

**TOWN OF DELHI
BOARD MEETING
January 8, 2024
6:00PM**

Supervisor Boukai called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Those present:

Councilmember's: Margaret Baldwin, Josh Morgan, Matt Krzyston

Highway Superintendent Daren Evans

Absent: Councilmember Christina Viafore

Residents: Cindi Cobbe, Cynthia Smart, Jim Smart, Jon Crider, M. Takahashi

Privilege of the Floor: N/A

Approval of December 11, 2023 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes, December 28, 2023 Yr End Meeting Minutes and January 2, 2024 Organizational Meeting Minutes:

Councilmember Krzyston made the motion to approve the December 11th and January 2nd minutes as presented, he was unable to attend the December 28th meeting therefore he abstained from making the motion to accept those minutes. Councilmember Baldwin made the motion to accept the December 28th meeting minutes with it being noted that under "Residents" the name Mat Burkert was listed twice; the clerk to remove one name. With the error noted, all three sets of minutes listed were seconded by Councilmember Morgan to approve. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Supervisor Boukai stated that the RS 2417-A Standard Workday Resolution would be tabled until the February or March meeting due to the transition.

Supervisor Boukai stated that the updated resolution from Delaware County Economic Development regarding the Governmental Immunity for the Fire Tower - Local Regulations had been received with the changes she had requested per her conversations with the town attorney and NYMIR, she felt it is in the 95% ready state. She requested the board to review the resolution and will send the updated resolution to both the attorney and insurance company again for their review and input. She stated a public hearing would need to be held. Councilmember Baldwin stated she would need to read it and see what Merzig's responses were. Councilmember Morgan stated he would like to do a little more research with it but he was good for right now. He felt the public's input was important. Boukai agreed and stated this is only for zoning and for the site plan, this has nothing to do with the building permit; that is a completely separate issue. Boukai then requested a motion to schedule a public hearing for the resolution and public input on accepting such. She stated the public hearing would be at 5:35pm on February 12th, our next board meeting. Councilmember Krzyston made the motion for the public hearing to declare the county immune from our local laws and zoning and also for the advertising of such with Councilmember Morgan seconding. Motion carried.

New Business:

Supervisor Boukai requested a motion to schedule a public hearing for February 12, 2024, at 5:30pm for Local Law No. 001 of 2024 – Local Law to Amend Local Law No. 001 of 2020 Entitled A local Law to Establish the Residency Requirements for Deputy Highway Superintendent. This local law would extend the radius of ten (10) miles to fifteen (15) miles for the position of Deputy Highway Superintendent. Councilmember Krzyston made the motion to schedule the public hearing for 5:30pm on February 12th and for the advertising of such public hearing. Councilmember Baldwin seconded the motion, motion carried.

Supervisor Boukai requested that the board make a motion to accept and acknowledge the following donations:

Helfgott/Renfroe Foundation - \$1,000 for pool use

Helfgott/Renfroe Foundation - \$5,000 for highway department use

Councilmember Baldwin made the motion to accept the donations with Councilmember Krzyston seconding. Motion carried. Supervisor Boukai had a thank you card and requested board members sign the card for the Foundation.

Supervisor Boukai stated she Councilmembers Morgan and Viafore were all set for their training in Albany next week. She then stated that Councilmember Viafore was now able to go to the training in NYC in February. Boukai has a hotel down to \$650 for the two of them. The board discussed the motion which was made at the December meeting; Boukai stated the room at the training was \$400 per night and this would be only \$650 possibly less depending on the agenda which has not come out yet. The board discussed the training and hotel stays and the GSA rates. Councilmember Krzyston stated he would make the motion to reimburse up to the allowable rate per GSA rates for the hotel stay for the NYC Conference. If sales tax was applied, they would not be reimbursed. And to set Councilmember Viafore up for the training also and shared housing. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Supervisor Boukai tabled the travel policy.

Committee Reports:

Highway/Machinery: (Councilmember's Baldwin & Morgan) Written report from Superintendent Evans provided to councilmembers. Evans updated the board on the new trucks being built. The cab & chassis currently having the snowplow installed. It will leave there and go to Watertown for hydraulics, but those parts are on back order, so delivery time is not known at this time. He further stated there are two other unnoted repairs which are not on his report due to the storm; the bed chain for the 2019 Westernstar broke and broke the shaft and sprockets. The parts are on order, and they are hoping to have it back in service by the end of the week. The 2007 Volvo Dump quit on the roadway with an undiagnosed problem. Supervisor Boukai asked if this effected yesterday's cleanup; Evans said it was a tough time, but our two backups are running. It took time to get the one back in as we had to have it towed, which is a lot. We are still ready if there are more storms this week. Councilmember Krzyston asked if the 2019 could be repaired by the mechanic; Evans stated yes, we are just waiting on the parts at this time.

