**REGULAR MEETING**

**TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN**

**NOVEMBER 19, 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 November 19, 2024, and the public could attend in person or via GoToMeeting.

PRESENT: Cathleen Reusser-Supervisor

Jeffrey Allott-Councilperson

Adam Bailey-Councilperson

Ben Morris-Councilperson

GUESTS: Charlie Moisan, Bruce Pushee, Mike Dunsmore, Paige Saltamach & Jack Pulsifer.

GoToMeeting: George Saltamach and Harry Gough.

Start time 6:30 PM.

**BUSINESS:**

1. RESTORE NY GRANT-RESOLUTION-Supervisor Reusser read the proposed Resolution.

**RESOLUTION NO. 166-24**

WHEREAS the Town of Elizabethtown is eligible for grant funding under round 9 of the Restore NY Communities Initiative Municipal Grant Program, and

WHEREAS the Town Council has considered proposals that qualify for funding under the program and selected one project to be included in an application that will be submitted to Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) as follows:

Rehabilitation of the historic Hale House and Hale Law Library in the Town of Elizabethtown. The project will rehabilitate the vacant 6,572 square foot main house and vacant 1,400 law library, both at 13 Lawrence Way, into 5 units of middle-income housing.

WHEREAS this project is consistent with all existing local plans, the proposed financing is appropriate for the project, the project will facilitate effective and efficient use of existing and future public resources so as to promote both economic development and preservation of community resources and the project develops and enhances infrastructure and/or other facilities in a manner that will attract, create and sustain employment opportunities in the Town of Elizabethtown.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council hereby supports and will sponsor an application for Restore NY funding for 13 Lawrence Way and will administer the grant in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations established by ESDE, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign the applications and any agreements required by ESDC for grant funding that results from the application.

Above Resolution offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Morris. All in favor. Roll call vote held.

Councilperson Allott-yes

Councilperson Morris-yes

Supervisor Reusser-yes

Councilperson Bailey-recused himself

With 3 yes votes this Motion carried.

1. REDUNDANT WATER-AWATING THE “RELEASE” FROM HHS-Waiting on the release from Health & Human Services. They have received the money transfer, and we are waiting for them to acknowledge the receipt of this transfer. After that the County Attorney will process the land transaction between the County and the Town.

-A lead line service survey was done and once completed, it was determined that 225 residences had galvanized pipes from the town’s service line to their residence. The problem with the galvanized service line is that approximately 20 years ago lead was used as a packing around the valves and if the lead leached it was attracted to the galvanized pipe and had the potential to contaminate the home’s drinking water. The Town of Elizabethtown has never had a positive lead result from its routine testing. The Supervisor said if lead was a factor contaminating a person’s home, they would already know it and be symptomatic. The lead was removed from the system many years ago and the Supervisor said it isn’t a problem. It became a problem when Detroit had their water system issue. The EPA and the Departments of Health in all 50 states were charged with having to do lead service line surveys. She said ours is not a problem and there is no science to show that it has ever been a problem. Notice was required to go to the homeowners regarding this. If there is any concern the Supervisor recommends having your water tested.

-Paige Saltamach asked if we have a water testing place that will be servicing our area and was told it’s being worked on.

-Councilperson Allott asked about the BAN renewal and was told it is done and he then asked about the payments.

-Bruce Pushee asked if it was the homeowner’s responsibility to change out the piping from the road to their homes and was told yes.

-Councilperson Bailey asked if there were any grants available to help homeowners change out their water piping and was told yes. The Supervisor is working with Anna Reynolds regarding this.

3. WASTEWATER TREATMENT-UPDATE-Did a walk through of a private property with the owner to see alternatives to ground discharge. Did not feel optimistic about that. The test pits that were dug resulted in one looking pretty good and one not. Still brainstorming and looking at options. Septic surveys are being done. Next Wastewater workshop is December 3rd at 1:30 PM.

1. ORRICK-In August we started doing work with Orrick who assists on municipal bonding for projects. Working with them to fund the FEMA projects. An error was made in the posting timeline, so it needs to be done again.

**RESOLUTION NO. 167-24**

A Resolution authorizing, subject to Permissive Referendum, the issuance of $6,500,000 bonds of the Town of Elizabethtown, Essex County, New York, to pay the cost of the reconstruction and resurfacing of various roads throughout and in and for said town offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Bailey. (See attached Notice of Adoption of Resolution for complete wording). Roll call vote held.

Councilperson Morris-yes

Councilperson Bailey-yes

Councilperson Allott-yes

Supervisor Reusser-yes

With 4 yes votes this motion passed.

5.MINUTES

**RESOLUTION NO. 168-24**

Motion to accept the minutes of the Ambulance Workshop meeting held October 15, 2024, offered by Councilperson Bailey and seconded by Councilperson Allott. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Morris

**RESOLUTION NO. 169-24**

Motion to accept the minutes for the Regular Meeting held October 15, 2024, offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Bailey. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Allott

**RESOLUTION NO. 170-24**

Motion to accept the minutes of the Budget Workshop held October 29, 2024, offered by councilperson Bailey and seconded by Councilperson Allott. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Morris

**RESOLUTION NO. 171-24**

Motion to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing held October 29,2024 regarding the Tax Cap offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Morris

All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES- Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Bailey

**RESOLUTION NO. 172-24**

Motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held October 29, 2024, re: Tax Cap, offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Bailey. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Allott

**RESOLUTION NO. 173-24**

Motion to accept the minutes of the Workshop/Regular Meeting of November 5, 2024, offered by Councilperson Allott and Seconded by Councilperson Bailey. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Morris

6. HIGHWAY-FEMA, ROARING BROOK LANE COMPLETED, NYSDOT SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR EM. SERVICES-Highway Superintendent Pulsifer said that he met with Surveyor Kevin Hall at the mine site, and he will render a few more drawings. Would like to make the site bigger than 5 acres. Now need to work on the permitting process. Councilperson Allott explained that it will be 7 acres to match the original permitting done in 1995. Kevin will submit the preliminary map to the DEC and find out what else needs to be done. More discussion on this.

