

February 11, 2021

A regular business meeting of the Newfield Town Board was held via the Zoom Platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic February 11, 2021 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 Christine Laughlin.

Present were: Supervisor Michael Allinger, Councilperson Joanne James, Councilperson Christine Laughlin, Councilperson Heather McCarty and Councilperson Casey Powers. Also present were Highway Superintendent Kevin Berggren, Town Bookkeeper Blixey Taetzsch, Planning Board Members, Leo Tidd, Code Enforcement Officer Alan Teeter, County Legislature Representative David McKenna, Attorney Tom Smith, representatives for Verizon Tarpon cell tower project, Town Clerk- Karen Miller Kenerson; and 5 other attendees.

Agenda Approval: Addition of Terry Carrol for Clean Energy Communities presentation, and Councilperson McCarty asked for an Executive Session.

Privilege of the Floor: *none*

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

*SEQR Resolution and EAF for Verizon Tarpon Towers Project  
Resolution 29-2021*

#### **RESOLUTION #29-2021**

#### **SEQRA RESOLUTION and SPECIAL PERMIT APPROVAL VERIZON WIRELESS SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION (West Danby Road)**

WHEREAS, the Town of Newfield has received a special permit application from Bell Atlantic Mobile Systems, LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Verizon Wireless”) to construct and operate a cell tower off West Danby Road in Newfield under Newfield Local Law 4 of 1998 (the “Project”);

WHEREAS, pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and associated regulations including 6 NYCRR 617.1, et seq. (“SEQRA”) the Town is required to undertake a review of potential environmental impacts associated with the Project;

WHEREAS, the Town has reviewed the Full Environmental Assessment Form Part 1 prepared by C& S Engineers and completed the Full Environmental Assessment Form Part 2 (the “EAF”);

WHEREAS, the Town Board has considered the recommendation provided by the Town Planning Board, the presentations made on behalf of Verizon Wireless at the Town Board meetings of December 10, 2020 and January 28, 2021, and comments made at the duly noticed public hearing on January 28, 2021,

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WHEREAS based upon the information contained in the EAF, review of the special permit application submitted by Verizon Wireless, the recommendation of the Town Planning Board, all public comments made to the Town Board, and the knowledge and review of the Town Board members and after due deliberation;

NOW, THEREFORE, upon motion duly made by Councilperson Laughlin and seconded by Councilperson Powers it is

BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

Upon a thorough review and due consideration of the EAF, which the Town now adopts, the Town makes the following findings:

1. The Town has considered the Project pursuant to the criteria set forth in applicable law and regulations, including SEQRA;
2. The Town determines that the Project will have no significant negative environmental impacts and hereby issues a negative declaration under SEQRA.
3. The Town hereby approves the issuance of a special permit to Verizon Wireless under Local Law 4 of 1998.

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

Carried

#### Presentation

*Clean Energy Community*- Terry Carroll

Mr. Carroll presented the Board with information regarding New York Southern Tier Clean Energy Communities program and stated there is action grant funding is availability.

#### **Approval of January 14 Business Meeting and January 28, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made by Councilperson Powers to approve the January 14<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting Minutes and January 28, 2021 Board Meeting minutes, seconded by Councilperson Laughlin.

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

Carried

#### **Approval of the Payment of the Abstract 2- February 2021 Bills.**

Motion was made by Councilperson McCarty to approve the payments, seconded by Councilperson Laughlin.

The Board authorized the payments of the following amounts:

General Fund	\$32,528.93
Highway Fund	\$99,124.90

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Recreation Fund	\$2,680.68
Lighting	\$2,546.04
Sewer Fund	\$2,100.33
Water District 1 Fund	\$23,919.32
Water District 2 Fund	\$143,376.28
Trust & Agency	\$3,509.81

Vouchers were audited by Councilpersons Laughlin and McCarty

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

Carried

## REPORTS

*Highway Department:* Highway Superintendent Kevin Berggren reported they had been busy keeping up with the snow, using lots of material and bringing more materials in. He also reported NYS DOT has been storing salt in the Town salt shed facility for closer reloads for State roads in the southern part of the county. This is good for shared services. Superintendent Berggren stated the Town is in good shape with salt and was also bringing in stone for summer projects. Superintendent Berggren also reported a manlift has been purchased with financial help provided from the Newfield King Hiram Masonic Lodge. All Highway employees will be trained and certified to use it.

