

TOWN OF ARKWRIGHT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
7:30p.m. March 9, 2020

Board Members Present: Lynn Bedford, Chris Cannon, Chris Jackson
and Larry Ball
Present Town Supervisor: Ted Wightman, Highway Superintendent: Craig Harrington
and Town Clerk: Wendy Lord

Public Present: John Potter, Chris Wichlacz, ,David Szydlo, Christine
Wightman, Jamie Hebner, Doug Fairbanks, Alex Griazino,
Roger Cardot, Jeffery Milliman, Susan Dilks, , Roy Harvey,
Amanda Dando, Clint Nagel, Mark Twitchell, Vera Allen,
Jim Redline, Linda Fairbanks, Cathy Jackson (If your name
is not listed and you were in attendance it's because it was
illegible)

Called to order 7:30 pm.

Pledge to Flag was led by Ted Wightman

Adoption of minutes from February meeting. Chris Jackson made a motion to accept the January 2020 meeting minutes, motion was seconded by Larry Ball, he did however object to the reading of DOH article by Lynn Bedford during the February Meeting stating that the reading of the article was not reflected in the minutes and that she was not in a position as a board member to read this article as it may be a conflict of interest since she is in the lawsuit for the turbines. He also stated that that article was an opinion not a fact Larry Ball then seconded an amended version of the previous month's minutes, all were in favor, motion was carried.

Reports: Town Supervisor reported on the Arkwright Summit's Monthly Complain Log by stating there were a total of twenty complaint calls for the month of February with all being noise complaints. He stated that nineteen of them had previously been noise tested and were deemed within compliance while only one had not been previously noise tested.

Town Supervisor that the town was to receive \$400,461 in lieu of a storm recovery grant due to records, however this is TBD. Roger Cardot thanked those who did the work to make this refund possible.

Ted also updated the board and residents that the search for a Code Enforcement Officer is currently on-going. He stated that he had spoken with a possible candidate who seems interested and will provide an update should this candidate accept the position.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector report. To date processed Town & County taxes total \$992,366.02 of which \$500,000 turned over to the County toward the 2020 tax warrant. For the month of February, there were 9 dog licenses issued or renewed, eight were altered and one unaltered for a total of \$56, \$6 was turned over to the state and \$42 to the town. There was \$10 collected for providing a copy of a marriage registry.

For the month of January, 9 dog licenses have been issued. All dogs altered for a total of \$9.00 turned over to the state and \$45 to the town.

Town Justice report was submitted by Judge John Potter ad read by Town Clerk. There were 30 V&T Law cases handled with \$425.00 in fines and \$0.00 in surcharges collected.

There was 1 civil case handled with a \$20.00 fee collected

There were 4 PL cases handled with no money collected for the month of February. Town

Dog Control Officer submitted report that was read by the Town Clerk.

2-11-20 Officer Wherley called regarding a Dog Custody complaint 716-572-2975. A resident allegedly stole a puppy from another resident. Mrs. Dean spoke with both parties and determined with the assistance of Emily Bailey at NY Ag and Markets that due to the dog being abandoned for more than 12 hours, the owner was in violation of NY Ag & Markets Article 26 and the fact that the owner could not verify ownership, the dog remained with the complainant. Cruelty to animal's section 353.

2-19-2020 Follow-up to 2-11-2020, the puppy has been rehomed to another township.
Kathie Dean, Town of Arkwright Dog Control Officer

Town Council Member Lynn Bedford reported that there was a legal ad posted in the Dunkirk Observer seeking free estimates for the town hall repairs. She is scheduled to meet with two contractors during the week to obtain free estimates. She also reported that there has not been a Board of Ethics meeting since 2014. Lynn also discussed that there is a process to dispose of unused items in the town hall.

Chris Cannon stated that the Town Clerks personal internet bill is being paid for by the town which was never approved by the town board. He also stated that the board appointed a Deputy Clerk which is an unpaid position and she is being paid to do the clerks job.

Chris Jackson commented by saying that the highway department is doing a super job and mentioned that they saved the town a lot of money with its recent purchase of millings.

Larry Ball asked that a Special Board Meeting be called if the candidate accepts the position of Code Enforcement Officer.

Superintendent of Highways reported that the Rout 83 project will begin soon and that a part would be closed for a while with flashing lights provided.

Town Assessor, no report currently.

Town Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer; No report currently.

Motion to accept the reports. A motion was made by Chris Jackson and seconded by Jackson to accept the reports. All were in favor, motioned was carried.

Highway Bills. Larry Ball made a motion to accept the highway and general bills and it was seconded by Lynn Bedford to All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to pay general and highway bills. A motion was made by Chris by Chris Jackson and seconded by Larry Ball. All in favor, with exception f Chris Cannon to pay clerk's internet bill. motion carried.

