

Town of Alexandria Board Meeting  
May 26, 2020  
5:00pm

**Present:** Supervisor Brent Sweet, Councilman Ron Thomson, Councilman John Stine, Councilman Mike Fayette, Councilman Sandra Caputo, Attorney Slye and Town Clerk Jessy Hudon

**Approval of the minutes** - Tabled

**Approval to pay bills:** Motion made by Councilman John Stine second by Councilman Mike Fayette to approve the bills. Ayes 5 Nays 0 . Motion Passed.

Save the River: Motion to send a letter of support. Motion made by Councilwomen Sandy Caputo second by Councilman John Stine. Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.

REDI ( Dock Configuration) : Motion to support alternate #6. Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson second by Councilman Mike Fayette. Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.

Manuals: Town Clerk and Highway Superintendent Manuals are available for board members.

Brief statement: Hwy Dept. employees vacation this week.

Solar Digital Speed Sign: Is now movable and if anyone feels the sign is needed in certain areas – please let the board know.

Streetscape: Committee Person. Motion to allow Roger Reifensnyder as streetscape committee person. Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson second by Councilwoman Sandy Caputo. Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.

**6:15pm Public Hearing Opened On Ordinances 7-11 of 2020 - Ordinance amending district water rates**

Motion made by Councilwoman Sandy Caputo second by Councilman John Stine to Open the Public Hearing. Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.

Mike Fayette (Tax Payer) Asked the question how does the village come up with the rates to charge the Town? Mr. Fayette discussed in great length the formula the village uses to charge, such as Treatment, Storage, and Distribution.

No other questions from the public.

**6:50pm Public Hearing CLOSED**

Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson second by Councilwoman Sandy Caputo to Close the public hearing. Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.

**Ordinance NO. 7 of 2020:**

Motion to approve Ordinance NO 7 : An ordinance amending the Carnegie Bay Water District ordinance to set the Maintenance fee to \$20.83 per EDU and to set the water rate at \$7.93 per 1000 gallons.

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor: Brent Sweet	Yes
Councilman Ron Thomson	Yes
Councilman John Stine	Yes
Councilman Mike Fayette	NO
Councilman Sandy Caputo	Yes

Ayes 4 Nays 1 . Motion Passed.

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**Ordinance NO. 8 of 2020.**

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 8: An ordinance amending the Redwood Water District ordinance to set the water rate at \$4.33 per 1000 gallons.

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor: Brent Sweet	Yes
Councilman Ron Thomson	Yes
Councilman John Stine	Yes
Councilman Mike Fayette	NO
Councilman Sandy Caputo	Yes

Ayes 4 Nays 1. Motion Passed.

**Ordinance NO. 9 of 2020 .**

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 9: An ordinance amending the Route 12 Water District ordinance to set the water rate at \$7.93 per 1000 gallons.

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor: Brent Sweet	Yes
Councilman Ron Thomson	Yes
Councilman John Stine	Yes
Councilman Mike Fayette	No
Councilman Sandy Caputo	No

Ayes 3 Nays 2. Motion Passed.

**Ordinance NO. 10 of 2020.**

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 10: An ordinance amending the Edgewood Water District ordinance to set the water rate at \$7.93 per 1000 gallons.

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor: Brent Sweet	Yes
Councilman Ron Thomson	Yes
Councilman John Stine	Yes
Councilman Mike Fayette	No
Councilman Sandy Caputo	Yes

Ayes 4 Nays 1. Motion Passed.

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**Ordinance NO. 11 of 2020**

On the table is Ordinance No. 6: An ordinance amending the Otter Street Water District ordinance to set the water rate at \$5.21 per 1000 gallons.

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor: Brent Sweet	Yes
Councilman Ron Thomson	Yes
Councilman John Stine	Yes
Councilman Mike Fayette	No
Councilman Sandy Caputo	Yes

Ayes 4 Nays 1. Motion Passed.

Letter from J.Gascon: Mr. Gascon wrote a letter to the board alerting them that he is still paying on a sewer parcel that should have been taken off the billing months ago. Discussion: Board will look into parcels that are still be charged.

Marylin Cannestra asked the board why the sides of the roads are not being mowed? Mr. Cannestra told the board that she has had several complaints about trash at Highland Cemetery. Board commented that they will have the trash picked up regularly.

