

November 8, 2018

The business meeting of the Newfield Town Board was held at the Town Hall Board Room November 8, 2018 at 7:16 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: Highway Superintendent Kevin Berggren, Atty. Smith, and 7 attendees.

Privilege of the Floor

Michelle Henry reported she had attended a Flood Mitigation and Climate Resiliency workshop at Cornell in October. Ms. Henry commented she would like to see the Town have the ability to be proactive and develop climate resiliency and flood mitigation plans for its infrastructure in the case of future flooding. Ms. Henry personally added she would like to see deeper road bases regarding the freezing, thawing and potholing. Ms. Henry thanked the Highway Superintendent and the Newfield Highway Department for attending the training provided by the Water Resources Council.

Approval of October 11, 2018 Business Meeting, October 16, 2018, October 22, 2018 and October 23, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to approve the October 11, 2018 Business Meeting Minutes, seconded by Councilperson James.

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

Carried

Motion was made by Councilperson James to approve the October 16, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Councilperson Allinger.

Vote	AYES	4	Hart, Laughlin, James and Allinger
	NAY	0	
	ASTAIN	1	Powers

Carried

Motion was made by Councilperson Allinger to approve the October 22, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

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

Carried

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Motion was made by Councilperson James to approve the October 23, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Councilperson Laughlin.

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

Carried

Reports:

Highway: Highway Superintendent Kevin Berggren reported that the Highway Department had recently attended a one person snow plow training provided by the NYSDOT and a DEC training for erosion settlement. Superintendent Berggren added the Highway Department had been getting the equipment ready for the winter. Superintendent Berggren reported the Carter Creek stream bank restoration project was complete. Hydro seeding, mulching and shrub plantings had also taken place. The Stone Jug project has begun. Superintendent Berggren suggested the need to plan for an additional building for equipment storage.

Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Alan Teeter was absent.

Water Sewer: Highway Superintendent Berggren reported that pads and chain link fences had been installed at the sewer station generators on Main Street and Depot Road. Superintendent Berggren reported the new Water/Sewer truck has been received and the old truck repaired and is being used by the Highway Department. Highway Superintendent Berggren also recommended the Board to consider posting the water department position soon, in order to have the hiree trained before Mr. Maki's retirement. Mr. Berggren also reported Moody's had worked on the Pine Circle well pump. It was recommended to throttle down the pump to 55 gal/min.

Recreation: Recreation Director Dustin James was absent.

Tompkins County Legislature Representative David McKenna: absent

Planning Board: absent.

Hamlet Beautification Committee: absent

Ad Hoc Park Committee: Highway Superintendent Berggren reported the Athletic Field equipment is being stored in a storage unit at the Highway Department and did not see the need to purchase a storage unit for the equipment presently. Superintendent Berggren commented the field is muddy because of the weather and that the diversion ditches will be mulched as soon as weather permits.

Supervisor Report: Supervisor Hart reported the Town had received 2 proposals for the leach field expansion-TG Miller \$19,750.00 and Hunt Engineers \$11,700.00. Supervisor Hart commented the Town has been satisfied with both firms in the past, based on the proposed bid, Supervisor Hart recommended Hunt Engineering be awarded the project. Supervisor Hart read Recreation Director Mr. James letter of resignation effective November 30, 2018. Councilperson Laughlin commented that Recreation Supervisor Austin Kuczek will be supervising the Recreation Basketball program for this season and that Dustin has contacted a qualified resident of possibly acting as an interim director. Supervisor Hart commented that the Town could write its own job description for the Recreation Director position but, it would need to be approved by the Tompkins County

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Personnel. Supervisor Hart thanked the Town Board members and Department heads for the hard work put into the 2019 Town Budget and staying within the tax cap. He also commented that funds have been put aside for future expansion of the Town Hall. Supervisor Hart also thanked the members of the Music in the Park committee members for their vision.

