

THE TOWN OF CHENANGO TOWN BOARD MET AT WORK SESSION ON WEDNESDAY JULY 18, 2018, AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE TOWN OF CHENANGO TOWN HALL, 1529 NY RT. 12, BINGHAMTON, N.Y.

PRESENT: Jim DiMascio, Deputy Supervisor
Russell Hemedinger, Councilperson
Gene Hulbert, Town Councilperson
Terry Kellogg, Town Councilperson

ALSO PRESENT: Donald G. Walls, Town Attorney
Lizanne M. Tiesi-Korinek, Town Clerk
Donald Benjamin, Public Works Superintendent

Department Head Reports

Donald Benjamin – Public Work Superintendent

- Landscaping Quote for Town Hall grounds – We got two quotes back – Tioga Gardens and Hillside Gardens. He and Tami met with each of them and both Tami and Don liked what Tioga Gardens presented. Hillside's came back at \$5,816.00 and Tioga Gardens was \$5,924.00 which was a little bit more but they are doing more for it. Don presented the drawings to the Board and felt that Tioga Gardens had the most going for it especially because they presented a better display for the Veterans Memorial area and they are addressing the dead space on the opposite wall.

After a little discussion was had they agreed to go with Tioga Gardens and that a formal resolution will be presented and voted on at the August 6, 2018 Town Board meeting.

- Don looked into the County's garbage pick-up contract. We can piggy back off of it. The County uses Taylor Garbage. He contacted Taylor Garbage and they have not gotten back to him as of yet with prices. The person from Taylor Garbage had to look over the prices and get in contact with Deb Smith from Broome County. As soon as Don gets the numbers he will e-mail the Board.
- Harold Guernsey, one of Don's workers who got into a motorcycle crash at the end of April, is scheduled to come back to work August 13th.

Jim DiMascio asked how he was feeling and Don replied that he had lost a lot of weight but he is doing well. It will be light duty.

- Chenango Bridge Park – Super Cooper Memorial Playground – We need to set up a meeting with all parties involved in this and come up with a plan of attack. We need to definitely have our Engineer involved as well and who ever would like to. We probably need to do this sooner than later.

Jim DiMascio gave everyone a little briefing on what has been going on with this. Senator Akshar has pledged \$75,000.00 to help build this playground at Chenango Bridge Park. The Chenango Bridge Civic Association along with the Bush Family (Cooper Bush's Parents) are partnering together to try and create the playground as a Memorial to Cooper. So again we are using the name Super Cooper Memorial Playground as this project gets off the ground. So it does deserve a kick-off meeting to understand better what their goals and ideas are.

Don Benjamin – we just need to get all the players involved. We also need to take into consideration that area does flood.

Russ Hemedinger – yes that is one of the reason why not a whole lot has been done down there at that Park. It needs to be well planned before it does go in and agreed that Alex needs to be involved.

Gene Hulbert – he offered to help if Alex was not familiar with the requirements of the playground etc. as he has a fairly extensive background in it. He does not want to take over the Town Engineer’s role but he is more than willing to assist in this project.

Don Benjamin will start the ball rolling and get something scheduled within the next few weeks.

Aleta Kinne – asked if the Town’s Insurance cover the playground or does the Civics’ Insurance cover it?

Jim DiMascio – Replied that the Town’s cover it as it is our property

Tami Carl – By the looks of the e-mail from Robin they are looking at it being done in the fall.

Jim DiMascio – He will call Robin himself as he expects it to be a Spring of next year project. Unless there is a mathematical part that he doesn’t understand specifically the funding – if it needs to be 2018.

Don Benjamin – He will get with Tami and get all the contact numbers and try to coordinate a meeting date and he will let the Board know and whoever is available is welcome to attend.

Tami Carl – The paving of the roadway down to the park was included in the \$75,000.00

Jim DiMascio – Yes that is correct, he is saying that \$50,000.00 is towards the playground and \$25,000.00 for paving. Jim explained at great length that the Town has already funded the paving.

There was further discussion had on this matter and Gene just wanted to make sure to let everyone know that \$50,000.00 seems like a lot of money but it does not buy you much in playground equipment and then there is the factor of self-installation of the equipment and Insurance Companies go-No, No, No! There are a lot of pieces and we don’t want to over-look anything especially when it’s a municipal project-it complicates the overall project.

