

TOWN OF LEICESTER
PUBLIC HEARING/WORK BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024
7:00PM

The Work Meeting of the Leicester Town Board was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 7:00pm at the Leicester Town Hall located at 132 Main Street, Leicester NY 14481.

Present: Rich White, Town Supervisor; Councilmembers, Jason Yasso, Gerald Hull, Karen Roffe, and Matthew Durbin, Russell Page, Highway Superintendent, Kim Reitz, Deputy Town Clerk

Others: Ed Hauslauer, Karen White, Lisa Semmel, Rob Semmel, John Yasso.

The meeting opened at 6pm and the Pledge to the Flag was led by Supervisor White.

A Moment of Silence was held for our Late Honorable Judge Henry C. Smith.

Open Public Hearing on Village FD Contract: Read Notice & open comment period: Public Hearing Notice was read by Supervisor White.

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the provisions of the Code of the Town of Leicester, and pursuant to New York State Town Law, that a public hearing shall be held by the Town Board of the Town of Leicester at the Town Hall, located at 132 Main Street, Leicester, New York, at 7:00 p.m. on March 12, 2024, for the purpose of considering public opinion and comment about or concerning the following:
A one-year Fire Protection Agreement with the Village of Leicester (on behalf of the Village of Leicester Fire Department), which will commence on January 1, 2024, and expire on December 31, 2024, at 11:59. p.m. and which will provide for one annual payment to the Village by the Town in the sum of THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS AND .00/100 (\$37,700.00).

A copy of the proposed Fire Protection Agreement is available for review by the public at the office of the Town Clerk during regular

Town Clerk hours.
All interested persons are invited to appear and be heard at the aforesaid time and place.
Dated: February 14, 2024
By Order of the Town Board of the Town of Leicester
Amy Neumann – Leicester
Town Clerk

Comments:

Lisa Semmel asked question: Will the Village be putting in equal money for this fire Contract with Town? Deputy Supervisor Yasso answered it is specified in their contract and Supervisor White confirmed same answer.

OLD BUSINESS:

CONTRACT W/ Accounting Firm LSSG: Discussion, Councilmember Karen Roffe not happy with current accountant. Said when the budget was happening, they didn't want to come out here to meet and didn't want to go line by line. They had told Previous Supervisor and Councilmember Roffe to tell us what you need, and we can just take it from there. Councilmember Roffe said she is uncomfortable with that way of doing business for the budget and does not think they can adequately know what the Town needs.

Councilmember Durbin said he had an issue with his paycheck and called the Town Clerk to get LSSG number and something that would have taken 2 minutes and a couple of questions and he was not satisfied. He felt very put off by that. Councilmember Durbin agrees with Councilmember Roffe that he is not satisfied with their service.

Councilmember Hull not sure it was all the Firms fault about the Budget being inadequate, our proposed budget was inadequate, and he was not happy with that.

Councilmember Yasso agrees with the last three sentiments and remembers what a pain it was to switch last time for Town Clerk but has spoken to the Town Clerk and she is willing to go through this switch again to have better day-to-day operations. The Town Clerk seems to be onboard.

Supervisor White agrees with everyone and would rather have someone local that he can sit down with to ask questions. Along with what Councilmember Yasso said it was difficult last time and just know there will be growing pains, but we will get through them. Supervisor White would like to hold off a little longer, wants to speak with new accounting firm to find out when the best time would be to switch and also, he just has to file an extension on our annual financial report due to current accounting firm not getting it done in time as well as our tax cap. Supervisor White wants to make sure those things are wrapped up first from last year. So, when the time comes, we will bring it up for a vote next month.

CONTRACT WITH WARRENS: Supervisor White said the contract went up from \$98.00 to \$103.00. Normally Supervisor White would like to get this and go out to bid, but so much is going on, had sat down with manager of Warrens with some in house items that may not have been getting done up to our expectations and they are working on them. A Motion was made to contract with Warrens for one year from Councilmember Karen Roffe and Seconded by Councilmember Matthew Durbin.
Motion carried. Ayes 5, Noes 0.

FIRE COMMITTEE: Update from Jason & Supervisor / Recognize & Authorize attendees:

Supervisor White, after the fire meeting over at Celebrate Church, the Original Committee met with Deputy Supervisor Yasso and Supervisor White. Deputy Supervisor Yasso will give an update and asking for official recognition of committee for opinions only with Jason Yasso and Rich White and any other board members as alternate if one of them has to be absent.

Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso gave a brief update. Last Wednesday was a meeting of two members from the Village Board, two members from the Town Board, two members from Cuylerville Fire Department and two members from Leicester Fire Department. And chairman John Yasso. Discussion about where they all were individually. Spoke about where we go from here. Not unanimous, but a large majority were in favor of combining the fire departments. Chairman John Yasso was going to reach out to a couple of attorneys that specialize in this who have walked neighboring fire departments through this and see if they would come out to give us a quick presentation on next steps costs and options. Tabled everything until then. Chairman John Yasso reached out to a firm in Syracuse they are more than willing to help move this along. If we have most people in favor of, we could have it done in about 90 days. Personal phone call with him tomorrow, more information to come. No numbers discussed yet. Supervisor White asked for a motion to recognize the committee and members as stated, Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso made a motion to recognize the Joint Committee and Supervisor Rich White and himself, Jason Yasso as the Town representatives, and Seconded by Councilmember Gerald Hull. Motion carried Ayes 5, Noes 0.

Bridge: Star Road/ Russ & Supervisor: The County is going to replace the Bridge on Star Road and Supervisor White will sit down with Highway Superintendent Russell Page to discuss next week.

