

Town of Diana Board Meeting - April 18, 2023- 6:00 pm

Date: 04/18/2023

Supervisor Smith called meeting to order at: 6:00 pm

Roll Call:

Supervisor Smith: Here
Councilman Bango: Here
Councilman Malbeuf: Here
Councilman Taylor: Here
Councilmen Pierce: Here
All Present: Aye

Reports of Invited Guests:

Nothing to report

Motion to Accept or Amend minutes from the previous meeting:

Motion to accept by: Councilman Taylor **Seconded by:** Councilman Bango

All in favor: Aye

None opposed. Motion carried.

Supervisor's Report & Motion to Accept:

Motion to accept by: Councilman Taylor **Seconded by:** Councilman Malbeuf

All in favor. Aye

None opposed. Motion carried.

Town Clerk's Report & Motion to Accept

Motion to accept by: Councilman Taylor **Seconded by:** Councilman Malbeuf

All in favor. Aye

None opposed. Motion carried.

Water Report & Motion to Accept

Motion to accept by: Councilman Taylor **Seconded by:** Councilman Pierce

All in favor. Aye

None opposed. Motion carried.

Audit Bills & Motion to Pay:

General Fund:

Motion to accept by: Councilman Bango **Seconded by:** Councilman Malbeuf

All in favor. Aye

None opposed. Motion carried.

Highway Fund:

Motion to accept by: Councilman Pierce **Seconded by:** Councilman Taylor

All in favor. Aye

None opposed. Motion carried.

Supervisor Smith called for a motion to enter into executive session.

Motioned by: Councilman Pierce **Seconded by:** Councilman Taylor

All in favor: Aye

None opposed. Motion Carried

Entered into Executive Session at: 6:09 pm

Returned from Executive Session at: 6:17 pm and reconvened the Town Board Meeting.

Supervisor Smith unappointed Cheryl Schroy as bookkeeper and appointed

North Country CPA as the Town of Diana Accounting Firm

Supervisor Smith unappointed Uta Parow as Deputy Bookkeeper and appointed Cheryl Schroy

as the Deputy Bookkeeper.

The privilege of the floor to the public: (A motion to limit debate could be in order):

Food Pantry member Jane Rose and members thanked the Town Supervisor, Board Members, Highway Superintendent Langs and his staff for all the help and work to build the new food pantry. Mrs. Rose stated they were open this morning and handed out 250 meals to residents in need. She stated they love the new space, and there is no need to shift aside to get to shelves or refrigerators in the new space. Lewis County Opportunities is the Town of Diana's representative, who answers to the main Food pantry out of Syracuse. Mrs. Rose stated they inspected the new pantry and brought them 10 boxes of metal shelving. She also thanked Chuck Fowler for donating a couple of grocery carts to the food pantry. Mrs. Rose stated she and the Food Pantry staff made a shopping list and people will be able to use the list to go in and shop for what they are allowed, bag their own groceries and check out. She was very excited and very grateful. Mrs. Rose informed Supervisor Smith and board members that as of right now, their money is spent from grants and they are working off donations. She was hoping that the Town of Diana and Town of Pitcairn share of the building expenses would be given back to the Food Pantry Fund soon. She stated the biggest fundraiser for the pantry is called "F" Dollars. She further explained if your dollar bill has an F on it in the serial number, people can donate that dollar to the food pantry. The new address for the food pantry is: 14206 South Creek Road, Harrisville, NY 13648. They are looking for a local artist who would be willing to donate their time and skills to paint the Food Pantry sign directly on the food pantry door.

Councilman Pierce thanked all the women for the work they do with the food pantry for our community and the Town of Pitcairn's community.

Resident Mr. Bango asked a question of Supervisor Smith about why the town decided to go with the accounting firm. Supervisor Smith explained it was a mutual decision between himself and our bookkeeper, Cheryl Bango. They both felt this is what is best for the town and won't cost any more money. The town would have better legal coverage.. The firm will pay all the bills etc and are well versed in Municipal Accounting. Supervisor Smith, board members and all present at the meeting thanked Cheryl Schroy for all her hard work.

Mr. Ceriano asked Supervisor Smith if he saw the email about grants coming available for approx \$4 million for water projects. Supervisor Smith stated he had not seen that email yet. Mr. Ceriano stated that sewer grants and CFA grants will be coming out for municipal funding opportunities soon.

Supervisor Smith asked if there were any further questions. No one had further questions.

Capital Water Project:

- Review meeting notes from 3/22/23
- Review DOH of request for local laws:
- Waiting on an update from EDR for well #1:
Supervisor Smith stated they would apply for the variance. He is waiting on EDR to let him know what they would want the town to go with. The Department of Health recommended the Town buy the land surrounding the wells. Highway Superintendent Langs stated it would be about 4 acres. Supervisor Smith said this would be discussed at a future meeting. Supervisor Smith asked Superintendent Langs if the town had an easement to get to the wells. Superintendent Langs stated he believed there was. Well # 2 is going to be abandoned, it is not working. The well on South Creek is the Town's main well. Supervisor Smith stated that he is hopeful he will have answers sometime in May.
- Return correspondence from Congresswoman Stefanik about funding for water projects. Supervisor Smith informed the board and audience that she replied and said she doesn't have any available funding right now.

Old Business

- Jay Grasso G&G Municipal Consulting and Grant Writing: Income Survey- Letter for review:
Supervisor Smith turned over the floor to Mr. Cervini, who stated the survey letters will be picked up tomorrow and go out in the next couple of days. Once the survey is done, and if it drops the Town of Diana down a few points to below poverty level, it will open up the town to more funding for the water project and future projects.

