**REGULAR MEETING**

**TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN**

**JANUARY 22, 2024**

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 January 22, 2024, and the public could attend in person or via GoToMeeting.

PRESENT: Cathleen Reusser-Supervisor

Ben Morris-Councilperson

Jeffrey Allott-Councilperson

William Wright-Councilperson

GUESTS: Bill Smith, Megan Hall, Kevin Hall, Mary McGowan, Evelyn Hatch, Bruce Pushee, Charlie Moisan, Paige Saltamach, George Saltamach and Paul Pulsifer and Harry Gough by GoToMeeting.

This meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

**RESOLUTION NO. 38-2024**

Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:31 PM offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Morris. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-O

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Wright

**RESOLUTION NO. 39-2024**

Motion to exit Executive Session at 6:50 PM offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Allott. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Wright

**RESOLUTION NO. 40-24**

Motion to approve the Minutes for the December 20,2023 meeting offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Allott.

All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Wright

**BUSINESS:**

1. BOARD SEAT-In December 2023, an ad was placed in the Sun Community News for letters of interest to fill the anticipated Board seat vacancy. After reviewing the two letters that were received, it has been decided to appoint Adam Bailey.

**RESOLUTION NO. 41-24**

Motion to appoint Adam Bailey to the vacant Board Seat for the remainder of the term of office offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Morris. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Allott said that under any other circumstances Megan Hall would be a perfect candidate for the Board but because of the Wastewater Project and Adams knowledge, it needs to be him right now. The board discussed why. The Supervisor said that it was important to have people that understand this project as it must get done.

1. PAY RATES-The Supervisor said that there were some employee rates of pay discussed in the Executive Session.

**RESOLUTION NO. 42-24**

Motion to adjust an employee's base rate of pay to a living wage not to exceed 5% of their wage offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Allott.

Councilperson Wright asked if this was going to be across the board for all employees and was told no not at this time. Was discussed that because this employee was hired with certain certifications, the pay rate needed to be adjusted. Councilperson Wright felt that at the next meeting the other’s pay rate should be discussed. Councilperson Allott asked to see what everyone is getting paid, and this will be looked at at the next meeting.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Wright

The Supervisor congratulated Adam Bailey as he was unanimously picked to fill the vacant Board seat. He was invited to join the Board meeting in progress and the Town Clerk swore him in.

1. WORK PACKETS-The Supervisor stated that she will supply the work packets for the Board on the Friday before the following Tuesday’s meeting. She explained what will be in the packets and that there will be only one sheet for the Board members to sign stating that they have looked at and agreed to the bills for the month.
2. ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS-They will be holding their annual business session in NYC on February 21st.

**RESOLUTION NO. 43-24**

Motion to allow Cassandra D’Agostino, Supervisors Clerk, to attend the meeting and to be Elizabethtown’s voting delegate offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Morris. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-5 Supervisor Reusser Nays-0

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Bailey

1. APLGRB-The Supervisor showed the agreement between the town and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board. They attend all APA hearings and meetings and will advocate for the Town for any projects we might have that need APA approval.

**RESOLUTION NO. 44-24**

Motion to expend $300.00 to the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board offered by Councilperson Wright and seconded by Councilperson Allott. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-5 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Bailey

1. EMS-In the Organizational Meeting the Board voted to support the Elizabethtown-Lewis EMS and the Supervisor signed that Contract.
2. WATER PROJECT-No updates.
3. Sewer- On the 11th Councilperson Morris, Councilperson Bailey (who was not on the Board at that time so there was not a quorum for this meeting) and the Supervisor met with Barton and Loguidice to view and discuss the various possible sites for the Sewer project. The Supervisor said she came out of the meeting with her top two sites. Councilperson Bailey spoke and said he felt it was good to view the various sites and not just have one pushed through. He liked that they could see them and ask the Engineers questions regarding each place. It was discussed about the Matrix, making the decision on a site, and working on the finance side of this project.

