

TOWN OF ARKWRIGHT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
5:30 PM, April 14, 2020
Via Telephone

Board Members Present: Lynn Bedford, Chris Cannon, Chris Jackson
and Larry Ball
Town Supervisor: Ted Wightman
Highway Superintendent: Craig Harrington
Town Clerk: Wendy Lord
Public Present: John Potter. Public notice was in Dunkirk Observer inviting
the public to dial in.

The Meeting was called to order at PM

Adoption of minutes from March 9, 2020 meeting.

Chris Jackson made a motion to accept the January 13, 2020 meeting minutes, motion was seconded by Larry Ball however, he asked that the word grader be corrected to state grade all, all were in favor, motion was carried.

Commented [1]:

Commented [2]: Who made the first motion to accept if Larry Seconded the amended version?

Reports:

- Councilman Lynn Bedford objected to Councilman Larry Ball's statement objecting to Lynn's reading of the DOH article during the month of March board meeting that she read at February's meeting. Lynn stated that it is not another board member's role to object to the actions of another member. She stated that she has the right to read into record statements from the county BOH then requested that her reading of the document be reinstated into the minutes of public record. Lynn requested a resolution for the urgency of the BOH contact the Arkwright town attorney to pass a proper wind law that restricts IWT's to a minimum of turbine setback be 1.5 miles and 35 or fewer decibels Larry Ball stated that that Lynn probably had the right to read the memo, was only an opinion of the County BOH not a fact. Larry also stated that he did not feel that this was the proper time to pass a new wind law, it should come under new business. It was also not in the agenda. Ted Wightman agreed that we would take up a new wind law later.
- Councilman Chris Cannon did not have any comments at the time of the meeting.
- Councilman Chris Jackson stated that the letter from the BOH that Lynn read was a recommendation *not an opinion*. Chris asked if the temporary highway employee is still on the books. Craig Harrington stated no. Ted Wightman stated that he was laid off two weeks prior.

Highway and General Bills: Town Supervisor, Ted Wightman reported on March monthly expenses as follows:

- Cell phone allowance for Craig Harrington for the month of February in the amount of \$40
- Cell phone allowance for Craig Harrington for the month of March in the amount of \$40
- Mileage for Wendy Lord for in the amount of \$7.40 (April 18 miles)
- Mileage for Wendy Lord in the amount of \$33.24 (March)
- Purchase of post to hang Clerk sign for Wendy Lord in the amount of \$10.01
- Purchase of postage stamps to mail delinquent tax bills in the amount of \$63.07
- Dunkirk Observer for a legal ad for town hall repairs in the amount of \$9.72
- Bagget and Lurito Bookkeeper services for payroll and February vouchers in the amount of \$691.50 (Amendment to the budget, Resolution passed)
- Teamsters for March and April Union Dues in the amount of \$346
- National Grid electric for the town barns in the amount of \$42.36

- National Grid electric for the town hall in the amount of \$21.02
- Solar Liberty Lease for solar panels for the town hall in the amount of \$1200
- Christopher Skinner for the Christian Cemetery cleanup \$1500
- Foley & Foley and Passaffaro \$357.75 first quarter legal fees
- DFT Communications telephone bill for the town hall \$143.67
- NY Teamsters Hospital Fund \$6801.50, Health and hospital fund

Larry Ball stated that the Solar Panel bill is for a lease signed in 2011. Ted Wightman complimented to work of Christopher Skinner on the clean-up of the cemetery as it looks good, He felt the town got a great service for the money.

Larry Ball accepted the paying of the cells phone bills, Chris Jackson seconded, all in favor to pay cell phone bills.

Town Highway Superintendent, Craig Harrington reported on February monthly expenses as follows:

- Scrap Tire Removal, Get Er Done of WNY \$5993
- Uniforms for employees \$370.92
- Waste System Garbage Removal \$6058.48
- Country Sand and Gravel \$4519.96
- Fredonia Glass, LLC \$250 deductible for windshield
- Valley Tire \$440.80
- Noco Energy \$3059.88
- Credit Card for cleaning supplies for town barns, flags and vests \$117.91 (Reimbursable to the town)
- Vantage Equipment, LLC \$426.15, Teeth for excavator
- Superior Auto Supply \$419.86, battery blower mower, shop towels and supplies
- Town of Gerry \$5000, International Dump Truck
 - Town of Gerry \$2940
 - Chris Cannon recused to vote on the tamper bill due to conflict of business
- Councilman Chris Cannon commented on the Country Sand and Gravel bill by stating that Craig cannot spend in excess of \$1000 without prior board approval.
- Larry Ball questioned Craig as to whether he spoke to Ted Wightman regarding a resolution about spending. Craig could not recall, He stated that it is easier having materials on hand rather than going to South Dayton every time its needed.
- Ted Wightman reminded Craig that he needs prior approval before spending over \$1000
 - It was stated that there was not an approved highway plan prior to purchase of gravel therefore Craig purchased the gravel without authority.

