

Town of Newfield
Regular Town Board Business Meeting
March, 11, 2021

The March 11, 2021 regular business meeting was held via Zoom in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 202.1. Meeting instructions were on the Town website.

Present via Zoom: Michael Allinger, Supervisor, Councilmembers- Joanne James, Christine Laughlin, Heather McCarty, Casey Powers, Highway Superintendent Kevin Berggren, Town Bookkeeper Blix Taetzsch, Town Attorney Tom Smith, Planning Board member Jim Haustein, Town Clerk Karen Miller Kenerson and 7 others.

Supervisor Allinger called the Town Board Meeting to order at 7:00 PM, Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilperson Laughlin.

Agenda Approval- no changes

Privilege of the Floor- none

Approval of February 11 and February 25, 2021 Minutes

Motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to approve the February 11, 2021 Business Meeting Minutes and February 25, 2021 Board Meeting minutes, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

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

Carried

Approval of Audit and Claims of Abstract 3 Vouchers

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

General Fund	\$59,281.17
Lighting Fund	\$1,444.34
Fire District Fund	\$206,273.50
Highway Fund	\$73,231.75
Recreation Fund	\$98.89
Sewer Fund	\$744.76
Water District 1 Fund	\$3,338.45
Water District 2 Fund	\$1,760.93

Trust & Agency \$3,204.06

Vouchers were audited by Councilpersons McCarty and Powers.

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

Carried

Reports

Highway Department- Superintendent Berggren reported the department is in good shape with sand and salt for the remainder of the year. The Highway crew are beginning to patch areas and are bringing in materials for summer projects. Superintendent Berggren reported the Highway crew participated in the manlift training and Dig Safe NY training certification. Superintendent Berggren reported that CHIPS funds for 2020 that had been cut, a portion has been reallocated back to the Town. No word when the funds may be received. Superintendent Berggren requested the Board to entertain discussion of the approval to order a new 10-wheel dump truck for 2022 delivery, he reported also he had looked into financing and is cleared with KS Bank.

Motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to approve Highway Superintendent Berggren to order the new 10-wheel dump truck for 2022 delivery, seconded by Councilperson James.

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

Carried

Water/Sewer Department- Water Supervisor Berggren reported no issues with the water department and waiting for the DEC to approve the water withdraw permit for the new Pine Circle well There is a meeting scheduled next week with the DEC regarding the sewer department.

Recreation- Recreation Supervisor Austin Kuzcek reported in his written report that spring sports sign-ups will be March 22 with baseball, softball, t-ball and track beginning in mid-April. Summer camp is currently looking for a Camp Director and also are waiting for guidelines from the County and State. Mr. Kuzcek also reported he had met with interim Newfield School Superintendent Eric Hartz regarding holding camp at the school this summer. Van Kirk Park Athletic fields are wet! The basketball courts are open. Austin hopes to begin adult recreation basketball soon at the park.

Code Enforcement- Building Code Officer Alan Teeter reported 4 building permits were issued for February: 3 remodeling and 1 generator. Mr. Teeter also reported he is continuing to work on his online training and working on the annual report for the State. Mr. Teeter asked for clarification for the Verizon Tarpon Tower.

Motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin for the Verizon Tarpon Tower building permit fee to be seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), and three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for a special use permit fee, seconded by Councilperson McCarty.

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

Carried

Mr. Teeter also reported Charlie Mosher asked him to take over home enumeration numbering. Junk Code Officer Randy Brown reported in his written report there are 6 active cases, 4 have made efforts to clean up, 2 have not and have been sent a second notice and 2 complaints he will be addressing. A draft letter will be circulated that will be sent to vehicle repair shops advising the shop owners of the current junk law.

Beautification Committee-Randy Brown reviewed the 2020 projects and reported for the 2021 summer season, student-based grants will be offered for various locations in the town. The school will advertise signups for the garden starter seeding project again this year. Last year 88 students took part in the program.

