

**TOWN OF HECTOR
REGULAR AUDIT MEETING
April 14, 2020**

Due to Coronavirus Restrictions, no members of the public are allowed to attend.
Supervisor, Board members, Clerk and Department Heads met via Zoom.

Members Present:

Alvin J. White, Supervisor
Justin Boyette, Councilman
Jessica Rodgers, Councilwoman
Robert Barton, Councilman
Michael Bergen, Councilman
Elizabeth Martin, Councilwoman

Others:

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk
Randy Rappleye, Highway Superintendent
Robert Stapleton, Water Superintendent
Jason Santobianco, Code Enforcement
Janine Bond, Bookkeeper/Smith Park

Called to order by Supervisor White via Zoom at 7:07pm.

RESOLUTION #54 – offered by White, seconded by Rodgers

Resolved that due to the Coronavirus, Town Board meeting will continue without public participation per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order until the emergency order is rescinded. Discussion: Councilman Barton and Councilman Bergen asked how the public could submit concerns or questions. Town Clerk Ike has posted that the public may submit questions or concerns to the Town Clerk's email by 4pm the day of the meeting to be presented at the meeting. Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #55 – offered by Bergen, seconded by Barton

Resolved to approve the Minutes of March 10, 2020 as written. Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #56 – offered by Bergen, seconded by Boyette

Resolved to move \$50,000 from Highway Equipment Reserve to A201. Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #57 – offered by Rodgers, seconded by Martin

Resolved to approve and authorize the Supervisor to make the following Journal Entries/Budget Amendments: Transfer \$10.00 from A599 appropriated fund balance to A1910.4; transfer \$114,631.14 from DB5112.2 Chips to DB3501 then transfer to DA3501; transfer \$114,631.14 from DA3501 and \$50,000 from DA599 to DA5130.2; transfer \$6644.00 from SW599 to SW8320.2 Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #58 – offered by Bergen, seconded by Boyette

Resolved to have audited and further authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from the following funds: General Vouchers #95 thru #120 - \$20,320.03; Highway Vouchers #84 thru #107 - \$36,973.19; Water District Vouchers #55 thru #67 - \$5,638.11; Ambulance District Voucher #4 - \$260.00; and Trust & Agency Vouchers #10 thru #12 - \$20,142.19 Ayes 6, Nays 0

Department Reports:

Highway:

RESOLUTION #59 – offered by Bergen, seconded by Rodgers

Resolved to approve and authorize renewal of the 5-year contract with Unifirst for Town Hall Carpets, Highway Coveralls & rags be approved and signed & Uniforms. Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #60 – offered by White, seconded by Bergen

Resolved to accept the Hot mix in-place paving bids from Seneca Stone for Ball Diamond Road from Round School House Road to State Route 414 at \$192,400; Ball Diamond Road from CR4 to Round School House Road at \$138,775; Mathews Road from Old RR tracks east 3,673 ft. at \$99,225 contingent on CHIPs monies to be received. Discussion: Waiting for final amount of CHIPs funding for 2020; could be cut 10% or more; depends on what happens with State budget. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Mecklenburg Cemetery: Tree Removal quotes reviewed and discussed. Quotes covered removing several trees. Quote #1 take down and remove 15” Willow, 6” Dead Maple, 5” dead Maple, and dead wood from Red Oak: Finger Lakes Forest Management - \$800.00; Limbwalker Tree Care - \$850.00; KJ’s Property Care - \$950.00. Quote #2 take down and remove large leaning Red Oak: Finger Lakes Forest Management - \$1800.00; Limbwalker Tree Care - \$2000.00; KJ’s Property Care - \$1785.00. Quote #3 remove large White Pine broken limb: Finger Lakes Forest Management - \$500.00; Limbwalker Tree Care - \$550.00; KJ’s Property Care - \$775.00.

Discussion: Budget line only has \$1000; Quote #2 could wait until 2021; balance could be funded from contingency.