Don Benjamin – Size is a concern also as there really is not a lot of room down there.

- He is getting quotes with regard to the grass out front of Town Hall – a lot of weeds, etc. so that it looks better, especially since we are updating the landscaping.

Terry Kellogg –

Nothing to report tonight but he has Scott Russell’s report that he would like to read since last week’s work session was canceled and it was his week to give his report for the Ordinance/Assessor’s Office. Terry read the following:

- Complaints for June - 35 for a total of 138
- Building permits for June – 16 for a total of 58
- Property transfers for June – 52 for a total of 142
- The Hoffman Carwash project at 1261 Upper Front St (the former Ponderosa property) has backfilled frost walls and is continuing to move forward. The tentative open dates are between the end of November and the beginning of December 2018.
- The Final Tax Roll is printed. There is a copy at Ordinance Office counter and a link on the Town of Chenango website.

- The F150 xtracab has been ordered and is being built as we speak. We should have delivery mid-October. The Durango will go this fall with the highway items to auction.
- We have received a site plan review for a solar for project at 247 Airport Road. The packet is incomplete but the applicant wanted to stay on the July 9th agenda. Due to the incomplete packet, the ERB met June 21st and will meet again July 9th to review more information. The Planning Board tabled the application for more information to be submitted.
- Dragon Masters Games is now open filling the space at 1235 Upper Front Street (the Old Red Barn space). They are a retail gaming store and have gaming tournaments.
- Small Addictions RC Hobby Shop has signed a lease and is working on getting the Old Ames section of the Northgate Plaza repaired to open a drone and remote control vehicle retail space with multiple race tracks inside. They are hopeful to open by November 2018.

As Scott has time, he is reviewing the Aged Exemption for seniors and Enhanced STAR Exemptions for supporting documentation as per the findings in our NYS Comptroller's Office audit.

Discussion was had amongst the Board Members regarding the cancelation of a work session and Department Heads attending the next work session or if their reports for the month could be sent in and read by their Department Head Liaison. Terry and Russ were ok with the way it was handled this time. Gene feels that because we schedule them for certain weeks and the public knows when they will be attending that is the benefit of having them here. Jim feels that if there is an important event in their department, we just ask that they use good judgment.

Gene Hulbert –

No Highway Report at this time.

Russ Hemedinger –

Sentry Alarms is coming tomorrow to correct the Smoke & Fire Alarm situation and get tests scheduled.

Jim DiMascio –

Under Safety – He met with Joy to go over things and every five (5) years we have to support Broome County with a Hazard Mitigation Program. A formal report needs to be submitted. It is supposed to be done by a committee-mainly department heads. We are pretty much coping what was done five years ago. So department heads, public works, highway, assessment and the lead agent is the supervisor so at this time it would be Jim and Joy will be our administrator. We need to formally meet and review and it needs to be submitted in mid-August. We are having our first kick-off meeting next Wednesday, July 24th to get the process started-mainly to update the last one we did five years ago. He will keep everyone updated after the first meeting and how that process is going.

Had our second Music in the Parks concert and tomorrow will be at Hider Park with the Yada Yadas. So far so good-great weather and good turnout!

Other Items for Discussion:

- New York Rising – Jim and Alex have had some discussions but nothing new on his part.

Tami Carl – She has sent an e-mail to John and Karl on Monday as again they kind of went off the grid and Alex has a couple of quarterly reports that are due and we are just waiting for them to approve the contract.

- SEFCU Drainage – With the help of Tami and Alex a letter was drafted and sent out to Mary at their offices in Albany today. It was proposing to work in partnership on the project and we also offered to have a conference call with Engineering and Highway

Supervisor and Jim to answer any questions or concerns explaining to them that we would like their feedback as we need to get this project moving forward.

- ZBA Appeal/Procedures – We did get the initial report last Friday. The Board Members are currently reviewing it. We need some time to digest it and then we will be inviting Oliver Blaise who created this report to a future work session to explain it and to provide to the Board and the Community to answer any questions. No date has been nailed down yet but within the next week or two. Is this open for discussion or not?

Russ Hemedinger – We probably should have a couple of dates to give them. He said he could not do the 25th.

