

Town of Newfield
Town Board Meeting
May 27, 2021

The May 27, 2021 Work Session 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, Town Bookkeeper Blixey Taetzsch, Town Clerk Karen Miller Kenerson and 3 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 additions were requested

Privilege of the Floor- none

Communications-Supervisor Allinger stated an extension for the Inflow and Infiltration Study grant is being prepared, Bookkeeper Taetzsch commented she did not feel an extension would be needed. May Sharif from Hunt Engineers is sending in the final report.

Supervisor Allinger commented he would like a community wide survey regarding the underserved Broadband study. Councilperson McCarty commented the Climate Smart Community committee will be having a presentation for possible grant funding. Town Hall infrastructure networking improvements are scheduled to begin June 6th. Councilperson Laughlin suggested rather than reconfiguring the Meeting room for the AV equipment, purchasing a monitor (2) for each end of the room.

Bookkeeper Taetzsch stated she had attended a government finance school, where there was discussion regarding cannabis sales and regulations, the Town could decide to opt out of cannabis sales, a petition referendum would need to be on the November 2021 ballot. If the Town were to opt out, it would not receive the tax revenue generated. Not a lot of details were offered. There will be a governing licensing board to regulate cannabis licensing. Blixey also commented renewable energy assessments will no longer be assessed by the local assessment offices and will now be determined by the State. The State also passed moratorium legislation to not add late fees, penalties, and tax levies on delinquent utility bills until July 2022 and the 2023 taxes. In Newfield's case, water and sewer utility billing. Blixey added this included shut offs for delinquent accounts.

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NY Stretch Resolution

Councilperson McCarty reported a public hearing would need to be scheduled for public comment regarding the NY Energy Stretch Code.

Motion was offered by Councilperson McCarty to convene a public hearing July 22, 2021 at 7:00, for public comment regarding the NY Stretch Energy Code Local Law adoption, pending Lou Vogel being able to present the topic, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

Discussion: Councilperson Laughlin commented she felt the code should be about safety, not the fluff items that are being added.

Supervisor Allinger asked Councilperson McCarty what an advantage would be if the Town were to pass the local law. Councilperson McCarty stated the Town could receive a \$5,000.00 grant and 1,200 points toward Clean Energy Communities larger grants.

Lou Vogel will be invited to present to local real-estate agents, contractors and future new homeowners to attend the public hearing.

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

Carried

Discussion on Broadband Survey

It was discussed to hire an independent contractor to provide the Town of Newfield with an inventory of underserved Newfield residents.

Motion was offered by Councilperson James to approve the hiring of an independent contractor to survey Newfield Community members who are underserved, who do not have access to broadband not to exceed \$3,500.00. Seconded by Councilperson Laughlin adding a friendly amendment not to exceed \$4,000.00(\$35.00/hour labor and \$500.00 for expenses).

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

Carried

Supervisor Allinger will reach out to the independent contractor with a contract and timeline.

Discussion – how the new CDC guidelines will affect Newfield Town Hall

Supervisor Allinger stated the executive order had been extended until June 23rd. to convene meetings remotely. Councilperson James stated she was in favor of in-person meetings with the seating being spaced to 6 ft. apart with the understanding when the room is to capacity to offer the Zoom link to attend. The Town Board discussed how the Town Hall should respond to the updated CDC guidelines. The public and employees will continue to be asked sign the visitor log and to wear masks in the Town Hall. Town Hall employees who are vaccinated can work together without masks if they feel safe. The stairwell will continue to be cordoned off, due to the Court still being closed. The Town Hall restrooms continue to be limited.

New Business

Review New Solar Law -Planning Board Chair Leo Tidd reviewed the differences of the current solar law to what the Planning Board is suggesting. The Board reviewed the introduction thru Article VI. The remainder will be reviewed at the June 17, 2021.

At 9:09 PM, a motion was made by Councilperson Powers to move into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue, seconded by Councilperson Laughlin.

At 9:45 PM, Motion was made by Councilperson Powers to exit Executive Session, seconded by Councilperson Laughlin and the Regular Meeting of the Newfield Town Board resumed.

At 9:46 PM, Councilperson Powers offered a motion adjourn, seconded by Councilperson Laughlin

Respectfully Submitted,

June 1, 2021

Karen Miller Kenerson, RMC
Town Clerk