

TOWN OF READING BOARD MEETING
May 10, 2023

PRESENT: Supervisor S. Miller, Councilperson P. Gill, Councilperson, C. Richtmyer, Councilperson C. Stamp, Councilperson J. Rumsey, Hwy. Supt. J. Switzer, and Clerk T. Alger.

ABSENT: None

VISITORS:

Karen Storm, 3006 Lover's Lane, WG

Don Chutas – 3176 Burrell Pl, WG

Riqui Hess – Ray Roberts Rd

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS:

Mark Rondinaro, Schuyler County Legislature, provided YTD. Sales Tax Information. Sales Tax Revenue including the first payment in April was \$4,058,6519 for an increase of \$345,896 or 9.32%. from 2022. The 1st payment received in April was around .53% less than in 2023, but hopefully the 2nd April payment will be substantial enough to offset the decrease.

Craig Bond spoke on the behalf of the Summer Recreation Program at Clute Park. Previously the program had always been supported financially by local governments, but this stopped in 2017. We had been provided some information previously on the program and it was erroneously assumed by the Village of WG that we had pledged \$5,000 to this program when in fact the Town Board had asked for more information. Mr. Bond hoped that the Town of Reading could contribute something towards the program and it would be designated to the Elmo Royce Fund which would match our donation/pledge. Mr. Bond is enthusiastic about the restarting of the Summer Recreation program that has not been held in several years due to Covid and Clute Park being under construction. Supervisor Miller said we are not opposed to contributing, but would still like to know how many Reading youth might utilize the program. The funding for Dundee youth program we support is determined by attendance of Reading youth.

Barb Chapman, our historian and also member of the Schuyler Co. Historical Society, provided a copy of the Historical Society annual financial statement and encouraged Town Board members to become a member/supporter of the Schuyler Co. Historical Society. As Town Historian she has put together a work plan. She is really enjoying being the Town Historian and some items on her work plan are to clean up of 2 of the closed cemeteries especially the one on St. Rt. 14. She would also like to explore getting a grant for digitalizing historical records, and creating a historical display in the Town Hall.

Alice Conklin, Court Clerk, appeared before the Town Board to provide information that she learned at a recent Record Retentions that she attended while at the Town Clerk conference in Syracuse with Clerk Alger. It is recommended that court records be secured in their own separate room so they cannot be accessed by others. The Justice, John Norman, would like to appeal to the Town Board to utilize the coat closet/room as a court records room. They could apply for a JCAP grant to offset some of the cost. Supervisor Miller said the Schuyler County Planning Board is now expanding their services and will provide grant services and they may be able to look into some grant funding for us as well.

RESOLUTION #33 Councilperson P. Gill made a motion to accept the April 12 minutes, as written. Seconded by Councilperson C. Richtmyer

AYES:	Councilperson P. Gill	NAYS: none
	Councilperson C. Stamp	
	Councilperson C. Richtmyer	
	Councilperson J. Rumsey	
	Supervisor – S. Miller	

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PLANNING: 2 Minor Subdivision Public hearings in May

HIGHWAY: Superintendent J. Switzer read his report.

LANDFILL: P. Gill attended a meeting. Not much discussed. Was asked if we could retain Landfill records at Town of Reading due to Town of Dix relocating their offices. Next meeting will be held at Reading Town Hall

CLERK: Clerk Alger read her report

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #34 RESOLUTION MAKING ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION AND ISSUING SEQRA NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2023 AND ADOPTING LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2023, A LOCAL LAW MAKING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN LAND USE LAW

The following Resolutions were duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, proposed Local Law #2 of 2023, and the environmental review thereof, were scheduled for a public hearing that was duly held upon May 10th, 2023, whereat all persons interested in the subject matters thereof were duly heard and all evidence submitted taken and duly considered; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has classified the action as an Unlisted Action and duly declared itself lead agency for environmental review, and duly noticed all other agencies, as well as the Schuyler County Planning Department pursuant to General Municipal Law §§ 239-l, -m and -n; and