Resolution to schedule a hearing in connection with a claimed unsafe and dangerous structure located in the Town of Alexandria.

WHEREAS, an unfortunate fire occurred at the home of Mr. Carl Lawton, 43816 Parkers Trailer Park Road, Rt. 12, Redwood, New York (tax parcel # 14.00-1-11.2) on December 1, 2018, tragically taking Mr. Lawton's life; and

WHEREAS, the home and/or property has not been repaired and/or remediated, resulting in a report by the Town Zoning Officer, Mr. Norris Handschuh, to the effect that the property is now infested by rodents (rats); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Handschuh further reports there are young children living nearby; and

WHEREAS, the property is in such a condition that, if it is not voluntarily cleaned and/or removed, the situation represents a threat to the health and safety of persons nearby; and

WHEREAS, the decedent's son, Derrick Lawton, of Philadelphia, New York, has advised that he does not have authority by the Surrogate's Court to deal with the property,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Alexandria, New York as follows:

1. The property located at 43816 Parkers Trailer Park Road, Rt. 12, Redwood, New York (tax parcel # 14.00-1-11.2) appears to represent a very serious health hazard and, therefore, may be deemed to be unsafe and dangerous;

2. The Town Board is considering whether to order the demolition and removal of the trailer on or before July 15, 2020 by the hiring of a contractor or, in the case of Mr. Derrick Lawton, self-help;

3. That pursuant to Alexandria Local Law No. 3 of 1983, Section 6, the Town Supervisor is authorized to serve a notice upon Mr. Derrick Lawton via certified mail, return receipt requested, notifying him that a hearing will be held before the Town Board in relation to the report that dangerous

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or unsafe conditions at the Town Hall for the Town of Alexandria on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 5:15 p.m., at which time Mr. Lawton may present any evidence he deems advisable in connection with whether the Town should order the demolition of the structure and cleaning of the property;

4. The notice to Mr. Lawton shall contain a description of the premises, a statement of the particulars in which the building is unsafe or dangerous, an order outlining that, if found to be dangerous or unsafe, the building must be demolished or removed within 30 days of the service of the notice and then concluded within 60 days thereafter, and further a statement that, in the event of neglect or refusal to comply with an ultimate order to demolish and/or remove the building, the Town Board is authorized to provide for its demolition and removal, to assess all expenses thereof against the land on which it is located, and to institute a special proceeding to collect the costs of demolition, including legal expenses;

5. The notice to be prepared by the Town Supervisor shall be served by certified mail to Mr. Derrick Lawton at his address in Philadelphia, New York and further by securely affixing a copy of the notice upon the unsafe structure itself; and

6. That the Town Supervisor is further directed to file a copy of the notice served in the office of the County Clerk of the County of Jefferson as required by Section 8 of Local Law No. 3 of the year 1983.

Motion to have the hearing on June 24,2020 at 5:15pm. Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson second by Councilman John Stine.

Roll Call Vote

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor: Brent Sweet	Yes
Councilman Ron Thomson	Yes
Councilman John Stine	Yes
Councilman Mike Fayette	Yes
Councilman Sandy Caputo	Yes

Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.

Property Survey( Route 12) bid: Tabled

Cement Blocks and sign at brush pit: Motion to approve cement blocks and sign at brush pit. Motion made by Councilman Mike Fayette second by Councilman Ron Thomson. Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.

Outside user fee for Transfer Site: Tabled

Resolution to order milfoil harvester funded 100% by GLRI(Grant): Motion to order milfoil harvester. Motion was made by Councilman Ron Thomson second by Councilman John Stine. Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.

Resolution to accept updated IMA ( Intermunicipal Agreement) for Village of Alexandria Bay, Town of Alexandria (Otter & Route 12 water districts) Orleans and Clayton. Motion to accept was made by Councilman Mike Fayette second by Councilman John Stine. Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.

Town Board Member Sandy Caputo excused herself from the Board Meeting.

Advertise Water Committee Volunteers : Advertise for volunteers in the water bills.