ARPA Funds / Boyd Parker Park/ Karen Roffe / anything new: Supervisor White will double check but with thought we had until December to use the ARPA funds however has heard we only have until September. Councilmember Karen Roffe spoke with Joshua Galey Arborist that gave the presentation on the Torture Tree in Boyd and Parker Park. Told him we were interested in helping that tree anyway we can. Councilmember Roffe asked Joshua if he would be interested in being the project manager and obtaining bids for the tree and care of the tree. Evaluate the tree every three years. He said he was interested, and the consulting fee is \$110.00 per hour which includes his travel time. Administrative work and emails, documentation and reports Joshua would also do. Funding is obviously an issue and the tree needs to be trimmed but if you trim it know it will get a tree wilting disease, and it will kill it. So, this project would be in November. Do you wish him to get the bids, so we know what we are talking about fund wise? Councilmember Yasso said sounds like we would have to contract with him first to get the bids. Councilmember Roffe said she has one there if they want, she can send it to everyone. Councilmember Roffe said she didn't forward to anyone yet because she thought it was more discussion. Supervisor White would like a more inclusive contract and timing is an issue. Councilmember Yasso suggested maybe an upfront fee for the bids and timing mentioned in the contract. Councilmember Roffe will follow up with Joshua Galey. Supervisor White asked if there were any other suggestions for the money with ARPA with the County? The building at Boyd and Parker Park was discussed. The Highway Superintendent was discussing with previous Town Clerk Mary Yasso about the building being condemned and nothing ever was followed up on it, and Councilmember Roffe said that was because the mine collapsed.

Benefits Package / Karen & Matt / No update? Supervisor White wanted to Thank Councilmember Roffe and Councilmember Durbin for stepping up to do the benefit package and the only other employee to have one is Russell Page. Amy Neumann had mentioned to Supervisor White that she has had benefits in the past, but they were always verbal, and he and she would like something in a contract. She is out sick tonight, and he would like a verbal of time to cover her for a couple days paid until the board agrees to get something in writing. Councilmember Yasso said it's been up and down and when his mom was Town Clerk, she had a contract and it specified all of that, and Councilmember Yasso thinks there should be something in place between us and her but if you want to give her a couple days, we can work that out too. Supervisor White said under NYS Law, and we are exempt because we are a municipality, but doesn't agree with that because she works 32 hours and should have 40 hours paid time off. She has worked here long enough if we could at least cover her 3 days until we get this settled. Councilmember Roffe said she is fine with it. Councilmember Yasso made a motion to cover her sick time for maximum

of 3 days until we get a formal agreement or handbook in place, Seconded by Councilmember Durbin, and Councilmember Roffe.

Motion carried. Ayes 5, Noes 0.

Reminder – Town Attorney next Meeting. To discuss upside down water account. Going to have some numbers but until we get end of year report, He doesn't have. Supervisor White recalls number \$130,000.00?? Supervisor will meet with Jason Molino.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sexual Harassment Training: NYMIR Sexual Harassment Training you can do individually and then print off your training certificate and give to Amy Neumann, Town Clerk. Sexual Harassment Policy to be reviewed per Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor Jason Yasso to take care of policy.

Bruce Johnson/Mason Lane/ Supervisor: Discussion about Mason Lane water tap. Supervisor White had a conversation with Bruce Johnson regarding property at end of Mason Lane that was purchased by his niece and at the time the previous owner Bob Wilcox had paid the money to have water tap put in but not hooked up, years have gone on and not even sure when it was or how many years has passed. Supervisor White didn't think it was going to be hard. Brought up to Jason Molino at Livingston County Water Sewer Authority, and that conversation was its much more now than the cost was back then. We don't even know how much was paid, we will have to go digging. Supervisor White will be speaking to James Campbell to find out what can be done. So, we can move forward pay what we were paid and have LCWSA installed. Russ will bring minutes that were found for the lanes in Cuylerville.

Thank Town Employees for swift removal of tree in cemetery. Thank you to Russ Page and Highway guys for the tree removal.

Annual Reports / LGSS Almost ready to file/ Extension to end of Month. Supervisor White filed extension at the request of LGSS. She has till the end of the month to get it completed.

Reminder: Financial Statements in Office: Financial Statements are in folder holder in Supervisor Whites office.

Finale comments on village fire contract public hearing: none

Close public hearing: A Motion was made to close the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m. by Councilmember Karen Roffe and Seconded by Councilmember Gerald Hull.
Motion carried. Ayes 5, Noes 0.

Vote to authorize supervisor to sign Village Fire Contract: A Motion was made to Authorize the Supervisor to sign the Village Fire Contract by Councilmember Karen Roffe and seconded by Councilmember Jason Yasso.
Motion carried. Ayes 5, Noes 0.

ABSTRACT OF CLAIMS FOR PRE-PAY: \$ 8,064.51

A Motion was made to approve the abstract of claims by Councilmember Jason Yasso and Seconded by Councilmember Karen Roffe and Councilmember Gerald Hull.
Motion carried. Ayes 5, Noes 0.

Court: Councilmember Jason Yasso addressed Judge Wayne Scofield who was sitting in audience and asked if there was anything the Town Board could do to help the Judge at this time with work load. Judge Scofield said he was fine right now and if he needed something he would ask. Judge Scofield

assumes someone will want to run for Town Judge and Judge Porter has offered to help if need be. Katherine Houston would be interested as well if it fits into her schedule.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A Motion was made by Councilmember Jason Yasso at 7:38pm to discuss Employee Benefits and was Seconded by Councilmember Karen Roffe. May or may not result in a vote. No Action taken.

Adjournment: A Motion was made by Councilmember Matthew Durbin and Seconded by Councilmember Gerald Hull. at 8:28 pm. Motion carried. Ayes 5, Noes 0.

Respectfully Submitted by
Kim Reitz, Deputy Town Clerk