WHEREAS, as set forth more fully in the EAF and SEQRA review documents and findings statement, there were no moderate or significant actual or potential environmental impacts identified in relation to this local law, a review of the EAF on the record by the Town Board did not reveal any conclusions inconsistent with the analyses in EAF Parts 2 and 3, and all potential or probably future environmental impacts were analyzed and duly considered by the Town Board, as Lead Agency, in relation to the question of whether such impacts were so probable of occurring or so significant as to require a positive declaration of environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, and after weighing the above and all other potential impacts arising from or in connection with the adoption of this local law, and after also considering: (i) the probability of each potential impact occurring; (ii) the duration of each potential impact; (iii) the irreversibility of each potential impact, including permanently lost resources of value; (iv) whether each potential impact can or will be controlled or mitigated by permitting or other processes; (v) the regional consequence of the potential impacts; (vi) the potential for each impact to be or become inconsistent with the Town's master plan and/or Comprehensive Plan and local needs and goals; and (vii) whether any known objections to the Project relate to any of the identified potential impacts, the Town Board found that these factors did not cause any potential impact to be or be likely to become moderate, large, or significant; and

WHEREAS, after due deliberation upon this matter and a review and analysis of each and all potential environmental impacts, the Town Board, as Lead Agency, has made a negative declaration of environmental impacts from the adoption of this local law, as more fully set forth below; and

WHEREAS, a notice was duly delivered to the Schuylers County Planning Department pursuant to the notice provisions of the General Municipal Law, and by reply dated 04/17/2023, the County Planning Department determined or recommended adding "Attorney for the Town" to Section 2.5M. To ensure that they can be consulted should the board need them; and the Town Board *did adopt those official comments from County Planning*; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency, having made a negative declaration of environmental impacts, the Town Board then undertook to review the final version of proposed Local Law #2 of 2023, and the two administrative changes proposed thereby and, upon due deliberation thereupon, the Town Board of the Town of Reading has hereby:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Reading be and hereby is again declared to be the Lead Agency, and after consideration of the EAF and actual or probable environmental impacts, as well as all other impacts and criteria requiring review or consideration under 6 NYCRR 617.7(c), the Town Board as Lead Agency finds, declares, and hereby determines that the proposed action – adopting Local Law #2 of 2023 - will have no significant negative environmental impacts or consequences; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that this declaration is made in accord with Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and the Regulations promulgated thereunder, and accordingly, the Town Board of the Town of Reading, based upon (i) its thorough review of the EAF, and any and all

other documents prepared and submitted with respect to this proposed action and its environmental review, (ii) its thorough review of the potential relevant areas of environmental concern to determine if the proposed action may have a significant adverse impact on the environment, including, but not limited to, the criteria identified in 6 NYCRR § 617.7(c), and (iii) its completion of the EAF, including the findings noted therein (which findings are incorporated herein as if set forth at length), hereby makes a negative determination of environmental significance in accordance with SEQRA for the above referenced proposed action (“**Negative Declaration**”), and determines that an Environmental Impact Statement is therefore not required; and it is further

RESOLVED, that a Responsible Officer of the Town Board of the Town of Reading is hereby authorized and directed to complete and sign the determination of significance confirming the foregoing Negative Declaration, which fully completed and signed EAF and determination of significance shall be incorporated by reference in this Resolution; and it is further

RESOLVED, that Local Law Number 2 of 2023, being a local law entitled as the “Local Law Number #2 of 2023, a Local Law Amending Certain Sections of the Land Use Law of the Town of Reading”, be and hereby is approved and adopted in the form as presented to this meeting, and in such form “be it so enacted”; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DIRECTED, in accord with the Municipal Home Rule Law, the final adopted version of this local law shall be filed with the Town Clerk, and the said Town Clerk shall file the same within 20 days hereof, electronically or otherwise, with the New York State Secretary of State, State Records and Law Bureau, Department of State, 41 State Street, Albany, New York 12231, as required by Municipal Home Rule Law; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DIRECTED, in accord with General Municipal Law § 239-m(6), the Town Clerk is directed to cause a copy of these resolutions to be delivered to the Schuyler County Planning Department to serve as the required response and report upon the final action of the Town Board, including responses to county recommendations, if any, that are contained herein.

Motion by P. Gill

Seconded by C. Stamp

AYES: Councilperson P. Gill
Councilperson C. Stamp
Councilperson J. Rumsey
Supervisor – S. Miller

NAYS: C. Richtmyer

The Town Board discussed Jaynes Auto cleanup. Supervisor Miller visited the site and can see where things have been cleaned up, but there is still more progress that needs to be made. The Board agreed to work with Jaynes Autos in setting a reasonable time limit for completion of cleanup. Supervisor Miller asked D. Tremblay, Building Inspector III, to provide a list of items that still need to be taken care of. If after time limit, items are not completed then Legal Action can be taken.

The Town Board discussed presentation provided by C. Bond. We still would like some more information about attendance of students in Reading that would utilize the program. It was asked of C. Bond what are the other Townships providing after reviewing his funding. Only Hector is contributing \$5000 and the other Townships are contributing significantly less.

