

12-14-2023 – DECEMBER REGULAR MEETING

Present:

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

Absent:

Councilman John D. Marsh

Also Present:

Highway Superintendent Christopher Dabolt
Town Clerk Jennifer L Bray
Town Attorney David DiMatteo
Approx. 20 guests

Supervisor Gambino called the regular December Regular meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the pledge to the flag led by Ron Kenyon.

Supervisor Gambino stated that the first item on the agenda was the approval of the payment of the bills. **Warrant #12 of 2023, including vouchers #613 through #675, totaling \$102,167.55 of which \$43,040.71 was for the General Fund, \$52,407.82 was for the Highway Fund, \$5,692.58 was for the Fire Protection Fund and \$1,026.44 was for the Street Lighting Fund. On a motion by Hochadel, seconded by Krist, the Warrant was approved for payment. Carried, 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent.**

Supervisor Gambino stated that there were 2 set of minutes from November 9th to be approved. The first was the 2024 Budget Public Hearing and the second was the November Regular Town Board meeting. **On a motion by Domster, seconded by Krist, the minutes were approved, as submitted. Carried, 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent.**

Departmental Reports were as follows:

Supervisor Gambino stated that the Organizational Meeting for 2024 will be held on January 11th 2024 at 6:30 pm with the Regular January meeting directly following. Supervisor Gambino then presented Councilman Domster with a commemorative engraved coin and thanked him for his service the last four years as councilman. Supervisor Gambino noted that she also has a coin for Councilman Marsh who was not in attendance and would see that he gets it.

Councilman Domster thanked Board members as well as those who had voted for him. Councilman Domster stated that he felt the board have worked together to do good things and that he was leaving with things better then when he took office. Lastly Councilman Domster wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Hochadel had nothing to report but thanked Councilman Domster for his service on the Board.

Councilman Krist wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked Councilman Domster as well.

Highway Superintendent Dabolt reported that the Dodge truck bid had closed and the high bid was \$35,800. 00 from the Town of Colden. He noted the high bid for the generator was \$1400.00. **On a motion by Krist, seconded by Hochadel, the bids were accepted. Carried, 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent.**

Town Attorney DiMatteo presented the board with a draft copy of a local law regarding food trucks. He noted that the Planning Board had done thoughtful work in putting together this legislation. Mr. DiMatteo stated that he made a few changes to what the Planning Board had submitted and would be sending it back to them for their approval before it coming to the Town Board for a vote. He asked that the Board review the law in the meantime. Mr. DiMatteo also reported the final update to the Comprehensive Plan should be done shortly and hoped the board would be adopting or excepting it shortly after the first of the year.

Supervisor Gambino asked the board if they had any other business. They did not. Supervisor Gambino noted that there were a number of residents in attendance this evening who wished to express concerns regarding the Chaffee Water Works Company which is a privately owned water utility that services properties in the Hamlet of Chaffee. Supervisor Gambino asked resident Chuck Rhoades if he would like to stand and be the spokesperson for the residents. Mr. Rhoades spoke. He expressed frustration as well as many concerns including how poorly run the business is, inability to contact the owner, concerns with inconsistent billing, lack of a back up power supply during power outages and water quality concerns. Mr. Rhoades stated that on December 8th the Erie County Health Department posted notices on the doors of residents informing them that they should boil water due to no detectable chlorine in the water. It was noted that no bacteria had been found in the water and that the boil recommendation had been lifted earlier in the day on the day of the Town Board meeting. Mr. Rhoades asked if there were any options for the Town to set up a water district and take the water company over. Town Attorney DiMatteo advised that the Town could form a water district but could not just take over the Chaffee Water Works company as it is a privately owned business. Mr. DiMatteo cautioned that the cost for the Town to run the water company could be very expensive and at this time there are a lot of unknown factors such as the

condition of the water company equipment that could make the expenses higher. It was noted that because the Town has no oversight over the Chaffee Water Works Company the Health Department did not notify the Town of the boil water recommendation nor was the Town notified as a customer of the water company. Mr. DiMatteo noted that thought has been given to the need for a municipal water system within the Town of Sardinia and that it is something that is being addressed in the update for the Comprehensive Plan but there are no time lines for such a project in place at this time. The discussion between the residents and the Town Board continued. The residents were encouraged to send detailed written complaints to both the Erie County Health Department and the NYS Public Service Commission as well as a copy to the Town Clerk so that a file could be compiled for any possible future use.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on a motion by Hochadel, seconded by Domster, the December 14th Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m., carried, 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Town Clerk