



TOWN OF NEWFANE

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TOWN OF NEWFANE TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION APRIL 11, 2024, 6:30pm

The Town of Newfane Town Board Work Session was held in the Town Hall, 2737 Main Street, Newfane, NY. The Session was called to order by Supervisor John Syracuse at 6:38pm

Town Board Members Present:

Supervisor, John Syracuse, Councilwoman, Sue Neidlinger, Councilman, Rick Coleman, Councilman, Robert Horanburg.

Councilman Peter Robinson was absent.

Others present: Town Attorney, James Sansone, Building Inspector David Schmidt, Marina Director Nick Glosser, Ashley Glosser, Highway Superintendent Jon Miller, Water Superintendent Mike Mills, Larry Dormer, Max Russell and Steven Goodwin.

A motion was made for the March 14, 2024, Work Session Minutes to be passed by Rick Coleman and 2nd by Sue Neidlinger. Motion passed.

Supervisor Syracuse addressed the July fireworks display that will be bigger and better than normal due to the Towns Bicentennial. He is working with our usual company, Skylighters Fireworks. A wonderful donation from the Recovery Center of Niagara of 10K has been given to improve the display. We have already received a 5K check. The normal date of July 3rd is planned with a Rain Date of July 12th.

- Sue Neidlinger made a motion to allow Supervisor John Syracuse to sign a contract with Skylighters Fireworks for 2024.
- Rick Coleman 2nd.
- Roll Call vote was done. All present were in favor with 4 Ayes.
- Motion passed.

Next discussion is the draft of a Mission Statement from the Fire Protection Board. THE Board will need to review it and a Resolution will need to be passed.

A listing of the 2024 Lifeguards being hired for the Summer was submitted. The Supervisor's office has been working with them to help them along and understand the process of running the Beach better. We are changing to 3 Head Lifeguards to help things run smoother and not have it be so much pressure on just one person.

The Marina also submitted a list of employees to start this year. Three previous employees have already started as of the April 1, 2024 opening and others are lined up to work at the Marina.

- A Motion to pass both Employee lists was made by Sue Neidlinger
- Rick Coleman 2nd.
- Motion Passed

Marina Director Nick Glosser presented the new Kayak Launch Idea at the Marina. EZ Docks provides a wonderful-looking product and has many great reviews. Nick has been talking to patrons that kayak, and they like this idea. They are trying to decide where to put the Launch to best provide easy access and in the Marina. Placement and pictures were reviewed. Anchor Marine is an authorized dealer, and we will be working directly with him. No cost has been quoted yet until they see the sight. The Kayak Launch will be pulled out during wintertime. The Supervisor has reviewed the Marina's Revenue and Kayak launches bring in approximately \$2,500 to \$3,000 per Summer. It was asked if Kayak Rental is a possibility? Research on Liability will have to be done.

A community member, who is an avid kayaker, was invited to join them and asked his thoughts on the Kayak Launch. It was mentioned that providing marked parking spots for the Kayakers would be extremely helpful and that adding "Grab Bars" on the sides and even overhead for some "older generational" people are necessary for them. The Launch would be attached to the floating dock, be very visible and not interfere with boat traffic. The location of choice will allow the Marina Staff to keep visibility on the Launch itself, in case someone needs help. The Supervisor also added that the idea of possibly adding "composite type" docks in the future, and working with the same company for installation, will cost now but will be definitely a savings of time, labor and materials in the future.

The Board reviewed Resolution #9 – SUPPORT BY THE TOWN OF NEWFANE TOWN BOARD FOR THE OLCOTT, MILLER HOSE AND WRIGHTS' CORNERS FIRE COMPANIES TO CONTINUE DILIBERATIONS IN PURSUIT OF EACH FIRE COMPANY'S DESIRE TO UNDERTAKE AMBULANCE BILLING PROCEDURES, but they will vote on it at the next Board Meeting.

The Constable Rules & Regulations Draft was handed out for Board members to take home and review. A Public Hearing has been held and things can now move forward with the Rules & Regulations Policy. The Town Attorney stated that a Resolution will need to be made to adopt these.

Next on the agenda was the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) regarding the Fire Company's. The Town Board will need to pass a Referendum for Residents to weigh in on the LOSAP. Also noted that 60% of the Town Board needs to pass these decisions. Fire members should go and speak on this. Miller Hose and Olcott Fire Companies will be included in this discussion (Wrights Corners may or may not be included as they already are involved with LOSAP via Lockport. This needs to be determined.)

Rick Coleman stated how calls have increased every year and this program will help keep the roster more effectively. There are funds paid in to the LOSAP each year and there is a 1, 5 or 10 year buy back option. Rick and Robert Horanburg described the Program with 10 year buy back. The Town funds this program and it is being done in many area districts and helps hold onto it's Volunteer members and draws in new ones that are badly needed. Currently there are 118 members between Miller Hose & Olcott. The Fire Companies are refreshing their census to determine the cost to build the program. The program would pay \$20 per month per year of service.

Public Hearings for the community are needed to get the word out. This program will help retain the members and save on the training over-over for these Fire Volunteers. In regard to calling for a Referendum, the Supervisor has spoken with Board of Elections and we can use the voting machines, the Inspectors and same set-up to pursue this. This will not have to wait until a General Election. The Supervisor will follow-up on Referendum discussions within the next month. Joe Floss, representing the LOSAP program, has provided many documents to review to move forward with a Referendum. Newfane seems to be the only town in the area that is not involved with this.

A community member stated that it be best, from his point of view, that the LOSAP Referendum and Ambulance Soft Billing should be spread out, so Residents don't feel overwhelmed. It was stated that there may be confusion if both of these programs are presented at the same time. The Fire Members explained that the "Soft Billing" will not affect those residents being transported, it will cost them nothing. They are covered. No copay or deductible will be collected from those Newfane Residents being transported.

A motion for the Town Board to move into Executive Session was made by Robert Horanburg and 2nd by Rick Coleman. Passed. Executive Session started at 7:33pm. Residents left, and doors were closed.

Executive Session ended at 7:52pm.

Sue Neidlinger made a motion to adjourn the Town Board Meeting.

Rick Coleman 2nd.

Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L Zeller

Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor