

February 13, 2020

The February Business Meeting of the Newfield Town Board was held at the Town Hall Board Room February 13, 2020, at 7:02 PM. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Michael Allinger and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Present were: Supervisor Michael Allinger, Councilperson Joanne James, Councilperson Christine Laughlin Councilperson Casey Powers and Councilperson Heather McCarty Also present were Highway Superintendent Kevin Berggren, Bookkeeper Blixxy Taetzch, Town Clerk-Karen Miller Kenerson; Town Attorney Tom Smith and 5 other attendees.

Agenda Approval- no additions

Privilege of the Floor-none

Communications and Supervisor Report

Supervisor Allinger reported the Newfield Public Library asked to meet with the Town Board in August: August 27th will be the meeting date.

Supervisor Allinger also reported he received correspondence from Tom Gerow from Blakeslee Hill Rd, regarding the tragic accident that occurred. Mr. Gerow sited auto part thefts occurring on Blakeslee Hill Road and asked that the Junk Yard law be visited and enforced.

Supervisor Allinger also reported Tompkins County Hazard Mitigation Plan Committee needed a point of contact person, Supervisor Allinger and Councilperson Laughlin agreed to do this.

Dennis Hartley from Little Tree Orchard is interested in forming an Agriculture Committee.

Supervisor Allinger and Blixxy Taetzch attended the Tompkins County Municipal Grants and Assistance Work shop. A Parks and Trails grant will open on March 2nd this year closing one month later. Legislature Representative McKenna suggested the Parks and Trails grant be submitted on March 2nd.

Supervisor Allinger stated there is also an infrastructure and tourism grant available that could benefit the Town of Newfield.

Supervisor Allinger also attended the From Source to Tap, What Local governments can do to protect Clean waters in New York” meeting. There will be grant funds available for municipalities for unfunded issues. Office 365 migration has taken place, Supervisor Allinger would like to only be using the newfieldny.org emails moving forward, along with the Office 365 Calendar.

Supervisor Allinger asked for someone to attend the TC Transportation Council – Policy Committee meeting on February 18th- Councilperson Laughlin volunteered to attend.

Danby/Caroline County Legislature Representative Dan Kline corresponded with Supervisor asking to speak to the Newfield Town Board at a future Town Board Meeting regarding the Tompkins County Owned forest land. Representative Kline will attend the February 27th meeting. It was also suggested to have an opposing opinion come speak as well.

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Approval of the January 9 & 23 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilperson James to approve the January 9 & 23, 2020 Business and Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

Vote	AYES	4	Allinger, James, Laughlin and Powers
	NAY	0	
	ABSTAIN	1	McCarty

Carried

Approval of Payments of the February 2020 Bills.

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

Abstract 2

General Fund	\$70,285.82
Recreation	\$53.43
Highway Fund	\$120,653.98
Street light Fund	\$2,803.85
Sewer Fund	\$528.06
Water District 1 Fund	\$3,056.73
Water District 2 Fund	\$117,006.54
Trust & Agency	\$6,370.74

Vouchers were audited by Councilpersons Laughlin and Powers

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

Carried

Reports

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Berggren reported the Department had been busy plowing, hauling in materials for summer project use. Superintendent Berggren reported during the recent storm 4 trucks had repair issues, all were in working order now. The overhead doors at the highway department building have been replaced.

Water/Sewer Department: Supervisor Berggren reported Hunt Engineers are scheduling a meeting with Bolton Point and the Towns of Ithaca and Newfield regarding the water study. A new water meter has been ordered for the School District. The Sewer study is on hold due to the weather. Supervisor Berggren is continuing to work on getting the water reading software updated.

Recreation: Recreation Director Austin Kuczek's report was read by Supervisor Allinger: Summer camp early stage planning has begun; Summer Camp will be held at the Newfield School this year. Supervisor Kuczek will be meeting with Dr. Thomas and Sue Chaffee from the Newfield Library during break. Adult Men's Rec will be on Monday and Thursdays now. Basketball will be ending this weekend, and will be hosting a girl's tournament this weekend. The boy's teams will be in Candor at tournament this weekend.

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Code Enforcement: Code Officer Alan Teeter was absent. A report was provided reflecting one permit for a new home.