Court is open for small claims and civil matters as of 05/20/2020

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**Introduce: LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2020**

**A Local Law abolishing the elective office of Alexandria Town Clerk and establishing the appointive office of Alexandria Town Clerk**

Motion to introduce Local Law No 1 of the year 2020. Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman Mike Fayette. Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 1. Motion Passed.

Section §1 – Legislative Declaration WHEREAS, the Town of Alexandria has historically been served by an elected Town Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Town’s experience with its previous Town Clerk was that her activities resulted in criminal charges for converting Town funds, and was relieved of her Town duties only upon her resignation in the face of criminal charges; and

WHEREAS, the current Town Clerk has been absent from her Town duties for a period of months, yet continues to be paid her full pay due to the fact that she holds an elective office; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Town of Alexandria are entitled to the services of a full-time Town Clerk who is responsive to the needs of its citizens and can be held accountable for his or her actions other than by means of sitting for re-election to a term of office; and

WHEREAS, a means of ensuring the services of a full-time Town Clerk absent elections would be to eliminate the elective Town Clerk position and to substitute it with a position held by appointment of the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the New York Municipal Home Rule Law permits the adoption of a local law abolishing the elective office of the Alexandria Town Clerk, which local law must be subject to mandatory referendum;; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to abolish the elected Town Clerk position and, at the same time, establish the appointive office of Town Clerk in accordance with New York Municipal Home Rule Law Section 23(2)(e),

Section §2 - Enactment

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Alexandria as follows:

The elective office of the Town of Alexandria Town Clerk shall be abolished and the appointive office of Town of Alexandria Town Clerk shall be established in its stead.

Section §3 – Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State after approval by the electors at the general election to be held on November 3, 2020.

Section §4 – Mandatory Referendum

This Local Law is subject to mandatory referendum pursuant to Section 23(2)(e) of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law.

**Schedule a Public Hearing on June 24, 2020 @5:30PM on Proposed Local Laws No 1 of the year 2020.**

Motion to schedule public hearing on Local Law No 1 of the year 2020. Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman John Stine . Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 1. Motion Passed.

**Introduce: LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2020**

**A Local Law abolishing the elective office of Town of Alexandria Town Highway Superintendent and establishing the appointive office of Town Highway Superintendent**

Motion to introduce Local Law No 2 of the year 2020. Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman John Stine. Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 1. Motion Passed.

Section §1 – Legislative Declaration WHEREAS, the Town of Alexandria has historically maintained the office of an elected Town Highway Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is of the view that the Town Highway Superintendent should be independent in his or her judgment of what work needs to be done by the Town Highway Department and how it is to be done, but that

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the office requires compliance with statutorily mandated contracts with the Town Board, compliance with Town Board directives in connection with managerial prerogatives concerning the use of Town equipment, and strict adherence to the budgeting established by the Town Board for Highway Department functions; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is of the view that the current position of elected Highway Superintendent places the Town Board at odds with the elected Highway Superintendent's response to Town Board prerogatives and budgeting such that the continued position of elective Highway Superintendent puts a strain on limited Town assets; and

WHEREAS, the New York Municipal Home Rule Law allows a Town to abolish the elective office of Alexandria Highway Town Superintendent following approval of the electors at a general election; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to abolish the elective Highway Superintendent position and, at the same time, establish the appointive office of Town Highway Superintendent in accordance with New York Municipal Home Rule Law Section 23(2)(e),

Section §2 - Enactment

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Alexandria as follows:

The elective office of Town of Alexandria Highway Superintendent shall be abolished and the appointive office of Town of Alexandria Highway Superintendent shall be established in its stead.

Section §3 – Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State after approval by the electors at the general election to be held on November 3, 2020.

Section §4 – Mandatory Referendum

This Local Law is subject to mandatory referendum pursuant to Section 23(2)(e) of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law.

**Schedule a Public Hearing on June 24, 2020 @5:30PM on Proposed Local Laws No 1 of the year 2020.**

Motion to schedule public hearing on Local Law No 2 of the year 2020. Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman John Stine . Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 1. Motion Passed.

NYS Comptroller special district legal department summary: More discussion needed to fully understand information.

Budget Transfers – None

Town Board Member Sandy Caputo returned to the Board Meeting.

ABS (advanced Business Systems) rate increase – Tabled

Motion to adjourn meeting. Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman Sandy Caputo. Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.