New Business

Mill Street Music in the Park Season Summary

Mr. Tompkins reported 6 shows had been scheduled this past summer, but due to weather issues that there were 4 shows this past summer with one that included 2 performers and 1 had to be canceled twice due to rain. Mr. Tompkins stated the average attendance was 150 people at the performances. The Committee also thanked the Highway Department and Hamlet Beautification committee for their partnership making Mill Street Park a beautiful venue. Mr. Tompkins reported the Committee had raised \$3,900 this year and expended \$2,900. Mr. Tompkins reported that six shows are planned for the 2019 concert season- June 12 +26, July 10+24 and August 14+28th 2019. The Committee is looking for an indoor venue in case of rain.

Discussion and approval of the 2017 Audit of Justice Chernish's court records

Nadine Bennett the Town Bookkeeper reported she had audited the 2017 Court records. Mrs. Bennet stated the 2017 records were organized and were in perfect year end order with the help of the new employee. Motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to approve the 2017 Chernish Court Audit, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

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

Carried

Discussion and action of the 2019 Town of Newfield Budget

Motion was made by Councilperson James to approve the 2019 Newfield Town Budget, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

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

Carried

Discussion and action of the 2019 Fire Protection Contract with the Newfield Fire Company

Supervisor Hart reported the Town is working with the Fire Company in order to receive and review the financial data that had been requested in order to get a true understanding of their financials. Councilperson Allinger commented that there are new laws requiring the Fire Company to provide data in order to comply with the new laws. Councilperson Powers added she would like to see information regarding the membership and number of calls responded to. Attorney Smith will compose a letter to the Fire Company. Councilperson Laughlin asked that the letter be non-offensive or harassing and not to have an aggressive statement as there are

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fire company members have generations of family members that have been loyal dedicated members, but does feel the Town needs to know where the tax monies are going. Supervisor Hart asked if an agreement cannot be made by the end of the year, what would happen. Attorney Smith stated this was is a gray area, and the fire company could stop performing but there could be an extension if stated if both sides agree. At this point the fire protection contract is not signed, but there is a budget line in the 2019 budget for it. Attorney Smith will send a letter to the Newfield Fire Company with hopes that the 2019 contract will be agreed upon and signed before the end of the year.

Discussion and Approval of Proposed Leach Field Expansion Proposals

Motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to approve the awarding the bid to Hunt Engineering for the Leach Field Expansion project, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

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

Carried

Motion to convene a Public Hearing for Sewer District Rate increase

Motion was made by Councilperson James to convene a Public Hearing for Public Comment regarding the proposed sewer rate increase Field, December 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

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

Carried

Motion to convene a Public Hearing for Fire Protection Contract

Motion was made by Councilperson Allinger to convene a Public Hearing for Public Comment regarding the Fire Protection Contract, December 13, 2018 at 7:10 pm, seconded by Councilperson Laughlin

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

Carried

Councilperson Laughlin asked if similar financial data should be requested from the Newfield Public Library. Attorney Smith stated that it would be best practice to do so, but is not required by municipal law. Councilperson Allinger stated that the data required is the current audit, 990, 1402 law and GML 209-z in order to be compliant. Councilperson Allinger added the Town’s position is one of trust and verifying what they are telling the Town.

Old Business

Nextamp Community Solar Ribbon Cutting

Councilperson Powers reported she had attended and stated it was very impressive presentation.

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Approval of the Payment of the November 2018 Abstract

Motion was made by Councilperson Allinger to approve the payments, seconded by Councilperson Powers. The Board authorized the payments of the following amounts:

General Fund	\$28,538.20
Recreation Fund	\$2,088.08
Community Development ²	\$1,019.70
Highway Fund	\$214,280.45
Street light Fund	\$1,518.92
Sewer Fund	\$26,737.01
Water District 1 Fund	\$40,881.70
Water District 2 Fund	\$23,179.79
Trust and Agency	\$7,024.36

Vouchers were audited by Councilpersons Allinger and Powers

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

Carried

The next meeting will be November 29, 2018 at 6:30.

Attorney Smith stated that the Pahulka Road litigation is at end in regards with the Town, nothing to report on the Sill case. Attorney Smith added that the Town could dissolve the lighting district by public hearing and vote.

At 8:21 p.m., a motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to adjourn, seconded by Councilperson Allinger.

Respectfully Submitted,

November 28, 2018

Karen Miller Kenerson, RMC
Newfield Town Clerk

