

**TOWN OF DELHI
BOARD MEETING
May 10, 2021
7:00PM**

Supervisor Tuthill called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Those present:

Councilmember's: Janet Tweed, William Cairns, Christina Viafore, Matthew Krzyston.

Highway Superintendent Daren Evans

Residents: John Kolodziej Recreation Director, Rick Ackerly and Peg Baldwin of the PAC Committee, Kathy Mario, Kristina Zill of Transition Catskill

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Tuthill.

Privilege of the Floor:

Town resident Kathy Mario wanted to let the board know that a group of residents in town have put in for a request to the Delaware/Otsego Audubon Society for a grant that has to be in by Friday. The grant is related to climate change and is being done by the Tessier's of Delhi and several others with three parts to it. The main part of the grant is educating the public to the benefits of getting rid of invasive species and planting natives. Part of the grant if received will be to purchase native plants and enroll people into the program giving them a number and two or three plants and they will send pictures as the plants progress. The first phase will be until September; when the students come back to college and DA they are hoping to use community service people to help get rid of the invasive plants. With the new sustainability program at the college and Lisa Tessier's landscape class they can do brochures and help in many ways. The group should know probably next Tuesday if they get the grant or not; for businesses in town, the chamber and other entities she believes it could bring money to town and also energy. There will be signs in people's yards if they complete whatever they are supposed to do saying they are an Audubon yard or something. What is called "home grown national parks" based on Douglas Tallaway's, Entomologist book "Bring Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife With Native Plants" so maybe we will have it in Delhi, Walton and other surrounding towns and villages.

Approval of April 12, 2021 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes:

Councilmember Viafore pointed out that the name "Thompson" was incorrect it should be "Thomson," twice it was misspelled in the minutes. With the correction noted Councilmember Krzyston made a motion to accept the April 12, 2021 board minutes, with Councilmember Viafore seconding. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Supervisor Tuthill stated there was no new information on the playground project at this point. Tuthill informed the board that there was another conference call on the sewer district creation, where he was pressured again to have the town take over the sewer pipeline; he declined. Councilmember Tweed asked what the alternatives where; Tuthill said basically IDA would set up a sewer transport corporation, they would have shares in the company and could turn it over to the two plants or some other entity that wanted to be responsible for the pipeline and pump station. It is in the early stages there is a lot to be figured out.

Supervisor Tuthill gave the floor to Kristina Zill from Transition Catskills. He stated the town had done some things early on (a couple of years ago) Ms. Zill stated the town completed two actions of the required four actions which when completed the town would received \$5,000 for being a clean energy community. Tonight she wanted to ask the town if they would like her to run a community solar campaign. She further explained what it means is, we get 10 people with Delhi addresses to sign up to get their electricity from a community

solar farm. There is a scoping document that needs to be submitted, she sent the document to Councilmember's Tweed and Viafore; she will help to complete it. She stated Viafore would be the point person for the program. NYSE&G is giving out \$5,000 grant just for completing one of the solar campaigns although there are only 100 of these grants available statewide for small communities. A resolution or a letter of commitment is necessary to do this; she can give a sample of the letter. Tuthill asked if that would satisfy "three" Zill stated yes. Tuthill then asked if there was a requirement for the code officer as he is also the county's code officer and has completed training. Zill stated it would have to be new training unless the action has already been uploaded, so he would have to take it again in the fourth quarter. Zill stated she has spoken with the mayor at the village and told him the town would be "poaching" some of his community choice aggregation, he was fine. Potential persons must be residents of Delhi and will receive 10% off the NYSE&G electric rate; the only thing people don't like is getting two bills. NYSE&G states they cannot do this. Delaware County Electric Coop. cannot participate. Councilmember Cairns made a motion that the town move forward with the participating with Councilmember Tweed seconding. Motion was carried. Zill stated she will forward the letter of commitment to Tuthill for his signature. The clerk requested a copy of the letter from Tuthill. Zill continued to discuss other campaigns with the board. Councilmember Krzyston stated the town did an upgrade already, Tuthill said it was to change the highway garage to LED's. Zill stated this could be another action completed.