*Water & Sewer Department:* Supervisor Berggren stated Water Technician Sean Redman was getting ready for the State Water testing, and that the Town is looking for a new lab to do the testing. Well #4 on Pine Circle well house will need to have a precautionary 200 ft. radius easement regarding storage of chemicals required by New York State and Tompkins County Health Departments, the adjoining property owners will be contacted by phone and mail. Hunt Engineering continues to work on the infiltration study.

*Recreation Department:* Recreation Supervisor Austin Kuscek was absent, Supervisor Allinger read the report.

*Code Enforcement:* Code Enforcement Officer Alan Teeter reported 3 building permits were issued for January. CEO Teeter also reported there would be no in person training this year, only online, he will be meeting with Tompkins County Assessment regarding the 2021 tax roll and that he is working on the State report due April 1, 2021.

*Planning Board:* Chairperson Leo Tidd reported the Planning Board met with the project manager from Cornell Design Connect for the Hamlet Revitalization Plan Project. Chairperson Tidd stated the Planning Board is looking to improve the Solar Law in the future.

*Tompkins County Legislature:* Representative David McKenna announced he will not be seeking re-election. He reported budget adjustments were made at the last Legislature meeting and new appointments were made.

*Finance & Personnel:* Bookkeeper Blixxy Taetzsch reported the January financials and bank reconciliations were had been uploaded for review. The Budget Modification resolution had been prepared and summarized by fund. The 2020 Audit was complete and that she was working on the Annual Update Document (AUD). She also reported all changes in salaries and wages that were approved by the Board have been incorporated into the payroll and any retroactive pay that employees were entitled to have been received.

Resolution 30-2021

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## RESOLUTION NO. 30-2021 – Approval of February 2021 Budget Modifications

WHEREAS, it is necessary to modify the 2021 budget based on updated estimates of revenues and expenses in 2021, 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.

Account #	Account Name	Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Modified Budget
<b>GENERAL FUND REVENUE</b>				
A2750	Aim Related Payments	\$ -	\$ 9,652.00	\$ 9,652.00
Total Revenue Adjustments			\$ 9,652.00	
<b>GENERAL FUND EXPENSES</b>				
A1110.101	Town Justice - Personal Services	\$ 10,763.00	\$ 2,237.00	\$ 13,000.00
A1220.11	Town Supervisor - Bookkeeper	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 525.00	\$ 30,525.00
A1410.1	Town Clerk - Personal Services	\$ 39,295.00	\$ 990.00	\$ 40,285.00
A1610.415	Central Service - Phone/Internet	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
A1610.416	Central Service - Software and Maintenance	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 6,000.00
A1620.1	Buildings - Personal Services	\$ 3,246.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 3,300.00
A1910.4	Unallocated Insurance	\$ 67,000.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 67,120.00
A5010.1	Superintendent of Highways - Personal Service	\$ 75,480.00	\$ 1,270.00	\$ 76,750.00
A5010.11	Superintendent of Highways - Clerk	\$ 11,879.00	\$ 211.00	\$ 12,090.00
A8020.1	Planning - Personal Services	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 2,545.00
Total Expenditure Adjustments			\$ 9,652.00	

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Account #	Account Name	Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Modified Budget
<b>HIGHWAY FUND REVENUE</b>				
DA599	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 7,456.00	\$ 102,456.00
Total Revenue Adjustments			\$ 7,456.00	
<b>HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES</b>				
DA5110.1	General Repairs - Personal Service	\$ 184,044.00	\$ 4,956.00	\$ 189,000.00
DA5110.19	General Repairs - Emergency Closing	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
DA5112.1	Permanent Improvements - Personal Service	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
DA5130.1	Machinery - Personal Service	\$ 38,000.00	\$ (15,500.00)	\$ 22,500.00
DA5140.1	Brush and Weeds - Personal Service	\$ 38,000.00	\$ (8,000.00)	\$ 30,000.00
DA5142.1	Snow Removal	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
Total Expenditure Adjustments			\$ 7,456.00	

