

February 25, 2016

A Meeting of the Newfield Town Board was held at the Town Hall Board Room February 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Jeffrey Hart and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Present were: Supervisor Jeffrey Hart, Councilperson Joanne James, Councilperson Christine Laughlin, Councilperson Casey Powers and Councilperson Michael Allinger. Also present were 13 attendees.

Old Business

Discussion of the Sewer Rates

Supervisor Hart reviewed the need for the sewer rate increase because of the leach field extension project and to establish a reserve fund for restoration and repair. The original quote for the leach field expansion is \$100,000, estimated annual maintenance: \$15,000 and an estimated annual inflation rate of 4%. Supervisor Hart suggested the sewer rate to be increased to \$64.28/quarter. Discussion was raised whether conservation could help put off the expansion: no. Dan Walker was asked why a flat rate was suggested rather than rate based water consumption. Mr. Walker explained that the Town does not have much variability in the sewer flow and the cited example of a person filling their pool with town water, and being charged a sewer rate based on water in consumption not being equitable. Mr. Walker felt the Town should encourage conservation, but still raise the rate.

Motion was made by Councilperson James to approve the sewer rate increase to 64.28/residential unit to be reflected with the July 2016 billing, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

Vote	AYES	5	Hart, James, Laughlin, Powers and Allinger
	NAY	0	

Carried

Dan Walker/ Water Tower Update

Mr. Walker presented the plans for the Van Kirk and Trumbulls Corner Roads water tanks. Mr. Walker will finalize the plans and the bids will go out after the Town Board March business meeting. Mr. Walker reviewed that the Van Kirk Road will be built first, and then the present Trumbulls Corner Road tank will be dismantled and the new construction will begin thereafter. Mr. Walker also stated he is looking into grants the Town could qualify for but there are limitations.

New Business

Meeting with the Planning Board

George Frantz presented the "Next Step" Presentation to the Town Board Members. There will be 2 educational community forums offered to the residents March 26th forum topics to include: Growth patterns in Newfield over the past two decades and different types of land use regulations available to the Town.

A follow up meeting will take place April 23rd to present the Pros and Cons of each land use as it pertains to Newfield. Both community forums will be presented at the Newfield Fire Hall.

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Review of the Windmill Law

Councilperson Powers suggested that the Town increase its setbacks to international levels and investigate the noise requirements. Supervisor Hart commented that for the Town to update its Local Law there would need be a resolution introducing the update, a public hearing and then a meeting to review and vote on the proposed update.

Discussion on the liquid manure issue

Councilpersons Laughlin and Powers provided materials to the Board regarding the spreading of liquid manure. Mr. Rudy Schwoeble commented on his concerns regarding water. Supervisor Hart suggested that CSI be retained to test the Pony Hollow creek and several wells in the area for a base line. Councilperson Laughlin felt the Town could recommend the area wells be tested, but did not feel it was the Town's responsibility to test private wells. Supervisor Hart also consulted with Tompkins County Planning and DEC regarding management plans regarding spreading liquid manure. Councilpersons James and Powers supported having the Town test the stream and selected private wells. Supervisor Hart has asked CSI for a quote to test the Pony Hollow Creek and selected local wells for a base line. Councilperson James supported this but asked that a reasonable quote be given before approval. Councilperson Powers asked if there were a problem, could that compromise the Town of Newfield drinking water.

Councilperson James asked which agencies were involved when there was a flooding issue. Supervisor Hart stated that in the past the Newfield Highway Superintendent, Tompkins County Highway Superintendent, Tompkins County Emergency Medical Services, Tom O'Mara and Barbara Lifton.

At 9:13 pm motion was made by Councilperson Allinger to adjourn, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

Respectfully Submitted,

March 9, 2016

Karen Miller Kenerson
Newfield Town Clerk