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- Update on food pantry: The goal is to start moving the Food Pantry to the new location this week, with an Opening at the start of May. Supervisor Smith thanked Councilman Pierce, Councilman Malbeuf, Councilman Bango, Superintendent Langs and his crew for their work on the new food pantry.
- Community Fest fun run: Supervisor Smith stated Mike is waiting on a waiver from the town attorney. The web page should be live at the start of May. The bank accounts are all set up, and the web page should be live soon. Supervisor Smith further explained Mike lives at the lake and put together this fun run for the community, and will be donating the proceeds to local programs.

New Business:

- Appointment of Floyd "Pug" Reader to the assessment board of appeals :Supervisor Smith called for a motion to appoint Floyd "Pug" Reader to the assessment board of appeals to represent Lake Bonaparte residents.

Motion to appoint by: Councilman Pierce

Seconded by: Councilman Malbeuf

Councilwoman Pierce: Aye

Supervisor Smith: Aye

Councilman Taylor: Aye

Councilman Bango: Aye

Councilman Malbeuf: Aye

All in favor. Aye

None opposed. Motion carried.

- Updated assessor hours for the public - Supervisor Smith asked the Town Clerk to run advertisements and post flyers. Mrs. Paterson stated new fliers will go out this week, and she will run the new ads with the updated hours.
- A resident requested to purchase land near the former landfill : Supervisor Smith announced that David Lesperance approached him to ask if he could purchase a small section of land from the landfill that backs up to his property from the town. Councilman Taylor stated he doesn't have an issue as long as there is no liability for the town from it being a landfill.
Councilman Malbeuf stated that it would be advertised so that it goes for public bid. They will check with the lawyers to see what else must be done, and also list the other three vacant properties owned by the town for bid as well.

Communication:

- April Diana's historical letter update: Supervisor Smith recommended that everyone take a look at the newsletter. He stated it has a lot of interesting information in it.

Highway update:

- No Parking on North Shore Road: Superintendent Langs stated that the signs would need to be put up again. Supervisor Smith stated he thinks it is confusing to have the signs read "No parking on the pavement". Supervisor Smith stated people will think it is okay to park off the pavement on both sides of the road, and that it will still be an issue for the emergency vehicles to get through. He recommended that the signs should clearly state parking is allowed on one side of the road only..Councilman Taylor doesn't believe the fire lane was repealed. Mr. Eddy, from the audience, stated he felt a fire lane was a much better idea because there would be no confusion, and would ensure enforcement by the police. Residents that live past the boat launch stated that you have to beep at people walking in the road to the public beach to get them to move out of the way, and and they stand in the road while loading or unloading cars and you can't get by, they don't always move. She is concerned someone is going to get hit by a car because they continue to park on both sides of the road. Mr. Eddie stated again, the fire lane is cut and dry, eliminates confusion and ensures enforcement by police. Supervisor Smith agreed.

Superintendent Langs stated we could repeal the law by public hearing to amend local law 1-210 to change it from no parking to a fire lane from the porta potties by the boat launch to the

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end of the public road, where the pavement ends just past the bank of mailboxes. This way people will not be able to park and block the bank of mailboxes, preventing the rural mail carriers from delivering the mail to those boxes.

Supervisor Smith called for a motion to schedule a public hearing at the May board Meeting on May 9, 2023 prior to the board meeting at 6:00 pm, to repeal local law 1-210 and adopt a new local law for a fire lane on the north shore road from the Porta Potties by the boat launch to the other side of the bank of mailboxes where the pavement runs out.

Motion for a Public Hearing by: Councilman Malbeuf **Seconded by:** Councilman Pierce
All in favor. Aye
None opposed. Motion carried.

- Rt. 3 Bridge update: Superintendent Langs stated there is no exact date, sometime in the beginning of May, DOT will be reconstructing the deck of the Route 3 bridge, and there will be traffic lights on both ends of the bridge during the construction/update process.
- Kimballs Mills Bridge : Supervisor Smith stated the Department of Transportation (DOT) wants to schedule a meeting with Superintendent Langs, Councilman Malbeuf, and Councilman Bango, before the May board meeting. He stated that representatives from DOT will attend the May meeting with reports. Superintendent Langs stated that Chips letters should be coming, as soon as the state approves the budget.

Reports of Committees:

Councilman /Town Clerk / Bookkeeper time:

Councilman: Councilman Malbeuf stated the girls at the Food Pantry told him they would like some hot water for cleaning. The little hot water heater only gets water to about 70 degrees. Councilman Malbeuf stated they would need to get a water heater that is a bit bigger and he will call and talk to Jim. He asked Superintendent Langs, in the winter, if they need a little more heat, could they run another thermostat or something? Chuck stated they could just turn up the thermostat. He doesn't think there is a way to do that.

Town Clerk: The Town clerk reported that she won a scholarship for the Lewis County Town Clerk's Association and those funds would be used to cover a part of the cost for the NY State Town Clerks Association training conference.

Bookkeeper: Nothing to report.

Supervisor Smith asked if anyone had any other questions or concerns. There were none. Supervisor Smith called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to adjourn by: Councilman Malbeuf **Seconded by:** Councilman Bango
All in favor: Aye
None Opposed. Motion Carried.

April 18, 2023 Board Meeting adjourned at: 7:03 pm with the Town of Diana Clerk's Audit to follow immediately after.

Audit convened at: 7:30 pm

Supervisor Smith and the Board members reviewed random months from the Town Clerk's books. The Clerk's books were in order and passed the audit. Supervisor Smith and board members signed the Clerk's books.

Audit Adjourned at: 8:00pm

Submitted by

Andrea M. Paterson
Town of Diana Clerk