Account #	Account Name	Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Modified Budget
<b>SEWER FUND REVENUE</b>				
SS1-3902	State Aid - Planning Grants	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Total Revenue Adjustments			\$ 15,000.00	
<b>SEWER FUND EXPENSES</b>				
SS1-8120.41	Grant Funded Expense	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
SS1-8110.1	Administration - Personal Services	\$ 14,700.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 14,800.00
SS1-8110.101	Administration - Billing Clerk	\$ 356.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 365.00
SS1-8130.4	Treatment/Disposal - Contractual	\$ 40,000.00	\$ (109.00)	\$ 39,891.00
Total Expenditure Adjustments			\$ 15,000.00	

Account #	Account Name	Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Modified Budget
<b>WATER #1 FUND REVENUE</b>				
SW1-599	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ 21,585.00	\$ 21,585.00
Total Revenue Adjustments			\$ 21,585.00	
<b>WATER #1 FUND EXPENSES</b>				
SW1-8310.1	Water Administration - Personal Services	\$ 25,628.00	\$ 372.00	\$ 26,000.00
SW1-8310.101	Water Administration - Billing Clerk	\$ 712.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 725.00
SW1-8320.4	Source of Supply - Contractual	\$ 21,296.00	\$ 21,200.00	\$ 42,496.00
Total Expenditure Adjustments			\$ 21,585.00	

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Account #	Account Name	Original Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Modified Budget
<b>WATER #2 FUND REVENUE</b>				
SW2-599	Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ 21,286.00	\$ 21,286.00
Total Revenue Adjustments			\$ 21,286.00	
<b>WATER #2 FUND EXPENSES</b>				
SW2-8310.1	Water Administration - Personal Services	\$ 20,627.00	\$ 73.00	\$ 20,700.00
SW2-8310.101	Water Administration - Billing Clerk	\$ 712.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 725.00
SW2-8320.4	Source of Supply - Contractual	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 21,200.00	\$ 28,200.00
Total Expenditure Adjustments			\$ 21,286.00	

Motion was made by Councilperson Powers approving the February 2021 budget modifications as presented. Motion seconded by Councilperson James.

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

Carried

*EMC-* Michelle Henry reported there had been a Christmas bird count presentation and that the EMC is looking to reorganize in order to better network with the communities.

*TCCOG -* Councilperson James reported she would be attending a webinar regarding Community Choice Aggregation. Councilperson James also spoke of the Tompkins Food Future Initiative, there will be a survey uploaded to the Town website for community input.

*Climate Smart Communities-* Councilperson Heather McCarty reported the committee would be submitting documentation for accruing points.

*Supervisor's Report-* Supervisor Allinger reported the Association of Town will be holding a virtual conference February 14-17, 2021. He welcomed elected officials to sign up for educational classes. Junk Code Officer Brown reported to the Supervisor that notices have been sent to property owners regarding violations. Supervisor Allinger reported the Hazard Mitigation Survey is ready for release and will be uploaded to the Town website for community participation. Speed reduction signs for Horton Road have been ordered. Supervisor Allinger suggested the Town look into speed reduction for Van Kirk Road near the Athletic Fields.

February 25, 2021 Jeffner Allen will be present to discuss her finding regarding Critical Areas in the Town of Newfield.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Updated Quote from Spectrum on Phone Upgrade*

Motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to approve the phone system upgrade for the Town Hall and Highway Department, seconded by Councilperson James.

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

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Carried

At 8:28 PM a motion was made by Councilperson Powers to move into an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding COVID-19 protocol, seconded by Councilperson McCarty.

At 8:50 PM, Executive Session ended and the Regular Meeting resumed of the Newfield Town Board.

At 8:51 PM, Councilperson Laughlin offered a motion to move to adjourn, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

Respectfully Submitted,

February 10, 2021

Karen Miller Kenerson  
Newfield Town Clerk