Planning Board: Supervisor Allinger reported he had attended the last Planning Board Meeting, Joan Jurkowitz was present, grant proposals for Main Street Enhancement were discussed. Since there was not a quorum, business could not be conducted. A walk/bike trail from the school to the VanKirk Road park was discussed for the possibilities of grant use. Highway Superintendent Berggren stated there are grants available also for sidewalks for safe routes to schools.

Tompkins County Legislature Representative: David McKenna reported the Legislature had passed a Proclamation for Black History Month, a resolution for award of bid for fire alarm replacement in various County Buildings.

Finance & Personnel: Bookkeeper Blix Taetzsch reported the bank reconciliations will be provided each month for the Board Members to review and sign off on. Ms. Taetzsch also described the February Budget Modifications memo. Ms. Taetzsch also stated she had closed the books for 2019 and is in the process of scheduling the 2019 audit. Councilperson Powers and she have begun working on the Personnel Manual.

EMC: Michelle Henry reported the Climate Adaptation Committee has produced a document regarding municipalities reducing its carbon foot print and water runoff into local waterways. Ms. Henry also commented on a presentation regarding the Freese Road Bridge.

TCCOG- Councilperson James reported on the highlights if the January 23rd, meeting

1. Department of Planning Megan McDonald and Darby Kiley
Darby talked about the TCCOG Training Academy's spring programs which will be held at the TC3 Lieberman Extension Center in downtown Ithaca. For a list of classes offered please go to:

<http://tccogtrainingacademy.com/home>

Also, the TC3 training videos for code enforcers and planners are online at the Cornell Cooperative Extension website. These training videos can fulfill mandatory training for planning board members.

2. TC Census Committee
Tompkins County still needs census takers for the 2020 census. Takers must be legal residents of Tompkins County and will be paid \$20/hour for various jobs. Work for census takers does not necessarily mean door-to-door canvassing. There is plenty of administrative work that need to be done.
3. Initial Discussion of 2020 TCCOG Work Plan
The Council reviewed a list of potential projects the group could work on in 2020. It was suggested that we break into subcommittees to focus on specific interests. We were asked to notify the TCCOG secretary by February 5th as to what projects we would like to work on. Here is a list of the potential projects:
 1. Housing
Affordable housing
 2. Energy and Climate Change – Heather McCarty and I signed up for this
General climate issues
Model laws for solar power and wind power
 3. Water Quality
Watershed issues
Septic system testing

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Storm water management

4. Conservation of critical land

Unique natural areas

Stream buffers

5. Tourism and Recreation

6. Public Transportation

7. Emergency Services

Emergency planning

Emergency response

Public safety

8. Other

Shared services

Code Enforcement coordination

Cyber safety

TCCOG welcomes all interested parties to consider volunteering including Town and community members.

4. Around the Table

Linda Woodward from the Village of Cayuga Heights talked about how the village offered to subsidize HRA extra out of pocket costs if employees switched to the Gold Plan. Premium costs were reduced by 15%.

Donald Scheffler from Groton suggested that the committee offer a public safety presentation by Jamie Arnold of BoltWorks Tactical Firearms in Dryden. Don said he does an amazing job in instructing you on what to do when dealing with threatening situations in public places. Jamie spoke to the Groton town board after a Groton town code enforcer had to deal with serious harassment involving force.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution No. 29-2020 Budget Modifications to the 2020 Budget

RESOLUTION NO. 29-2020 – Approval of February 2020 Budget Modifications

WHEREAS, it is necessary to modify the 2020 budget based on updated estimates of revenues and expenses in 2020, and

WHEREAS, a detailed listing of each budget adjustment by Fund has been provided below, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Newfield Town Board approves the budget modifications as outlined below.

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FEBRUARY 2020 BUDGET MODIFICATION				
Account #	Account Name	Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Modified Budget
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES				
A1420.4	Law - Contractual	\$ 40,000.00	\$ (6,551.00)	\$ 33,449.00
A1620.412	Buildings - Maintenance	\$ 17,000.00	\$ (7,000.00)	\$ 10,000.00
A1910.4	Unallocated Insurance	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 8,900.00	\$ 63,900.00
A1930.4	Town Taxes	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00
A3620.1	Safety Inspection - Personal Services	\$ 20,000.00	\$ (5,000.00)	\$ 15,000.00
A9901.9	Interfund Transfers	\$ -	\$ 9,551.00	\$ 9,551.00
Total Expenditure Adjustments			\$ -	

