

TOWN OF BINGHAMTON
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
May 3, 2022

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MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN BOARD HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022, 5:30 P.M., TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN HALL, 279 PARK AVENUE, BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Rounds at 5:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

A motion may be made to go into an executive session to discuss a legal matter and or a personnel matter regarding a particular employee after the meeting is convened.

E. Rounds, Supervisor	Present	M. Leighton, Councilperson	Present
M. Donahue, Deputy Supervisor	Present	M. Bensley, Councilperson	Present
D. Nye, Councilperson	Present		

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paula Edwards, Deputy Town Clerk	R. Rolston, Highway Superintendent
Rose Pope, Deputy Town Attorney	2 Guests

APPROVAL OF AUDITED CLAIMS:

Councilperson Nye made the motion to adopt a Resolution to approve the following claims as audited:

<u>2022</u>		
Lighting	Claim No. 321	\$ 637.11
Sewer	Claim No. 322	\$ 3,288.15
Water	Claim No. 323-327	\$ 111,690.83
Highway	Claim No. 328-329	\$ 8,353.99
General	Claim No. 340-357	\$ 173,719.17

The motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Bensley. All those present voted in favor of the motion except Councilperson Leighton, who abstained as he did not audit the claims. There was discussion. Motion carried. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

Ayes: Rounds, Donahue, Bensley, Nye

Absent: None

Nays: None

Abstain: Leighton

Declared adopted.

(Resolution Appended)

RECOGNITION OF MINUTES:

There were no changes/corrections made to the April 5, 2022 regular Town Board meeting minutes.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Brush & Branch Pick Up – April, 18, 2022 thru May 20, 2022

TOB Free Rabies Clinic – Wednesday, May 11, 2022 – 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. – TOB Highway Garage

Municipal Clean Up Days – Friday, May 20, 2022 - 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. & Saturday, May 21, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Board – The Solar Energy Committee met with legal counsel, Gina Middleton, Esq., on the 11th of April, 2022.

Zoning Board of Appeals - The ZBA Board will meet Monday, May 9, 2022. The Board will vote on the Atlas Renewables Powers Road solar farm project.

Youth Commission – The last meeting was by text due to the snowstorm. The baseball season has started. Some age brackets are light on players, while other age brackets have quite a few players. The schools are providing open gyms at this time. The YMCA is going to contract Veterans Field this summer to play men's softball on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The baseball field season was pushed back because of weather to May 9, 2022. There is a need for more official umpires. Jackson Park fields are in good shape before, and after the snowstorm. Softball update: Two majors and two minors and one coach pitch. Windsor was going to join the teams for the season. The Jordan V. Godbout Tournament will no longer be sponsored by the Godbout family. There has been \$38,000 donated to Veterans organizations from the past JVG Tournaments. Supervisor Rounds noted that she spoke to Chris Streno about the Town possibly taking over the Tournament, and finding volunteers to help for a few days or nights to man the concession stand. Councilperson Nye asked Councilperson Leighton about the Youth Program stats from last year. There was some discussion about present age groups and a demographic bubble. The Youth Commission has given thought to investing in new scoreboards for next year as the budget is adequate.

Code Enforcement/Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Pappas was not in attendance to give a report. Supervisor Rounds discussed a webinar with Mr. Pappas, FEMA, and New York State Homeland Security regarding acquisition of generators. To apply for a generator for the Felters Road Project, it must be done by June 1, 2022. The pump station will be covered by this program. Supervisor Rounds discussed the use of a generator at the Community Center with Mr. Pappas, so that it can be used as a shelter in the event of long power outages. This project is based on the cost analysis, benefit and the length of outages, but she does not know if the Town

would qualify. She explained that one outage is a 24-hour period. Even though the power goes out often, it is not for a long period of time. Supervisor Rounds will pursue this issue. Zach Soboleski will put a request in with NYSEG for a power outage history for Felters Road, the pump station and the Community Center to see what kind of outages the Town is dealing with. With this last snowstorm, 75% of the Town was without power.

Highway Department - Brush collection is still occurring. There was a discussion with Highway Superintendent Rolston regarding generators, and if the Town will need a new generator once the new tank is put in at the pump station. Councilperson Donahue expanded on the discussion with knowledge of the costs of a project of this size for the Felters Road area. There was some concern from Councilperson Bensley regarding the gravity feed of the tanks in the event of house fires in the Orchard Park area. Highway Superintendent Rolston informed the Board that the City of Binghamton run tankers into that area. Councilperson Leighton questioned whether the current CDBG program would cover the cost of generators for low-income homeowners. There was a short discussion on this matter. Councilperson Bensley asked Highway Superintendent Rolston who has the responsibility of picking up brush on Park Avenue. Supervisor Rounds brought up the fact that the ditches are loaded with brush, and storm debris. She will be calling the County to inquire as to this matter.

TOB Volunteer Fire Co. – There was no report. Supervisor Rounds complimented the Fire Department on the good job they did during and after the storm. She informed the Board of all the calls the Department received during the storm, and also of a car fire in Orchard Park due to downed wires on the car.

