**REGULAR MEETING**

**TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

A 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 on September 17, 2024, and the public was welcome to attend in person or via GoToMeeting.

PRESENT: Cathleen Reusser-Supervisor

William Wright-Councilperson

Ben Morris-Councilperson

Adam Bailey-Councilperson

ABSENT WITH EXCUSE: Jeffrey Allott-Councilperson

GUESTS: Gordon Costin, Dr Charles Moisan, Sawyer Bailey, Evelyn Hatch, Mike Dunsmore, Jack Pulsifer and Harry Gough.

This meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

1. Sawyer Bailey, Executive Director of ADK Action, spoke. She said their organization is housed out of Keeseville and they do a lot of different projects that revolve around community development and ECO system conservation. She spoke about the housing challenges here in the North Country, Land Banks and housing being built for the local workforce for long term rental. While trying to figure out housing for people that want to be here, they teamed up with ROOST and Living ADK. They want to work with short-term rental owners to help them transition their units into long term rentals. They are calling it the Long-Term Catalyst Program. She passed out a sheet explaining about this (see attached). She explained more about this. They have received a little bit of Grant funding to do small monthly incentives for landlords who want to join them and convert their property. Said it’s $200.00 to $400.00 for one year to experiment with long term rental instead of short term. This program will be piloted out of the Old Forge area and another here in and around Elizabethtown. This program will be launched in the beginning of October. She then answered any questions asked.
2. MINUTES

**RESOLUTION NO. 141-24**

Motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of August 20, 2024, offered by Councilperson Wright and seconded by Councilperson Bailey. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Morris

**RESOLUTION NO. 142-24**

Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 20, 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 Wright

**RESOLUTION NO. 143-24**

Motion to approve the Workshop/Regular Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2024, offered by Councilperson Bailey, and seconded by Councilperson Wright. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Morris

**BUSINESS:**

1. EMS DISTRICT BUDGET 2025 RECEIVED-SCHEDULE SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING-The Supervisor had forwarded the EMS District Budget for 2025 to the Board members and needs to schedule a special budget meeting for this. Would like a couple Board Members and Carolyn Sicher from the Ambulance Squad to join in. It was decided September 30, 2024, at 3:30 PM.
2. REDUNDANT WATER-UPDATE, RESOLUTIONS: PURCHASE 1.74 ACRES ECPH AND RFP FOR PRODUCTION WELL INSTALLATION, TESTING AND PERMITTING-Regarding the redundant water at the Foot Bridge, the Essex County Board of Supervisors approved the sale of the County property on Foot Bridge Lane to the town. It’s a 1.74-acre parcel and the established value is $2566.67. This amount is what it is costing the County to do the transfer.

**RESOLUTION NO. 144-24**

Motion to purchase the County property on Foot Bridge Lane and to pay the Count $2566.67 offered by Councilperson Morris and seconded by Councilperson Bailey. Roll call vote held.

Councilperson Bailey-yes

Councilperson Morris-yes

Councilperson Wright-yes

Supervisor Reusser-yes

With 4 yes votes this motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 145-24**

Motion to obtain proposals for production well installation and permitting for the well offered by Councilperson Wright and seconded by Councilperson Bailey. Roll call vote held.

Discussed why this is necessary and what has transpired so far.

Councilperson Wright-yes

Councilperson Bailey-yes

Councilperson Morris-yes

Supervisor Reusser-yes

With 4 yes votes this motion carried.

1. WASTEWATER TREATMENT-UPDATE-Councilperson Bailey gave an update on this project. He said we are currently in the comment period. EFC, who gives out the big monies, releases at this time of year a list of what they will fund and the things that don’t quite meet the points threshold that they need. Despite the effort on the town’s part to meet the threshold this year, we didn’t. However, our engineers, with help from the County, were able to uncover some compelling data from a system within the community that has been monitored by the DEC for many years. This could help boost our score and get us well above the threshold that is set. Working with engineers to gather the data and provide it to EFC before the comment period is up and hope they accept it for this year’s round of funding. If not, it should be good for next year’s round.
2. HIGHWAY-STORM BERYL, FEMA DECLARATION 8/29/24, ROARING BROOK LANE-The Supervisor said she and the DPW Superintendent have been busy because of Storm Beryl that happened in July, caused a lot of damage. A FEMA Declaration was declared. Been getting a lot of support and help. FEMA, when they pay, will cover 75% of the projects. NYS historically has come in at 12 ½%. Hasn’t happened yet but working with our local Assembly, Senate and Congress representatives to help. There is about 6 to 6 ½ million dollars’ worth of damage from this storm.

-Roaring Brook Lane is mostly done now and the Supervisor and

DPW Superintendent will be going to inspect it. Not technically

open to the public yet but very close.

