

June 6, 2023 – Workshop Meeting

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Hall and Highway Garage will be closed Monday, June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.

This month's Planning Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20th.

Supervisor Majestic attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the River Bend Trails near the Transfer Station along with fellow Councilmembers Walls and Carucci. The supervisor also attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail on May 19th with Highway Superintendent Stiscia.

On May 17th and June 6th Supervisor Majestic and Steve Weir attended workshops with Tetra Tech that is working on the Emergency Management Plan with the County. They are giving assistance to towns to help update their own Emergency Management Plan.

Today a representative from NYMIR came to inspect the Town properties. The representative was very impressed with the Town. Any suggestions that were made; the Town already has implemented practices.

Sales Tax payments combined is about \$123,000.00 with two more payments expected.

McKinstry Road Bridge expected to open end of June, beginning of July.

Cell Tower Update- There were issues with ground conditions so the location is being moved 15-30ft within the Leased area.

Awosting Club Update- The Town's attorney cautioned serving a Cease and Desist, suggested a more Conservative approach and wait for the Court's decision.

Councilmember Richman updated the Board with her research of a fine schedule. An email of her findings was sent to the Board.

Councilmember Walls explained that she had two phone calls from staff members about personnel matters. She called the Association of Town's for guidance to get professional help with the Employee Handbook.

ACCEPT THE 2022 AUD

On the motion Councilmember Walls, seconded by Councilmember Weigand and carried, Supervisor Majestic was authorized to sign and accept the 2022 AUD report.

NYCLASS MONEY MARKET OPPORTUNITY

Councilmember Wiegand led discussion on the NYCLASS, a money market account for towns and schools that has a higher interest rate (4.5% vs current bank 0.1%).

Documents regarding this type of account were distributed to the Board including answers that Darlene asked of the state. This type of account is even better than a CD due to its liquidity of the money in the account and no time parameters that CDs require. Other local towns have used this type of account for several years, and upon querying them, they expressed overall positive feedback in using this for both reserves and operational funds, and potential for significant profit from the interest. They also recommended ensuring that a control mechanism for transactions is established.

Preliminary legal review of the program did not see any concerns with this since several schools and towns already using this type of account. Final review from legal should be received within the next week then recommend proceeding after that.

Should the Town proceed, NYCLASS has drafted resolutions that towns can use as templates to write their resolutions for this.

ARPA FUNDING UPDATE

Documents related to this were distributed included a spreadsheet of total ARPA funding, details of how investments were spent to-date, pending payments for the painting of the court and water fountain filling station installation, amount remaining in Spectrum fund, the Parks and Rec grant match, and total remaining balance.

Also included was a letter from Gardiner Fire Department Commission. Luke Lyons and Jim Bales from the Board of Fire Commissioners for the Gardiner Fire District were present for this discussion. They request \$40,000 for purchase vehicle. The Shawangunk Fire District could be queried to see if they need funds.

Consideration of how to use the remaining money determined by the Town Board. Some recommendations shared were well transmitters to monitor hamlet well water levels, increase cybersecurity measures, real estate purchasing, Dusinger Road pump station repair, and a consultation for personnel firm to assist with HR-related issues.

It is recommended that each Board member bring a list of suggestions for how to use the remaining balance and then discuss at subsequent meetings with a goal of making a final decision prior to budget season. Considerations should be made for items that are not able to be funded by other means. All monies must be allocated by the end of the year.

Final decisions to be made in July meeting.

STREET LIGHT UPDATE

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Walls and carried to make a 50% down payment on the street light conversion and enter into contract with NYPA as soon as possible.

VACANCIES

On the motion of Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilmember Walls and carried, to reappoint Roberta Clements for a 7-year term on the Environmental Conservation Commission.

Keith Libolt expressed he is willing to stay on the Planning Board. There are 3 other interested parties to fill this vacancy. Robert Boettcher who is currently an alternate, as well as Ryan Wiley and Scott Arnold. The Town Board will make a decision at next week's meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On the motion of Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilmember Walls and carried, the Town Board entered Executive Session at 8:07 PM to discuss Personnel matters and appointments to come back to regular meeting only to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Wiegand, seconded by Councilmember Walls and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.