Personnel: (Councilmember's Viafore & Baldwin): Councilmember Baldwin stated there was nothing to report; some things in the background maybe next month we can bring forward. Supervisor Boukai stated the Personnel Committee will do the annual audits that need to be done by the end of the month. Judge Burkert stated they were ready for the audit; they can let us know when it's convenient.

Recreation/Health/Youth: (Councilmember's Krzyston & Supervisor Boukai): Councilmember Krzyston stated he had nothing to report, but commented Supervisor Boukai identified some potential grant opportunities that would help pay for lifeguards this summer. It's a statewide grant so we would be competing with bigger, more dense communities but maybe we will get lucky. Supervisor Boukai added she spoke with John Kolodziej today; he gave her a run down of how things were done in the past and reaching out to Lara at the Youth Bureau to discuss compensation. He has zero people signed up for the lifeguard course at the college for February, if he doesn't get any, he will reschedule it for March for more interest it is held at the college. Councilmember Baldwin said Walton will be having training in June.

Economic Development/Shared Services: (Councilmember Morgan & Viafore): Councilmember Morgan stated he had nothing to report at this time and Viafore was not at the meeting this evening. Councilmember Krzyston asked if we knew who was on Shared Services for the Village; Boukai stated Trustee Janet Tweed and Trustee Barb Sturdevant.

Councilmember Baldwin stated if we put any merit into our Comprehensive Plan which we really can't because it's over ten years old. Down the road we should really consider updating it as she has read it extensively and it's so outdated at this point. Councilmember Krzyston stated he thought it was pretty good it

just needs updating. Boukai stated she had met with Tweed, and they discussed potential areas we can expand that weren't such a previous issue but now are (they met in December.)

IT: (Councilmember Viafore & Krzyston): Councilmember Krzyston reported that Councilmember Viafore created an informational sheet which will be distributed by the Tax Collector's office and will be available at the front counter at the Clerk's office. It provides information regarding the town's services and other information.

Buildings/Codes: (Councilmember Morgan & Krzyston): Councilmember Morgan stated in the month of December 2023 there were: 2 building permits issued, 11 inspections / meetings, 5 in-office conferences, 1 c/o letters, 1 c/c letter and he 110 drove miles.

CODES Monthly Report:

A motion was made by Councilmember Krzyston to accept the codes report for December 2023. Councilmember Baldwin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Justice Court Report:

A motion was made by Councilmember Krzyston to accept the December 2023 Justice Court Reports. Councilmember Baldwin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk's Monthly Report:

A motion was made by Councilmember Krzyston to accept the December 2023 report and the clerk's yearly report, seconded by Councilmember Baldwin. Motion carried.

Supervisor's Financial Report:

Supervisor Boukai had a zoom presentation for NYCLASS Investment Program which was being recorded. Chris Starr introduced himself and stated they are a local government investment pool which has been around since 1989 and stated that they have 1,300 participants. The simplest way to look at them is as an on-line savings account that is available to municipalities and school districts across NYS. He discussed the Federal Reserve and the hiking of interest rates. He discussed towns, cities, villages, schools, fire districts, special districts as well as BOCES districts. They pool assets for all of the participants from the program and invest those assets in a cooperative basis which allows all the participants in the program to have the same interest rate together. The three pillars of NYCLASS are safety, liquidity and yield first and foremost the most important of NYCLASS is the safety of our participants. All investments are in accordance with NY municipal law. He further stated that since 1989 NYCLASS has not lost a dollar of principle for any of their municipal clients and has always paid out full principle plus interest. The interest is tied to whatever the Federal Reserve is doing. He explained that the interest is posted to accounts every evening. He stated US Bank holds all the assets on behalf of the participants. He gave information on how the interest rates are calculated. There are no limits on accounts and no penalties, you have access to all the funds, it is completely liquid with no transaction fees or a management fee. The rate is very fair he stated. Councilmember Baldwin questioned if he could share who in Delaware County participated; Starr stated the Village of Walton and Village of Delhi as well as Franklin and Hancock CSDs. Councilmember Krzyston stated I know the rates are great right now what is the average since inception; Starr did not have that information. Starr did state the data on their website goes back to 2012. Krzyston questioned how a municipality decides what money to put in or do they put all their money in there. Starr stated they see a combination of all their participants; those that really take advantage of the program are putting almost most of their money with NYCLASS and then since it is liquid they go on the portal and seamlessly move the funds back to their bank account; it is very easy to do wires or ACH transactions. Others look for reserve dollars that they are not going to touch. Krzyston said he understands that you can have one master account with subaccounts. Starr explained the ability to join NYCLASS. Krzyston then asked Starr why he felt municipalities learn about NYCLASS and choose not to participate; Starr felt it could be due to their relationship with their banks not wanting to upset them. Also, the effort it takes to join and learn to use the portal moving funds although feedback shows it's much easier to use and more secure than imagined. From a

