

York Town Board Meeting
January 10th, 2023
7:00 pm

Present: Supervisor Gerald Deming, Council Members: Frank Rose Jr., Amos Smith and Jason Swede.

Absent: Norman Gates

Others: James Campbell (Town Attorney), Carl Peter (Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer), Joe McIlroy (Planning Board Chair), George Worden Jr. (Highway Supt), Davies Nagel, Kirk Richenberg, Molly Cummings, Melissa Alber, and Dustin Geiger (Zoning Board of Appeals Chair).

Supervisor Deming opened the Town Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. and invited Councilman Swede to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Swede to approve the minutes of the January 3rd, 2023 Organizational Meeting. Voted on and approved, Yes-4, No-0.

BILLS:

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Rose to approve all claims brought before the Board. Voted on and approved, Yes-4, No-0.

- General Fund # 1-21 \$ 12,790.91
- Consolidated Water/Sewer # 1-10 \$ 4,432.52
- Highway Fund # 1-9 \$ 11,799.65
- Y-L Youth #1 \$ 1,558.00

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR:

1)Town of York Historical Society:

Melissa Alber began by stating that she sent an email letter to the Town Board for tonight's meeting on behalf of the Town of York Historical Society. (The Board confirmed receiving such).

Ms. Alber commented in addition to the letter, she wanted to briefly review the variety of necessary projects upcoming for the Warren House and Orwen Arboretum as well as already completed projects. Ms. Alber stated that the Historical Society obtained a \$10,000 loan to replace the roof, which has been paid off, a new furnace and continued with routine maintenance of the house. After the conversation in the fall with

Supervisor Deming and Councilman Rose, we discussed a list of projects the Historical Society would like to embark on. The four major projects are:

- 1) ADA Compliant restrooms
- 2) Revamp kitchen, to include a space on the first floor for Historian's office
- 3) Replacement of windows
- 4) Replacement of basement bilco doors

Ms. Alber stated that a little over a year ago the Historian left abruptly from his then office at this location and located a new space, which the Town pays for leaving us with minimal amount of funding to work with. The majority of the yearly Town issued funds went with him for rental space.

Ms. Alber commented that the society does have estimates for two of the projects. Transformation of the kitchen will be between \$8,000-\$15,000 and ADA Compliant restrooms \$6,000. We have yet to receive a quote for the windows but just the two proposed projects will be in the neighborhood of \$20,000-25,000.

Ms. Alber inquired what the next steps are to apply for solar funds from the Town as well as potential future assistance by being under the umbrella of the Town to obtain assistance for routine maintenance purposes. We would like to partner with the Town if possible.

Supervisor Deming stated that the Board does not have issue with assisting the Historical Society but we need to verify legally how much we can do. Currently we are unable to assist others such as churches with snow plowing or other matters because of liability. If the society is associated with the Town, we have more leeway. Supervisor Deming commented this is his thoughts and cannot speak for the Board. Councilman Rose added, knowing the Town of York is responsible for historic records through our Historian, once improvements can be made, he feels the Historian should be at this location.

Ms. Alber stated much of the Historical Society's revenue from the Town is used now for the Historian's rental.

Supervisor Deming asked Attorney Campbell, if having the Historian back onsite at the Warren House helps us legally, which Mr. Campbell replied it does.

Ms. Alber added that they are already in the process of remodeling the bathroom and trying to make an office on the first floor for the Historian. Ms. Alber inquired of the Historical Society could "gift" the property to the Town, which Attorney Campbell answered Yes, that could be an option. Ms. Alber commented that every town seems to do things a bit differently.

Attorney Campbell stated that each town does do things differently but added the Town has options they can review that works for all. The first step is to prepare a list of potential projects (which has already been done) and try to determine how to proceed. Councilman Rose stated he will contact Ms. Alber to keep discussions moving forward and asked Highway Supt. Mr. Worden to be a part of this as well.

Molly Cummings asked, is this discussion taking place because the Historian is not onsite? Supervisor Deming answered that the Town disperses yearly funds to the Historical Society but once the Historian re-located, the majority if the funds were used to pay for the rental space.

Councilman Rose stated once again he will contact Ms. Alber and Mr. Worden to continue discussions.

1/6/23

Dear Members of the York Town Board,

The Town of York Historical Society appreciated the visits this fall from Jerry Deming and Frank Rose Jr. to assess a variety of projects necessary to keep the York Historical Society's Warren House and Orwen Arboretum open to the community while operating in a safe and sustainable manner.

