

Regular Scheduled Town of Alexandria Board Meeting  
Wednesday, October 16, 2019 6:00pm

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Attendance:** Supervisor Brent Sweet, Councilman Ron Thomson, Councilman Mike Fayette, Councilman Jim VanCour, Councilman John Stine, Attorney Bob Slye. Absent: Town Clerk Jessy Hudon

**Public Hearing for Tax Cap Override:** 5:55pm No comments from the public

**Motion** to close the public hearing by Councilman Mike Fayette, **Seconded** by Councilman Ron Thomson. Discussion, none. All in favor 5 ayes, zero nays. **Motion passed.**

**Roll Call Vote to approve Local Law No 3 of 2019 (Tax Cap Override):**

Supervisor Brent Sweet	YES
Deputy Supervisor Ron Thomson	YES
Councilman John Stine	YES
Councilman Mike Fayette	YES
Councilman Jim VanCour	YES

**Local Law Passed**

Supervisor Sweet called the Board meeting to order

**Approval of minutes:** Some corrections requested on September 18, 2019, September 23, 2019 & October 1, 2019 minutes.

**Motion** to approve minutes with the corrections stated (on recording) made by Councilman Ron Thomson, **Seconded** by Councilman Mike Fayette. Discussion, Mike commended Deputy Clerk VanBrocklin on her format of providing minutes, condensed version with agenda attached. All in favor 5 ayes, zero nays. **Motion passed.**

**Approval to pay bills in abstract:** Discussion regarding State contract for rock salt. Issue regarding Youth Expenses from the Big M about providing juice. Response given from Stacey Durand. Supervisor Sweet gave his opinion that we (the Town) should be buying water as drinks, not “sugar” drinks. No further comment.

**Motion** to approve payment of bills in Abstract made by Councilman Ron Thomson, **Seconded** by Councilman Jim VanCour. Discussion, none. All in favor 5 ayes, zero nays. **Motion passed.**

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**Privilege of the Floor:**

**Stacey Durand** question about Bonnie Castle regarding any discussion regarding placement of an indoor gym or indoor fields.

**Bill Farman** question on behalf of a Dan Peterson, could the Board could explain why tax payer's dollars are being spent on a motion to challenge a judge's ruling? When the ruling caused no liability to the Town to begin with? Would the Board like to explain why they told the court under oath that the Redwood water and sewer accounts were correct before accountants from Crowley and Hallorhan completed their engagement? Since our Town accountant has already all reviewed all required information needed to determine everything was correct what information does Crowley and Hallorhan still need from our Town Clerk?

**Supervisor Sweet** advised we are already in litigation about many of these questions, we obviously can't answer them, asked for verification from Attorney Bob Slye.

**Attorney Bob Slye** advised the Privilege of the Floor is for commenting, not asking questions. The only time a member of the public is entitled to an answer to a question for a public hearing on the budget. That's the only time you (the public) is entitled to an answer to a question. So, you (the Board) doesn't have to answer any of the questions.

**Councilman Thomson** commented regarding the motion to appeal/cross appeal. Attorney Slye clarified. This cross appeal would not have been done if it hadn't been for Mr Peterson filing an appeal to begin with.

**Bill Farman** continued with further questions. Why do the accountants from Crowley and Hallorhan need more information than what can be provided? What hasn't been provided to them that they need more of? When did our Town accountant give her testimony without reviewing all the documents that Crowley and Hallorhan hasn't gotten all the documents for performing any audit or engagement procedure on the Redwood Water and Sewer Accounting? If our accountant performed any procedures where are the engagement letters and report of the findings?

**Nate Frost** asked since the walk along Mud Lake has there been any new developments? Supervisor Sweet advised the Board hasn't discussed it. He feels it was good to have the walk. Many questions were answered by the DEC. He was regarding the Town's liability. If the trail could be for "occasional" use by the ATV's but there isn't a definition for "occasional". If someone took a picture of 10 ATV's on the trail and then sent the picture to the DEC, then the Town is liable because that's the Town's property. Councilman Mike Fayette was there and agreed with Supervisor Sweet's statement. Also plan on applying for grants for the shore stabilization.

**Bonnie Castle Stables status:** Councilman Mike Fayette advised he walked around the facility and track with GYMO regarding "phase 1". The property line has been changed and the proposed purchase area does not include the area that may or may not have been used for dumping. There doesn't seem to be any proof of bathrooms having been out near the grandstands either. Nothing "jumped out" that seemed scary at all. When the numbers and facts are ready a sit down with reporter Pam Macdowell for the paper.

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**Discussion: Grossman St Amour water/sewer audit.** Motion was made at the last meeting pending the pricing. The pricing is between \$3,000-\$4,500 to have the work done that we needed.

**Motion** to hire Grossman St Amour for a water/sewer audit made by Councilman Jim VanCour, **Seconded** by Councilman Ron Thomson. Discussion, none. All in favor 5 ayes, zero nays. **Motion passed.**

**Discussion: DANC Asset Management Plan** for water and sewer districts. It has been provided to the Board. Please review for any changes to be made at the next meeting.