Councilperson Morris gave his opinion on this project. He said it will not be known exactly what this will cost. He expressed that if we go with Reed Beds it will affect people’s property. He did not feel Reed Beds were the way to go and that trucking the sludge might be and explained why. More discussion on trucking, costs, grants and how necessary this is. It was expressed how difficult it is to get CDL drivers that would be necessary for transporting the sludge and the Supervisor felt we should go for the treatment plant at the start of this project as it is unknow if we can get more monies down the line.

Councilperson Bailey said that the RFP’s were due this Friday for the next phase of engineering. Should be able to get a better idea of the assorted options after reviewing them.

Councilperson Wright asked what sites were looked at and was told Noble Terrace at an area near Barton Brook, Foot Bridge Lane, the Golf Course, Woodruff Lane, and Route 9 behind the old motel.

He asked if there were 2 or 3 sites that were better than the others. He was told that the Route 9 site was discouraged but will know more after the RFP’s come in.

1. ROAD SIGNS-DPW Deputy Saltamach was asked about the electronic road signs, and he stated that they are here and will be installed. He explained about the distance apart that they are required to be. Councilperson Wright said there must be a requisition from the town to put signs in.

**RESOLUTION NO. 45-24**

Motion to install MPH signs on Water Street offered by Councilperson Wright and seconded by Councilperson Allott. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-5 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Morris

10.Councilperson Wright said there are two vehicles that are in the way for plowing on Rt. 9 and asked the town to address this as there is a town ordinance regarding this.

11.WATER DISTRICT-No discussion.

12.BUILDINGS & CODES-No discussion.

13.PLANNING-They are having a meeting tomorrow with the Hospital at 5:30 pm with a regular meeting right after that. Mr. Pushee said that the ZBA has a variance meeting with Northern Forest.

14.COBBLE HILL GOLF COURSE-Going through the numbers to see how 2023 did and will have this information soon.

15.YOUTH COMMISSION-Willsboro is asking to join.

16.TRAILS-No discussion.

**FINANCIALS:**

TRANSFERS

No Transfers for this month to approve.

SUPERVISORS REPORT

**RESOLUTION NO. 46-24**

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

AYES-5 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Bailey

**RESOLUTION NO. 47-24**

Motion to pay all bills for #ABS Jan 24 1-1-24 to 1-35-24 offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Bailey. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-5 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Morris

Resolved that the following bills be paid.

General Fund A $ 9,950.71

Highway Fund DA $ 32,906.57

Lighting District $ 2,000.79

Water District SW1 $ 565.00

Water District SW3 $ 17,547.68

Water Capital 2020H $ 89.89

NBRC Recreation Grant $ 85.25

**COMMENTS:**

-Mary McGown questioned why her water pressure was lower after the last fix and Councilperson Morris gave her suggestions as to what it could be.

-Bruce Pushee spoke about the Bed Tax and that the revenue is to be used to promote tourism. He questioned why the Social Center will be getting funds from this revenue. Supervisor Reusser explained that she met with Ms. Burdo from the Social Center and that they have a grant that they received from the Arts Council. Councilperson Allott explained that the town had agreed to give a portion of a salary for one year, to a person that will be hired through the Social Center to promote tourism. This person will help with the Town Website and perhaps the Chamber of Commerce too. It is a temporary position but aimed at tourism. The Supervisor will look more into this. She asked the Chamber for a budget, a request for funds and an agenda from them. More discussion on this topic.

-Discussion on plowing Bronson way.

-Bruce Pushee asked about the pay out to B & L after they sued the Town. He also asked if the Town sent out non-compliant letters. The Supervisor said that the Codes Officer is working with the property owners. He questioned if there are monies for people that had damage from the last flood and was told no as the damage threshold was not met. Councilperson Morris questioned this and Harry Gough who works with FEMA, explained.

-Charlie Moison asked if the Planning Board received copies of the delinquent properties letters. Councilperson Wright gave an explanation on this.

-Evelyn Hatch said she understood that the Codes Officer was not certified. She was told that he IS certified and that he has a couple classes to take.

-Councilperson Wright stated that there is an open seat on the Planning Board and Megan Hall would be good for this seat.

**RESOLUTION NO. 48-24**

Motion to end this meeting offered by Councilperson Wright and seconded by Councilperson Morris. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-5 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Allott

This meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet E. Cross,

Town Clerk