Taking those discussions into account, we are working to prioritize the items we feel are necessary to bring the goals of the Society in alignment with the needs of the town.

Projects like an ADA compliant bathroom, creating a first floor office for the Town Historian, lead paint abatement of kitchen and pantry, reconstruction of the cellar entrance (safety issue) and replacing inefficient storm windows are high on our list. Help with paying the heating, mowing and snow plowing bills would be important considerations as well.

With a large portion of our former revenue being diverted to housing the town historian in a storage facility our ability to continue to maintain the property safely and effectively is in jeopardy. Accessing monies from the community Solar Fund could help us reach our goals to be reopened to the public in the spring, provide first floor office space for the town historian, and offer access to York Central school groups in the fall.

We also discussed the possibility of putting the museum grounds and arboretum under the umbrella of the town in order to get assistance maintaining the lawn and trails, and plowing the driveway as needed.

We welcome discussion on these topics and look forward to partnering with the town to realize our mutual goals.

Sincerely,

Melissa Alber, President
Town of York Historical Society

2) Kirk Richenberg:

Mr. Richenberg asked to speak with the Board this evening regarding Consolidated Water District, NY CLASS and the Salt Storage building.:

Q-What is the status of the County Water System Grant?

Supervisor Deming replied that the County Water/Sewer Authority applied for a grant, believing we would receive \$20M but actually was only awarded \$5M. There is another meeting taking place on February 1st but with only \$5M, the project would be very costly.

Q-AKZO Salt Mine money, \$17M?

Supervisor Deming reported that the AKZO money has not been touched. NYSDEC and the State Attorney General's office who would oversee this thought this was a viable project.

Q-Who has the final say on disbursement of AKZO money?

Supervisor Deming answered the Board of Supervisors have the final say.

Q-Does the Town have a plan in place?

Supervisor Deming responded, our plan and priority is upgrading our pump station regardless whether or not the County project proceeds.

Q-When is the next meeting?

Supervisor Deming answered that the next meeting is February 1st with Livingston County W/S Authority, AKZO committee and the towns involved.

Q-Regarding NYCLASS investing, are all accounts being separated with separate listings of interest?

Supervisor Deming replied that all seven (7) accounts are separate with different interest amounts. Supervisor Deming reported as of today, it has been 1 month that we began. We have invested \$1.3M and have accrued \$3,016.00 in interest.

COMMENT-Mr. Richenberg stated that he is glad the Board took these steps and added it is sad that the accountants didn't tell us about this program sooner.

Supervisor Deming responded that it was addressed with them.

Q-In the December minutes it reflects that you met with a new engineer regarding the Salt Storage?

Supervisor Deming replied that he and Highway Supt. Worden met with MRB to discuss our needs and a proposal from them. We received their submittal yesterday but have a couple of questions and clarifications before we proceed.

Q-How important is the resolution about the depository for the Organizational meeting, it's not the Bank of Castile any longer?

Supervisor Deming stated we will make the necessary update in the minutes to reflect Tompkins Community Bank.

Q-Regarding Solar Funds, is there any clarity on how funds will be spent, do you have a criteria plan to work from?

Supervisor Deming replied we do not have criteria as of yet but just had a conversation at the County this week regarding this. Once a county committee has been formed, they will prepare a required criteria to seek funds at their level, and we may be able to utilize their format or a portion of it for town needs.

COMMENT-The Town needs to have a criteria to work from to be fair to all going forward.

Q-The Town talked previously about putting a committee together on how to decipher whom/what may be eligible for funding.

Supervisor Deming agreed that the Board did discuss having a committee but have not determined the makeup yet.

HIGHWAY REPORT:

Mr. Worden reported the following for the Highway Department:

- Continue to service equipment
- Clean and replace pipes
- Had a costly repair to the 2010 truck
- We are short one full time employee due to surgery. He will be out for at least 3 months. We have asked several people for part-time assistance. Mr. Worden will be doing his route until he comes back.
- We have been utilizing Water/Sewer personnel on the smaller truck which has worked out well.

*Ms. Alber commented at this time that she wanted the Hwy Supt to know that he and the highway crew are doing a great job on our roads. Mr. Worden thanked Ms. Alber for her comment.