Planning Board- Jim Haustein reported the Cornell Design Connect Team is working on background for the hamlet revitalization project and next will be reaching out to the community. Mr. Haustein also reported the Planning Board will be looking at the Town's existing Solar Law for possible recommendations to the Town Board.

Finance and Personnel- Town Bookkeeper Blix Taetzsch reported in her written report the Town Audit is completed and the AUD report has been submitted. She will make schedule for INSERO to present the report at a work session meeting in April. Ms. Taetzsch stated she would be auditing the court accounts soon.

Climate Smart Communities: Councilperson McCarty reported the beginnings of the Climate Smart Community website is up, and that Councilperson Powers and Heidi Erickson presented to the Newfield Public Library to the adult meet up group. The committee is also working on a Clean Energy Communities program and community engagement.

EMC- Michelle Henry reported EMC continues to reorganize. Ms. Henry also commented on the need for spring sampling of the Cayuga Inlet due to the spring thaw and on the creation of a pamphlet for residents of how to mitigate households' products in case of a flood

Supervisor's Report- Supervisor Allinger reported the COVID vaccine is now available to 60+ year-olds, public facing government employees and public officials. Supervisor Allinger reported he, Highway Superintendent Berggren and Town Clerk Kenerson had met with Newfield School officials regarding shared services and future budgeting. Supervisor Allinger announced Summer

Camp will be the first outside group activity to be held at the school since the school closed to the public.

Supervisor Allinger also reported the loop in the ARC grant has been corrected and the funds should be coming in soon. Supervisor Allinger spoke to SCT regarding the upgrade for the VPN computer and phone upgrade networks. The Tompkins County Hazard Mitigation draft is finishing up, Supervisor Allinger will post as soon as it is ready. There will be a 60–90-day review period before final adoption. Supervisor Allinger noted a license has been purchased for the Beautification Committee to have an email, and that the Horton Road speed reduction signs have been installed.

OLD BUSINESS

Heat Smart Tompkins- Lisa Marshall program director spoke about the Heat Smart Tompkins and the heat pump partnership program. Ms. Marshall offered the benefits of the Heat Smart Partnership for the Town and its residents. The Board discussed putting the Heat Smart program information on the Town website, information to be included on the next water bill, post card mailing and to host a webinar. Motion was offered by Supervisor Allinger to allow Councilperson McCarty and Ms. Marshall to move forward with a community campaign promoting the Heat Smart Partnership for clean heat for the Town of Newfield, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

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

Carried

March 26, 2021 Supervisor Allinger will sign the Heat Smart Program agreement.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution #30-2021 March 2021 Budget Modifications

RESOLUTION NO. 30-2021 – Approval of March 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
HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES				
DA 5110.1	General Repairs - Personal Service	\$ 189,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)	\$ 188,000.00
DA 5110.19	General Repairs - Emergency Closing	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Total Expenditure Adjustments			\$ -	

Motion was made by Councilperson Powers to approve the March 2021 budget modifications as presented. Motion seconded by Councilperson James.

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

Carried

NEW BUSINESS

New York State Emergency Planning Document- Supervisor Allinger commented it was a boiler plate template provided by the State, listing the names of essential service workers for the Town regarding onsite and offsite work, Bookkeeper Taetzsch stated the plan needs to be approved by the collective bargaining unit before approval and being filed. Possible Board approval at the next Board Meeting pending collective bargaining unit approval.

Discussion – gathering all permit and service fees into one document – Supervisor Allinger suggested a complete list of all permits and service fees be gathered and listed on the website.

Discussion – stairs at the Covered Bridge are in need of maintenance Highway Superintendent Berggren felt the current stairs should be removed and then replaced with concrete stairs. Highway Superintendent Berggren will get multiple estimates for this repair and bring to the Board for review.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Laughlin at 9:11 PM and seconded by Councilperson McCarty.

Respectfully Submitted,

March 22,2021

Karen Miller Kenerson, RMC
 Town Clerk