-The Highway Superintendent and the Supervisor are working on the Account Data to submit to FEMA to get payment on the road projects.

-**RESOLUTION NO. 174-24**

Motion to sign the Shared Service Agreement with NYS DOT for emergency assistance 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 Bailey

-Roaring Brook Lane is completed. Water Street has been paved. Discussed if lines should be put on the road.

7. CHGC-LOSS OF $6,000. EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT/BUYOUT-They are now closed. Mike Dunsmore explained what was done for closing and cleaning up. Discussed the financials, logo, scorecards and an employee retirement/buyout.

**RESOLUTION NO. 175-24**

Motion to authorize the Golf Course Manager to purchase the 1999 Cushman utility vehicle for $500.00 offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Bailey. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-O

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Morris

8. LANDFILL-GREEN $3.00, ORANGE $6.00-The cost of landfill tickets will go up January 1, 2025.

**RESOLUTION NO. 176-24**

Motion to authorize the increase in landfill tickets from $2.00 to $3.00 for green tickets and $4.00 to $6.00 for orange tickets 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 Bailey

-Garbage will be picked up on Wednesday the 27th as Thursday the 28th is Thanksgiving.

9. H & T CHARLES TUTUNJIAN-Still waiting and nothing new to report.

10.NCSPCA 2025 CONTRACT-They now have stricter guidance. The County put together a taskforce which Supervisor Reusser is part of to seek recommendations regarding dog control, especially dangerous dogs. The towns will now enter into a Shelter Agreement where instead of one lump sum it will be a cost of $350.00 per dog. This fee will apply if a dog is not picked up by their owners within 5 days. Before the end of 5 days if the owner picks up their dog the fee lands on the owner. The SPCA is also going to be conservative of what medically unstable dogs they will be able to take in. The Town will probably have to budget more money going forward.

-The Town needs a new Dog Control Officer.

-More discussion on this topic.

**RESOLUTION NO. 177-24**

Motion to allow the Supervisor to sign the agreement with NCSPCA for 2025 using the $350.00 per dog fee for unclaimed dogs 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 Bailey

11. BOQUET VALLEY YOUTH COMM-RENEE MARKWICA-

**RESOLUTION NO. 178-24**

Motion to accept Renee Markwica as a new Youth Board member offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Bailey. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Allott

12. BRASS-As a reminder there is a $600.00 donation to BRASS as budgeted every year. They are very helpful and informative with the testing they do. The new Director is Colin Power. They are supplying technical assistance regarding the bridge on County Rt. 8 and Forge Lane.

13. TRAIL CENTER-Councilperson Allott spoke and said the town should see the $163,000.00 soon. He explained regarding that.

-Adirondack Community Alliance met last week and Councilperson Allott spoke about them and what they are doing.

-The Trail Committee has 10 members. They meet regularly at the Trail Center. Discussed what they are working on.

-Etown Beat Down happened on October 21st. About 40 riders.

-Would like permission to build a little shed for the groomer. Have most of the material now.

-He feels the town needs to establish a Local Law regarding what happens if someone misuses any town property.

14. ARPA FUNDS-Have $115,000.00 which must be under contract by December 31, 2024. The Supervisor would like to use this toward new software. She explained that it’s about $40,000.00 for Williamson, which is felt to be the best. The ice-skating rink would be a good use and perhaps the sidewalks and the golf cart paths. Discussion on this topic held.

**RESOLUTION NO. 179-24**

Motion to request for bids on the cost to do surfacing work at the Noble Terrace Skating Rink 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 Bailey

**RESOLUTION NO. 180-24**

Motion to enter into a contract with Williamson Law on a financial suite for the Town of Elizabethtown offered by Councilperson Bailey and seconded by Councilperson Morris. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Allott

**COMMITTEES:**

15. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT-The Highway Superintendent felt the town should look into a Local Law regarding maintaining seasonal roads. The Supervisor will investigate this.

16. WATER DISTRICT-No discussion.

17. BUILDING & CODES-No discussion.

18. PLANNING BOARD/ZONING BOARD-Councilperson Allott had someone ask about our plans for Short Term Rentals. This is an issue the Town needs to work on.

19. COBBLE HILL GOLF COURSE-Discussed.

20. YOUTH COMMISSION-Discussed.

21. TRAILS-Discussed.

22. GARBAGE-Discussed.

**FINANCIALS:**

TRANSFERS

**RESOLUTION NO. 181-24**

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

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Morris

SUPERVISORS REPORT

**RESOLUTION 182-24**

Motion to approve the Supervisors Report offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Bailey.

All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Morris

PAY ALL BILLS

**RESOLUTION 183-24**

Motion to pay all bills for Abstract #11 ABS 10-1 to 10-54 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 Bailey

Resolved that the following bills be paid,

General Fund $118,246.61 PAID $39,731.16

Highway Fund $415,602.55

Sidewalk District $ 268.67

Garbage District $ 1,761.63

Lighting District $ 2,188.88

Water District 3 $ 6,141.82

Water Capital 2020 $ 89.89

Recreation Grant $ 0.00

**COMMENTS:**

**-**Councilperson Bailey wanted to express his thanks to all who voted for him.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet E. Cross

Town Clerk