Hale roofing has sent the final bill after completion of the Highway garage. Additional repairs to the roof increased the cost by approx. \$5,000 over bid.

Mr. Augustus Felli, has asked for a refund of the building permit he purchased for \$1421 in November of 2022. due to unforeseen personal reasons. The building project had not begun yet and he has decided not to build on his Kent Klub Road property.

RESOLUTION #35 Councilperson C. Stamp made a motion to refund building permit fee of \$1421 to Mr. Augustus Felli due to unexpected circumstances. Seconded by Councilperson C. Richtmyer

AYES:	Councilperson P. Gill	NAYS: none
	Councilperson C. Stamp	
	Councilperson C. Richtmyer	
	Councilperson J. Rumsey	
	Supervisor – S. Miller	

\$5,000 has been transferred from the Water Account to the General Fund to make the final payment on outstanding loan that has been on the books for several years. We also transferred \$100,000 from the Highway Capital Reserve for equipment and for the proposed salt storage building. Salt storage balance at approx. \$291,000 and the equipment fund at \$120,000. \$10,000 was also transferred from the Sewer Account to Capital Reserve.

We have received some interest in people willing to take a seat on the Board of Appeals.

NEW BUSINESS:

Clerk Alger and Supervisor Miller attended Tier 3 Training presented by Homeland Security and Emergency Services. It was recommended that we put in place an “Order of Succession”

Mike Stamp our Insurance Agent is attending the PERMA Conference and will accept our Triple Threat Award for us.

RESOLUTION #36 Councilperson C. Stamp made a motion to allow J. Switzer, Highway Supt, to attend Highway School June 5-7, 2023. Seconded by Councilperson J. Rumsey.

AYES:	Councilperson P. Gill	NAYS: none
	Councilperson C. Stamp	
	Councilperson C. Richtmyer	

Councilperson J. Rumsey
Supervisor – S. Miller

RESOLUTION #37 Councilperson P. Gill made a motion to allow Bookkeeper H. Ribble to attend Finance classes sponsored by the Office of the NYS Comptroller in May in the amount of \$200 plus mileage that will be split with 2 other Townships. Seconded by Councilperson C. Richtmyer

AYES:	Councilperson P. Gill	NAYS: none
	Councilperson C. Stamp	
	Councilperson C. Richtmyer	
	Councilperson J. Rumsey	
	Supervisor – S. Miller	

RESOLUTION #38 Councilperson P. Gill made a motion to allow D. Trembly, Building Inspector III to attend Building Official School June 7-8, 2023 in the amount of \$175 plus mileage and will be split with the Town of Dix. Seconded by Councilperson J. Rumsey

AYES:	Councilperson P. Gill	NAYS: none
	Councilperson C. Stamp	
	Councilperson C. Richtmyer	
	Councilperson J. Rumsey	
	Supervisor – S. Miller	

Supervisor Miller spoke with SCT about purchasing a new modem to help with cell phone reception and internet connection problems in the Town Hall. SCT may also be able to help us with our Town website that needs updating.

Sexual harassment training for employees is almost complete. Just a few more from the Planning Board need to complete the training.

At the Council of Governments meeting Supervisor Miller was informed of some grant funding that may be available with guidance from the K. VanHorn of the County Planning Dept.

The Council of Government is also looking for someone to be appointed to the position of Schuyler County Hall of Fame nominating committee. Clerk Alger has volunteered.

Supervisor Miller has been seeking some quotes to purchase a generator for the Highway Garage using ARPA funds that we received. We have about \$30,000 left to use.

Chemung Canal has agreed to increase the interest rate on some of our interest-bearing accounts.

COMMUNICATION:

Received an email from K. Vanhorn of the County Planning Dept. regarding grants available to install EV Charging stations for our Town Hall.

RESOLUTION #40 Councilperson C. Stamp made a motion to pay Abstract # 005 as follows; seconded by Councilperson P. Gill

General Town wide	\$	95,991.22
Town Outside Village	\$	681.12
Highway Town wide	\$	5,012.76
Highway Outside Village	\$	9,987.28
Sewer	\$	82.05
Total:		\$111,754.43

AYES: Councilperson P. Gill
Councilperson C. Stamp
Councilperson C. Richtmyer
Councilperson J. Rumsey
Supervisor S. Miller

NAYS: none

RESOLUTION #41 Councilperson C. Richtmyer made a motion to adjourn regular meeting at 9:25 PM Seconded by Councilperson J. Rumsey