

**TOWN OF DELHI
BOARD MEETING
April 11, 2022
7:00PM**

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

Those present:

Councilmember's: Margaret Baldwin, Matt Krzyston, and Christina Viafore.

Highway Superintendent Daren Evans

Absent: Councilmember Bill Cairns, Town Clerk Elsa Schmitz

Residents: David Truscott, John Kolodziej, Richard Gumo

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Baldwin.

Privilege of the Floor:

Town resident David Truscott requested the town do a total town tax reevaluation. Truscott's research has found that the town was last reassessed sometime before 1974. He proceeded to give the board a printout he put together with information and explained assessment values of properties. He stated Delhi's equalization rate is a long way from what it is recommended to be. He urged to board to start the process of reassessment as soon as possible. Councilmember Krzyston thanked Truscott for his work and stated he wished to find out what other communities paid to have the service done. Krzyston said Truscott's main point as he stated during his discussion was fairness to each property owner so the presumption is some people are over assessed some under assessed. Truscott said there is no way of knowing due to the tax rate and everyone's assessment. Supervisor Tuthill said we have been gathering information to get ready for this. Tuthill was given advice recently as this is not the year to do a revaluation as property values have gone so far out of rhyme and reason that if we did it now we would be redoing it in 3 to 5 years to bring the numbers to the actual value. Tuthill agreed it is something we need to do; we have done a lot of the leg work so it won't cost us as much.

John Kolodziej of SUNY Delhi announced they will be having community swim lessons at the college this summer and will be opening throughout the mornings. They wished to invite the town to see if they would like to have their swim lessons at the college again as was done when the village ran the program. They will send a letter and contract out; Tuthill stated they will have to discuss it.

Richard Gumo wished to dispel the rumor that he has heard that the town has entered into a contract with the city of New York regarding the fire tower. Councilmember Krzyston stated not that he knows of and Supervisor Tuthill stated no. Tuthill stated there are all kinds of rumors flying and Councilmember Krzyston and Tuthill have been trying to set up a meeting with Ann Roberti; Tuthill got hammered at the CWC meeting and is getting nine different stories. Tuthill said we have nothing on paper no agreements and there haven't been any meetings since the last time they were in here. Councilmember Krzyston said the only thing happening at this point is that they are raising money; the Friends of the Bramley Mountain Fire Tower are raising money to erect it, they are raising money to put in a fund to take it down if that ever has to happen and they are working on getting a building permit but he doesn't know if any agreements with NY have been done. Tuthill stated he doesn't think they have signed any agreements with anyone at this point.

Gumo asked if the town had explored what the costs would be for either maintenance, patrolling (he is sure it's not going to be open 24 hours) and for insurance. Tuthill said yes, numbers for insurance but as far as

cost to the town to take the tower down would be astronomical because we are a government. Gumo asked why would we agree to do this; Tuthill said the town has not yet. Councilmember Krzyston stated the organization would be responsible for the tower it is also responsible for taking it down; it was Tuthill who had a meeting (we discussed these issues a year ago) but Mark Tuthill said that a fund for taking it down would have to be the responsibility requirements of the Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower as we can't put taxpayers on the hook. They accepted that and they have made that part of the fund raising. Gumo asked about who would be responsible for the maintenance; Tuthill and Krzyston stated they are. Gumo said taxpayers would be free of harm from any expenses; both Tuthill and Krzyston said yes. Gumo then said insurance that will be the town's responsibility; Tuthill said yes. Gumo asked how much insurance would have to be carried; Tuthill said it's a 2 million - 5 million dollar which the town has automatically so it's not a big deal, it's a matter of a few hundred dollars to add it to our policy assuming there aren't problems. Gumo asked if this has to go through the city of New York; Tuthill said yes. Tuthill further said he doesn't know if anyone has reached out to the city yet; when they do that they will find out that speed is not in their vocabulary. Gumo questioned the impact on residents and the exposure residents will have liability wise, insurance wise, maintenance wise, and taking it down he is concerned about that. The present condition of the tower at this point and time before it can even be used, Tuthill said that would be them. They will have to have an engineer do all the plan reviews submit everything to whatever agency will issue the permit. Krzyston said they have a person already, he is a national expert on fire towers. Gumo asked will the town give residents notice of any discussions concerning entry into a lease before they do anything; Tuthill said if we get any type of contract to that effect we will have to have a vote on it; it will be public information. Gumo asked about a vote of public referendum; Tuthill said it will have to be a board vote but it will have to be on the agenda. There will be notice. Tuthill said the Reporter will run a notice too.