New Business:

Supervisor Tuthill announced that tax grievance day is May 25, the assessor's will be in attendance 5/17/21, 5/18/21 from 1pm-4pm, 5/19/21 from 6pm-8pm and 5/22/21 from 1pm-4pm for discussion. They are recommending phone calls for persons with concerns. The clerk has posted the information on the town's website. Covid restrictions will be in place.

John Kolodziej Recreation Director requested to hire the following lifeguards: Logan Aiken and Diego Aquirre at the rate of \$12.50 hour start date of May 21st through September 12, 2021. Councilmember Tweed made the motion to hire both at the requested rate with Councilmember Viafore seconding. Motion carried. Kolodziej announced they will be attempting to open the pool on Saturday, May 29th at 12:00pm; week to week hours will be posted on Facebook and on the pool's website subject to change. Swim lessons are scheduled for the following: Session #1: June 28th -July 16th and Session #2: July 19th -August 6th. Lessons will be held Monday – Friday following COVID protocol from DOH.

Tuthill announced the clerk has billed the Town of Meredith for participation in the 2021 Recreation Program.

Tuthill informed the board that he had received a letter from the Downsville Fire District looking for a support letter for a Certificate of Need; they are working on EMS like everyone else. They board tabled the discussion until an executive session.

Committee Reports:

Highway/Machinery: (Councilmember's Tweed & Cairns) – Written report from Superintendent Evans was given to council members (see attached.) Evans stated the majority of what they have going on is dependent on the weather, of late weather has not been cooperative. They have been doing a lot of road shimming and ditch cleaning and culvert replacements, they are full bore. Tuthill stated his culvert is developing a hole, Evans stated it is on the list. Councilmember Krzyston questioned the three batteries which were replaced on the Oshkosh; Evans explained that the vehicle has three batteries. Councilmember Cairns questioned the surplus of the fire truck and other equipment on Sherwood's, Evans stated it will have to be this coming month as they have been using parts off the equipment to save money which is a bonus for the town. Cairns asked if there was any updates on the new trucks, Evans stated no they are slated for September. Councilmember Cairns announced that he had reached out to Principle Design & Engineering of Norwich regarding the highway garage roof and had received a quote back from them. They offer three different scopes of services: Task 1- design and planning at a cost of \$1,350-\$1,800; Task 2- Bid/award services for a cost of \$850 and Task 3 – construction assistance for a cost up to \$2,000. After discussion the board moved to hire

Principle Design & Engineering, PLLC for all three services. Councilmember Cairns making the motion hire Principle to oversee the roof project on all three scopes of services and Councilmember Krzyston seconding. The clerk will send a letter along with the signed endorsement paperwork to them.

Personnel: (Councilmember's Tweed & Viafore) - Councilmember Viafore announced she had received the Town of Delhi employee handbook from the town bookkeeper for review.

Recreation/Health/Youth: (Councilmember's Tweed & Viafore) – Councilmember Tweed opened the discussion to PAC. Rick Ackerly of PAC questioned if the playground was opened. Tweed stated yes, there are two pieces that will be removed by the highway department. The two pieces are not dangerous so it does not affect the opening. Councilmember Viafore wished to thank Kappa Sigma Epsilon of SUNY Delhi for their help working at the playground. Kolodziej mentioned the picnic tables had also been painted and commented they looked good. Ackerly wanted to work on some signs that say “keep off the grass” as people are parking wherever. Viafore announced the Delhi Bridge Run was going to be the first Saturday of June. Preregistration must be done, there will be no same day registration the site is [runsignup.com/Race/NY/Delhi/CoverBridgeRun](https://www.runsignup.com/Race/NY/Delhi/CoverBridgeRun).

Economic Development/Shared Services: (Councilmen Cairns & Krzyston) – Councilmember Krzyston stated there was a meeting and at the meeting the village thanked our mechanic for helping them. They also discussed the application to Delaware County Soil and Water for the design of the Woolerton Street Bridge which has been drafted. Chris Maney is reviewing it and Krzyston asked if they could get help from Delaware County Planning for grant applications as he believed they were on retainer for that. Tuthill said Delaware County Planning could help to a certain extent and they should ask them. They also talked about the housing study and the village stated there have been presentations at their planning board and there is a project that is getting traction for housing. Krzyston then stated they discussed and he in which they submitted a joint application to O'Connor asking for matching funds to repurpose our vacant building near the pool to make it more useful for the summer; the application is pending with O'Conner and we are expecting to hear by the end of the month. Krzyston forwarded information to the board via emails prior to the meeting. Krzyston then questioned vendors at the pool area, and wanted to know if it was official and did we have anything regarding it. The board stated yes, last year we had done an application for food vendors in which they had to provide requested documents and pay a fee of \$25.00 for the season.

