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TOWN OF NEWFANE TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION June 13, 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 6:34pm.

Town Board Members Present:

John Syracuse, Sue Neidlinger, Rick Coleman, Pete Robinson

Excused Members were:

Robert Horanburg

Others present: Jim Sansone- Town Attorney, David Schmidt - Building Inspector, Larry Dormer, Joe Flagler

Supervisor Syracuse asked for the Minutes from the May 9, 2024, Work Session and the May 29, 2024, Public Hearing to be approved. Rick Coleman made the motions and Sue Neidlinger seconded. All in favor. Motions Carried for both sets of minutes.

Resolution #18-2024 RESOLUTION WITH REFERENCE TO THE PROPOSED TOWN OF NEWFANE, NIAGARA COUNTY, NY, JACKSON STREET WATERLINE PROJECT was presented and reviewed. Sue Neidlinger made a motion to accept the Resolution and Rick Coleman seconded. A Roll Call vote was done.

- Sue Neidlinger – Aye
- Rick Coleman – Aye
- Pete Robinson – Aye
- Supervisor Syracuse – Aye

Motion Passed.

The DCO vehicle has been repaired. It needed tires & brakes; fixing the Oil Pump took care of the check engine light. The Supervisor was told it should be under \$5000.00, which is what Town Board agreed upon as an overall cost, if we were to purchase one at auction.

The DCO-Constable Local Law #3 has been processed with the State. Signage has been discussed for the car through different vendors, including the Niagara County Sign Shop. Joe Flagler passed around samples of the DCO signage for the car. Different images of badges and car emblems were reviewed. It was suggested that some sort of "lights" need to be on car for recognition as a Constable vehicle. It was also suggested to put Town phone number on side of car so people are aware of contact number but definitely take 911 off, so people do not think they are an Emergency Responder Vehicle.

Next reviewed was the LOSAP Award program and the 2nd amended Resolution draft was handed out. The Supervisor stated that the County Bd of Elections does not need to be included. It's a small process, similar to a school vote. There is no reason to include the County. With reviewing Section #5 ~ the program will add a small increase to people's taxes due to the estimated assessed value. The Board wants to make sure that the proper information is given to the public, because this did not pass in the past, even though they were close elections.

The main reason for the LOSAP program is to encourage Volunteers to stay with the fire Departments. Times have changed and people appreciate the fact that it is local people / Volunteers who come to their homes on these calls. This Resolution needs to be passed. A General Election has to be within 60 days of the Resolution passing. If it's not a General Election but a Special Election, then no time constraint is there. Section 18 states that 34 days' notice to be posted is required. So the end of June or July would be the best time span to look into all of this. There needs to be adequate time to get everyone involved notified. The Town Clerk will be reaching out to the Royalton Town Clerk, since the Town of Royalton passed their LOSAP last year. Jim Sansone is to meet with Donna and review. The Town Board would like this to proceed with a Resolution at the June 26 Meeting and make sure this "Special Election" does not interfere with the upcoming General Election.

The Supervisor is seeking approval to hire Nicholas Spinder, at \$15 per hour and he has already started as of May 30th helping out that the LVS. Pete Robinson made the motion to accept and Rick Coleman seconded. Approved. Motion Carried.

New Business: Jim Sansone spoke of boats on Lake Ontario traveling between the broken Pier and underwater old hotel piers near the Beach. A guy did 7K worth of damage to his boat and is notifying the Town that this area is there. When we (the Town) took over the Beach as the Town... the County conveyed the property including the pier. The Federal Government is responsible for navigational area and the land underwater is owned by the State. The Town of Newfane is the "Upland" Owners of this area. Because of this the Town now owns the pier at the Beach, the Army Corp of Engineers doesn't want to touch that pier... this is from past history. NYS requires a Permit from the Town if any work is done and that is where we stand right now. If we install Buoys, we may need a Permit from other agencies. Jim Sansone contacted Janet Steggle, who is going through the Insurance Attorneys. Rick Coleman suggested that the Coast Guard be contacted and maybe they can mark it as there was a serious accident. It was questioned if Swimming Buoys/Rope could be used to mark this area. Supervisor will reach out to Coast Guard to pursue that idea. The main concern is that no one gets hurt. But we need to be proactive against any possible issues. Jim Sansone stated that if the Federal Government say "No" to permits, then that takes the pressure off the Town: however, now that the Town has been notified, it could be liable for future incidents.

The Supervisor updated the Board on the Assessor applications that have been received since Mary Hastings is retiring as of 12/31/24. There is one solid application and one that wasn't qualified. Configurations were discussed on how to handle moving forward. Right now, it is suggested that on a year-to-year basis, that a full-time position would work in the Assessor's office and the Town would "hire" an actual Assessor from another Town. We are in need of a Real Property Appraisal Technician. He is still working on logistics of the positions and times of work hours.

Also, we are still working on a Deputy Superintendent for the Water/ Sewer Dept. It's moving forward... just slowly.

The payroll system will be updated as July 10th so there will be changes to pay stubs and you will have a choice for emailed pay stubs to save on paper.

It was noted that the Main Street Cannabis Shop has closed.

Motion to adjourn Work Session was made at 7:36pm. Pete Robinson approved the motion and Sue Neidlinger seconded. Motion passed.

It was noted that Sue mentioned that she will not be here for the July 11 Work Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L Zeller
Confidential Secretary