Krzyston said he thinks it will be great. Gumo asked who is going to patrol the influx of people going to the tower; we will need parking, we will need oversight, police (he assumed that would be the Sheriff or State Police) enforcing whatever the restrictions are. Krzyston said well if it's outside the village; Gumo said it is. Krzyston said he has a different outlook on it, Gumo said please keep in mind the exposure to residents as all he can see is liability for residents and costs that are going to be incurred. Traffic will be disrupted and cost of the roads and trails who will be responsible for this; someone will have to be there to make sure it is being done properly and safely. Tuthill said that's what he will be looking for; as at this point he has not seen anything he has not had any conversations nor has he seen any plans. It's a long way from going up.

Approval of March 14, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes:

Councilmember Baldwin said it's minor but page three the correct spelling should be of "Wilbur" not "Wilber" with this noted Councilmember Krzyston made the motion to accept with Councilmember Viafore seconding. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Supervisor Tuthill announced he, Councilmember Baldwin and Highway Superintendent Evans met at the playground they are getting a plan together. The equipment has been ordered. Councilmember Baldwin said they are hoping to have the wooden structure and the "hamburger" out of there by interested parties. Councilmember Baldwin will approach the bookkeeper to understand where the \$4,800 is being put from the sale of equipment via the auction.

Supervisor Tuthill stated we are still working on a contract with the pool concrete work, Tuthill had some issues as did our attorney. Tuthill has spoken with Ben Decker and they are working on getting a new revised contract. He discussed time constraints with the pools opening.

New Business:

Supervisor Tuthill announced the opening of the bids for hauling, fuel oil and diesel fuel. They are as follows:

Item #1: Hauling fees for approximately 4000 yards of grit from Seward Sand and Gravel (Rider Pit); any remaining grit that is needed if Rider Pit cannot make enough will have to be hauled from Seward Sand and Gravel Main Pit and 4000 yards of #1 washed crushed stone from Clark Companies (Romar Pit) to Delhi Highway Department stockpile Sherwood Road. Bid will be awarded to one bidder with the lowest combined bids for both pits. Hauling of material must be complete by October 14, 2022.

	<u>Rider (Seward) Pit</u>	<u>Romar (Clark) Pit</u>	<u>Combined Bid</u>
Babcock Trucking	\$11.94	\$6.00	\$17.94
Delaware Bulldozing	\$12.00	\$8.50	\$20.50
Tweedie Construction	\$ 5.10	\$3.50	\$ 8.60
Seward Sand & Gravel	\$ 6.65	\$5.50	\$12.15
	\$ 6.95 (SSG)	\$5.50	\$12.45
Gerster Trucking	\$ 5.25	\$3.25	\$ 8.50

Item #2: #1 Diesel Fuel – Price delivered to Town of Delhi Highway Garage.

Bid will be a fixed price per gallon; any/all fees must be included. Fuel must be cut 60/40 Kero by October 17, 2022.

Mirabito - \$3.9034 per gallon fixed price per gallon

FLUCTUATING \$4.1407

\$4.6534 per gallon clear kero for winter blend with diesel

FLUCTUATING \$6.2057

\$4.2034 per gallon 60/40 blend kero/diesel

FLUCTUATING \$4.9667

FLUCTUATING – as of April 8, 2022.

Item #3: #2 Heating Oil – Price delivered to Delhi Town Hall and Highway Garage.

Bid will be a fixed price; any/all fees must be included.

Mirabito - \$3.8244

FLUCTUATING \$4.0660

FLUCTUATING – as of April 8, 2022

The board chose to wait until the May 9, 2022 board meeting to award any bids.

Supervisor Tuthill requested a motion to authorize the bookkeeper to open a checking account for Justice Herbert Buckley for criminal court. Councilmember Baldwin made the motion to authorize the opening of a checking account for Justice Buckley, Councilmember Krzyston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Highway/Machinery: Councilmember’s Baldwin & Cairns) Written report from Superintendent Evans provided to councilmembers. Evans discussed the damage done to roads during the recent flooding event. Councilmember Baldwin stated she had a chance to meet with Evans on Friday, he had never gone to bed he’s dedicated. He explained to her shared services between the county and village. She thanked him for all he

did. Tuthill stated Evans received the NYSE&G \$5,000 for road salt on Hamden Hill and gave it to the bookkeeper.

Personnel: (Councilmember's Viafore & Baldwin): Councilmember Baldwin stated Ellen is up and running; she is close to monitoring the pool. She is going to connect with lifeguards and do inventory of equipment. Tuthill reminded Baldwin all paperwork needed to be in before lifeguards are hired.

