

**TOWN OF DELHI  
BOARD MEETING  
July 12, 2021  
7:00PM**

Supervisor Tuthill called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Those present:

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

Highway Superintendent Daren Evans

Residents: John Kolodziej Recreation Director, Peg Baldwin of the PAC Committee

**The Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Councilmember Krzyston.

**Privilege of the Floor:**

N/A

**Approval of May 10, 2021 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes:**

Councilmember Viafore announced that on page 6 the word "chase" was written instead of "chance" with this change Councilmember Cairns made a motion to accept the June 14, 2021 minutes with the above correction; Councilmember Viafore seconding the motion. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

Supervisor Tuthill announced a motion was necessary to accept the grant from the O'Connor Foundation in the amount of \$100,000 to be used towards the new playground. The town has three years from the date of the letter to use the funds; this is not a matching grant. Councilmember Tweed made the motion accepting the grant and authorizing Tuthill to sign the paperwork. Councilmember Viafore seconded the motion; motion carried. Councilmember Cairns stated it was very generous of the O'Connor Foundation; Tuthill agreed and stated it is very much appreciated.

Supervisor Tuthill stated the town attorney has gotten a draft from the IDA for the request of the sewage transport corporation; it still hasn't been signed and finalized by the IDA. Nothing to act on tonight.

Councilmember Viafore stated we have met our ten homeowners and residents for the Clean Energy Communities grant she has just gotten approval Friday; she has forwarded it to the clerk. We now wait and see if we were one of the first one hundred towns to get it done to see if we qualify for the grant. Councilmember Tweed stated there are more initiatives we can do with Transitions Catskills.

Supervisor Tuthill stated there is nothing to report with the assessment challenges; town attorney Merzig is contacting the school to see if they are willing to participate, the county said they are going to participate.

Supervisor Tuthill requested a motion to accept a \$5,000 grant from the Greater Delhi Chamber of Commerce for use at the rebuilding of the brick building for concessions. Councilmember Krzyston made the motion to accept the grant with Councilmember Cairns seconding. Motion carried. The board thanked the Chamber.

Supervisor Tuthill stated that he and Councilmember Krzyston met with the Legion they are very happy with the way traffic is flowing. There is an agreement between the Legion and the town for the driveway which Councilmember Viafore is forwarding to Supervisor Tuthill for his review. A motion was made by Councilmember Viafore and seconded by Councilmember Tweed to have Tuthill sign the agreement. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

Supervisor Tuthill announced he had received a letter from Devin Doenges of Doenges Rubbish

Removal requesting the town allow the boy scout can and bottle donation bin be moved to town property. He will donate a new bin. The board discussed location and will make a determination next month as to if there is a spot on town property for its placement. The building committee will look into the location possibilities.

Supervisor Tuthill asked the clerk to address the board. Town Clerk Schmitz stated she had received notification from a town resident regarding the You-Tube video of June's meeting. The resident first phoned the clerk the day after the meeting requesting a copy of the minutes she told him minutes would not be available yet and to watch the video. He phoned back stating the video had been cut and pasted, and a portion was missing. The resident further emailed the clerk stating such and giving her the time of the cut and questioned what the town was "hiding." The clerk watched the video and found the entire discussion regarding Councilmember Krzyston and Recreation Director Kolodziej and pool COVID regulations was missing and did not match her audio recording. There was roughly 15 minutes missing from the tape. Supervisor Tuthill stated the video is an official record of the town. As records management officer she informed the board this was improper and does not show transparency in government. If the town were to be FOILED we would have to provide the original version as an edited version is not legal. Councilmember Viafore stated she was unaware of the edit and stated the tape is uploaded in 30 minute increments and somehow this portion must have not uploaded. She explained it can take hours to upload in full. Councilmember Krzyston stated somehow this didn't make it to the mix. Krzyston further stated all the originals have been kept. Councilmember Cairns stated as Schmitz is the records management officer she should have them. Krzyston stated ok she can also post them on line. Schmitz said she could do it but would need help as she is unaware of how to do it. Councilmember Viafore will send her information. Tuthill stated the card should be given to Schmitz and she will upload the video and hold the card till the next meeting.

Supervisor Tuthill stated the town had not received any bids on the highway garage roof. Councilmember Tweed questioned what the next option would be. Tuthill stated if anyone hears of a contractor that may be interested have them get a hold of the town. We need a roof if we have to award the contract as an emergency deal we will do it that way. He further stated one needs to be installed before fall.

