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TOWN OF NEWFANE TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION October 10, 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:

John Syracuse, Sue Neidlinger, Pete Robinson and Robert Horanburg

Excused Members were:

Rick Coleman

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

Supervisor Syracuse asked for the Minutes from the September 12, 2024 Work Session to be approved.

- Councilwoman Sue Neidlinger made the motion to pass these minutes.
- Seconded by Councilman Pete Robinson.
- Motion Passed.

The Supervisor reviewed the Tentative Budget with the Town Board. The Town Clerk was presented the Tentative Budget on September 27, 2024, and she forwarded it on to the Board and Town Attorney. After discussion had taken place and details reviewed, the Supervisor explained that this Budget does exceed the Tax Cap. The majority of this is in response to the 217K LOSAP vote approved by Newfane Residence in August. There is also an increase in contracts with Modern Refuse, and the ongoing upgrade to WWTP, even though there are grants in use as well. He explained that the General Fund decreased overall.

The Supervisor met with all department heads. He was conservative on the Revenue and a bit more aggressive on Contractual expenses. He reminded the Board that there is a \$0.10 per thousand gallon of water increase coming from the County, which will increase our cost as well. He proposed an increase to

\$0.20 per 1000 gallons to cover this increased cost and which will also cover any water loss which we still get charged for, from broken or leaky pipes. We are working on fixing these issues and have found a lot, but we know that there are more out there. Every water usage person will see an increase, including irrigation usage. We are using some Fund Balance funds to offset costs. The Tax Cap Law will be presented at a Public Hearing upcoming in October.

The Water Dept hired a full-time employee, last month, to replace Mike Mills' position as a person, but Jon Miller will get a salary, to take over Mike Mills position as Water Superintendent. Also, we created a Water/Sewer Deputy position, that was filled from within the Water/Sewer Dept.

We continually review Health Care coverage on our employees. We met with our Insurance Agents at Gilroy Kernan & Gilroy and they went over a few things with changes forthcoming. We will be meeting with Retirees on November 1st to present some alternatives of Health Care choices.

A Councilman has been made aware that a conversation of a sidewalk from the Middle School to the Elementary School for safety reasons, has been thought of. There has been talk of a School Bike Path also on Transit Rd. and that idea will be put on hold. The foot traffic is a more pressing safety factor.

The Supervisor, along with Town Attorney Jim Sansone, brought up the fact that we will need to present a Local Law to Override the Tax Cap Limit for the 2025 Budget. The Supervisor read through the proposed Local Law to override the current tax cap and answered any questions. He asked to set a Public Hearing for Local Law #6, to override Tax Cap and to Present and Review the 2025 Tentative Budget.

The date for this Public Hearing will be October 23, 2021 @ 6:30 in the Board Meeting Room, 2732 Main Street, Newfane, NY 14108.

- Pete Robinson made the motion to set the Public Hearing.
- Sue Neidlinger seconded it.
- Motion Passed

After reviewing **Resolution #28-2024 Authorizing the Adoption of the Town of Newfane Constable Department Rules and Regulations**, a motion was made to pass said resolution.

- Sue Neidlinger made the motion.
- Pete Robinson seconded.
- On the Question:
 - Per the Supervisor, this was reviewed in April & May and needed to be brought back to the Board. The Body Cameras have arrived, which are also mentioned in the Rules and Regulations.
 - The Constables will be certified with their Fire Arms yearly.
 - Radios were given to the Town from the NC Sheriffs, and they come in handy.

- We are currently working on keeping the Constable car parked here at Town Hall in the garage.

A Roll call vote was taken:

- Councilman Pete Robinson - AYE
- Councilwoman Sue Neidlinger - AYE
- Councilman Robert Horanburg - AYE
- Supervisor John Syracuse - AYE
- Motion for Resolution #28-2024 Passed

The Supervisor explained that the next (3) three resolutions are all linked together, and we were asked by the State to supply these. The State notified the Town that things have changed in the request of Contract #DO14848 Municipal Snow & Ice Funding and that they are actually behind on reaching out to towns who receive these funds that help with maintaining roads throughout the winter months.

