WORKSESSION

OCTOBER 18, 2021 2:00PM

Present: Supervisor Greg Hartranft, Councilor Garry Stanard, Councilor Margaret Rusaw, Councilor Ariane Hamblin-Smith, Engineer Ian Yerdon, Assistant Project Manager Tanner Dewolf, Highway Superintendant Roger Dunsmoor, Bookkeeper Jen Allen, and Town Clerk Sandy Austin.

Meeting started with the board signing vouchers,

Ian Yerdon went over the C2AE update.

Mt Pleasant/Bateman-Distin WSA : Still waiting for attorney to review and approve agreements. Will not be putting this water district on 2022 tax roll as the project will not be completed until 2022.

CR6/Maple Ave WSA: next step is for attorney to submit to the NYS Comptroller Application and approval.

Full project update on file in clerk’s office.

Discussion between town board and town clerk:

Town Clerk S Austin wanted to know why the board felt it was okay to cut the clerks salary $6,657.99 or 16% when everyone else was getting a 2% raise. Councilor Rusaw said it was because she was not doing her job, but doing the job of the bookkeeper, but had nothing to back this up. Town Clerk S Austin said she does not do bookkeeping but is here to help if needed and wanted to know who was doing the clerks job as it is getting done. Town Clerk S Austin stated she is tired of playing childish petty games every year and felt that this is personal towards her. Councilor Rusaw then re-stated the reason for the salary cut was that the tax collector and clerk positions were combined in 2019 to save the town money. Town clerk said the salary change should have taken place in the 2019 budget and cannot be changed now until the end of the clerk’s term 2023. Town Clerk informed the board pursuant to Municipal Law 23(e) an elected officials salary cannot be decreased mid-term. The Town Clerk provided the Town Supervisor G Hartranft with a copy of said law. Supervisor G Hartranft then set a new date and time to go over the budget again. Wednesday, October 27th at 7PM

Town Clerk suggested putting a hold on two of the vouchers turned in, one for the first draft for Water district CR6, Maple Ave. as the board did not know at this time which attorney would be handling the project. The second was the bill for Spectrum as the phones are still not working well. Spectrum representatives will be coming in at 3:30 to discuss the issues.

Councilor G Standard stated that the town clerk signed documents with Spectrum that should have been signed by the town supervisor. Town Clerk S Austin agreed with him and added she did not sign anything without the supervisor’s permission and she did not know she was not authorized to sign them.

Highway Superintendant R Dunsmoor advised the board he has started getting prices for 2 new plow trucks. The new pickup trucks should be arriving sometime late January or February.

More discussion in regards to the budget: Supervisor G Hartranft was given a report from the bookkeeper showing that the balance in the bank was not enough to get the town through the remainder of the year.

Supervisor G Hartranft asked Town Clerk S Austin to explain in more detail. Town Clerk S Austin stated that the revenues shown in the budget were exaggerated and that the town does not take in only a fraction of that amount. Fund balance has been going down each year and not represented on the budget. Expenditures were high in 2021 as cost has increased due to COVID. She recommends the revenues need to be adjusted to reflect more accurately what is received and the unexpended balance also needs to be more accurate. This will cause a higher than normal tax increase but it is better to increase taxes at a smaller percentage now than to have to increase substantially in future years, as there is little left in the emergency funds.

Having no more business the meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L Austin

Volney Town Clerk