safety perspective it is like a regular bank account with the exception there are US Treasuries in the portfolio which helps when the feds cut rates ultimately because there are treasuries in the portfolio that will hold the rates a bit longer where a bank will typically slash your interest rate the day the feds cut their interest rate. Krzyston said he never knew until recently that municipalities could invest; Krzyston asked has this always been an option Starr said it has always been an option. Supervisor Boukai thanked Starr for his presentation. She requested he email her an updated packet and rate sheet along with hyperlinks. Councilmember Baldwin asked if he would send information on communities of 2,000 and 5,000 population that participate in their program. He will send the information.

Supervisor Boukai stated that the Supervisor's Report was unavailable at this time due to the transition.

Supervisor's County Report:

Supervisor Boukai stated she had voted yes to all the resolutions put forth at the county, except the "newspaper of record" which she voted no due to as the request to have the Reporter included along with the Mountain Eagle and the Hancock Herald as official papers was denied. Krzyston asked who voted no; Boukai stated Hamden, Andes, Middletown and one other. There was confusion as to whether it was due to the pending litigation or just not put on. When she receives the information, she will pass it along. She then stated the next meeting for the Board of Supervisors is on the 23rd.

Boukai added that she will be meeting with the bank on Tuesday morning to introduce herself and to discuss what kind of rates they can offer us; the village mayor doesn't seem to think it will be a possibility that they can beat NYCLASS's rates which is why they transferred some of their funds to NYCLASS. Boukai suggested the board reach out to Kim Cairns, Village Clerk as she is managing the NYCLASS accounts for the village. The mayor can also give information on how they started and how it has been working for them. The catch with them is a two million dollar in one account investment that will get you the higher interest rate and it has to stay in there to get the rate. She encouraged the board to reach out to Starr for information.

Supervisor Boukai had the 2023 Historians Report and will forward it to the members.

Councilmember Baldwin added that regarding NYCLASS she felt we should not burn our bridges with our bank as they have helped us tremendously in the past with funding. Councilmember Morgan also stated he liked to keep things locally. He further stated NYCLASS didn't look like it really took off until COVID; Boukai agreed and stated how it's going to play out when rates start to come down again, we will have to see. And from a logistical point of view having to constantly move money around it is not ideal. Baldwin stated we can't gamble with taxpayers' money. Boukai stated it never hits our investment they get their piece from the top of the interest earned. The concern we would have is what the charge would be to wiring in and out. Baldwin stated she would want to speak to the bookkeeper about it; Morgan stated he had spoken to Walton, and they do like it. The board agreed it sounds too good to be true. Boukai offered Baldwin to join her at the bank if she wished.

Abstracts:

Councilmember Morgan made the motion to approve Abstract #001 – 2024 accounts A – DB Voucher No. 001 – 0023 equaling \$131,928.48. No vouchers were presented for account TA. Councilmember Krzyston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Justice Burkert made mention to the board the issue with the Public Defender's office that Ms. Hicks has resigned this past Friday; we were advised by Mr. Ermeti that we were going to be doing 18B assignments for defense. Mr. Ermeti advised this last week that Mr. Andrew VanBuren, a private attorney, is being retained by his office to represent here in the town of Delhi for his office. Supervisor Boukai stated then it won't be an 18B representation if he is formally hired by the county; Burkert said he is being retained I believe; Mr. Ermeti confirmed with Mr. Collins that Mr. VanBuren has been retained to handle our court, Burkert wasn't sure about the other municipalities. Going forward on the 17th there will be an attorney here from the Public Defender's office, Mr. VanBuren representing their office for Delhi. Boukai asked if Burkert felt comfortable in terms of

how things have shaped up in the coverage of the court itself; Burkert said Hicks was a fantastic attorney, she was great; I am sure Mr. VanBuren is an excellent attorney and he will represent the community in a positive light. It's a shame we are losing Ms. Hicks, she will be missed.

Councilmember Baldwin discussed advertising for lifeguards, the board discussed advertising for all positions at the pool. Wages were discussed the board needs to discuss further. Krzyston stated the priority was getting the lifeguard ad out there, we would be lucky to have our past people come back, so we shouldn't delay getting it out there. Advertising for lifeguards was decided with the clerk to call personnel for information.

Supervisor Boukai asked for a motion that she and Meg Hungerford have access to login to bank accounts associated with the town. Councilmember Krzyston made the motion giving them access with Councilmember Baldwin seconding, motion carried.

Councilmember Krzyston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm, Councilmember Baldwin seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Schmitz

Elsa Schmitz
Town Clerk
Town of Delhi