

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN
AUGUST 15, 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
Ben Morris-Councilperson
Jeffrey Allott-Councilperson
Cathleen Reusser-Councilperson

ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: William Wright

GUESTS: Charlie Moisan & Bridgette Allen

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

BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 93-23

Motion to accept the July 18, 2023 minutes offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Reusser. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-4 Supervisor Merrihew **NAYS-0**
Councilperson Morris
Councilperson Reusser
Councilperson Allott

1. **LOCAL LAW RPTL-** A public hearing was held regarding a Local Law adopting a sliding scale senior exemption.

RESOLUTION NO. 94-23

Motion to adopt Local Law No. 2-2023. A local law amending the exemption limits for RPTL §467 (Senior Citizens Exemption) to include sliding scale options 1,2 and 3. The base (50%) exemption to have an

income limit of \$25,000.00 and a final sliding scale income limit of \$33,399.99 for a 5% exemption. These new exemption limits will take effect for the 2024 assessment roll. This motion was offered by Councilperson Reusser and seconded by Councilperson Allott.

Roll call vote Councilperson Morris-yes
 Councilperson Allott-yes
 Councilperson Reusser-yes
 Supervisor Merrihew-yes

With 4 yes votes and 0 no votes this Resolution passed.

- 2. ENGINEER RFQ-They have been compiled and submitted to the interested agencies. We now have an agreement with Barton & Lagudice and Jack Dodson Associates. It has been explained that Mr. Dodson is a councilman for the City of Rotterdam and there would be a conflict of interest with him partnering without separate billing. The Supervisor explained about this. They have requested from the Town of Elizabethtown its position on whether the town wants them to continue as a partnership and respond with the RFQ from the County or would it be better for them both to submit proposals to that specific RFQ individually. Councilperson Allott expressed his concerns regarding this and felt that it's not a conflict of interest. Discussion regarding this.
- 3. SEWER-TIMELINE-The Supervisor handed out a sheet of some of the talking points that Adam Bailey had presented regarding the sewer project. It's an aggressive timeline but is the reality of what has to be accomplished. Councilperson Allott said they did a nice job pulling this draft together but the most important thing will be that they, as a Board, understand it and will be giving out the same answers if asked. Want to be sure that all are on the same page. Discussion on if there is need of a referendum and getting all information to the public and the states involvement. Councilperson Reusser asked if the scope of the project is still the same re: location and design and was told yes. More discussion as to what will be needed. Councilperson Allott said his goal would

be for a unanimous resolution from the County asking for special consideration for towns inside the Adirondack Park because of the hardship placed on them by the APA. He spoke of the list of what next needs to be done.

4. WATER-ASSET MANAGEMENT-The town is part of a county wide grant program to put all of the infrastructure assets into a quantified spread sheet. This is for all the infrastructures above the ground. They will come and take pictures and when more structures are built they keep track of all the assets.
5. CAPITAL PROJECT-All necessary applications are completed for the APA. The well sites are all non-jurisdictional. One design change has been done for the Old Chlorination House.
6. BROADBAND-RFQ's are out to all the players which right now is currently SLIC which now is also Westelcom. He explained about the actual internet speeds and how the broadband maps had to be challenged about the inaccurate speeds given. SLIC has been the most responsive. Verizon, Spectrum/Charter and SLIC/Westelcom all have 2 RFQ's to bid on. One regarding a denser zone around New Russia and another one that goes out to Malfunction Junction. He explained that it's an RFQ for the cost of service and the rest of it is the connect all. More discussion on this.
7. DOG PARK-The Supervisor met with Shonie Heald, Shannon Bronson and Patty Walsh and they are going to meet to lay out the perimeter of the park. Should be prepared in the next couple of weeks
8. FOOTBRIDGE-There is a sign in the Town Hall that had been placed at the Footbridge without permission. There had been a dog bite at the park recently and the Supervisor asked if a sign should be put up there saying all dogs on leash in the park.

RESOLUTION NO. 95-23

Motion to put up a sign at the Foot Bridge Park for all dogs to be on leash offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Reusser. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-4 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0
 Councilperson Morris
 Councilperson Reusser
 Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Reusser asked to have a dog waste bag receptacle placed there and Noble Terrace and it was agreed to.

9. SIGNS-MPH RADAR-The Supervisor has gotten quotes for 4 solar powered MPH signs. \$13,582.80 plus \$200.00 in shipping. 2 will be on Water Street, 1 on the Keene Road and 1 on Lincoln Pond Road. Discussion held on placement of these signs.