The town accepted two bids. Steve Mead was the winning Bid. St. George and Admar also made a bid.

*2013 Tamper for \$4350

*2005 IRD 10 Ton Roller \$5000

Motion to pay general and highway bills.

A motion was made by Larry Ball to accept the highway bills, except for the Fredonia Glass bill and seconded by Chris Jackson to accept the reports. All votes Aye except for Chris Cannon. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Town Supervisor, Ted Wightman reported that the candidate for the position of Code Enforcement Officer has declined to accept the position. Currently, Wendy Stpinuza has been acting as COE in order to complete work for the town since March 16, 2020. She also completed the Town of Arkwright Report. Due to Law 2 of 1985. Ted asked for a motion to allow Wendy to continue to work as a temporary Code Enforcement Officer at a rate of \$400 per month to be paid by voucher. She would *not* have a monthly cell phone allowance. Chris Jackson made the motion to allow Wendy to continue to work as a temp, seconded by Larry Ball. Motion passed.

New Business:

A motion was made to amend budget dispersal as written. There was additional discussion.

Additional Discussion included:

- Chris Cannon inquired about Craig Harrington's plan to keep up with road maintenance for oil and stone. Craig replied that he was hoping to get more funds.
- Larry Ball asked if we are hiring a contractor for the Webster Road Repair Project at the cost of \$20,000. Craig Harrington has contacted St George.
- Larry Ball suggested sharing services with the Town of Ellington to bring their excavator over and "try it out" as we have suggested purchasing their excavator.
- Lynn Bedford expressed her concerns of the ethicality of "borrowing" the Town of Ellington's excavator to complete a repair job. We need to be upfront and honest.
- Larry Ball suggested that this would be okay as the town board has already voted to purchase the excavator.
- Chris Jackson is concerned over the amount of time it would take to get the excavator from Ellington to Arkwright due to the current COVID-19 crisis and loss of manpower.
- Ted Wightman and Chris Jackson both stated that it *is* an emergency, because the culvert is washing out and the rain is making it worse each time.

- Chris Cannon asked if the Webster Road project would be covered by FEMA. He stated that the town will need three bids in order to submit to FEMA. Ted explained that any emergency repair under \$35,000 does not require any bids. Chris Cannon does not feel its an emergency repair because the road can be closed. Ted Wightman stated that it is an emergency.

A motion was made by Lynn Bedford to accept the budget dispersal. Larry Ball agreed to second the motion *without* the \$20,000 Webster Road repair. Chris Jackson stated he wanted to look at the Webster Road culvert before he votes. He asked if we could talk to the county to use their excavator. Craig stated that he already contacted them, and they are behind due to COVID-19 and asked Craig Harrington contact them in two weeks.

A motion was made by Ted Wightman for the emergency closure of Webster and seconded by Larry Ball. Larry requested that Craig get two more bids to repair the road. It is the desire of the town board to receive two more bids. Lynn declined to vote.

Ted Wightman reported that FEMA may reimburse municipalities \$3500 for expenses incurred due to the pandemic. These funds could possibly be used to help cover cost of employees of the highway department.

Reports:

Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Wendy Lord Reported the following:

- Tax Collection: The 2020 property taxes have all been collected totaling \$1,038,313 and all unpaid taxes and returned bills have been turned over to the county as of 4/13/2020. penalties and interest were estimated by clerk and she will inform the supervisor when the actual amount is returned to the tow clerk.
- Dog Licenses: For the month of March, 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.
- Other Transactions: There was \$0 collected for providing a copy of a marriage registry.
- Town Justice, Judge John Potter had nothing to report at his time as due to COVID-19 regulations, there were no town court sessions held during the month of March.
- Dog Control Officer, Kathie Dean had nothing to report at this time.
- Town Assessor, Signe Rominger did not provide a report currently

No motion to accept the reports.

Craig Harrington requested to re-run the legal ad for material bids that he ran in the Dunkirk Observer in March. He only received one bid and would like to obtain more bids. This request was approved by Ted Wightman.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lynn Bedford and seconded by Larry Ball. Meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM

Next meeting to be held on May 11, 2020 at 7:30 PM (Subject to change per orders due to COVID-19 regulations).

Respectfully Submitted, Wendy Lord, Town Clerk