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## TOWN OF NEWFANE

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### **TOWN OF NEWFANE TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION NOVEMBER 14, 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:**

Supervisor John Syracuse, Councilwoman Sue Neidlinger, Councilman Pete Robinson, Councilman Robert Horanburg

#### **Excused Members were:**

Councilman Richard Coleman

#### **Others present:**

Jim Sansone - Town Attorney, David Schmidt- Building Inspector, Larry Dormer, Max Russell

Supervisor Syracuse asked for the Minutes from the October 10, 2024 Work Session to be approved.

- Robert Horanburg made the motion to approve.
- Pete Robinson seconded.
- All were in favor and motion Passed

The Supervisor is seeking a motion to approve moving Mary Zeller from 35 to a 40-hour work week, as of January 1, 2025 for her Confidential Secretary position, due to her job load.

- Sue Neidlinger made the motion.
- Pete Robinson seconded it.
  - The Supervisor explained that last year in 2023, Lori Daniels' and Jessica Reinhardt's, now Cailynn Feeley's, positions, in the water department office, started a 40-hour work week as of January 1, 2023, per a request and recommendation of Water/Sewer Superintendent Mike Mills. This was discussed at the October 11, 2022 Works Session, but was never voted on. He is adding them into this motion, as that office currently working those hours.
- All in favor of both motions, and motions passed.

The Board then reviewed the “Draft Easement for Ditching” coordination as there is much needed work to be done throughout the Town. A committee has been put together and they work well together. The next Ditching Committee meeting is set for 6:30pm on 11/25/24. In Rick Colemans absence, Max Russell, who is also on the committee, explained a bit about the ditching easement. Jim Sansone also explained his Draft Easement for landowners to sign prior to the ditching process. This is recordable so that if property is sold, the easement stands with new landowner. A question about "debris maintenance" was asked but the Draft Easement states that they will remove the debris & restore land as it was. Jim Sansone suggested that Selective Insurance also look at the easement Draft, for their knowledge and approval. Discussions on different ideas took place and the Board is leaving it to the Ditching Committee.

Resolution #33-2024 "Resolution by the Town of Newfane for the Adoption of Local Law #6, to Over-ride Tax Levy limit established in General Municipal Law section 3-C, for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2025”.

- Robert Horanburg made a motion to accept this resolution.
- Sue Neidlinger seconded it.
- A Role Call vote was taken.
  - Councilwoman Sue Neidlinger - AYE
  - Councilman Pete Robinson - AYE
  - Councilman Robert Horanburg - AYE
  - Supervisor John Syracuse - AYE
- Motion Passed.

Jim Sansone contacted Niagara County and currently all Local Laws must be approved by the County Planning Board. However, he is entering into record a letter from Nathaniel Bonafede, Planner, from Niagara County Department of Economic Development, that a Town Local Law, concerning town taxes, does not fall under the requirements of the NYS GML239-M, so no referral to the county is necessary. This letter is attached to Resolution #33-2024 and Local Law #6 which was just passed.

Resolution #34-2024 2025 “Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Newfane to Adopt the 2025 Annual Budget”

- Pete Robinson made the motion to pass this resolution and adopt the 2025 Budget.
- Robert Horanburg seconded it.
- A Role Call vote was taken.
  - Councilwoman Sue Neidlinger - AYE
  - Councilman Pete Robinson - AYE
  - Councilman Robert Horanburg - AYE
  - Supervisor John Syracuse - AYE
- Motion Passed

The Supervisor thanked all the Departments Heads, Drescher & Malecki, the Town Board and his confidential for all the time spent with preparing this budget.

The Supervisor shared a very nice “Thank You” card addressed to the Town Board from Esther Myers, one of the Golden Agers, that was part of the “90 and over” Birthday Celebration that they had at the

Olcott Fire hall on October 24, 2024. Each of the 9 Seniors received a goodie filled gift bag from the Town Board. Look for their pictures in the upcoming Town Newsletter.

