

Town of Alexandria Board Meeting – August 17, 2022, 6:00 PM

Present: Supervisor Brent Sweet, Councilman Mike Fayette, Councilman Shawn Thomas, Councilman Ron Thomson, Councilman Gene Kring

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas to pay the bills before them.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Kring and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Correspondence

Correspondence was received from Darlene Sourwine and Friends of Minna Anthony Nature Center thanking the town board for their support for the nature center's various fund raising events. She also thanked the arena and town maintenance staffs for all of their assistance.

Privilege of the Floor

Sandy Umstead addressed the chair concerning the continuing water/ice problems on her property near the arena. She explained the problems and the fact that they have existed for several years. The town will send Rob to the property to look the situation over and come up with a solution.

Mary Ramsell and Sue Winter, Co Rt. 3 Plessis, addressed the chair concerning the condition of the yellow house near her property. She stated that it is deplorable condition and rodents are running all over the property. She said that there are also old campers and tables and chair in the backyard.

Supervisor Sweet explained that he and Rob Campany had inspected this property and discovered that it would need asbestos abatement and the cost for that has been estimated to be around \$60,000. Right now the town could go in and board it up so that people couldn't go in the house. The property is still in the owners name. Mr. Handschuh has sent correspondence to the property owners and it has been returned. He has served papers once on them and has done so again.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomson to board the property up and mow it immediately and to continue legal proceedings.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Thomas and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Stacey Harris, Goose Bay, addressed the chair expressing her concerns with the Goose Bay extension proposal. She stated the lot is not being taken care of now. Boats and trailers are being left there. Someone camped out there for 3 days. At times, the launch is so busy she can't get to her house.

Supervisor Sweet explained that in past years he has received complaints about the trailers in the lot. However, he hasn't received any calls this year about it. Council discussed the possibility of booting the trailers, if necessary.

Moratorium public hearing is scheduled for September 1, 2022

Water/Sewer and EDU Proposed Changes

Supervisor Sweet advised that they would combine the water and sewer reports with the EDU changes protocol for bookkeeper.

Sandy Caputo explained that protocol is that the town board makes the decisions on water and sewer rates. The water and sewer committee doesn't have the authority to go to the bookkeeper with changes. Councilman Fayette should bring these change suggestions back to the board and then the board should vote on them. These votes should be in the meeting minutes and once that is done, Nicole can go into her system and make an EDU change. She discussed the commercial water usage and how it was calculated. After the next water reading, the committee will look at the commercial usage and will come to the board and asking for changes as needed. She referred to a sheet concerning Swan Bay. They have added another 56 sites.

Motion was made by Councilman Thomson to change Swan Bay's EDU from 86.75 to 101.5 for July 1st through September 30th. Motion was seconded by Councilman Kring and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Sandy referred to the sewer district on Route 12, explaining that this is a three town district. And while, the other towns wouldn't oppose an increase, they would have to approve a decrease. There are four properties with proposed changes.

1. To change the sewer EDU for David Roberts/Finn's from 6 to 2.5
2. To change the sewer EDU for Wolfe's Country Cottage from 5 to 3.25
3. To change the sewer EDU for Price Chopper to 33, the same as their water.
4. To change Town of Alexandria rec center to 3 EDU.

If the reductions are approved by the other towns, then Nicole could make the changes.

Routine changes such as turn off /on of the meters when new owners take over don't come before the board now. However, if the board wishes to have that changed, it could be.

There will be a joint sewer meeting next Tuesday at 11:00 am

Plessis Fire Department Request

The board reviewed the paperwork submitted regarding the new building being proposed for the Plessis Fire Department. Discussion was held on the ARPA funds. Two payments have been received to date. The board has previously discussed about using \$93,000 of the funding for the turf field. Supervisor Sweet also mentioned that this funding can also be used in the highway budget for permanent improvements to roads. We have roughly \$200,000 left. A question was raised about using this town-wide funding for a specific fire district while other projects would be for the entire town.

In response to that, the representative from the fire department explained that they are a small department but they aid the entire town when asked. He stated that just because they don't have a very big taxing area, they still service the whole town. It was explained that this will need to be discussed with the town attorney. It was agreed that at the end of tonight's meeting, they would adjourn to Monday, August 22nd at 4pm to finish this discussion.

Town Engineer Report

The board was advised that the Otter Street sewer, the Mud Lake Trail and the Redwood sewer projects were reapplied for last month. They also applied for 2 HUD grants for Redwood. One for water plant upgrades and one for the sewer plant. They are still waiting for NYS DOT to comment on Route 12 sewer.

Discussion was held concerning the culvert in Redwood. The state is saying it's the town's responsibility. If it collapses, the DOT will fix it. Until then, the state feels it is the town's problem.

Transfer of Funds for Road Rehab

Motion to take \$110,000 from ARPA funds and \$120,000 from fund balance for the additional \$230,000 road rehabs was made by Councilman Thomas, seconded by Councilman Kring and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Town Zoning Officer Report

No report

Ice Rental Rates

Motion was made by Councilman Kring to adopt rates for non-contractual outside users at \$125 per hour. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thomas and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Short Term Rental Committee

The list will not be made public until all people on the list have agreed to serve. It was made clear that this is an advisory committee. Board should finalize the list on Monday.

Updating Junk Law

Attorney Silver will have a revised, enforceable junk law ready to consider at the next meeting.

Mud Lake Shoreline

This project is tied to the waterflow.

Highway Superintendent Report

Council reviewed the report.

Budget Transfers

None

Budget Work Sessions

Letters are going out on Monday. It was agreed that they would stay with the meeting dates listed in the spreadsheets.

Bed Tax Committee Member

Motion was made by Councilman Thomas to add Bonnie Castle Resort as a member. Motion was seconded by Councilman Kring and carried with all voting in favor there.

NYSERTA

Discussion was held relative to the areas that had been converted to LED already and those that will be converted in the future.

Executive Session

The board moved into executive session at 8:21pm to discuss ongoing litigation and to discuss the employment history of a town employee.

Adjournment

When the board returned from executive session, they adjourned the meeting until Monday, August 22nd at 6:00 pm.