RESOLUTION NO. 96-23

Motion to purchase 4 solar powered MPH signs offered by Councilperson Reusser and seconded by Councilperson Allott. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-4 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0
 Councilperson Reusser
 Councilperson Allott
 Councilperson Morris

10. VERIZON-Just a reminder that the Board had okayed the amended lease. Verizon needs to know about lead paint where the antenna will be placed and the Supervisor will answer this.

11. FARRIE FESTIVAL-They had requested a donation from the town itself and it was discussed using ARPA funds. The Board was hesitant as it would set a precedence and open a door for all “for profit” businesses to ask for funds. The town can’t afford that. Councilperson Reusser suggested going for ROOST monies. The board wanted to express their support for the Festival and will help in other ways.

COMMITTEES:

12. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT-No discussion.

13. WATER DISTRICT-Discussed.

14. BUILDINGS & CODES-No discussion.

15. PLANNING BOARD/ZONING BOARD-No discussion.

16. COBBLE HILL GOLF COURSE-Pavers are done & look good.

17. YOUTH COMMISSION-A good year. It was opened up for County employees children to attend. Averaging 70 to 80 kids a day.

18. TRAILS-Started a new thing with trail work being done on Tuesdays in the evenings. Draws a lot of people. A lot of trees down so cleaning that up.

-Councilperson Allott said that at the Trail Center the sheet rock and strapping is in. Need David Dickinson to find the water piping.

Hoping to do the siding next week. He explained that Adam from Northern Forest is having his post wedding breakfast at the Pavilion. He said he got a call from someone who wants to use it to view the eclipse next year.

- There has been some aggressive ATV's on the trails and it is felt it is known who they are and they will be talked to.

-Councilperson Allott brought up the discussion happening on FB regarding CHGC. He expressed how the trails are done with an in-kind grant which is not costing the taxpayers anything. He also expressed how when one of the bikers/hikers see a problem they just fix it. He has gone over and over the Golf Course finances and said this issue is a real thing.

19. GARBAGE-No discussion.

COMMENTS:

1. Councilperson Morris has talked to Dan Wallace about the estimates for fixing the wreaths. He realizes that they need a lot of parts to fix and questioned what the town would like to do. The board discussed the cost of repair, the shape they are in etc. and decided to use solar. Bridgette Allen asked if there could be donations from houses and/or businesses that the wreaths are in front of.

RESOLUTION NO. 97-23

Motion for the town to spend up to \$500.00 to upgrade the Christmas wreaths offered by Councilperson Reusser and seconded by Councilperson Morris. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-4 Supervisor Merrihew Nays-0
 Councilperson Reusser
 Councilperson Morris
 Councilperson Allott

-Councilperson Morris wanted to make sure there is funding to get these put on the poles and was told yes there is. He also said work on them could be done in his garage.

-Councilperson Reusser asked about the Town Park Project. The Supervisor explained that a Resolution was done last month that diminished the scope of the project. She also asked if there would be a rededication for the Park but nothing planned yet. Discussion on cutting and replanting some of the trees. The Supervisor explained that part of that resolution was to also go forward with the Deep Hollow Boardwalk.

-Councilperson Morris asked if there are any plans for the Sunoco building and was told no. The Supervisor will reach out to the owner again to discuss.

-Councilperson Allott said there are a lot of side-by-sides running through town.

FINANCIALS:

TRANSFERS

RESOLUTION NO. 98-23

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

AYES-4 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0
 Councilperson Morris
 Councilperson Reusser
 Councilperson Allott

SUPERVISORS REPORT

RESOLUTION NO. 99-23

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

AYES-4 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0
 Councilperson Morris
 Councilperson Reusser
 Councilperson Allott

PAY ALL BILLS

RESOLUTION NO. 100-23

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

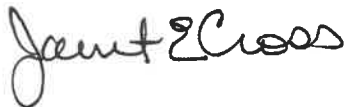
AYES-4 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0
 Councilperson Reusser
 Councilperson Allott
 Councilperson Morris

Motion that the following bill be paid for the abstract period 1/1/2000 thru 7/18/2023.

General Fund \$ 788.86
Highway Fund DA \$ 3,475.30
Water District SW1 \$ 25.00
Water District SW3 \$ 261.32
Trust & Agency \$ 3,431.83

This meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet E. Cross,
Town Clerk

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