Supervisor – There was a luncheon with the Associations of Towns to discuss the budget for the State of New York. She discussed the AIM payment. The Town will be getting the same amount, and it no longer comes out of the County's sales tax program. It will now be out of the State's Budget. There is 100 million dollars added to the CHIPS budget. PAVE NY had 50 million dollars added to its budget. Cannabis was not in the final budget, but a separate legislation was adopted so that Towns can opt out of retail and on-sight consumption establishments. There is a potential for revenue sharing based on the sales. The Town has opted to stay in the program. The Town opted out of the pilot program for renewable energy, but the State has now put together a flat rate. There are no more negotiations on the subject. Supervisor Rounds gave an example on a solar project cost being 1.52 million dollars. The Town, using the tax formula, would only be able to collect a total of \$4500. The Town would not make a lot of money off of solar farms. There is a Broadband Committee forming to develop an interactive map as to where broadband is needed in the Town. The County had a meeting on April 27, 2022, regarding anticipating capping the gas tax at \$3.00 per gallon beginning in June and going forth through December of this year. There was discussion on how the tax cap will work. The Shared Services Program will continue with the County. The Small Community grants are available in the County, and Councilperson Nye inquired as to whether or not the Fire Company has applied. Supervisor Rounds spoke to the County about Aqua Terra. She was told that the County will be doing a study on the area. Discussion was held regarding trail markers, and non-town residents using the trails, and how it would be beneficial to have logbooks for trail users to sign in. If Aqua Terra has swimming, the Town would supply and pay for lifeguards. The addition of adding decent outhouses was discussed. Security for the area was also in the discussion with all Board

members. Town Lights – There are grants available from NYSERDA for the installation of energy reducing lights. Supervisor Rounds gave the total savings since the installation of new street lights. The Town can be eligible for credits for a \$5000 grant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

3706 Mill Street – RFP - The RFP has been distributed to both The Country Courier and the Press and Sun - Bulletin. There was some discussion as to selling the property to the neighboring property owners. There was further discussion on the subject.

Common School District – Budget Meeting - May 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. & Voting – May 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. – Update - There was discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fund Balance Policy - Supervisor Rounds and Councilperson Nye discussed Fund Balance Reserve levels, based on the budget for this year, for all of the different districts. It was noted that there should be, six months of expenditures for a cash flow situation on hand. The Town needs to create a fund balance policy and if it is adopted, the Town can slowly reduce the amount of money to that level. This is a good year to see where the Town is with projects once the policy is in place, and what funds are left over. Supervisor Rounds and Deputy Attorney Rose Pope Esq. will review the information put together by Councilperson Nye. There was some monetary discussion regarding the general fund, and the reserve account, and offsetting other expenses in this area.

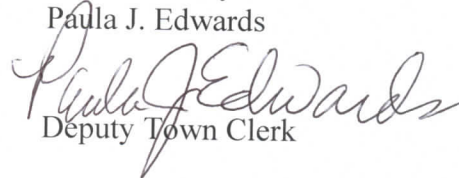
DWI Tournament - July 8, 9, & 10, 2022 – Approval to Use Jackson Park - Councilperson Leighton will inquire with Chris Streno about the possibility of having volunteers to open the concession stand for a few hours.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilperson Bensley to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m., and the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Leighton. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Town of Binghamton Town Board will be a regular Town Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at the Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, NY.

Transcribed by:
Paula J. Edwards


Deputy Town Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,
Vickie A. Conklin


Town Clerk

RESOLUTION

At a Work Session of the Town Board of the Town of Binghamton, Broome County, New York, duly called and held at the Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, New York, on the 3rd day of May, 2022 at 5:30 o'clock P.M. of said day, the following were:

PRESENT: Supervisor Elizabeth Rounds
Councilperson Michael Donahue
Councilperson Michael Bensley
Councilperson Dean Nye
Councilperson Mark Leighton

ABSENT: None

The Resolution set forth below was duly offered by Councilperson Nye, who moved its adoption, and was seconded by Councilperson Bensley.

A roll call vote was then taken upon the Motion for the adoption of said Resolution, which resulted as follows:

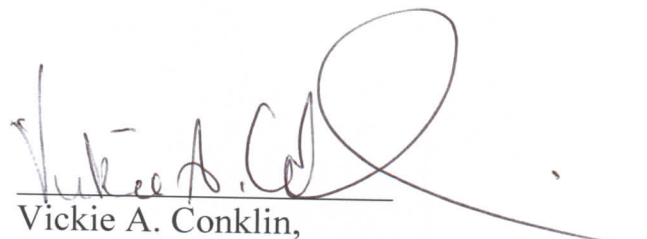
AYES: Rounds, Donahue, Leighton, Bensley, Nye

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: Leighton

The Resolution was then declared adopted.


Vickie A. Conklin,
Town Clerk

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, by motion Councilperson Nye has recommended that the Town Board approve claim numbers 321; 322; 323-327; 328-329, and 340-357 as audited, and

WHEREAS, the specific audited claims are as set forth in the attachment.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that claim numbers 321; 322; 323-327; 328-329, and 340-357 as audited are hereby adopted and approved; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor and such other Town officials are authorized to take such additional and further action as is necessary to implement this Resolution.