Jim DiMascio - The 8th of August is the first work session of the month or August 1st as an option.

Terry Kellogg – If he is not available on the 8th he will ask as a second option if the first is good for him. All the Board Members said that would be fine with them. Terry said he would reach out to Oliver this evening and will let them know and he will get in touch with Lizanne if a special work session is necessary so that it can be publicized.

Gene Hulbert – He wanted to know if everyone had a quick chance to look at it. Everyone said they had and Gene said that nothing was a big surprise to him but wanted to get everyone else's feedback. Before Oliver comes in, Gene would like for them to have a conversation on it before so that we could have a consensus on what we want to ask and have him speak at. What is your plan on it?

Russ Hemedinger- His Plan on it was that he read it and was forming his questions that he wanted to ask him.

Jim DiMascio – He is in the exact same boat. He has read it pretty well a few times. What if we all reread it and digest it and for the work session on the 25th we start e-mailing questions amongst ourselves and we start putting together for conversation next Wednesday.

Gene Hulbert - He is lacking the history on it. There are a lot of documents and a lot of the conversation that this is based on and Gene just doesn't have reference to it. Gene was wondering if Terry could share that with him as Terry is one of the individuals involved that has a lot of this information.

Terry Kellogg – Asked Gene to send him specific questions as the majority of the report was based on questions posed by Terry on behalf of the residents or by employees who attended the meetings that he attended with them for question and answer.

Gene Hulbert – There was a lot of reference to specifics and he just doesn't have the background on them.

Terry Kellogg – Told Gene to get together his questions and he would get him the information the best he could and if he can't he'll direct him to Oliver to see if he can. Sometimes he was involved with things that Terry wasn't, like the interviews with the employees. As far as the questions with the public, Terry was involved with those. So if there is something that you don't have the back story on just let him know.

Gene Hulbert – Great, I will. The other questions that Gene had was what of this right now is like protected information or is any of this not protected?

Terry Kellogg – He would have to say its public.

Gene Hulbert – He just doesn't want to be surprised or have the public surprised when Oliver does come. He also wants to make sure that some of it may not be like client/attorney privilege discussion.

Jim DiMascio – Asked Terry to have a follow up conversation with Oliver to see if there is anything in his report that may violate the client/attorney privacy situation.

Terry Kellogg – He did not get the sense from his findings that anything was protected in terms of an employee/employer relationship.

They all asked Don Walls if he saw anything in the report that may violate that relationship.

Don Walls – Oliver authored it, clear it with him first but he did not see anything sensational in it.

Terry Kellogg – The intent was to release it to the public when it is all said and done so he feels that it would be put together in such a way so that there are no redactions in the report. Terry will ask him and follow up on the date he is available. He will copy the Board on it.

- Disaster Emergency Preparedness – The first draft is done and Jim will get it out to all the Board Members.
- ERB Alternate – Terry apologized that he has not gotten in touch with the individual that is interested. He wanted to wait to speak with Alex as Terry had a couple of questions he wanted answered before he contacts the gentlemen. He was wondering why we are one of very few Towns in NYS that has an ERB before he pursued it. He will make it a priority this week. They had further discussion on the ERB. Again Terry apologized and he will meet with the Applicant.
- Hiring of Constable/Snow Parking Tickets – Jim let everyone know that two gentlemen had interest – 1.) Bob Kimble – works part time in the Highway Department 2.) Brian Evans – he is currently our crossing guard. Working with Tami Brian Evans has showed more interest but if no one would do it Bob Kimble said he would. Brian said he would go out and do tickets during snow falls. Between Tami and Jim, they would recommend Brian for the job. He is the best candidate and we need to get someone hired. Discussion was had and no one seemed to object to the hiring of Brian. Don Walls would just like to have a few hours of training with the new hire and advise him and familiarize him with the new procedure/tickets. They concluded that a resolution would be put to vote at the September Town Board Meeting.
- Public Works Building/Locking/Unlocking/Schedule – Is it officially done? Tami said there is one issue showing an error and they are coming to fix that. Otherwise it is just a matter of every one become comfortable with using it. It does seem to be locking/unlocking properly now.
- Mr. Bush/Willette Park Rd. property/Town Owned – Mr. Bush was present and he had just purchased other properties on Willette Park Road and wanted to acquire the lot in between the two he had just purchase from Richard Moore’s daughters. He and his fellow neighbors want to make sure that the neighborhood is going in the right direction. He is purchasing these lots to make sure that there is no more decline in that area. Russ Hemedinger just wanted Mr. Bush present so that Mr. Walls could convey the process to Mr. Bush on how we need to proceed in the Town conveying this property to him. Mr. Walls explained that procedure. Scott Russell has come up with an upset price per Mr. Wall’s request. The Board had questions on how the Town ended up with this property and was wondering if we kept it for access purposes or for extra space to plow snow onto down there. After more discussion they are going to check to make sure that there was no reason to keep this parcel and Lizanne was going to get a copy of Broome County’s Resolution that was filed in 2011 and it will be brought up for discussion next week.