A motion for a revised Standard work-day for NYSLERS Report for Pete Robinson was needed. It was amended from Bi-weekly to Semi-annual.

- Robert Horanburg made the motion to accept this amendment.
- Sue Neidlinger seconded.
- Pete Robison abstained.
- All were in favor and motion Passed.

A copy of this will be given to the Town Clerk for proper posting.

The Supervisor informed the Board of a program through “Text My Gov”- a “texting alert program for Newfane residents”. After reviewing two companies, and meeting with this one, the Supervisor and the Department heads from the Highway, Water/Sewer and Building Inspectors offices, were very impressed as this program provided the ability to reach not only to all Newfane residents, but certain areas designated for emergencies, road work, water main breaks, town ditching and loose cattle, among many other reasons. This company is able to get cell phone information from the Postal Service and people will be able to “opt IN or OUT”. There will be communication to the residents as best as possible to reach everyone. The Supervisor asked for approval to move ahead and opt in for this program.

- Motion was made by Sue Neidlinger to accept this proposal
- Seconded by Robert Horanburg.
- All were in favor and motion Passed.

The Supervisor made reference to the Board of Assessment Review, (BAR), informing that all three of the last board members had resigned. Assessor Mary Hastings, JoAnn Harig and Supervisor Syracuse have had one interview so far. The Supervisor is looking for a motion to appoint Kathryn Kozakowski who is very knowledgeable and works with Hunt Real Estate, to the Board of Assessment Review, effective immediately. They are still looking for 2 to 3 others.

- Robert Horanburg made the motion to approve this candidate.
- Seconded by Pete Robinson.
- All were in favor and motion Passed

The Town Board discussed the reimbursement fees for the Continuing Education classes taken by the Zoning and Planning Boards. These board members are very active this year with these classes, and we need to be fair with the reimbursements. The Supervisor is recommending that the following be reimbursed upon receipt of proof of any Continuing Ed classes taken:

- A 4-hour class will receive a \$55.00 reimbursement.
- A 2-hour class will receive a \$25.00 reimbursement.
- Any registration fee will get reimbursed.
- Mileage to and from the class will get reimbursed.
  - All the above will need to have proper documentation handed in with a voucher for proper reimbursement.

The Town Board acknowledged that the information they gain is very beneficial and extends beyond the

## Zoning and Planning Boards.

- Robert Hornburg made the motion to accept these reimbursements.
- Pete Robinson seconded.
- All in favor and motion Passed.

The Supervisor stated that the Town Hall will be working with the school again for the community Giving Tree as a collection sight. The tree will be set up in the North Foyer for anyone to grab a tag and supply gifts for families right here in Newfane. The gifts can be dropped off and put into the Town Hall Conference Room. Pick-up is scheduled for Saturday December 14, 2024, in the Community Center.

The Town is continuing on with the Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive and the Winter Coat Collection. There are bins for both of these well worth causes in the West Foyer off of Main Street. Pete Robinson shared his gratitude for the Town continuing their support of the PB&J Drive as it DOES make a difference to people, especially during the winter months. All that is collected goes to local food pantries.

The annual light up Newfane Parade is Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> down Main Street, along with all the activities throughout Town that night. Please see the Town Calendar for more info.

Robert has an appointment with National Grid to determine if getting outlets on the power poles in Olcott is possible and where the outlets can be installed.

OBCA Christmas invite was passed out to the Board members.

It was mentioned that the Food Pantry Truck is unfortunately disbanding. They have been in contact with Feed More WNY.

December's work session is set for Wednesday, December 11 Work Session at 7pm, a change from the normal schedule due to a conflict on the Supervisors end.

There was a motion to adjourn by Robert Horanburg. Seconded in unison by Sue Neidlinger and Pete Robinson. All were in favor and the meeting ended at 7:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L Zeller  
Confidential Secretary