**REGULAR MEETING**

**TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN**

**DECEMBER 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 on December 19, 2023, and the public could attend in person or via GoToMeeting.

PRESENT: Noel Merrihew-Supervisor

Jeffrey Allott-Councilperson

Ben Morris-Councilperson

Cathleen Reusser-Councilperson-via GoToMeeting

ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:

William Wright-Councilperson

GUESTS: Mary McGowan, Jack Pulsifer, Evelyn Hatch, Dodson & Assoc., Adam Bailey, Sawyer Bailey, Megan Hall and Charlie Moisan.

The Supervisor called this meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Due to a lack of a quorum the minutes for November 2023 could not be voted on at this time.

**BUSINESS**

1. The Supervisor thanked everyone who was involved in helping yesterday during the flooding. A State of Emergency was called at 9AM. The school was the Emergency Shelter Center. The Wooden Nickel invited anyone to come there to shelter. There were no injuries reported. The big repair issues seem to be the dirt roads and if the monetary threshold is reached then we can receive FEMA funds.
2. AATV-A resolution of support will be done in January. This will be a general letter of support for cell tower coverage in Adirondack Park. All towns are doing this.
3. MASONIC TEMPLE-The Supervisor has met with the owner of the Masonic Temple building, and it was agreed that the town will purchase this building. All will be set for this purchase by the end of the week.
4. CHRISTMAS PARTY-This was held last Saturday at the CHGC. The Supervisor thanked William Wright and the Fire Company, the DPW, Dan Wallace and the Chamber for all their help in putting this together.
5. GRANT-The town was awarded the grant for the rehabilitation of Memorial Park and the Boardwalk on Deep Hollow Pond. The Boardwalk will require an APA variance. Victor Putnam is helping with this and will help get this put together. There will be volunteer effort to offset the Grant requirements.
6. DPW-Addressing an emergency on Hurricane Road. The Supervisor explained this.
7. WATER-Received a notice of violations on the last water inspection. The Supervisor explained about this and said he communicated with Mr. Dodson. He showed the Board the response to this State from our engineers regarding these violations. The most critical ones will be addressed.

-He has met with the County Attorney and said the next step that needs to be taken is the division of the property for the Chlorination House.

-Councilperson Morris arrived and the Board meeting now had a quorum.

MINUTES

**RESOLUTION NO. 118-2023**

Motion to approve the minutes of November 15, 2023, offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Morris. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-3 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Morris

1. LULL-The Supervisor completed the letters to the non-compliant property owners, and these will go out next week after review from the Attorney and Code Officer. The Code Officer has taken pictures of these delinquent properties, especially along the river.

-Councilperson Allott brought forth a consideration of establishing a temporary moratorium on Short Term Rentals. He explained about this and the language that is needed and would be 6 months while working with the Association of Towns for wording. Will work with the Planning Board on guidance. This will not affect the present rentals, just new rentals that want to be established.

9. STARLINK-As discussed again at the November meeting, and a resolution being previously made, the town will use ARPA funds to purchase STARLINK equipment for the unserved low-income folks to get highspeed internet access. The individuals would be responsible for the monthly costs. Councilperson Allott has created a letter to send out for individuals to apply for this. After reading the letter discussion was held.

10. BRONSON WAY-The incoming DPW Superintendent Jack Pulsifer, has taken pictures of Bronson Way to print off and help apply for FEMA.

**COMMITTEES:**

11. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT-Discussed.

12. WATER DISTRICT-Discussed.

13. BUILDING & CODES-No discussion.

14. PLANNING BOARD/ZONING BOARD-Discussed.

15. COBBLE HILL GOLF COURSE-Discussed.

16. YOUTH COMMISSION-No discussion.

17. TRAILS-No discussion.

18. GARBAGE-No discussion.

**FINANCIALS:**

TRANSFERS

**RESOLUTION NO. 119-23**

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

Carried.

AYES- Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Morris

**RESOLUTION NO. 120-23**

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

AYES-3 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Allott

**RESOLUTION NO. 121-23**

Motion to pay all bills for the abstract period 1/1/2020 thru 11/15/2023 offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Allott. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-3 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Allott

Resolved that the following bills be paid.

General Fund A $ 3,683.51

Highway Fund DA $ 4,200.94

Water District SW3 $ 650.04

Water Capital 2020H $ 30.53

NBRC Recreation Grant $ 4,352.00

Trust & Agency TA $ 1,466.87

**RESOLUTION NO. 122-23**

Motion to approve the Doc. Lopez run at the CHGC offered by Councilperson Allott and Seconded by Councilperson Morris. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-3 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Morris

-Supervisor Merrihew spoke regarding the Wastewater Project and introduced Jason Denno, Jack Dodson and Don Fletcher, the representatives that have been working on this project. The Supervisor spoke regarding how important this project is and that Elizabethtown itself cannot move forward without this project. Don Fletcher from Barton &Loguidice spoke first. A packet had been given out to the Board members and he spoke about the cost, locations, areas to be served etc. The latest report was completed in June and looked at some of the sites. The current estimate is about 24.2 million dollars’ worth of capital cost. He discussed the operation and maintenance of this project. More discussion with Jack Dodson speaking about the piping, collection system, sludge trucking, funding etc. Grant funding starts in April. A lot of discussion on this topic.

-Adam Bailey asked B & L regarding perhaps a new site location, if the Matrix under the current contract covered this or would it require a new contract. He was told it is not listed under the current scope and Councilperson Allott said it should have been in the quote. Discussion on extending the district and the additional cost verses how many houses covered.

-Mary McGowan said she wanted to look at this project from an environmental perspective and asked if you would put this in your back yard, near a playground, senior housing etc. She felt it was short sited to place this on Woodruff St. Mr. Dodson explained that the project is rated for environmental impact. Councilperson Allott asked if she had been to the Wadhams site that is right next to a playground. She spoke about the Essex one also. Mr. Dodson explained that all things are considered in the Matrix for the different sites. More discussion on this regarding community discussion and impact. Also, possible flooding.

-Doc Moisan said that whatever system is put in place, it must be affordable for the community. He asked what sites are being considered.

-Megan Hall asked how the community would be apprised of this topic and it was explained about the Public Outreach with using social media, Website, mailing and Public Informational meetings. The Supervisor explained about the partnership the Town has with the Social Center to create a Marketing position to advance information regarding the Town itself.

-Councilperson Allott requested the incoming Supervisor to move January’s meeting to Monday the 22nd. This was agreed to. The date for the Organizational meeting was set for the 2nd of January 2024 at 7PM.

-Megan Hall asked if we still had Christmas Wreaths for the Town and it was explained that they need work and hopefully done next year. The Supervisor said that 2 new trees have been ordered to replace the ones on the Town Hill and in Memorial Park. Councilperson Allott wondered what it would take for the County to decorate the trees on their lawn.

-Sawyer Bailey asked about MPH signs for Water Street and the Supervisor explained that 3 have been purchased and waiting

for them to come in. 2 will be for Water Street and 1 for Lincoln Pond Road.

**RESOLUTION NO. 123-23**

Motion to reject the RFQ’S that were received for the Wastewater Project from Essex County offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Morris. All in favor. Motion carried,

AYES-3 Supervisor Merrihew NAYS-0

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Reusser asked it to be recorded that she remotely agreed with this Resolution.

-This meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet E. Cross,

Town Clerk