

7-14-2022 – JULY REGULAR MEETING

Present:

Councilman Mike Domster
Councilman Leonard R. Hochadel
Councilman Matthew Krist
Councilman John D. Marsh
Supervisor Beverly A. Gambino

Also Present:

Highway Superintendent Donald Hopkins
Town Clerk Jennifer L Bray
Approx. 12 guests in person

Supervisor Gambino called the regular July meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the Pledge to the Flag led by Jim Wiedemann.

Supervisor Gambino stated that the first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the Regular June meeting held on June 9th. **On a motion by Domster, seconded by Krist, the minutes were approved, as submitted. Carried, 5 ayes, 0 noes.**

Supervisor Gambino stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the payment of the bills. **Warrant #7 of 2022, including vouchers #354 through #433, totaling \$126,280.73 of which \$114,848.98 was for the General Fund, \$8526.67 was for the Highway Fund, \$2,120.67 was for the Fire Protection Fund and \$784.41 was for the Street Lighting Fund. On a motion by Hochadel, seconded by Domster, the Warrant was approved for payment. Carried, 5 ayes, 0 noes.**

Departmental Reports were as follows:

Supervisor Gambino reported that pool opened on June 27th and updated the board on the number of kids enrolled in swim lessons and recreation, the number of pool passes sold and a training that was held by the Chaffee Sardinia Fire Company for the life guards. Next Supervisor Gambino updated the board on a back order issue for the cabinets for the sinks at Manion Park. Supervisor Gambino reported that the committee for the review of the Comprehensive Plan has been finalized. The following individuals will be a part of the committee: Supervisor Gambino, Becky Burke, Chris Warner, Traci Krist, Nancy Spink, Mary Regar, Steve and Cynthia Mead. Supervisor Gambino noted that meetings should begin this month. Next Supervisor Gambino noted that the new IRS mileage rate will be 62.5 cents beginning July 1st, 2022. Supervisor Gambino stated that she had met with the Sardinia Senior Citizens group on June 28th. She noted that they would like to start getting together and going on trips again. Therefor they have planned a picnic for July 25 at the Town Park. Supervisor Gambino noted that the Town will be providing the hot dogs and hamburgers for the picnic. Supervisor Gambino stated that she has also reached out to Waste Management regarding sharing the cost of a Thanksgiving dinner as well. Supervisor Gambino noted that the group has had a number of members pass away over the last few year so she would like to host a Chicken BBQ in August in an effort to help boost the membership. She noted that this would be an invite only to town residents. Supervisor Gambino noted that the cost would be \$10.75 per dinner with an estimated total cost of \$6,235.00. Councilman Hochadel asked how much was in the budget line for the seniors. Supervisor Gambino stated \$20,000.00. **Therefor on a motion by Hochadel, seconded by Krist, the Supervisor was given permission to plan the BBQ. Carried, 5 ayes, 0 noes.** Lastly Supervisor Gambino reported that the fitness pad installation was complete and new sod has been placed around it. She noted that there would be a launch party planned for a future date.

Councilman Krist had nothing to report but asked if a walk through area could be put by the back gate at the park so people could walk into the park that way instead of climbing the gate. There was a brief discussion.

Councilman Hochadel reported that the first concert in the Park had gone well and had good attendance. Councilman Hochadel noted that there had recently been another accident at the corner of Route 16 and Genesee Rd. He asked about writing a letter to the State again regarding a potential stop light at that intersection. It was agreed that he would write a letter.

Councilman Marsh asked of there was an update on the walking path at the park. There was a discussion and it was noted that a proposal was still needed for the walking path as well as bid specifications for the project. There was also discussion regarding the remaining ARPA funds available for the project.

Councilman Domster reported that Erie County plans on doing some recycling work on Pratham Rd and milling work on Genesee Rd. Next he reported that Earth Spirit and Waste Management will be having a hike on July 30th from 10am – 12:30 at Waste Management and noted that it was open to anyone. Supervisor Gambino asked if he could speak to the County regarding sweeping the road at the corner of Genesee and Savage.