BUILDINGS: (Councilmember Cairns & Councilmember Krzyston) – Councilmember Cairns stated he had spoken briefly with Highway Superintendent Evans and they are going to try to figure out what to do out front with the area the shrubs were removed as the roots are sticking up. Evans said they were working on it today, but the ones by the building need to be looked at more as they are very close to the building. Councilmember Cairns that questioned getting the grass cut were we going to bid it. Tuthill stated no we would keep the same person and rebid next year when all the work would be done at the playground. Councilmember Viafore stated the tables at the pool were not moved the last mowing. The clerk stated it had rained and they had not come back since due to weather as they contact the office. The recreation director will contact the mower to discuss when it should be done. Councilmember Krzyston stated he thought the college had completed the generator hookup at the highway garage, he took pictures. He will write a letter to them thanking them. Highway Superintendent Evans stated they were there for two weekends, it will be a fully functioning garage when the generator is running but we will have to pick and choose what we use when the compressor is running and the overhead doors are open. Evans added they did a very nice job.

IT: (Councilmember Tweed & Councilmember Viafore) – Councilmember Viafore announced the pool's google address has been updated to the correct address and phone number. She has learned to replace information (forms) on the website with the help of our web designer Dave Kopecek. They have fixed the recreation director email. The recreation director questioned if there was wi-fi at the pool, Councilmember Tweed stated they are looking into it.

CODES: (Councilmember Cairns & Krzyston) – Councilmember Cairns stated there were eight building permits issued, 12 inspections/meetings were done, there were 5 in office conferences, 5 c/o letters, 1 certificates of compliance, four violations and he drove 122 miles.

CODES Monthly Report:

A motion was made by Councilmember Krzyston to accept the April 2021 Code Report. Councilmember Cairns seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Justice Court Report:

A motion was made by Councilmember Krzyston to accept the April 2021 Justice Court Report. Councilmember Viafore seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk's Monthly Report:

A motion was made by Councilmember Krzyston to accept the April 2021 Clerk's Report. Councilmember Cairns seconded the motion. Motion carried. The clerk presented the board with the final tax collection report for 2021, a motion was made by Councilmember Tweed to accept the report with Councilmember Viafore seconding. Motion carried.

Supervisor's Financial Report:

A motion was made by Councilmember Cairns to accept the April 2021 Supervisor's Report, with Councilmember Viafore seconding. Motion carried.

Supervisor's County Report:

Supervisor Tuthill stated the DPW is hoping to start on their projects at the end of the month. Mental Health building will probably be granted a 10 day extension on the completion date as they had been shut down due to COVID exposure. They are hoping to have it open the first part of September.

Abstracts:

Councilmember Tweed made the motion to approve Abstract #005 - 2021 accounts A – DB Voucher No. 00154 – 00184 equaling \$48,542.82, account TA Voucher No. 0023 – 0025 = \$12,703.05. Total vouchers presented equaled \$61,245.87. Councilmember Viafore seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Executive Session:

Supervisor Tuthill entertained a motion to enter into executive session for the EMS to discuss on personnel. Councilmember Cairns requested the board enter into executive session to discuss "personnel" He made the motion at 7:55pm with Councilmember Tweed seconding. Motion carried. A motion to exit at 8:00pm was made by Councilmember Cairns and seconded by Councilmember Viafore. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Councilmember Cairns made a motion that Supervisor Tuthill do a letter of support for the Downsville Fire District supporting their Certificate of Need (CON), motion seconded by Councilmember Krzyston. Motion carried.

Councilmember Cairns made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm, Councilmember Krzyston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elsa Schmitz
Town Clerk
Town of Delhi