**Motion** to approve Wills Wrecker Junkyard application made by Councilman Jim VanCour, **Seconded** by Councilman John Stine. Discussion, none. All in favor 5 ayes, zero nays. **Motion passed.**

**Discussion:** Procedure to change the tax collector position explained by Attorney Bob Slye. The Town Board would need to create a new elected position by local law subject to mandatory referendum. If it is the Town's course and desire to do that you would need to adopt a local law, have a public hearing on the local law, then submit that to the Board of Elections for referendum. Attorney Slye was not sure about a special election. It would seem that it could be done at the general election next year to go on the ballot. It would be creating a new position per course removing those duties that fell to the Town Clerk upon elimination probably 30-40 years ago of the tax Collector Position.

Councilman Ron Thomson asked what the status is right now if we are talking about making it into an elected position? Attorney Slye responded the status now is there used to be an elected Tax Collector for the Town of Alexandria. The state law is that if you abolish that position as elected, the duties evolve to the Town Clerk. If you wish to reestablish the position, you can do that but that is also by a local law subject to referendum. Supervisor Sweet inquired do we know that it was abolished years ago? Attorney Slye advised he had looked at that months ago when it was discussed that the duties devolve as mentioned before, would be free to create position again requiring a referendum.

**Town Clerk status for providing Pam Hallorhan requested data:** The information needed is on our old accounting system that we don't have access or familiarity of, we have hired a gentleman that does know the software and he has just gotten the data Pam had asked for and should be getting the information to Pam tomorrow.

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**Discussion: Selling cemetery plots at Highland Park and Point Vivian cemeteries.** There are two people that want to buy cemetery plots and we need to come up with a pricing on it and what we need to do. Supervisor Sweet and Councilman Fayette met recently with a gentleman from NYS Cemetery and everything is set so we can sell plots/lots/column burials. There is someone that wants to buy 4 at Point Vivian and someone that wants to buy 6 at Highland Park. We need to figure out a price and how we are going to do it. Need to ask around what the price was in the past and found it was \$500 in the past. Skip Weller is the key to where things “are” and they “aren’t”. There is a pretty detailed map of Highland Park. There is not a detailed map of Point Vivian but there are a couple large areas used recently where there is nothing around, stones etc. Discussion of “column burial” came up again. May be a consideration for both cemeteries. Need to get some pricing on the columns and hire someone and get a map done for Point Vivian. Will contact some surveying companies. Rob Company advised to contact some local surveyors that may have some experience.

**Discussion:** Paving streets in Redwood. Supervisor Sweet proposed again using some money from the Community Enhancement Project fund, there is money that is available in that line item. We could also do with shared services with the County. If we do that all we pay for is blacktop and the trucking, verified if correct with DPY Super Mike Tibbles. The rest of the work is shared services.

**Supervisor Sweet** made the **motion** to pave at least 1 street in Redwood (the street in front of the firehall). Discussion: HWY Super Tibbles advised he’d like to see a couple of streets done a year. For 2 streets it was minimum \$30,000 with County. Cost would be more with just SUTE KOTE. \$17,000 just Stine Rd. \$13,000 Lake Hill Rd Should be done as shared services with the County. Question is still how much will this cost? How much money will be used from Community Enhancement? How much is left there? Verified there is \$28,754 left in Community Enhancements. If \$20,000 used from Community Enhancement, can \$10,000 come from Highway? HWY Super Mike Tibbles advised we can make that work and do both streets.

**Motion** made by Supervisor Sweet for use of \$20,000 from line 869894.1.4 Community Enhancement fund towards street paving and give access to HWY Super for \$\$ in that line item, **Seconded** by Councilman Jim VanCour. Discussion: \$10,000 will come from HWY DB. Councilman Mike Fayette expressed he’d rather see just paving Stine Rd. All in favor 5 ayes, zero nays. **Motion passed.**

**Discussion:** Can we create a license that contractors have to get to work in this Town? Supervisor Sweet has done some research and a Municipality can do it, but usually a big city. Supervisor Slye advised for a town this size just doesn’t seem feasible but would look into it further.

**Discussion:** Fuel, gas, diesel, propane bids. Almost all specs and a little more work on bid forms and will be ready.

**Motion** to accept fuel bids until November 20, 2019 at 4pm by Councilman Jim VanCour, Seconded by Councilman John Stine. Discussion, none. All in favor 5 ayes, zero nays. **Motion passed.**

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**Discussion:** Alexandria Bay Fire Department proposal increase in town funding presented by Village Mayor Steve Jarvis asking for 10% of \$189,000=apx. \$18,000 due to loss of Redwood Ambulance the Village ambulance is caring for the whole Town of Alexandria area which includes the Village. After some discussion the amount was changed to \$15,900. The Board advised they will discuss with Town Accountant and book keeper.

