

The Town Board met in Regular Session this evening at the Gardiner Town Hall at 7 PM. Present were Supervisor Majestic, Councilmembers Wiegand, Walls and Richman. Councilmember Carucci was absent. There was approximately 8± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Hall, Highway Department and Transfer Station will be closed Friday, April 7th in observance of Good Friday.

The Town received Franchise Fees from Charter Communications for July 1st through December 31st for \$45,051.94.

PRESENTATION ON ACCOUNTING SYSTEM, EDMUNDS GOVTEC

The Town is looking to replace the current Financial Management System, RDA. The Town has used RDA for 25-30 years, they have given notice that they are dropping the Town's account due to lack of profitability. This affords the town an opportunity to review other options that would improve workflow for the bookkeeper and Supervisor. Edmunds GovTech is used in both the Town Clerk's office and the Building Department. John Wray and Jeff Saitz of Edmunds GovTech was present to discuss their Financial Management System. They both discussed with the Board the various accounting programs offered and how they would benefit the Town's accounting system. There will also be other software programs considered.

AWARD BID FOR WORK TO BE COMPLETED IN SEWER DISTRICT

Three (3) bids were received and opened on March 23,2023. Bids ranged from \$205,000-\$485,000. Jason Pitingaro of Pitingaro & Doetsch reviewed all bids and suggested awarding the bid to Songer Contracting, LLC. A motion was made by Councilmember Walls, seconded by Councilmember Wiegand and carried. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

ULSTER COUNTY MUNICIPAL PARK & RECREATION GRANT DISCUSSION

Ulster County is offering a Grant to municipalities that utilizes their Rescue Plan Funding up to \$100,000.00 with a condition of a required match from the Town. The deadline to submit the Grant is April 14th. The Board and Parks and Rec committee members discussed various ideas as to how best allocate the available funds. Parks and Rec are still determining the best way to allocate money and will obtain quotes for various options. They will present their proposed plan on April 11th for Board support.

UNEXPENDED BALANCES AND RESERVE FUND DISCUSSION

Councilmember Wiegand presented new proposed policies in efforts to reduce the Town's "Unexpended and Reserve Fund" balances. Proposal includes a significant decrease of Fund Balance with a goal of reducing it down to 30% over a two-four year period, by shifting money to the Reserves and reducing tax bills. It is proposed to reduce the number of Reserve accounts and focus Reserves on Parks, Town Hall, Transfer Station, Rail Trail, Sidewalks and other buildings in the Town while also closing the zero balance funds and consolidating multiple title funds. Councilmember Wiegand suggested steps moving forward such as identifying and resolving open issues, and planning and drafting Fund Balance and Reserve policies.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE DISCUSSION

Supervisor Majestic explained that the Town’s Building Department Fee Schedule is fairly low in comparison to neighboring Towns. The supervisor received a recommendation to raise residential fees by 30%, raise multi-family fees by 10% and commercial fees by 200%. After discussion, the Board will continue to evaluate the options and readdress at a subsequent meeting.

SUMMER REC SALARY FOR DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

On the motion of Councilmember Wiegand, seconded by Councilmember Richman and carried, to increase the Camp Director, Brian Edelstein’s salary to \$25.00/hour and to increase the Assistant Director, Katerina Pisciotta’s salary to \$21.00/hour. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Residents spoke requesting the Town spend money on improvements at Majestic Park.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilmember Wiegand, seconded by Councilmember Walls and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM. Councilmember Carucci was absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Hansen
Acting Town Clerk