Supervisor Tuthill announced we had till July 9<sup>th</sup> to get our request into the state for the ARPA application. He completed it on July 1<sup>st</sup> and received confirmation on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The town will be receiving \$177,837.00 half this summer and half next summer. Moneys can be used to offset lost revenues from last year everything else must be sewer water, infrastructure or expenses incurred since April 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Last year's COVID related expenses are not eligible they will be through FEMA. Councilmember Tweed questioned when it must be spent, Tuthill stated in the next two years. We don't have to spend the first half this year. More guidance on what is an eligible expense is forthcoming.

Supervisor Tuthill and the board discussed the Cannabis Law of opting in or out. More guidance is forthcoming.

Supervisor Tuthill requested a motion to sign the agreement with Williamson Law Book for the annual Codes software support contract. Councilmember Krzyston made the motion for Tuthill to sign with Councilmember Tweed seconding. Motion carried.

Supervisor Tuthill requested a motion to sign the agreement with ISD for their annual support and maintenance agreement. Councilmember Krzyston made the motion for Tuthill to sign with Councilmember Viafore seconding. Motion carried.

Supervisor Tuthill presented the annual Heart of the Catskills Contract. The board reviewed and voted to approve the agreement with cats stricken from the agreement. Motion made by Councilmember Cairns and seconded by Councilmember Viafore. Motion carried.

Supervisor Tuthill announced that the governor signed legislation granting public and private employees time off to receive the COVID vaccination. Employers must give employees up to four hours per shot. Tuthill stated if an employee is getting the shot information must be given to the bookkeeper prior to the next paycheck with a copy of the vaccination card and how much time they were gone.

Supervisor Tuthill announced we had received a letter from Dubben's, they are offering a pre-buy program for the LP for the pool. He questioned if this was done last year, it had not. Councilmember Tweed will look into the program and report back to the board at the next meeting.

John Kolodziej, Recreation Director spoke with the board regarding the lowering of the heat at the pool to save money. The board agreed to lower the heat. Kolodziej announced there were 81 students for the first session of swim lessons. To date there are 77 students signed up for session 2. They have been going very well. He further stated due to vacations he has been teaching this week. They have received no complaints on the pool or employees. The fire department has been scheduled to come to the pool for training. He announced there have been video camera issues; the phone company is addressing the issues. We now have internet at the pool. Kaliegh Verspoor is the head lifeguard at the pool she is doing an excellent job, she's a natural leader. Kolodziej discussed pool maintenance and issues. He discussed increasing the amount of swimmers to 75, and reasons why he cannot exceed these numbers. Several guards have taken their WSI training and there are now two pay periods they have not been paid the correct rate. Supervisor Tuthill stated it is coming as the bookkeeper must do blue sheets for the county by hand; they must approve it as such there is a lag. Tuthill questioned if we still had people waiting to get in the pool, Kolodziej stated the weather has been horrible but we haven't had issues of late. Councilmember Krzyston questioned if we are still doing contact tracing, Kolodziej stated most times we do at swim lessons he has been doing it although there is a sheet asking to sign in. Krzyston asked the hours Kolodziej stated 1:00pm to 7:00pm Monday through Sunday, swim lessons are 8:00am to 11:45 Monday through Friday and they are closed from 12 to 1. Schedule is subject to change when needs go down. Krzyston questioned the limit on swimmers; Kolodziej explained the health inspector has stated no more than 25 per person (lifeguard). It is open to interpretation but our pool falls under the Oneonta district and this is what we have been told. Krzyston stated he had seen something different and maybe that should be addressed next year; maybe we don't need so many lifeguards for a pool our size. Kolodziej stated all the calls he has made to the health department have not been returned. Krzyston asked again the plan for the rest of the season, Kolodziej stated we will continue contact tracing until he is told otherwise by the state, it is a grey area. He does not want to put the town at risk, it is better to proceed with caution. Krzyston questioned the cost for tracing; Kolodziej stated he does it at swim lessons. Krzyston said during regular pool hours what is the hourly wage and times; Kolodziej stated it is included with lifeguard rotation so it's a grey area as they are doing different things. Krzyston stated to be clear do we have an employee at the gate; again Kolodziej state the same as earlier. Krzyston said we could save a lot of money if we eliminated that; Kolodziej stated then we decrease the hours of the pool and explained the lifeguard safety issues. Supervisor Tuthill said we leave it as is.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Highway/Machinery:** (Councilmember's Tweed & Cairns) – Written report from Superintendent Evans was given to council members (see attached). Evans questioned if the board had looked at the report to see the auction prices given. Tuthill stated he and Cairns questioned what we could get for just scrap metal on the equipment. Evans stated the issue is three trucks would have to be towed (which is a significant cost) in the bids they are responsible for picking them up. We have no way to get them over to the crushers. The two Evans questioned were the Oshkosh truck parts and cylinder as did Tuthill and Cairns. Evans stated if we don't accept them we have to counter offer; he stated he would not go less than \$50.00 on each. Tuthill asked the highway committee what they thought. Councilmember Cairns said counter offer with the \$50.00 each and if they don't take them we can scrap those. On the trucks not the numbers Cairns wanted but towing them would cost too much. Councilmember Cairns then made the motion to sell the first five items on the list and the last item for what was offered (see report), and counter offer the lift cylinder and Oshkosh truck parts at \$50.00 each. Councilmember Tweed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Evans wanted to make it clear that the three trucks had been basically stripped as we have used all the parts we could to keep our dinosaur fleet going. There are still good parts on them but we do not have the time or resources to part them out individually. It's just not feasible.