**Motion** to allow the Alexandria Township Historical Society use Town office space for the Winter as they have in the past made by Councilman Mike Fayette, **Seconded** by Councilman Jim VanCour. Discussion, none. All in favor 4 ayes, **Abstain**, Councilman Ron Thomson, he is on Historical Society Board. **Motion passed.**

**Motion** to accept budget transfers made by Councilman Jim VanCour, **Seconded** by Councilman Ron Thomson. Discussion, none. All in favor 5 ayes, zero nays, **motion passed.**

**Motion** to increase book keeper's hours to 40 hours per week based on taking on more duties made by Councilman Ron Thomson, **Seconded** by Councilman Jim VanCour. Discussion, none. All in favor 5 ayes, zero nays. Motion passed.

**Discussion:** Redwood Fire District Notice, no motion

**Discussion:** New Village water rates, how their changes will affect the Town. The Town Board would like to meet with the Village Board to discuss the water budget and have an agreement signed with the Town and Village together. The Town will get with our attorneys and get together with the Village attorney and get and agreement signed.

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**Discussion:** Response to public comment about selling cardboard. There was a discussion with Supervisor Sweet, Dean Smith and HWY Super Mike Tibbles about the Town's cardboard compactor and selling it and how much money we could get for it that we're not getting. Supervisor Sweet had spent some time on the phone with places that buy cardboard, use cardboard, sell cardboard and transport cardboard. Jefferson County sells their cardboard to a company in Syracuse at \$15/ton. Our compactor holds 4 ½-5 to. They would take our cardboard, then truck it to Syracuse and then we would get \$15/ton. At 5 ton we would get \$75. Supervisor Sweet spoke to Scott Reed about this and he sent us in a couple different directions to find people that would buy it but we don't have what's called "clean" cardboard. Boxes that have Styrofoam in them, packaging material or even pizza boxes are not considered "clean". These companies will not take it unless it's "clean" and pay the big money. Unless we have Byron (Wagoner) or hire another employee at the Transfer site and have them just screen incoming cardboard and only put clean cardboard in that machine that would be the way for us to get "clean" cardboard, to get \$75 and still have to truck it. Waste Management would charge us (the Town) \$350 to haul the cardboard to Syracuse. Only other route would be to get one of Mike's (Tibbles) truck and a driver to haul it.

**Highway Superintendent Report:** given

**Water Dept Report:** given

**Sewer Dept Report:** given

**Town Clerk Report:** given to Board in paper form, no discussion. Clerk Jessy Hudon, absent

**Town Youth Report:** given

**Zoning Report:** Norris Handschuh not present

**Rink Report:** Trevor Bogart not present. Supervisor Sweet did advise he has been down to the arena and 2 coats have been put on. He advised Trevor (Bogart) said we may be ahead of the opening date by a couple of days. Councilman VanCour advised he's been approached from some youth groups about purchasing ice as soon as it's available, they are traveling to Canton and Watertown now.

**Discussion: Town of Alexandria Court Clerks requesting approval of overtime**  
**Supervisor Sweet read the letter from the Clerks**

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**Supervisor Sweet** inquired if they said how much time they were looking for, they did not.

**Councilman Thomson** expressed we went from 1 ½ (clerks) to 2 for exactly this reason. The budget was already increased by 1/3 to take care of these old cases and now it's going to be more. We've looked at some other towns our size and we have more clerk time than anybody else our size. Councilman Thomson expressed he agrees with everything in there (the letter) but we addressed it by making the second person full time (from half time). When you go to full time there are benefits involved and everything else. It was an expensive thing to do but it was to address that issue.

**Councilman VanCour** inquired if they are getting any further on the issue.

**Supervisor Sweet** expressed he didn't think they were getting very far because of the normal workload. The number of tickets being received is getting larger.

**Supervisor Sweet** advised he spoke to the book keeper and they are either very close or over in the budget for 2019.

**Councilman Thomson** expressed he would like to see a file/report of what has been brought in with the extra 20 hours per week, now totaling 80 hours a week.

**Councilman VanCour** suggested the judges directing the clerks on a particular day to work on just old files. It sounds as though they aren't putting any time on anything old. They should be able to have at least 1 day a week to work on old files.

**The Board** would like to see a progress report. Supervisor Sweet will ask for a progress report to see where they stand.

**No Motion, discussion, tabled.**

**Correspondence:** From Alex Bay Figure Skating Club thanking for donation from bottle & can money from the transfer site.

Councilman Thomson commends Phinney's for giving \$.06 per can opposed to the \$.05 we used to get.

**Discussion:** Public hearing at the school auditorium Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 7:00pm regarding the Bonnie Castle Stables project with a presentation, documents, photos etc.

**Motion** to adjourn to executive session at 8:15pm for negotiations, also personnel on a particular person and pending litigation made by Councilman Ron Thomson, **Seconded** by Councilman Jim VanCour. Discussion, none. All in favor 5 ayes, zero nays. **Motion passed.**

Minutes written by Deputy Clerk Cheri L. VanBrocklin