Mr. Worden reported that he has been seeking quotes for a new 10-wheeler for the Highway Department. Mr. Worden received the following:

Western Star -\$266,482.25 (2025) price is not guaranteed
International - \$268,882.56 (2025) price is guaranteed

The Board discussed with Mr. Worden both trucks, their warranties and the need to honor the quote submitted. Many towns have had issues by not securing the quote and once the truck arrives the price has increased. Mr. Worden stated that he recommends the International for that specific reason. Supervisor Deming reported that we have \$300,000 set aside for a truck.

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Rose authorizing Mr. Worden permission to purchase (1) 2025 International 10-wheel truck in the amount of \$268,882.56. Voted on and approved, Yes-4, No-0.

WATER/SEWER REPORTS:

Mr. Worden reported the following for the Water & Sewer Department:

- The department read all meters in December for the January water billing cycle
- Doing routine repairs in the system
- Piffard water pipe arrived but we will not start the project until Spring
- Conducted maintenance on sewer pumps
- Conducted routine water testing
- We met with Covington recently. They want to alter their chlorination process. They asked to use our chlorine building to store and inject chlorine into their system. They will be utilizing our chlorine injection shed for disinfection purposes. Mr. Worden stated that this is still in design and then approval stages, with implementation at a later date.

Supervisor Deming inquired about their water results?

Mr. Worden replied that they have had some failed samples. They have been sampling in homes that didn't separate their plumbing perhaps creating bacteria in their line. Wyoming County Health Department and Covington water personnel are working on it but agree that they need to inject into their system directly.

Supervisor Deming stated when he was made aware of Covington's issue, he had Mr. Worden and the water department sample our water to verify it was ok, which it was. Mr. Worden commented, they don't want to dump water but in order to have fresh water, you have to flush it out from time to time.

Mr. Richenberg inquired of Covington has a water employee?

Mr. Worden answered they have a person they are training.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Youth Meeting:

Supervisor Deming stated that he will confirm a date with Councilman Swede to schedule a Youth meeting to discuss how to proceed with the Y/L Youth program.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Trail Town update:

Mr. Nagel conveyed to the Board that 75 people took part in the 1st day hike in York on January 1st. Roughly 500 people participated in total on Greenway trails. Mr. Nagel added we would like to have a hike on the Groveland Secondary Trail on February 19th, but will need Town Board permission first.

Supervisor Deming stated that he, Attorney Campbell, Insurance Agent David Boyce and Mr. Nagel met to discuss hikes in the future and Town liability.

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Swede authorizing the Town of York Trail Town committee permission to conduct a hike on the Groveland Secondary Trail on February 19th. Voted on and approved, Yes-4, No-0.

Ms. Alber commented that the event was fabulous and look forward to future hikes. The existing kiosk has been updated at York Landing, which they received permission for.

2)Exemption Limits Public Hearings:

Supervisor Deming stated that we discussed at our December close out meeting scheduling public hearings to increase the exemption limits for both Senior Citizen's and Persons with Disabilities and Limited incomes, which will follow suit with the County.

Attorney Campbell stated that he prepared a Public Hearing notice and Local law wording for each, presenting both to the Board this evening.

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Swede and seconded by Mr. Smith to schedule 2 Public Hearings to adopt a real property tax exemption for qualifying senior citizen's and the second for qualifying persons with disabilities and limited income, for Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 7:15 p.m. Voted on and approved, Yes-4, No-0.

OTHER:

1)Hometown Hero banners:

Mr. Worden stated that he reviewed banners in a couple of towns and thought if we could obtain a blank banner (canvass) to use as a guide for measurement purposes, it would help him to see how it would fit and what brackets would be needed. Councilman Smith stated that he believes each will cost roughly \$150.00. Councilman Rose suggested ordering one (1) "Town of York Veteran's" banner to have and to also use as a guide for Mr. Worden in order to proceed. The Board agreed. Councilman Smith added we have veteran's family members wanting their loved one to be recognized with a banner, so we will certainly have financial support when ready to order.

2)Pay App#2:

a) Blue Heron Construction:

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Swede approving Payment App. #2-Final for Blue Heron Construction, in the amount of \$2,778.28 for Piffard Circle Water Main Improvements. Voted on and approved, Yes-4, No-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Swede to adjourn the Town Board Meeting until February 7, 2023. Voted on and approved, Yes-4, No-0.

Town Board meeting closed at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine M. Harris,
Christine M. Harris, Town Clerk