-DPW Superintendent Pulsifer said that as far as the rest of the roads are concerned the Town is in good shape.

-Kevin Hall has a 2-phase proposal for the town regarding Bronson Way mines. Mapping is required by the DEC before they will give the town the updated mining permit. The Supervisor said that APA has written to see what the town will be doing regarding the mine and explained about the survey process. More discussion on this topic.

**RESOLUTION NO. 146-24**

Motion to accept Phase 1 to hire Surveyor Kevin Hall for the Bronson mines for the cost of $4500.00 offered by Councilperson Wright and seconded by Councilperson Bailey.

-Councilperson Morris expressed that after this it would seem like this process should never have to be done again. The Supervisor explained that after pulling mining material out, the topography changes and you will have to do another survey.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Ayes-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Morris

**RESOLUTION NO. 147-24**

Motion to approve Phase 2 of Surveyor Kevin Hall updates at a cost of $4000.00 offered by Councilperson Bailey and seconded by Councilperson Wright. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Morris

1. COBBLE HILL GOLF COURSE-Mr. Dunsmore spoke and said Bob Wagner will be leading the project to repair the Club House Roof and volunteers are needed. Will start at 7 AM. Discussion on this and the disposal of the roofing materials.

-He stated that so far, the Course has taken in a gross amount of approximately $111,000.00. The Supervisors Clerk is working on an updated P & L. He is optimistic about the Courses future and explained what has transpired and what will be done soon. The hope is to stay open with minimal staff till the end of October.

8. Supervisor Reusser said that at the Essex County Fairgrounds, the Adirondack Harvest Festival will be held this weekend.

**BUSINESS:**

9.HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT-Discussed already.

10.WATER DISTRICT-Discussed already.

11.BUILDINGS & CODES-No discussion.

12.PLANNING BOARD/ZONING BOARD-Evelyn Hatch stated that is has been quiet of late. The property that had been an issue on Water Street has been purchased and is being cleaned up.

13. YOUTH COMMISSION-No discussion.

14. TRAILS-No discussion.

15. GARBAGE-No discussion.

16. RESOLUTION TO RESIND RESOLUTION NO. 67-15-The Supervisor explained that we had a placard on the Board Room wall commemorating Mark Hildebrandt a deceased Veteran of the Air Force. A family member requested to have this. Because this was a Resolution, it will need to be rescinded.

**RESOLUTION NO. 148-24**

Motion to rescind Resolution no. 67-15 offered by Councilperson Morris for discussion and seconded by Councilperson Bailey.

It was questioned who made the display and was told Phil Jackson. Councilperson Wright feels Mr. Jackson should be contacted regarding this. Councilperson Morris agreed but is not opposed to this Motion.

**RESOLUTION NO. 149-24**

Motion to table Resolution No. 148-24 offered by Councilperson Wright and seconded by Councilperson Morris. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Bailey

17. DPW Superintendent Pulsifer is in the process of contacting DOT for monies for a backhoe. The backhoe that the Highway Department has a 310D and is in constant need of repair. He explained that a new backhoe could be outsourced for extra income. He is checking into the CHIPS monies. The current CHIPS balance is $626,000.00. Looking into paving Water Street. He explained that the town would have to purchase a tow behind trailer to move the new backhoe. Discussed selling the old backhoe and other items.

**FINANCIALS:**

TRANSFERS

None given.

SUPERVISORS REPORT **RESOLUTION NO. 150-24**

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

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Morris

PAY ALL BILLS

**RESOLUTION NO. 151-24**

Motion to pay all bills for Abstract #9 ABS 09-01 to 09-36 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 Wright

Resolved that the following bills be paid.

General Fund $ 39,806.07

Highway Fund $199,681.56

Garbage District $ 53.68

Lighting District $ 890.29

Water District 1 $ 0.00

Water District 3 $ 845.23

Water Capital 2020 $ 89.89

Recreation Grant $ 0.00

**COMMENTS:**

-Councilperson Wright asked about Noble Terrace Box Culvert. The Supervisor stated she had e-mailed the engineer at H&T Engineering and as he was away, she hasn’t gotten his design yet. The Box Culvert will be upsized and in the same location. Boquet Valley Central School approached the Supervisor with a request to use the Town Fields for sports. Discussion on if it can be used as the road into Noble Terrace is only one lane at this time. Councilperson Wright would like to see the Box Culvert placed before winter. He also asked for confirmation that Branards Forge Road will be paved before winter. Harry Gough, who represents FEMA, said it would have to be run by FEMA. He felt if it was paved but not charged for and call it a temporary measure, he felt it could get pushed through. He will investigate. It is felt it is only 40 feet that would have to be done. Discussion on this.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet E. Cross,

Town Clerk