

REGULAR MEETING TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN SEPTEMBER 19, 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
William Wright-Councilperson
Jeffrey Allott-Councilperson
Cathleen Reusser-Councilperson
Ben Morris-Councilperson

GUESTS: Larry Bashaw, Ethan Farmer, Bruce Pushee, Charlie Moisan, Mary McGowan, Gordon Costin and Carolyn Sicher.

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

1. The Elizabethtown-Lewis Emergency Squad spoke to the board regarding their finances and forming an Ambulance District. They need the Towns permission to start the process for this. Lewis Town Board voted unanimously in favor of this at their last meeting and ELES would like the Etown Boards yes vote. Carolyn Sicher spoke giving the approximate tax cost etc. Councilperson Reusser asked about the benefits of forming this district and Carolyn told her financial sustainability, transparency for the towns and eliminates the negotiation process that has to happen every year. More discussion on how the Squad collects monies and what they have to pay out, the difficulty of getting volunteers and having to pay staff now.

2. **RESOLUTION NO. 101-23**

Motion to accept the August 15, 2023 minutes offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Allott. All in favor. Motion passed.

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

NAYS-0

RESOLUTION NO. 102-23

Motion to move forward with an Ambulance District offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Reusser. Councilperson Wright expressed some concerns and it was explained that this has to follow publication requirements so the public will definitely be informed and have input.

Roll call vote held.

Councilperson Reusser-yes
Councilperson Morris-yes
Councilperson Wright-yes
Councilperson Allott-yes
Supervisor Merrihew-yes

With 5 yes votes this Motion passed.

BUSINESS:

3. BUDGET-The Supervisor told the board to prepare for the budget process starting next month.
4. SEWER-Councilperson Allott and the Supervisor are reviewing some of the engineering reports-RFQ's and there will be a meeting with everyone next week. There were only 2 responses to the RFQ and the Supervisor & Councilperson Allott explained about what AES and B & L submitted. Discussion on the timeline of what has transpired so far over the past few years. The Supervisor expressed his gratitude for all the help that has been received with ARCAP and Adam & Leslie. It was explained that the RFC scoring came in and it wasn't as high as expected or needed. He said Adam & Leslie wrote a letter to EFC explaining why the

town feels strongly that the scoring was wrong and gave examples.

5. WATER-The Assess Management firm will be in Friday and will document all the town's water assets. The Supervisor is working with Atty. Dan Manning to finalize the property transfer for the Foot Bridge water supply.
6. BROADBAND-The Supervisor gave thanks to Councilperson Allott for all his work with this project. He has gone out with 3 different carriers. Councilperson Allott said communication with a few folks in New Russia has not gone well. He said he is pushing the RFQ for what it would cost for Broadband to the 33 residences in the New Russia area. SLIC, Verizon and Charter say there is no line out that way. The companies are saying the town should wait until the BEAD monies is done which is a Federal grant. The calls that he and the Supervisor have been on are working to get the underserved areas on the map and hooked up. This is a very slow process. The town has offered Star Link to the underserved folks in New Russia but so far no takers. Councilperson Allott said that a case has been opened at the Attorney General's Office regarding no cell service in New Russia. He doesn't know if it's against the town or the carriers. He also is stepping back on this as he is being treated poorly by some folks in New Russia even though he has done his best to help. Councilperson Reusser said he has done an excellent job and how he has been treated is not warranted. It was reiterated that the town has not spent monies in other areas of the town to get Broadband. The town did not pay to get Lincoln Pond hooked up. It was a business decision by the internet company. More discussion on this.
7. DOG PARK-Hopefully in the next couple weeks will get the Highway guys together to work more on this. Shannon Bronson who is a big organizer of this Park, will be unavailable for a bit. Materials should be purchased next month. Councilperson Wright asked about the monies that had been raised for this project and

was told it was about \$3000.00-\$4000.00 so the town has that for the materials. Discussion on what material to use.

-There will be a volunteer day to get the hockey rink in shape.

8. COUNTY-Will be an event at the County Friday, Nov 3rd from 11AM until 4PM.

COMMITTEES:

9. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT-No discussion.
10. WATER DISTRICT-Discussed already.
11. BUILDING & CODES-No discussion.
12. PLANNING BOARD/ZONING BOARD-No discussion.
13. COBBLE HILL GOLF COURSE-Staffing at the Club House will end the last weekend in September. Discussion on shutting down the water lines. Councilperson Allott said the course seems to be in good shape and people will want to know what next year will be like there. The Supervisor said there should be another meeting to discuss this. He was told that the CHGC Association is interested in running it next year. More discussion on this.
14. YOUTH COMMISSION-Soccer going well.
15. TRAILS-Siding on the Hub will be in next week and work is being done on Joel's trail. Councilperson Allott described the new section that's being done to this trail. A map was shown of the trails and the proposed new section.

RESOLUTION NO. 103-23

Motion to accept the new trail at Blueberry Trails offered by Councilperson Reusser. Councilperson Morris said he would like to see the trail first. This was agreed upon so the motion was withdrawn.

-Discussion on the break-ins that have happened at the trail parking lot and at other places.

16. GARBAGE-No discussion.

FINANCIALS:

TRANSFERS

RESOLUTION NO. 104-23

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

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

SUPERVISORS REPORT

RESOLUTION NO. 105-23

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. 106-23

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


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

Motion that the following bills be paid for the abstract period 1/1/2020 thru 8/15/2023

General Fund	\$ 438.55
Highway Fund DA	\$ 2,255.40
Sewer Capital H	\$ 72.96
NBRS Recreation Grant	\$ 5,032.41
Trust & Agency	\$ 618.39

This meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

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 a distinct 'E'.

Janet E. Cross,
Town Clerk