not allowed to at the Highway. He gave an update on the Water Truck.
- 13. Councilperson Reusser asked about ordering firewood for the Highway now and was told this is generally done in the fall and has to be done with an RFP from 3 people. Jack Pulsifer said that a lot of money could be saved if they could use the firewood that the Highway cuts up and tosses because he's not allowed to bring back to the shop. Councilperson Reusser said she had a request for the town to purchase earlier if they wanted to. The Supervisor said that he has no issue doing this.

COMMITTEES:

14. YOUTH-COMMISSION-They need to appoint 2 more board members.

RESOLUTION NO. 79-23

Motion to accept the resignation of Dana Marshall offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Reusser. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-5	Supervisor Merrihew	NAYS-0
	Councilperson Allott	
	Councilperson Reusser	
	Councilperson Wright	
	Councilperson Morris	

RESOLUTION NO. 80-23

Motion to appoint Steve Walsh and Cathleen DiBartolomeo to the Youth Commission offered by Councilperson Reusser and seconded by Councilperson Allott. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-5	Supervisor Merrihew	NAYS-0
	Councilperson Reusser	
	Councilperson Allott	
	Councilperson Morris	
	Councilperson Wright	

15. WATER DISTRICT-The bills are going out.

16. PLANNING BOARD/ZONING BOARD-Charles Moisan, MD said that The Board did not meet and felt they should meet more often.

17. TRAILS-Councilperson Allott said they had an ice-cream social at the pavilion Saturday and its worth taking a look up there. He told about all the things that are in place there and how nice it is becoming. The entire board of Northern Forest is coming to Etown this Friday for their annual meeting. It's a key meeting as they will more than likely decide if they will invest more in Etown. He also expressed that it was not correct for someone to say at the beginning of the meeting, that the trail users do not change the town. He said one of the determinations Northern Forest will make will be how they help the Social Center. They are also looking at long

term housing/retail space here in town. He explained more on this topic and that there was a race this past weekend that started in Lake Placid, came over Jay Mountain, road all the Blueberry trails, etc. and ending up at Otis. 97 miles and 13,000 feet of climbing.

18.HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT-Discussed later in the meeting.

19.BUILDINGS & CODES-No discussion.

20.COBBLE HILL GOLF COURSE-Discussed previously.

21.GARBAGE-No discussion.

FINANCIALS:

TRANSFERS

RESOLUTION NO. 81-23

Motion to approve the Transfers offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Reusser. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-5 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0
 Councilperson Morris
 Councilperson Reusser
 Councilperson Wright
 Councilperson Allott

SUPERVISORS REPORT

RESOLUTION NO. 82-23

Motion to approve the Supervisors Report offered by Councilperson Wright and seconded by Councilperson Reusser. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-5 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0
 Councilperson Wright
 Councilperson Reusser
 Councilperson Allott
 Councilperson Morris

PAY ALL BILLS

RESOLUTION NO. 83-23

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

AYES-5

Supervisor Merrihew
Councilperson Reusser
Councilperson Morris
Councilperson Wright
Councilperson Allott

NAYS-0

Motion that the following bills be paid for the abstract period
1/1/2000 thru 5/15/2023.

General Fund	\$ 441.30
Highway Fund DA	\$ 7,102.99
Water District SW1	\$ 25.00
Water District SW3	\$ 50.00
Trust & Agency TA	\$ 1,039.58

COMMENTS:

-Councilperson Morris talked about a discussion he had with some folks regarding the Highway now being DPW and that other towns appoint their Superintendent. He said that they had put on a ballot to see if there was support to change this position from elected to appointed and perhaps this could be done here. He then said regarding the CHGC, no matter what is done it will still lose money. It's just a matter of how much and how much the town can subsidize. He felt that the only way to make it leasable was to upgrade the Club House and perhaps a grant to do this.

Councilperson Allott explained that there is a lot of work involved in getting grants. Perhaps that is something the Golfers could look into. He expressed that not one person that came to this meeting tonight discussed that the Course has lost a lot of money over the years and that it does have to be fiscal responsible. Councilperson Reusser said it would be helpful to her to have a report that shows the monthly income and the indebtedness that the town is incurring. The Supervisor showed her the most current report.

Trish Baker asked about the Membership list that is usually at the Course and was told Mike Dunsmore has it.

Discussion on the accuracy of reports, problems in changing anything, how to make more money, the goose mess, advertising and food sale at the Course. Discussion on alcohol sales with Ms. Baker stating she would not feel comfortable selling it at the Course. Councilperson Allott said he has made it a point to stop when he sees non local players and ask them their opinion on the Course. He said it's not a 10 out of 10 but they all had a reasonable quality experience.

Jack Pulsifer offered suggestions on how to get rid of the geese. Discussion made to open the Club house immediately. Ms. Baker will cover the Men's League and the Supervisor will cover the Women's League. Ms. Baker offered to volunteer coverage for the Lady's League from 2 PM until 5 PM free of charge.

RESOLUTION NO. 84-23

Motion to open the Golf Course starting June 22, 2023 through August 31, 2023 with the hours being 10 AM to 4:00 P M weekdays and 9 AM until 5 PM on the weekends offered by Councilperson Reusser and seconded by Councilperson Allott. All in favor. Motion passed.

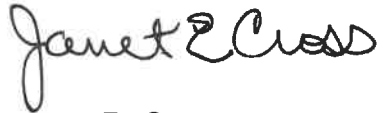
AYES-5	Supervisor Merrihew	NAYS-0
	Councilperson Reusser	
	Councilperson Allott	
	Councilperson Morris	
	Councilperson Wright	

-Susan Greschler and Peter McNally from Solstice LLC, spoke and showed a list of the costs for the Fairy Festival. Discussion held about this and about ROOST and monies for events.

-The Supervisor explained about the grant application and the data that was filed for Broadband to be placed in New Russia. Do not know yet what the Town's cost will be. Discussion on perhaps using the ROOST funds to help. Councilperson Reusser said she would look into what is needed for Solstice to apply for some funds.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet E. Cross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'C'.

Janet E. Cross,
Town Clerk