

A Work Session of the Clarence Town Board was held on Monday, December 29, 2014 at the Clarence Town Hall, One Town Place, Clarence, New York.

Supervisor David Hartzell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members of the Town Board present were Councilmembers Robert Geiger, Peter DiCostanzo, Patrick Casilio, Bernard Kolber and Supervisor Hartzell. Other Town officials present were Town Attorney Lawrence Meckler, Highway Supt. James Dussing, Jonathan Bleuer, Junior Planner, Robert Sackett, Planning Board Chairman and Karen Jurek, Administrative Assistant.

Supervisor Hartzell said he has decided not to go with the proposal from Lockport to take their dogs. He believes less dogs is better. He would like to take another look at what we do for Amherst. We handle 85 dogs for \$5,700. He will report back to the Board.

Councilman DiCostanzo asked what they do with their dogs if they do not come to us.

Supervisor Hartzell said Lockport went to the SPCA with 35 dogs for \$20,000. Lancaster is looking to us also, but there has not been an offer. He believes winding the whole thing back is a better decision.

Councilman Kolber asked about the WNY Land Conservancy Contract that was signed this year. He asked if we had money left to pay some of it out this year. It is about \$18,000 per year. If we could encumber some of the money, we could pay the Master Plan Contract.

It was suggested to separate the Land Conservancy and the Master Plan in the budget.

Supervisor Hartzell said he received fee changes from the Parks Department and the Building and Engineering Department.

Councilman Kolber said in regard to the Wehrle Drive project, he understands that there must be a remediation plan on sites that had a mining permit.

Town Attorney Meckler suggested letting them know all of the issues and offer them to come back after they have had a chance to address them.

Jonathan Bleuer said they are aware of the issues, but he is not sure that they are willing to make changes.

Robert Sackett said we should never start a coordinated review on a project that will not be approved.

Councilman Casilio said in regard to the bike path along Wehrle Drive, he is not in favor of having it right alongside the road with the truck traffic in the area. He suggested that 10 ft. back or so off the road would be better. Most of the houses are set back quite a bit from the road. He would rather have it safer. Another option would be to discuss it with Buffalo Crushed Stone and see if we could put it on their side. There should be a committee, drawings, etc.

Robert Sackett said the 2001 SEQR stated that after 10 years there would have to be a traffic study with regard to the intersections at Harris Hill and Roll and Shimerville and Roll. Any projects between Harris Hill and Shimerville are going to wait until they are addressed. The developers are responsible. They are all County roads.

Councilman DiCostanzo said he drove through the park the other evening and there were people walking dogs or just walking through and he does not think we should have deer control activity going on too.

Councilman Casilio said we stopped it at the Nature Center also.

Town Attorney Meckler said to tell them not to use that location.

Councilman Geiger discussed the Landscape Committee and believes we should have someone with landscaping knowledge.

Councilman DiCostanzo said they have a hard time finding someone.

Supervisor Hartzell said he sent an email about putting a contractor list together. The people in the southern tier were in a panic during the last storm. This way we will be prepared if we need it.

James Dussing said David Bissonette probably has a list already.

The Town Board discussed Organizational Items.

There was discussion on vehicle usage. There is a form for consideration to have each person who takes a car home to fill out.

Karen Jurek said the proposal James Dussing submitted should be in the Policy Manual.

Decal sizes were discussed. Mr. Dussing said it will be clear that the vehicles are Town vehicles.

Fees for Parks Department and Planning will be included as organizational items.

All trips by Town employees require Town Board approval.

There was discussion on some appointments and salaries.

There was some discussion regarding hiring and the fact that the Town Board approves any hiring prior to offering someone a job.

Openings on committees will be noted in the organizational minutes.

Motion by Councilman Kolber, seconded by Supervisor Hartzell to encumber the balance of funds from the 2014 account A8010.472 Master Plan Expenses to be used toward the Steinmetz Planning Group Contract for the Comprehensive Plan that was authorized November 8, 2014. Upon roll call – Ayes: All; Noes: None. Motion carried.

The Board feels that they have addressed the audit recommendations regarding vehicle usage and gas control system.

There being no further business, Supervisor Hartzell adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Nancy C. Metzger
Town Clerk