RESOLUTION #61 – offered by Bergen, seconded by Boyette

Resolved to accept the tree removal Quote #1 and Quote #3 for Mecklenburg Cemetery from Finger Lakes Forest Management at a cost of \$800 and \$500 for a total of \$1300.00; and further resolved to amend the budget with a transfer \$300.00 from A1990.4 Contingency to A8810.4. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Highway School & Trainings: Highway School for 2020 has been cancelled; MSHA training schedule for April is postponed to a later date to be determined due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Superintendent Rappleye reported 3 snow removal dates in April; will begin making sand; hauling out gravel that is already made; crews working ½ staff alternating weeks; sanitize shop and equipment every day; working 1 man to 1 piece of equipment; progress is slow; cross over pipe replaced on Burnt Hill; signs are being repaired or updated; ditching & patching on going. Issues with roads this past winter will require some getting gravel that are not currently on the 5-year plan; some stone & oil roads have damage that has been temporarily repaired with crusher run. Traffic is no cooperating on posted roads. Started 4 10-hour days on April 13.

Code Enforcement: Code Officer Jason Santobianco reported permits issued; permits completed and revenues received are up some. Required trainings have been cancelled or postponed. Inspections are being done via facetime and video as much as possible; construction projects are limited to only 1 person per jobsite at a time; taking applications & gathering documents for when things open up.

Delaware River Solar LLC: Letter received March 19, 2020 stating they intend to build one or more solar projects in the Town of Hector. No other information has been received at this time. What steps do we take for a PILOT agreement?

RESOLUTION #62 – offered by White, seconded by Boyette

Resolved to pursue a pilot agreement with Delaware River Solar LLC through SCIDA if they decide to proceed with a large solar project in the Town of Hector; further resolved a letter be sent to Delaware River Solar LLC. Discussion: The Town did not opt for solar exemptions. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Water District: Superintendent Stapleton reviewed written report covering gallons pumped & treated; sample tests done; DOH inspection report still pending; meters read & bills mailed; generators & pump stations in good order; waiting on report and sample results for new water well. Superintendent and Assistant are working opposite weeks; in need of cloth masks; currently have a few disposable ones. Southern Tier Central Regional Planning & Development sent an email regarding commitment to work with them to Complete the DEC Drinking Water Source Protection Program framework; no capital contribution from community. Councilman Barton asked if this would cover private as well as public sources of water.

RESOLUTION #63 – offered by Barton, seconded by Martin

Resolved the Town of Hector recognizes the importance of protecting our drinking water sources and supports the goals set forth by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

With data and plans over ten years old, it is important to update the information in an effort to access drinking water sources, identify protection and management measures, and generate an implementation strategy.

As a highlighted community, the Town of Hector agrees to work with Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board to complete the Drinking Water Source Protection Program framework as designed by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and NYS Department of Health at no additional cost to the Town. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Water Extension Burdett South: Need to contact Fagan Engineers to determine timing to proceed.

Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention Regulations: still pending

Penalties on current water bills: Clerk has received several phone calls asking about late fees for delinquent water bills.

RESOLUTION #64 – offered by Martin, seconded by Rodgers

Resolved to suspend adding penalties on delinquent water bills during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Discussion of impact to revenues, etc. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Smith Park: Written report submitted by Janine Bond reviewed. Discussion regarding opening the boat launch and the Governor's current ruling; cannot open until dock is rebuilt and forester is done removing trees; hope to be able to open launch by May 1. Requested appointment of a laborer. Waiting on word as to when Park can open for camping; letters to seasonal campers mailed. Holding off on hiring new Park Manager. Park sign blew down, need to replace when restrictions are lifted.

RESOLUTION #65 – offered by White, seconded by Martin

Resolved to appoint Austin Agee as park laborer at the rate of \$14.00 per hour effective March 24, 2020 through the end of the 2020 park season. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Assessment: Assessor has been working from home; best point of contact is through email at this time.

Zoning Commission: No meeting April 13th; public meetings will be delayed due to Covid-19

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Court Clerk: Clerk's monthly report reviewed.

Junk Yard License Renewals: 4/1/2020 – March 31, 2021; payment was received from Joe Brown; waiting on fee from Mike Cox; hold license until fee is received.

