

June 25, 2020

The Newfield Town Board Meeting was held via the ZOOM platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic June 25, 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 lead by Councilperson Laughlin.

Present were: Supervisor Michael Allinger, Councilperson Christine Laughlin, Councilperson Casey Powers and Councilperson Heather McCarty. Also present were Bookkeeper Blixey Taetzch, Town Clerk-Karen Miller Kenerson, Planning Board members- Jim Hausteine and Jacob Marnell.

Agenda Additions and Approval- Councilperson McCarty requested to report on the TCOOG Energy Committee and Councilperson James asked to ask questions regarding the regular TCOOG meeting she attended.

Privilege of the Floor- None

Communications-Supervisor Allinger reported that Tompkins County Finance had communicated that 80% of the AIM and CHIPS funds would be distributed. Because of COVID 20% would be retained. Phase 4 of reopening would begin tomorrow. Supervisor Allinger reported Michelle Henry lead a tour of the 2016 flood affected watershed areas that included himself and Councilperson McCarty. Ms. Henry has agreed to help work town submitting a project to the Cayuga watershed intermunicipal watershed to reinforce the flooded areas that suffered of natural habitat.

TCCOG Energy Committee-Councilperson McCarty reported there is more information to come regarding the Community Choice Aggregation including educational webinars.

TCCOG Councilperson James asked if anyone from the County had approached the Town regarding 5G. Councilperson James also commented that the CENSUS information will not be completed until 2022 and County redistricting and elections may be affected.

Supervisor Allinger reported Phase 4 reopening includes higher education, small indoor and outdoor arts events, and media productions. For Newfield this would include Music in the Park. The Park will have areas marked for seating and have a ROOP in place.

OLD BUSINESS

ENFORCEMENT OF JUNK LAW OF 1987- review of law highlights for inclusion with the first letter and develop the procedure for filing for an extension (part of the second letter). Supervisor Allinger reviewed the 1987 Junk Law and the proposed letters to be sent to properties in violation with edits being agreed upon. A process policy and a 90-day extension waiver form will be drafted next.

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NEW BUSINESS

Review/Finalize Plans for July 9, 2020 Public Hearing

Supervisor Allinger stated a second public hearing is required for Review of the Water Study as Community Development Block Grants are involved, as well as a public hearing for the proposed Local Sub-Division Law. The School and Newfield Fire Company will be contacted for building use, in order to comply with social distancing and accessibility requirements.

2021 Budget Process

Bookkeeper Taetzsch stated letters have been sent to all department heads asking for their 2021 budget requests to have a 5% reduction, and community requests to be flat.

At 8:18 PM Councilperson Laughlin moved to Executive Session regarding collective bargaining negotiations under the Taylor Law, seconded by Councilperson James.

At 9:10 PM motion was made by Councilperson James to return to the regular Board Meeting, seconded by Councilperson Laughlin.

At 9:10 PM a motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to adjourn, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

Respectfully Submitted,

July 6, 2020

Karen Miller Kenerson
Newfield Town Clerk