Old Business: The Superintendent of Highways thanked his employees for their hard work and dedication. He is focused on the Dedicated Equipment Fund. He made a resolution to purchase a single axle plow truck and asked by legal means to purchase at a cost of no more than \$50, 000. A motion was made to purchase a single axle dump truck not to exceed \$50, 000 by Lynn Bedford and seconded by Chris Jackson. All in favor, Motion carried.

He made a resolution to purchase a used 10-ton roller not to exceed \$25,000. Chris Jackson made a motion to purchase a 10-ton roller not to exceed \$25,000 and it was seconded by Lynn Bedford. All in favor, motioned carried.

He made a resolution to purchase a used walk behind diesel powered plate tamper not to exceed \$6,500. A motion was made by Chris Jackson and seconded by Larry Ball to purchase a walk behind diesel powered plate tamper not to exceed \$6,500. All in favor, Motion carried.

He made a resolution to purchase a 2005 Volvo Wheeled Excavator from the town of Ellington by legal means for \$25,000. A motion was made by Chris Jackson and seconded by Lynn Bedford to purchase a 2005 Valvo Wheeled Excavator from the town of Ellington for \$25,000. Larry Ball also seconded the motion with a stipulation of selling the town's current grade all. All in favor, motion carried.

He made resolution to purchase a 1995 International Tandem Axle Dum p Truck from the town of Gerry for \$5,000. A motion was made by Chris Jackson to purchase a 1995 International Tandem Axle Dump Truck from the town of Gerry for \$5,000 and seconded by Larry Ball. All in favor, motion carried.

By the April meeting, the Superintendent of Highways will identify and present a plan to fix 3 town roads.

An update on the need for a survey and Town Hall repair or rebuild Project. Larry Ball stated that the board needs to decide if the roads will be repaired or if a new town hall will be rebuilt in phases. Larry made for a motion to have a new survey done for \$1200 with an out of town company. (Cathy Jackson asked why we are not using a local person such as Wendy Straight, Larry responded by saying that the local surveyor costs more.), Ted Wightman seconded the motion. Lynn Bedford did NOT vote, all others in favor, motion carried.

Town Supervisor discussed the adoption of an internet and social media use policy. He read the new policy resolutions that were developed by Arkwright's town lawyer. Chris Jackson made a motion to accept the policies and Lynn Bedford seconded the motion. Larry Ball inquired if this policy includes both elected officials and town employees and if elected officials were exempt. Chris Cannon commented that elected officials were exempt. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business. Town Supervisor presented and discussed the completed Justice Court Audit that he completed. Larry Ball made a motion to accept the audit, Chris Jackson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Town Supervisor stated that since 2018, the town has been seeking a Noise Response person to work alongside of the GHD to respond to noise complaints of the wind turbines in a timely manner 24/7. This person would work alongside of David Britton. Larry Ball asked if this person would be trained to use the equipment. Ted explained that there is a \$8462 credit to the town that could be used to train this person with the sound equipment. Ted explained that when a wind turbine is tested, it would have to be found in compliance twice and then a third noise test could be done in three years.

Ted made a motion to appoint Mark Twitchell as the towns noise testing response person. Chris Jackson seconded the motion. Chris Cannon obscured from voting and Larry Ball abstained. All others in favor, motion carried.

Public Comments.

Jamie asked what the contingency is for purchasing gravel.

Amanda Dando asked if the town has ever considered having a town park. Town Supervisor stated that a park had been included in previous plans and it has been discussed.

Doug Fairbanks asked if the town has ever investigated dual purchasing of highway equipment with neighboring townships. He asked if we could consider merging with another township for highway services.

Jeff Milliman asked what the town is considering for a money amount for the town hall. He stated that the amounts that the town has heard are way too much to spend.

Clint Nagel stated that the current town hall is in violation code of being handicapped assessable.

Ruth Nichols reported that the town's historic records are not being stored at the town hall.

Larry Ball responded to Ruth by stating that town records are also being stored at the homes of the town supervisor and clerk as well.

Roger Cardot stated that the town is going through funds fast this year. He stated that this is the first year with the turbine money. He stated that the town clerk is already getting paid to do the job and that the only deputy should be the highway deputy.

Linda Fairbanks invited all to attend Maple Weekend. She stated that something needs to be done to address the roads.

Cathy Jackson stated that the current town board is making tremendous progress. She stated that people are being treated respectfully. She complemented the highway crew and thanked the board.

Vera Allen commented that she was not aware of the meeting from February and that they should be posted in the paper. Chris Cannon stated to me that the meeting should have been in the community calendar. I tried to tell them both that the meeting information was provided to the observer and posted. Town Supervisor responded by telling her that I would take care of it.

A motion was made by Larry Ball to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Lynn Bedford. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Next meeting to be held on April 13, 2020 at 7:30 PM,

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Town Clerk: Wendy Lord