FEBRUARY 2020 BUDGET MODIFICATION				
Account #	Account Name	Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Modified Budget
RECREATION FUND REVENUE				
CR5031	Interfund Revenue	\$ -	\$ 9,551.00	\$ 9,551.00
CR2350	Intergovernmental Charges	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 17,500.00
Total Revenue Adjustments			\$ 16,551.00	\$ 27,051.00
RECREATION FUND EXPENSES				
CR7020.1	Recreation Admin - Personal Services	\$ 20,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 25,000.00
CR9010.8	State Retirement	\$ -	\$ 4,565.00	\$ 4,565.00
CR9030.8	Social Security	\$ 4,867.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 5,117.00
CR9035.8	Medicare	\$ 1,138.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,198.00
CR990	Unappropriated Revenues	\$ 2,005.00	\$ 7,176.00	\$ 9,181.00
Total Expenditure Adjustments			\$ 16,551.00	

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FEBRUARY 2020 BUDGET MODIFICATION				
Account #	Account Name	Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Modified Budget
HIGHWAY FUND REVENUE				
DA3501	Consolidated Highway Aid	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
DA599	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 225,299.00	\$ (135,000.00)	\$ 90,299.00
Total Revenue Adjustments		\$ 445,299.00	\$ (55,000.00)	\$ 390,299.00
HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES				
DA5120.4	Bridges - Contractual	\$ 28,000.00	\$ (20,000.00)	\$ 8,000.00
DA5130.2	Machinery - Equipment	\$ 226,690.00	\$ (20,000.00)	\$ 206,690.00
DA5140.1	Brush and Weeds - Personal Service	\$ 25,625.00	\$ (5,000.00)	\$ 20,625.00
DA5142.1	Snow Removal	\$ 79,875.00	\$ (10,000.00)	\$ 69,875.00
Total Expenditure Adjustments			\$ (55,000.00)	
			\$ -	

Motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin approving Resolution No. 20-2020 February 2020 budget modifications as presented. Motion seconded by Councilperson James.

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

Carried

Agreement with Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation

The Town Board authorized the Supervisor to sign the agreement with TCS&WC, providing advisory support for Code Enforcement and Highway Departments.

Assignment of Randy Brown to the Tompkins County Youth Services Committee and Austin Kuczek to the Tompkins County Rec Partnership Committee

Motion was made by Councilperson Powers appointing Randy Brown to the Tompkins County Youth Services Committee and Austin Kuczek to the Tompkins County Rec Partnership committee, seconded by Councilperson McCarty.

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

Carried

Resolution No. 30-2020 Appointment of Randy Brown as Junkyard Regulation Code Enforcement Officer
 Resolution #30 - 2020

Whereas: Local Law #3 for the year 1988 known as the Junkyard Regulation and Licensing law allows for the Town of Newfield to appoint an Enforcement Officer and

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Whereas: The Enforcement Officer shall be authorized and empowered to act on behalf of the Town of Newfield to enforce the provisions of Local Law #3-1988 including the right to enter onto any licensed premises or premises which are unlicensed, but reasonably deemed to be in violation of the law. Therefore Be it resolved that the Town of Newfield appoints Randy Brown to the position of Enforcement Officer for Local Law #3-1988, the Junkyard Regulation and Licensing law.

Motion was made by Councilperson Powers appointing Randy Brown Enforcement Officer. Motion was seconded by Councilperson James.

Discussion: Councilperson Laughlin asked if it was a volunteer position and how Mr. Brown would enforce the law. It was suggested the Board meet with Mr. Brown to set parameters.

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

Carried

Ratify Vote of Local Law No. 1 of 2020- A Local Law to Repeal the Override of the Tax Levy Limit Established by General Municipal Law 3-C

Motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to adopt Local Law No. 1 of 2020- A Local Law to Repeal the Override of the Tax Levy Limit Established by General Municipal Law 3-C. Motion was seconded by Councilperson Powers

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

Carried

Old Business

Personnel Manual- Councilperson Powers commented she and Blixly will continue to meet to complete the Personnel Manual

Animal Law

Noise Law

Capital Improvements- 3-year plan for Town Hall

At 8:40 PM a motion was made to move into an Executive Session to discuss Personnel issues.

At 9:01, the Meeting was called back to the Regular Meeting of the Newfield Town Board. Councilperson Laughlin offered a motion to move to adjournment at 9:023 PM seconded by Councilperson Powers.

Respectfully Submitted,

February 20, 2019

Karen Miller Kenerson
Newfield Town Clerk