The Board reviewed **Resolution #29-2024 Agreement between the Town Board of the Town of Newfane and the People of the State of New York by and through the Commissioner of Transportation of the State of New York, Snow & Ice removal for the years 2022/2023**

- Sue Neidlinger made the motion to accept Resolution #29-2024.
- Robert Horanburg seconded.
- A roll call vote was taken:
 - Councilman Pete Robinson - AYE
 - Councilwoman Sue Neidlinger - AYE
 - Councilman Robert Horanburg - AYE
 - Supervisor John Syracuse - AYE
 - Motion for Resolution #29-2024 Passed

The Board reviewed **Resolution #30-2024 Agreement between the Town Board of the Town of Newfane and the People of the State of New York by and through the Commissioner of Transportation of the State of New York, Snow & Ice removal for the years 2023/2024**

- Sue Neidlinger made the motion to accept Resolution #30-2024.
- Pete Robinson seconded.
- A roll call vote was taken:
 - Councilman Pete Robinson - AYE
 - Councilwoman Sue Neidlinger - AYE
 - Councilman Robert Horanburg - AYE
 - Supervisor John Syracuse - AYE
 - Motion for Resolution #30-2024 Passed

The Board reviewed **Resolution #31-2024 The Town Board of the Town of Newfane enters into agreement with the People of the State of New York, act in by and through the Commissioner of Transportation of the State of New York, Contract #DO14848 extending Municipal Snow & Ice agreement for year 2024/2025**

- Robert Horanburg made the motion to accept Resolution #31-2024.

- Pete Robinson seconded.
- On the Question:
 - It was stated that the State requires the Snow & Ice Contract Resolution #13-2019 be upgraded for another 5 year term, taking this through 2029
- A roll call vote was taken:
 - Councilman Pete Robinson - AYE
 - Councilwoman Sue Neidlinger - AYE
 - Councilman Robert Horanburg - AYE
 - Supervisor John Syracuse - AYE
 - Motion for Resolution #31-2024 Passed

The Town Board discussed to set Halloween Trick and Treating hours for 4- 7pm on Thursday, October 31, 2024.

- Sue Neidlinger made the motion.
- Pete Robinson seconded
- All in favor and motion passed.

A letter from Assessor Mary Hastings was presented to the Board. She had formerly announced her retirement as of December 31, 2024, but is now requesting that time be moved up a month to retire as of November 30, 2024

- With regret, Sue Neidlinger made a motion to accept this letter.
- Pete Robinson seconded.
- Best Wishes were given from the entire Board.
 - There seems to be a smooth transition already in place and many towns are going through these transitions with long-standing employees retiring.
- All were in favor and motion passed.

The Town wishes to have a combined Mutual Aid Drill with all 3 fire departments, and have a request signed by all the Town Board and sent to Dan Handrich, Fire Protection Board President.

The Town was notified of a surprise drill at Nouryon. The State Police stated they were very impressed with Nouryon's response.

Dave Schmidt, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer is working on updating the Noise Ordinance for the Town, as it has been stated that there is no "time limit" mentioned for the noise in our Ordinance. Even the Sheriff's office has stated to complainants that "there are no time restraints for the Town of Newfane."

Members of the Town Board have been working with Newfane School on Summer Recreation for 2025. Molly Sheldon has agreed to lead it, as she did last year. They are keeping the same people to run it, making it a seamless transition from School Rec back to Town Rec. The Town is very grateful for Molly stepping up. Discussion on previous issues took place.

Public Discussion for clarification:

- 10¢ per 1000 GALS increase from the County is happening. A clarification on the gallonage was needed.
- Public advertising on Public Hearings for increased Tax Cap and Tentative budget will be published as usual.
- New School Parking lots will be requiring more salt this year and they usually get salt from the Town. The Town will need to be prepared, which they already are.
- It was noted that there have been many EMS/Fire calls to the Niagara Recovery Center, and they are stressing our local fire depts -it takes 5 hours for a transport. It was suggested that the County Ambulance do calls from this address.
- Best wishes were given to our Union Sunand Journal reporter, Thomas Tedesco as he has taken another job on.

There was a motion to adjourn the Work Session at 7:36pm, made by Sue Neidlinger. Pete Robinson seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L Zeller
Confidential Secretary