Superintendent Hopkins noted that the new sod around the fitness pad has to be watered daily and can not be walked for two weeks. Next he reported on recommendations from NYMER the Towns insurance carrier. He noted that due to safety concerns they requested more large rocks be placed around the shelters to prevent cars from hitting the shelters. He noted that they would also like signs posted regarding the Town having security cameras in the park. Lastly Superintendent Hopkins stated that he needed the Board to sign and approve his form 284 Agreement to Spend Highway Funds for the road work he has planned. This included work on Pratham Rd., Mehm Rd., Curriers Sardinia Rd., Wagner Rd.,

Mill Rd., Johnson Rd., West Ave., Deerfield Dr., Hosmer and Meyers Rd. **On a motion by Hochadel, seconded by Krist, the Board approve the 284 forms. Carried, 5 ayes, 0 noes.**

Supervisor Gambino noted that instead of doing one long budget work session this year that the board would be covering a few sections of the budget at the next few Regular Town Board meetings. She stated that she would be getting information to the Councilman to review before the next meeting.

Supervisor Gambino stated that the next item on the agenda was a resolution to open the Highway Employees contract early per their request. She noted many factors that should be discussed in order to continue to have a good faith agreement with the Highway Employees including the raising costs of health insurance and the a national inflation rate that has gone from 1.4% in 2020 to 8.6% now. There was discussion regarding opening the contract and if there was a specific wage increase or not. It was noted that this resolution was to open the contract for renegotiation and based on advice from the Town Attorney it would become a new three year agreement. Councilman Marsh stated that if the Board was opening this contract they should look at all employee wages and other contracts like the Fire Company Contract. Supervisor Gambino stated that the Fire Company is not a Town payroll. Councilman Krist stated that other employee wages could be changed without a contract. Supervisor Gambino confirmed that they could and those are due in January. **Therefore the following resolution, to be known as Resolution #19 of 2022, was moved for adoption on a motion by Krist, seconded by Hochadel:**

Resolution #19 – 2022

PERMISSION TO OPEN THE “SARDINIA HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION” CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the contract with the Sardinia Highway Employees Association was negotiated in the fall of 2020, and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2020 the inflation rate was 1.4%, a decline from 2019 when the inflation rate was at 2.3% and,

WHEREAS, the 2020 contract was done in good faith, to promote a harmonious and cooperative relationship between the Town of Sardinia and the Highway employees and to protect the public by assuring, at all times, the orderly and uninterrupted operation and functions of Government, and

WHEREAS, the initial increase in wages in 2021 made the highway employees hourly wage comparable to neighboring towns, and

WHEREAS, the highway department previously consisted of four Motor Vehicle Operators (MEO), a fourth person was not hired to replace a retiree as a give back to the town in the 2020 contract negotiations, and

WHEREAS, the Highway Employee’s Association contract calls for wage increases of 2% in 2022, and 3% in 2023, and

WHEREAS, the national inflation for 2022 in January was 7.5% and currently is 8.6%

WHEREAS, the Town of Sardinia has received notification from Blue Cross and Blue Shield that the increase for health insurance will increase 14.6% for 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Highway Employees under contract pay 20% of the premium cost of their health insurance, and the Town of Sardinia pays 80%, and

WHEREAS, the Town Supervisor, Beverly Gambino believes that the contract should be opened and renegotiated to keep the contract in good faith, and not take advantage of the current inflation or employees, and

WHEREAS, the current highway employees have requested to the Supervisor Beverly Gambino, that the Town of Sardinia take a look and reopen the “Sardinia Highway Employees Association Contract”, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Sardinia realizes that professional, reliable, and knowable Motor Vehicle Operators are hard to replace, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Sardinia is not willing to put just anyone in trucks that cost over two hundred fifty thousand dollars plus, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Sardinia wants to retain workers who are professional, knowledgeable, trust worthy, and have skills that they can bring to the table, that give our community an asset.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Sardinia hereby approves that the Sardinia Highway Employees Association Contract be opened immediately to start on negotiations to amend the current year, and to include the years 2023, and 2024.

DULY ADOPTED, this 14th day of July, 2022 by the following vote: Domster aye, Hochadel, aye, Krist, aye, Marsh, no, Gambino, aye. So resolved, 4 ayes, 1 no.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on a motion by Hochadel, seconded by Domster, the meeting was closed at 6:59 p.m., carried, 5 ayes, 0 noes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Town Clerk