Recreation/Health/Youth: (Councilmember's Viafore & Baldwin): Councilmember Baldwin the progress of the playground which was discussed earlier.

Economic Development/Shared Services: (Councilmember's Cairns & Krzyston): Councilmember Krzyston stated there was no meeting for shared services. He understands there has been two new people appointed to the village side as both prior reps are no longer on the village board. The rest of the ice rink is being dismantled this week.

Buildings: Councilmember Krzyston said regarding the lights for this building we are working on a backup plan because his brother was injured and is unable to work now. Krzyston is attempting to get one of his colleagues to take interest in the project otherwise we are talking a three month wait.

IT: Councilmember Viafore stated she sent out a press release that she thinks is ready to go for the NIXLE system. She asked if the board members had any input but believes it's the best way to start. She was able to send out some alerts that Daren had on social media regarding road closures. She wants to be at town hall Thursdays, from 5pm – 7pm if anyone in the community wants to come and ask questions or sign up. Tuthill said the bridge/culvert below the village line on Route 10 will be replaced and the one by Elk Creek will be done also. The county will be starting the bridge by the golf course too possibly this year. When we get definite dates we can post them. She has added it to the website.

Councilmember Viafore added that the town has a garden out front that needs help. We have people willing to help. We may have to add some plants. We got a gift card from Delaware River Solar for \$300.00 we could possibly use for it. The native plant group in Delhi did a list, we could possibly adopt their plant list as it identifies invasive plants. A motion was made by Councilmember Viafore to spend the gift card on plants for the front garden, Councilmember Krzyston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Codes: Councilmember Viafore asked if the code enforcement officer attended the training session. She said we need proof of his attendance. Councilmember Krzyston stated in March: nine building permit issued, 13 inspections / meetings, 5 in-office conferences, 14 c/o letters, 4 c/c letters and he drove 133 miles.

CODES Monthly Report:

A motion was made by Councilmember Krzyston to accept the codes report for March 2022 Councilmember Viafore seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Justice Court Report:

A motion was made by Councilmember Krzyston to accept the March 2022 Justice Court Report. Councilmember Viafore seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk's Monthly Report:

A motion was made by Councilmember Krzyston to accept the March 2022 Clerk's Report seconded by Councilmember Viafore. Motion carried.

Supervisor's Financial Report:

Supervisor Tuthill presented the board with the March 2022 Financial Report. Supervisor Tuthill stated he is still waiting for the code to do the ARPA report for April. He stated the only money spent from the ARPA funds was for NIXLE. Councilmember Baldwin made the motion to accept the March 2022 Supervisor's Report with Councilmember Viafore seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Tuthill stated he received an email from Association of Counties that apparently in the governor's budget proposal they are taking the AIM funding that they have been taken out of the counties sales tax and it will be paid by the state again it will not be coming out of our sales tax. It also said fire departments will be allowed to bill Medicare and private insurance for EMS responses. He will keep the board informed if this passes or not.

Supervisor's County Report:

Supervisor Tuthill stated they will be meeting with a contractor to take down the house that got burned. The building on the corner of Bridge and Main is moving along, the other two haven't started.

Abstracts:

Councilmember Krzyston made the motion to approve Abstract #004 – 2022 accounts A – DB Voucher No.00105 – 00134 equaling \$77,020.47 account TA No. 0061 – 0063 equaling \$12,760.59. Total vouchers presented equaled \$89,781.06. Councilmember Viafore seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Supervisor Tuthill asked the board if they wanted to discuss swimming lessons; if we wanted to use the college or use our people down at the pool. Councilmember Baldwin said that part of the description of the director's job is to organize, facilitate and offer swimming lessons; she is not sure how we can reel back and change the salary and responsibilities; it depends how people feel. Tuthill said it probably would have been good to know earlier; John Kolodziej said they just got approval at the college to hold swim lessons this summer and will see if other towns are interested even if Delhi does. The college will offer swim lessons and water aerobics. Councilmember Baldwin said it is with great regret that we hired somebody as part of their required position is to set it all up. Councilmember Krzyston asked if we had any need to consult the individual or it just doesn't matter. Tuthill said it would be easier for her but we have to justify what we are paying her for what we hired her to do. Baldwin said she is meeting with her this week and will discuss it with her. Krzyston said he doesn't know what people prefer. The board tabled further discussion until the May board meeting. Kolodziej will have a contract to the town for review.

Councilmember Viafore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilmember Baldwin seconded the motion. Motion carried. (No adjournment time was given.)

Respectfully submitted,



Elsa Schmitz
Town Clerk
Town of Delhi