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TOWN OF NEWFANE TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION August 8, 2024

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 6:30pm.

Town Board Members Present:

Supervisor John Syracuse, Councilman Robert Horanburg, Councilman Peter Robinson, and Councilman Rick Coleman

Excused Members were:

Councilwoman Sue Neidlinger

Others present:

Jim Sansome, Town Attorney, David Schmidt, Building Inspector/CEO, Larry Dormer, Jessica Reinhardt, Melinda Bower, Rachel Maziarz, Max Russell, and 9 others.

Supervisor Syracuse asked for the Minutes from July 11, 2024 Work Session to be approved.

- Motion by Pete Robinson.
- Seconded by Rick Coleman.
- Motion passed.

The Supervisor asked if he could have a motion to authorize him to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Teamsters Local 234, for the Deputy Superintendent position for Water and Sewer. They will be needing a Deputy Superintendent of Water and Sewer to act as a "foreman" as we continue to restructure this department. Interviews have been conducted. The MOU once signed, will be sent to Nick Doran at Local 234.

- Rick Coleman made the motion to have sign the MOU.
- Seconded by Pete Robinson.
- Motion Passed.

The Supervisor is seeking a motion to authorize the hiring of Luke Adinolfi as a new hire for the Water/Wastewater Maintenance position that was recently advertised. There were 3 applicants approved from Niagara County Civil Service, and two of them advanced for the interview. Mike Mills and Jon Miller joined the Supervisor for the interviews. His position will start September 3, 2024, at the rate of \$26.08 per hour per Union Contract.

- Robert Horanburg made the motion to authorize this hiring.
- Seconded by Pete Robinson.
- Motion passed.

Next the Supervisor is looking for a motion for authorizing a quote given by JNES Lawn and Home Care, for West Main St, Olcott Cemetery. There are many older graves that are overgrown and in the woods, and need to be cleaned up. JNES quoted \$1,500 to clear these overgrown areas. The start date will be August 19, 2024.

- Rick Coleman made the motion to accept above quote.
- Seconded by Robert Horanburg.
- Motion Passed.

WLVL is able to promote our Bicentennial Day with a radio commercial and a live remote broadcast from here, on August 24, 2024! They are asking for \$1,200.00 to do both of these.

- Pete Robinson made a motion to accept the \$1200.00 to pay WLVL.
- Robert Horanburg seconded.
- Motion Passed.

The NYSLRS ROA Report has been updated and approved by the elected Officials that it pertains too. There was no discussion on the record of activities results and it is ready to submit.

- Rick Coleman made the motion to submit this report to NYSLRS.
- Seconded by Pete Robinson.
- Motion Passed.

Discussion on Town Wide Ditching took place. The Supervisor and Jon Miller have spoken many times on this topic. Proper equipment has been purchased but we need someone to operate it that doesn't take away from the normal Highway Crew. The HGWY Dept is extremely busy doing all the Town Work, with repaving, tree limbs/brush pick-up, mowing, and extra jobs that are thrown at them etc. They have been looking at all the areas that flood in the Spring and there are high hot spots throughout town. We need to investigate these spots and look out for what to do. There are a lot of logistics that need to go into this and the Town knows it's very important to everyone. Ideas were discussed along with possible use of drones to see these spots from an aerial point of view. They have been looking at a list of areas that Jon Miller has

on file. The Supervisor is looking to form a committee to be put together with a Councilperson on it. Rick Coleman has accepted the position for ditching coordination as of January 1, 2025. There is a lot of natural growth in the ditches since the past clean-outs that took place. There may be the possibility of getting outside laborers involved as well.

Recommended for the committee would be farming individuals, home residents, the Supervisor and possibly a laborer that works in this field. The Water Shed Study was at least 10 + years ago. Jonathan Schultz from Niagara County has these documents. Town Board Council in agreement that this needs to move forward quickly.

Asked for any New Business: John Syracuse gave David Schmidt kudos for all the attention he has given to all the matters that are being brought to his office. He handles everything very well and compliments are well deserved.

Public Comments were accepted and Jessica Reinhardt from 2600 Fuller Road, Burt, approached the Board with the idea of “proposing the establishment of a Youth Sports Recreation Department back into the Town. The initiative aims to provide structured sports and recreational activities for the Youth in our community, promoting physical fitness, teamwork and positive social interactions.” (see attached letter). A lot of open discussion took place. The Supervisor stated that the big thing is the budget, which we are just now preparing for 2025, as it needs to be submitted by the end of September. It wouldn't be something we can just add for next year. We currently support NCSO with 35K, as they took over the Recreation Program, since covid. Jessica recognized that covid changed everything. It was stated that we need to pursue ideas. Jessica was asked to get a committee together and pursue this. She was commended for her presentation and the Board sees the compassion in her, along with the supporters that came too. This is a good idea and would be great for the Town of Newfane... “If other towns can do it, then why can't Newfane?” Jessica agreed to get a committee together and do more homework, and then meet with the Supervisor at a later date.

As there was no other discussions, there was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Rick Coleman. Seconded by Pete Robinson. Motion carried and the Work Session adjourned at 7:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L Zeller
Confidential Secretary