

Town of Newfield  
Regular Town Board Business Meeting  
April 8, 2021

The April 8, 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 Blixty Taetzsch, Town Attorney Tom Smith, Town Clerk Karen Miller Kenerson and 5 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 March 11 and March 25, 2021 Minutes**

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

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

Carried

**Approval of Audit and Claims of Abstract 4 Vouchers**

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

General and Lighting Fund Vouchers 77-103	\$30,075.79
Highway Fund Vouchers 59 -82	\$47,672.71
Sewer Fund \$477.59 Vouchers 14-18	
Water District 1 Fund Vouchers 25-32	\$4,066.96
Water District 2 Fund Vouchers 18-24	\$1,715.06
Trust & Agency 8-10	\$3,448.66

Vouchers were audited by Councilpersons McCarty and Powers.

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

Carried

## **Reports**

*Highway Department-* Highway Superintendent Kevin Berggren reported the Highway Department had been repairing plow damage and brooming materials from the roads. Burdge Hill Road improvements would be beginning soon. Superintendent Berggren stated he had given his input to the Cornell Design Connect group regarding the Hamlet Revitalization Project.

*Water/Sewer Department-* Water Supervisor Berggren reported the private well on Pine Circle that has been affected by the new well near the pump house was recently flushed, it is hoped this will correct the issue. Newfield Horizon Apartments is reported to having issues with sediments in the lines. The DEC still has not given approval for water withdraw from the new well on Pine Circle. The Sewer pump on Trumbulls Corners Road and Main Street issues have been corrected.

*Recreation-* absent

*Code Enforcement-* absent

*Tompkins County Legislature-* absent

*Beautification Committee-* absent

*Planning Board-* Leo Tidd reported Design Connect is currently focusing on collecting data from the survey and interviewing key stake holders in the study area. A draft of the actual concept and alternative should will be presented soon for future discussion. Mr. Tidd reported the Planning Board is currently reviewing the Town of Caroline's Local Solar Law and are tailoring one for Newfield's needs. A draft recommendation will be presented to the Town Board for amend the Town of Newfield's local solar law. New York Stretch Energy Code- the Planning Board will be presenting their recommendation to the Town Board to adopt.

*Finance and Personnel-* Bookkeeper Blix Taetzsch reported the March 2021 financials and bank reconciliations are ready for review. The draft audit financial statements were also available and a representative from INSERO will present the financial statements and answer questions at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Lauren Schmaucher has been hired as the Summer Camp Director and other summer camp position openings have been posted on the Tompkins County Personnel website. Bookkeeper Taetzsch also reported she is close to completing the inventory for all the Town facilities.

*Van Kirk Road Park-* Supervisor Allinger reported the public has been asked to refrain from using the soccer fields as it has just been reseeded.

*Climate Smart Communities-* Councilperson McCarty reported the committee will be submitting the greenhouse gas inventory and continues to focus on Clean Energy for the community. The committee is also discussing New York Stretch Energy Code, the Heat Smart Energy event, education and outreach and Clean Energies grant funding.

*EMC-* Michelle Henry reported the EMC will be submitting a proposal for a watershed coordinator, and that the committee had reviewed the Finger Lakes Natural Heritage Area Designation, Tompkins County Hazard Mitigation and the TMDL (Total Maximum Discharge Load) and will be up for public review.

*TCCOG-* Councilperson James stated that TCCOG was waiting to hear how the grant is progressing for the Community Choice Aggregation.

*Supervisor's Report-* Supervisor Allinger reported Tompkins County has posted to their website 49.5% of its population has been vaccinated for COVID-19 Covid and is one of the highest in the State. Supervisor Allinger announced there will be an upcoming vacancy for the Planning Board. The New York State budget passed and that CHIPS and PAVE NY funds have increased and that AIM funds have been restored.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### ***Resolution for Purchase of NYSEG- owned street lighting system***

#### **Resolution No. 31-2021**

#### **Street Lighting Purchase**

WHEREAS, the Town of Newfield has entered into an Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Street Light Facilities with New York State Electric and Gas Corporation ("NYSEG") dated March 29, 2021 and a Street Lighting Pole Attachment Agreement with NYSEG dated March 15, 2021 (collectively, the "NYSEG Agreements"); and

WHEREAS, the Town determines that it is in the public interest to enter into the NYSEG Agreement;

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

BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The Town hereby approves and ratifies the NYSEG Agreements, and
2. Authorizes the Town by its Supervisor or other Town employees to carry out the NYSEG Agreements as written and approved.

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

Carried

### ***Abandonment Resolution for Sumerton Road***

information from DEC was not available. Topic tabled for future discussion.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***Newfield Community Clean Heat Campaign Scoping Document***

Councilperson McCarty stated the Climate Smart Communities would be posting links encouraging community members about clean heat. Target mailing post cards was discussed with cost sharing from NYSERDA. Councilperson James commented she supported the post card campaign. Councilperson Laughlin commented that she did not feel tax payer dollars should be used for the post card campaign, Supervisor Allinger agreed. Councilperson Powers asked if donations could be accepted for the post card campaign? It was agreed that private funds could be accepted and used for the public information campaign, not tax dollars.

Motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin at 8:04 PM to move to an executive session to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Councilperson McCarty.

At 8:41 PM, motion to return to the regular business meeting was offered by Councilperson James, seconded by Councilperson McCarty.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Long Term and Short-Term Disability Insurance*

Motion to approve the new proposed short- and long-term disability insurance policies as outlined in the memo prepared by Bookkeeper Taetzsch effective May 1, 2021 was offered by Councilperson Laughlin, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

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

Carried

Motion to approve offering short- and long-term disability benefits effective March 1, 2021 to current Town of Newfield employees equivalent to those outlined in the new policies taking effect May 1, 2021 was offered by Councilperson Laughlin, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

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

Carried

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Powers at 8:50 PM and seconded by Councilperson James.

Respectfully Submitted,

April 13, 2021

Karen Miller Kenerson, RMC  
Town Clerk