

October 22, 2020

The Newfield Town Board Meeting was held via the ZOOM platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic October 22, 2020, at 7:01 PM. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Michael Allinger and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag led by Councilperson Laughlin.

Attending were: Supervisor Michael Allinger, Councilperson Joanne James, Councilperson Christine Laughlin Councilperson Casey Powers and Councilperson Heather McCarty. Also attending were Bookkeeper Blix Taetzsch, Town Clerk Karen Miller Kenerson, County Legislator Members Dan Klien and Anna Kelles and 2 others.

**AGENDA APPROVAL & ADDITIONS- None**

**PRESENTATIONS**

*Tompkins County Broadband Planning Study-* Dan Klien & Anna Kelles: explained the need for Tompkins County to conduct a study for expanding broadband service for the middle and last milers and answered Board questions. Presently there is a fiber network from Chemung County up to Cornell and projection to Watkins Glen, but still leaving many with out service. The Southern Tier Network presently provides a fiber network and Fujitsu would conduct the study with a goal to provide broadband coverage to all households.

Both Representatives Klien and Kelles explained that the Southern Tier Network is not for profit company who would own the hard-ware for the fiber network and would then lease the service to a provider type company The cost of the study is \$80, 000 and will take 8 months to conduct.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Employee Handbook/Personnel Manual- Bookkeeper Taetzsch explained the updates and annual requirements that had been added to the document. Councilperson Powers offered the motion to adopt the Personnel Manual, seconded by Councilperson James. Discussion- it was decided to table the vote until the November 12 Business meeting so that everyone could read the updates.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Supervisor Allinger let the Board Members know the Planning Board had received an application for Site Plan Review and Special Use Permit for a cell tower on Rte. 34/96 to be referred to as the Millard Hill Rd project.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Update – Water Study Project: the water study was completed on October 16, 2020, but went over the grant fund. The report provided by Hunt Engineers indicated the well drilled could be put into production for an additional \$80, 000. Bookkeeper Taetzsch stated Water 1 & 2 funds did have fund balance to cover this.

Councilperson Powers offered motion to approve the payment of the outstanding balance to Hunt Engineers prior to the November Business Meeting, seconded by Councilperson James,

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

Carried

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At 8:41 PM motion was offered by Councilperson Laughlin to move to an Executive Session in order to discuss collective bargaining contract negotiation and personnel issues.

At 9:24 PM the meeting resumed to a public meeting. At 9:26 PM motion was offered by Councilperson Laughlin to adjourn, seconded by Councilperson McCarty.

Respectfully Submitted

October 26, 2020

Karen Miller Kenerson  
Newfield Town Clerk