New Business -None

Jim DiMascio asked if anyone had anything else to discuss-comments from the Public.

Aleta Kinne – Asked is there great savings by piggybacking on the County?

Jim DiMascio – We don’t know that yet as Don is trying to get a quote on our behalf.

Don Benjamin – We are just trying to see what the County Contract Price is.

Terry Kellogg – We have to give Taylor the information on where our dumpsters are and they have to figure the distance and the number of times we need them dumped.

Don Benjamin – Wanted to know if we needed to go out to bid if the County came back as more money that what we are currently paying? Do we want to search out a contract?

Gene Hulbert – We should have a contract and a Resolution with any Vendor that we spend money on. We do it with the people that change out our floor mats.

Don Benjamin – So if Taylor comes back with a higher price by piggybacking off the County then we will go out to bid on garbage service? The Board agreed “yes” we will go out to bid then.

Jo Anne Klenovic had a quick question regarding a couple of houses in the Chenango Bridge area suffering from a severe case of blight, obviously un-occupied. Is there a waiting period before the Town takes action or do you wait for a complaint? There is a very severe case right across from the Red & White. It appears that no one has lived there for a very long time. Is there a cause of action that you add to their taxes or what have you? This is really a severe case. What is the chain of events?

They explained that is it complaint driven. Normally we get complaints usually from the neighbors in the area and it goes to the Code Enforcement Office. They review the property. No matter what the circumstances the property needs to be maintained. 90% of it is complaint driven so that is what would start the process. Mr. Walls added that if it is in foreclosure, we need to find out who the Bank is as they are responsible for maintaining it. They may show up just when it is absolutely necessary. Jo Anne thanked them for the explanation.

Mike Lumsden – He asked Terry if he felt that most of the questions that were put together and presented to Oliver were answered. Terry felt that Oliver did his best to answer those questions. He just wants to make sure that they all were answered. Terry will ask Oliver if he thinks that we should release his report a few days before we ask him to come and review it as a group.

Gene Hulbert – Wants to make sure that the Board has dialog with him prior to any of this being made public in case there are corrections that need to be made before it gets released.

Mike Lumsden – Well he had a questions at last month’s work session that he brought up when he foiled the e-mails - how did the instructions- how did that chain of command with Aleta’s e-mails – who gave who the chain of command that the downstairs contact the Zoning Board with the interviews. The very next morning the downstairs sent e-mails out and Mike’s questions was “Who gave them the authority? If you didn’t, did Oliver? Terry did not have the answer to Mike’s question but he will get in touch with Oliver and find that out for him. Mr. Walls said to check with Scott as he gave Mr. Walls a copy of a draft on that subject. Terry will do that. Terry explained that to take some of the mystery out of it all – it is a great question and answer type report. The effort that he put in at the end of it was to create a roadmap for our employees as far as that when something comes in-who is responsible to address it-what Board is responsible to handle it and what their authority is and how they were granted that authority through the laws-whether it was Town Law or State Law. So in that respect, Terry feels it is very good. There was a lot of affirmation that we were doing things properly and there was some that were a little bit fuzzy but he didn’t think it was an intentional wrong doing. It just clarifies the responsibilities and the procedures. He thinks it will be a good tool moving forward. There are just a few typos and some things to take care of before it goes public so it looks professional but it is pretty solid.

As no one else wished to speak the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lizanne M. Tiesi-Korinek
Town Clerk, Town of Chenango