**WORKSHOP/REGULAR MEETING**

**TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN**

**OCTOBER 1, 2024**

A Workshop/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 October 1, 2024, and the public was welcome to attend.

Present: Cathleen Reusser-Supervisor

Adam Bailey-Councilperson

Jeffrey Allott-Councilperson

ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: Ben Morris-Councilperson

William Wright-Councilperson

GUESTS: Greg Swart, Leslie Karasin, Matt Fuller and Patty Walsh

Start time 1:30 PM

-Mr. Swart discussed going to the Wastewater people in Ray Brook or Warrensburg.

-Discussed a call that took place yesterday that Mr. Swart said he learned some things on the sampling protocols that was helpful. Didn’t get told we are getting funded. Talked about what needs to be done for the grant funding, on EFC scoring and the Hospitals SPDES permit will give us the points from Intergovernmental needs. Next year if we have a financing map that goes in it puts us at 51%. The funding line this year is 53% so we are close. Discussed what else is needed to get to the necessary percentage points.

-Attorney Fuller said he didn’t come away from yesterday’s meeting with a good feeling about fundability. Going to have to find widespread issues with septic systems and water quality. He felt the town needed to realize this is an uphill battle. A lot of discussion on what should be done to help this along.

-Discussed how much it will cost just to get to the point to submit for a preliminary SPDES permit and how long it will take DEC to turn this around. A lot of discussion on how hard it is to do this project.

-Supervisor Reusser spoke and said that after yesterday’s phone call she came away feeling a bit defeated and unsure. The amount of money that the town is spending to get this going with no funding at this point and that we as a municipality and the taxpayers may have to eat these monies. How likely is it that this project can be steered to a finish. The town is investing in this with no guarantee that this money isn’t going down the same rabbit hole that it’s gone down for the last 20 years.

-Mr. Swart said need to keep brainstorming.

-Atty Fuller will be sending an email to the Town Board regarding the issue of paying for all this work up front.

-Patty Walsh spoke and felt the town should get in touch with the town’s local representative from the Governor’s office and get their help.

-Mr. Swart said there are a couple of topics that a final decision is needed.

-Discussion on who might go to talk to the Governor’s representative and some talking points.

-Mr. Swart said that the project is basically ready with only a couple more things to be done. He said we are almost at the scoring line right now. Discussion on this. He had a couple of concerns regarding the affluent discharge. He felt from the engineering point there are a long ways from a comfort level of signing off on how discharge will be done. Need to talk through what the town wants to do. Need to do soil borings and that will be in the 20-to-30-thousand-dollar range. Should be done soon. He explained the process and what still needs to be done, and the costs associated with this. Direct discharge to the river is the best option. A decision must be made by the beginning of next year. The Supervisor asked what he thought was an approximate cost to get to the no or go point and was told about $100,000.00.

-Ms. Karasin asked if the only reason not to go with river discharge is because of the public’s perception. The Supervisor said no and explained. Councilperson Allott said that he felt one of the compelling reasons was public opinion.

-Lots of discussion on ground or river discharge.

-Mr. Swart said that if we want to make the nice straight forward decisions, we need to keep moving now but we do not have the finances. The town needs to decide if we keep going with the design. He needs to know by the next Board meeting.

-Finances discussed with the Supervisor expressing how much has had to be spent because of the flooding but would still like to move forward with this project even with the risk of not getting reimbursed.

-Councilperson Allott stated that there are two thresholds we must pass through. One with EFC and another with the community vote.

-Attorney Fuller explained that the district should be covering the costs, so the Board needs to discuss this. The town should set up a Sewer account, but he was not too sure that it needs to be done now.

-Mr. Swart asked if we are using the 2010 district and SEQR, which is the Golf Course and ground water infiltration. If we are keeping that, are we at a point where we do a bond resolution for costs. Attorney Fuller said and explained.

-A finance application would need to be in by May 30, 2025, which requires the updated bonds etc. January 2025 should have all decisions made.

-Mr. Swart said that as per the Engineering costs the budget has been mostly used up from the ARPA funds. The Supervisor explained that she has not used these funds. Atty Fuller and Mr. Swart said that the original contract was set up to use these funds and that are now outside the timeframe. The Supervisor will investigate this. Mr. Swart explained his fees and what needs to be done, and the town should have about $50,000.00 to finish out this year. He said to continue he will need a contract worked out. Need to do river sampling and septic system investigation/reporting. Town needs to decide on timeline and would be around $100,000.00 to get through the first quarter of next year.

-No Northern Boarders grant this round. Town needs to work on its economic sales pitch for this project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet E. Cross,

Town Clerk