**SPECIAL MEETING**

**TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN**

**MAY 28, 2024**

A Special 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 May 28, 2024, and the public was welcome to attend in person or via GoToMeeting.

PRESENT: Cathleen Reusser-Supervisor

Ben Morris-Councilperson

William Wright-Councilperson

Adam Bailey-Councilperson

Jeffrey Allott-Councilperson

GUESTS: Eric Weyand, Becki Pushee, Evelyn Hatch, Harry   
Gough, Herb Longware, Mary McGowan, Charles Moisan, David Reinmann, Bruce Pushee, Lisa Decker, Peter Sayers, Anita Sayers, Mario Christaldi and Mark Suozzo, SDA, PLLC.COM.

Start time 6:30 P.M.

-Councilperson Bailey gave a presentation regarding the Sewer project. He gave a recap of the key takeaways from the Public Meetings that have happened previously and spoke of meeting the June 14 deadline to submit a proposal for funding. He said they started with 20ish sites and have worked down to 5. Behind the Golf Course, Woodruff Street, River Street, North Rt 9 and South Rt. 9. Discussed the push back on the Woodruff & River Street properties and the downfalls of the RT 9 North and South properties. Ultimately the best site would be the Golf Course site knowing that there might be constraints on this choice. He gave a description of where on the Course it would go. It would require some pumping. The positive of this choice is it’s not near residential property and the downfall is the 5 to 10 % increase in costs. The Woodruff and River Street properties would be the least expensive.

-Mark Suozzo spoke and said June 14th is when NYS likes to see the IUP listing and Engineering reports. That’s when you present a plan, document problems and estimated cost. Not a final discussion on the location at that point so it can change.

- Councilperson Bailey said that tonight is deciding on the potential location but ultimately there are many pieces to this project. A concern from the public is the water quality and sampling is being done. This is step one of a multi-step process.

-Doc Pete Sayers asked about what the extra cost might be if the site is north of town and Councilperson Allott said the approximate estimate was 1 (one) to 1.5 million upcharges to use the Golf Course and 1.5 to 1.7 million more for the Rt. 9 North property. He explained that the Rt. 9 North property has some issues and some unknowns. He said the Woodruff and Golf Course sites have the least unknowns which helps make them better options.

-Doc Pete Sayers asked if there is a potential for real estate buy back if the site is situated near homes and that his property would be worthless. He was told no but there has been a lot of consideration on its placement.

-Councilperson Allott said that the consideration is to try and make everyone happy but also must make it so it’s not so expensive it can’t be done. We need a site that can get a positive vote.

-Patty Walsh asked if there was any consideration of having the effluent used on the Golf Course rather than put in the river and was told yes. Was told there is no cost savings to do this. More discussion on this.

-Was explained that a lot of septic systems are failing and that they eventually end up leaching into the river. A sewer system would only discharge treated wastewater that is held to very high standards.

-Mr. Longware explained that he had just purchased property on Water Street and understands that there are at least 30 properties with failing systems that would not be able to extend or even replace their sewer systems. Councilperson Allott said that there are 1/3 of the properties in Etown that could not replace their systems if they fail without it costing a lot of money for them.

-Supervisor Reusser said there is good funding now for this type of project but eventually this will not be so.

-More questions regarding placement and costs. Mark Suozzo spoke about costs, regulations, the physical footprint etc. Was asked if the River and Woodruff Street sites are not picked, would they be off the table and was told not 100% but would try not to go backwards once a site is picked.

-A proposed map plan of the Golf Course site was viewed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 111-24**

Motion to enter Executive Session at 7:13 PM offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Wright. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-5 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Bailey

**RESOLUTION NO. 112-24**

Motion to enter back into the Regular Meeting at 8:09 PM 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 Morris

Councilperson Wright

**RESOLUTION NO. 113-24**

Motion to follow the committee’s recommendation for the site location at the Golf Course offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Bailey. With 4 yes votes and one oppose the vote carries.

AYES-4 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-1 Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Bailey

Councilperson Morris

**RESOLUTION NO. 114-24**

Motion to close this meeting at 8:10 PM offered by Councilperson Allott and seconded by Councilperson Wright. All in favor. Motion carried.

AYES-5 Supervisor Reusser NAYS-0

Councilperson Allott

Councilperson Wright

Councilperson Morris

Councilperson Bailey

Respectfully submitted,

Janet E. Cross,

Town Clerk