

**REGULAR MEETING  
TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN  
OCTOBER 17, 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  
Cathleen Reusser-Councilperson  
William Wright-Councilperson

**ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:** Jeffrey Allott-Councilperson

**GUESTS:** Larry Bashaw, Charlie Moisan, Adam Bailey, Jack Pulsifer, Bridgette Allen, Michael Dunsmore and Harry Gough.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 107-23**

Motion to accept the September 19, 2023 minutes offered by Councilperson Wright and seconded by Councilperson Morris. All in favor. Motion passed.

<b>AYES-4</b>	Supervisor Merrihew	<b>NAYS-0</b>
	Councilperson Wright	
	Councilperson Morris	
	Councilperson Reusser	

**BUSINESS:**

1. There is a vacancy on the Planning Board After reviewing the letters of interest, they have recommended Adam Bailey to fill the vacancy as an alternate.

**RESOLUTION NO. 108-23**

Motion to appoint Adam Bailey to the Planning Board offered by Councilperson Wright and seconded by Councilperson Reusser. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-4 Supervisor Merrihew  
Councilperson Wright  
Councilperson Reusser  
Councilperson Morris

NAYS-0

2. SEWER-The request for qualifications has still not been finalized. There are 2 submissions. 1 from AES and 1 from Barton & Loguidice. A meeting has been set up for Thursday and hopefully will come to some conclusion. The Supervisor explained about the response.
3. MPH SIGNS-They have been ordered and discussion held on where they will go and placement of a crosswalk.
4. COBBLE HILL GOLF COURSE-YEAR END-The Supervisor met with the Sun News reporter on Monday and asked for an article as a follow up to the initial article that they did regarding the Golf Course. He explained that viewing the year-end financials, there has been a dramatic turnaround. Last year it was down about \$80,000.00. He said no one liked the "business model" he implemented for this year. The identification of the issues was labor. So by not hiring a Course Manager and by trying to balance volunteer labor to help, the savings were significant. He said he admits it wasn't perfect but it is still a work in progress. The only feedback that was received was that the Course was in good shape. The final year to date tally will come in at about zero (0). He stated that it's in the black a very small amount but that's a significant difference from where it was when it comes to a burden on the tax payers. Not everyone was pleased with how it was run but the Supervisor felt that this business model is how it needs to continue. He said that the Course is NOT going to close. The revenues are very similar with how it was when fully staffed. Councilperson Reusser said she thought lowering the membership price and advertising more would help increase membership. The Supervisor said that he documented a loss of around \$5000.00 due to deals to the Golf Association. Discussion on if we are one

of the lowest cost courses around and the comparison of the various courses. Councilperson Morris said that it was suggested by some members to raise the prices to what they are now and he didn't feel lowering the price would make a difference. He said that the feedback he has gotten was that it was a hard start to the season but got much better and was great for the big tournament at the end of the season. More discussion held.

5. TRAILS-Josh Wilson, who is the Executive Director of BETA is leaving that position. A new ED will be appointed. Josh has done a lot for the town at no cost and he will be missed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 109-23**

A motion of appreciation for Josh Wilson for all he has done for the Town offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Reusser. All in favor. Motion passed.

AYES-4 Supervisor Merrihew  
Councilperson Morris  
Councilperson Reusser  
Councilperson Wright

NAYS-0

6. ZONING-Short Term Rentals will be brought up for review in the near future. Need to hammer out an agreeable document.  
-Violation notices should be going out in November-December.  
The Planning Board will get copies.
7. BUDGET-The Budget workshop will be set up for Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 PM.  
-The Ambulance Squad has asked for their line item to be increased to \$155,000.00 which is incorporated into the Tentative Budget Proposal. Because of the positive outcome with CHGC finances, the budgeted monies for it could be used to help offset the increase requested by the Ambulance Squad.  
-The Supervisor explained about the town partnering for 1 year with the Social Center for a full time employee whose job is to sell Elizabethtown as a destination area. This will be reevaluated in 1 year to see if any benefit was realized. The town will pay ½

of the salary which will be around 20 to 25 thousand. Will be using Bed Tax monies for this. Councilperson Wright asked if the County would be willing to partake in the cost difference for the Ambulance Squad for perhaps working out of the building. Maybe use the building for clerk work. Discussion on this and the 5 Million grant from the state that has not been received yet.

-The Supervisor explained that he has never raised his salary but that in the Budget for 2024 he has increased it in the event someone else takes the Supervisor position. He felt it was the right thing to do. He also said that if there is no election change he would probably not be taking the increase.

8. CHRISTMAS TREE-Permission had been given by the owner of the Town Hill property to plant another tree as the present tree used for the town's Christmas lights is dead. The Supervisor will contact the property owner to discuss. This is budgeted for under Community Enhancements. It was felt that the tree in Memorial Park should be replaced also. Discussion on where the power is there and having to be careful regarding this and the size the tree should be.

**COMMITTEES:**

9. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT-The Supervisor has forwarded to the Highway the mandate regarding the electrical disconnects that have to be installed in the trucks. This is required by the Insurance Company. Jack Pulsifer, from the Highway told the Board which truck has been done and that another is being done now.

10. WATER DISTRICT-No discussion.

11. BUILDINGS & CODES-No discussion.

12. PLANNING BOARD/ZONING BOARD-Discussion already held.

13. COBBLE HILL GOLF COURSE-Reminder that Section 7 will be using the course the first week in November.

14. YOUTH COMMISSION-No discussion.

15. TRAILS-No discussion.

16. GARBAGE-No discussion.

- The Supervisor stated he had gotten an E-Mail regarding United Health Care. UVM will no longer be in district for this starting March 1, 2024. Doc Moisan explained about this.

- Councilperson Wright asked Larry Bashaw if there is a way for the Ambulance Crew to do a service for someone else while waiting for a call out to help offset some of the expenses. Mr. Bashaw said that was a great idea and discussed. Councilperson Morris questioned if County was in need of EMS help. Discussion on this, telehealth and contacting homebound folks.

-The Supervisor questioned what the difference this year that the squad needs more money and Mr. Bashaw explained about the decrease in volunteers and increase in paid staff. Discussion on costs of an ambulance and supplies. Supervisor Merrihew said that he had met with Bill Tansey and has been in communication with the State Comptroller. There is some resistance about a combined district but the Supervisor feels it will happen. More discussion held.

#### **FINANCIALS:**

#### **TRANSFERS**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 110-23**

Motion to approve the Transfers 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 Reusser	

#### **SUPERVISORS REPORT**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 111-23**

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

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

PAY ALL BILLS

**RESOLUTION NO. 112-23**

Motion to pay all bills for the abstract period 1/1/2000 thru 9/19/2023  
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 Wright

Resolved that the following bill be paid.

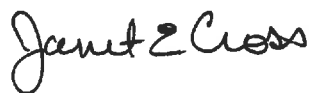
General Fund A	\$ 1,390.45
Highway Fund DA	\$ 8,018.40
Garbage District	\$ 66.65
Water District SW1	\$ 25.00
Water District SW3	\$ 25.00
Trust & Agency TA	\$ 918.35

**COMMENTS:**

- Councilperson Wright asked if the brush dump could get pushed back one more time before winter.
- The dirt at the Golf Course is finally going to be picked up by the County.
- Councilperson Morris spoke regarding the brush dump.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Janet E. Cross,  
Town Clerk