RESOLUTION #66 – offered by Bergen, seconded by Rodgers

Resolved to approve the renewal of the local Junk Yard License for William J. Brown, dba Schuyler Wrecker & Auto Parts and Michael Cox, dba Coxy's effective 4/1/2020 through March 31, 2021.

Ayes 6, Nays 0

Tax Collection Penalties: Two requests for refund of penalties received: Welliver's sold a portion of the property; Assessor did not have all the information for the split until late March 2020 from the owners; with the application of the Ag exemption the new owner's bill would have been a negative, so there was no change in Welliver's bill. Board need more information; where did she get information regarding no penalty would be charged?

Byron's requested a refund of penalties because they did not receive the bill, only the late notice; mailing address was correct; we are not responsible for the postal service; they have owned the property for 10 years.

RESOLUTION #67 – offered by Bergen, seconded by Rodgers

Resolved to deny Byron's request for penalty refund at this time. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Dumpster Day: Set for June 6, 2020 – Discussion of social distancing requirement and logistics. Decision to postpone and look into August 29 availability or August 22 as a second choice.

Supervisor:

Universal Health Coverage/New York Health Act: Councilwoman Martin submitted a proposed resolution last month for the Board to review. Discussion: Supervisor White questioned if this should be pursued at this time; Supervisor White & Councilman Bergen oppose. Councilwoman Rodgers concerned as NYS has the most expensive health insurance costs already; agree with the principal but where is the money going to come from. Councilman Boyette in favor of Universal coverage, but this does not feel right; concern with this angle of government. Councilwoman Martin stated it could be more important than ever at this point in time; finances are different for many. Councilman Barton does not see a concrete connection for advocating at this time; legislature has to work on it.

RESOLUTION #68 – offered by Martin, seconded by Barton

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ENACTMENT OF A UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE SYSTEM AS PROPOSED IN THE NEW YORK HEALTH ACT (A.5248/S.3577)

WHEREAS, the New York Health Act (NYHA) established the New York Health program, a comprehensive system of access to health coverage for all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, the NYHA would provide universal health coverage with no limitations to selection of health care providers; and

WHEREAS, the NYHA would eliminate deductibles and co-pays, and all health care costs would be covered by a payroll tax and a tax on non-payroll income such as interest, dividends, and capital gains; and

WHEREAS, the NYHA is estimated to save billions of dollars for New Yorkers by eliminating current administrative costs and by providing lower cost health care coverage for more than 90% of residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hector currently spends about \$236,000 on health care or 5.4% of our annual budget; and

WHEREAS, the NYHA is estimated to save the Town of Hector approximately \$179,205 in employee health care expenditures which could potentially translate into a reduction in the property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, access to affordable health coverage would significantly decrease with the repeal of the Affordable Care Act on the federal level; and

WHEREAS, the NYHA has support from a broad range of professional organizations within the health care sector, organized labor and community and good government groups; and

WHEREAS, the NYHA has passed the New York State Assembly every year since 2015, including in 2018, but has not yet passed the New York State Senate;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hector Town Board finds universal health care coverage is needed for the residents of the Town of Hector and all New Yorkers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hector Town Board supports enactment of the New York Health Act as the best way to achieve universal health coverage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Flanagan, Democratic Leader Senator Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Heastie, Republican Leader Assembly member Kolb, Senator Jordan, and Assemblywoman Barrett.

Roll Call Vote: White – Nay; Boyette – Nay, Bergen – Nay, Rodgers – Abstain, Barton – Aye, Martin – Aye
Ayes 2, Nays 3, Abstain 1 (Rodgers) Resolution fails

Financial Report: Supervisor White covered expenditures and revenues for March by fund; expenditures to date total 31% of budget; revenues are 50% front loaded; not sure impact of COVID19 at this time; sales tax, mortgage taxes and court fines could be down; total revenues at 64% of budget to date; Smith Park revenue may be impacted if camping is delayed. County is concerned that some costs may need to be cut; personnel may be impacted

Committee Reports: Upcoming Committee meetings will be held via zoom. Supervisor will attempt to set up zoom meeting for Zoning Commission.

Adjourned at 9:12pm on a motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilwoman Rodgers.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. V. Ike. Clerk