Tuthill asked if there were any updates on the new trucks; Evans stated no.

Councilmember Krzyston asked Evans what was happening with the apartment building that burned by our Sherwood's shed. Evans stated they are rebuilding it.

**Personnel:** (Councilmember's Tweed & Viafore) - N/A

**Recreation/Health/Youth:** (Councilmember's Tweed & Viafore) – Councilmember Tweed stated a proposal for paint the roads (a symbol for sharing the road) for Sherwood's Bridge was made and the cost of it would be covered by grant moneys upon board approval to move forward. On the narrow spot of the road by the bridge for people that use the area for recreation as well as traffic. Highway Supervisor Evans asked if approved the stencil and paint would be bought through the grant; Tweed stated yes. Supervisor Tuthill questioned if there would be an issue with NYSDOT; Evans stated no as it's not a stop or anything like that. Evans stated the only issue would have to close the road for roughly four hours while the paint dries. Councilmember Krzyston asked how close to the bridge would it be painted; Tweed stated from Delhi side it would be around the bend by the bridge so traffic could see it approaching the bridge. Krzyston wondered if we could just paint it and not close the road, Evans stated no. A motion was made by Councilmember Viafore made the motion to paint the symbol for "sharing the road with pedestrians" by the one lane bridge. Councilmember Krzyston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilmember Viafore discussed the initiative from Kathy Mario founder of Delhi Homegrown National Park to date the group has distributed native plants to over 140 households in Delhi. The grant allowed them to purchase the plants. There are plans to distribute more plants in the fall. She thanked Mario for her efforts.

**Economic Development/Shared Services:** (Councilmen Cairns & Krzyston) – Councilmember Krzyston stated they are applying with the Village of Delhi for the Woolerton Street project. They are doing a full application with the deadline being July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Buildings:** (Councilmember Cairns & Councilmember Krzyston) – Highway Superintendent Evans asked if anyone noticed half a tree fell down by the brick building by the pool. It fell towards the other properties, Evans stated it will need to be taken down and a bucket truck will be necessary. Councilmember Cairns asked Evans to handle the situation, Evans stated he will work on some prices and will contact the county for county bid.

**IT:** (Councilmember Tweed & Councilmember Viafore) – N/A

**Codes:** (Councilmember Cairns & Krzyston) – Councilmember Cairns stated this month we issued 6 building permits, 13 inspections/meetings, four in office conferences, two C/O letter, 2 violations and drove 128 miles.

#### **CODES Monthly Report:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Cairns to approve the June 2021 Codes Report. Councilmember Krzyston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **Justice Court Report:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Krzyston to approve the June 2021 Justice Court Report. Councilmember Cairns seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **Clerk's Monthly Report:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Krzyston to approve the June 2021 Clerks Report. Motion seconded by Councilmember Tweed. Motion carried.

#### **Supervisor's Financial Report:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Cairns to accept the June 2021 Supervisor's Report. Motion seconded by Councilmember Krzyston. Motion carried.

#### **Supervisor's County Report:**

Councilmember Cairns wished to thank Supervisor Tuthill and Walton Town Supervisor Cetta for voting no on the counties purchase of yet another property in the Village of Delhi. It was not thought out well and as far as the logistics of what they are trying to do with it and once again there seems to be no concern for the tax base for our town and village. Councilmember Krzyston asked if other properties were considered; Tuthill stated he had no idea.

**Abstracts:**

Councilmember Tweed made the motion to approve Abstract #007 - 2021 accounts A – SF Voucher No. 00232 – 00274 equaling \$203,805.76, account TA Voucher No. 0029 – 0032 = \$12,764.79. Total vouchers presented equaled \$216,570.55. Councilmember Cairns seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

Councilmember Viafore made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm, Councilmember Krzyston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elsa Schmitz*

Elsa Schmitz  
Town Clerk  
Town of Delhi