

A Town Board Agenda Meeting was held by the Town Board of the Town of Ballston on Tuesday evening, July 26, 2022, via Zoom video conferencing.

|          |                |                              |
|----------|----------------|------------------------------|
| PRESENT: | Eric Connolly  | Supervisor                   |
|          | Kelly Jasinski | Councilwoman                 |
|          | Chuck Curtiss  | Councilman                   |
|          | Michael Carota | Councilman                   |
|          | Rob Fendrick   | Councilman                   |
|          | Carol Gumienny | Town Clerk                   |
|          | Debra Kaelin   | Town Attorney                |
|          | David Urkevich | Town Comptroller             |
|          | Joe Whalen     | Highway/Water Superintendent |

Supervisor Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Paid Family Leave and Vision Plans**

Supervisor Connolly introduced Paul von Shenk to discuss the Paid Family Leave coverage. Mr. von Shenk stated that the Paid Family Leave would cover items such as caring for a sick parent, bonding with a new baby, or events related to a family member's active-duty military status. The policy does not cover medical leave. The plan would cover 67% of an employee's gross pay for up to 12 weeks per year. The pay is capped at \$1,068.00 weekly. The cost is based on .511% of the Town's annual payroll. For example, if the total payroll was \$1 million, the cost per year would be \$6,000.00. The Town could choose to pay for this or have the employees pay at a cost of \$425 per year. This policy can be added at any time. Councilwoman Jasinski asked if this was a voluntary program. Mr. von Shenk stated that all eligible employees must opt in, there is no choice. No other municipalities offer this. The Supervisor asked for the Board's thoughts. All Board members expressed that it is a good policy to have for employees; however, their concerns were how to handle the coverage if one, or more than one person is out in a department. This would cost the Town additional monies to hire temporary employees to get the work done to keep a department running. There is a small staff working at Town Hall. Highway/Water Superintendent Joe Whalen supports the idea but would not be in favor of this. He would not be able to get the work done that needs to be done having one or two people out at the same time. The crew is also unionized, and this would not apply until their next contract. Mr. von Shenk discussed having a Vision Plan for employees. There are 23 employees working for the Town and depending on the level of coverage, the annual cost would be between \$3,500 and \$5,000. The plan would cover annual eye exams and the co-pays would be lower. It would also include annual allowances for contact lenses and glasses. Mr. von Shenk will do a spreadsheet with different policies to share with the Board. This will need to be decided on during the 2023 budget sessions.

### **Vertical Bridge Cell Tower**

Joe Tassone and Kory Fretto, agents for Vertical Bridge, were introduced by the Supervisor. Mr. Tassone stated that Vertical Bridge is the largest private owner, operator and manager of cell towers and telecommunication sites in the United States. They are the #1 tower developer with over 2000 built since 2015. Vertical Bridge is proposing to lease an 80'x 80' area behind Town Hall to develop and construct a monopole tower and fenced compound area. In consideration of the Town granting Vertical Bridge the option, they agree to pay the Town \$2,500.00. The Option Period will be for an initial term of one year from the date of the signed agreement and may be renewed by Vertical Bridge for one additional year with an additional payment of \$2,500.00. The term is a 5-year initial term with nine successive 5-year terms of extension. Once commenced, the monthly rent will be \$1,400.00. The term escalator would be 110% of the previous 5-year term. Additional rent would be \$150.00 per month for any additional broadband wireless tenant after the anchor tenant installation. Vertical Bridge will also work with the Town's Water Department to secure space on the tower for a communication antenna. The Supervisor stated that he had a quote from another company, and this is a much better proposal. It would take 60 days to erect a tower. The next step is to hold a public hearing next month. The Board wants to see a map of where the cell coverage will be. The information will be given.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Ballston Lake Sewer Project Update**

Ed Hernandez, engineer for the project, stated that the Saratoga County Sewer District is accepting applications to connect to the sewer on the east side of the lake. Westside Drive and Buell Heights is approximately a month behind schedule, and he anticipates that work to be done before the end of October. Restoration work is still being completed in areas. There are two payment items on the agenda this evening and he is recommending payment as the work has been completed. Highway Superintendent Joe Whalen asked Mr. Hernandez about the extra money that would be used for paving the roads in Buell Heights. Mr. Hernandez stated that he expects the money to be there as there will be enough contingency money. He does not see road paving happening before October. The Supervisor asked about the sewer connecting to the Ballston Lake Fire Department Memorial Park. Mr. Hernandez stated that the sewer line will stop at the property line. When the bathrooms are built, the plumbing contractor can make that connection.

### **Grants Update**

The Supervisor stated that the County has an Economic Development Grant available for \$14,000 and an Open Space Grant available for \$10,000. Councilman Fendrick will apply for these grants to be utilized for the bike trail extension. The Supervisor is looking at a new approach by doing phases. Phase One will go north to Beacon Hill where there is a paper street that could connect to the trail. There are cost estimates for engineering and construction being worked on and he will report back. There is another grant called the Downtown Revitalization Initiative. He will meet with Jackie from MJ Engineering tomorrow to discuss this. The vision for downtown Burnt Hills is a more walkable robust area.

### **Parks and Rec Committee Report**

Councilman Fendrick stated that the Parks & Rec Committee did not meet this month. The second barrier on the walkway to the fishing pier has been completely knocked down; this is not safe. He pleaded with the public to keep off, the project is in the works. The old Magnum Gas Station ground has been dug up and soil samples were sent to DEC. The Committee is working on the cost of the Goode Street extension to Anchor Diamond Park and hopes to have some information for the Board at the August meeting as the Committee would like to have this completed before the winter.

Supervisor Connolly gave a further update on the old Magnum Gas Station stating that the Town is waiting for DEC to give the Town a "closed spill designation". Once they do, the Town can move forward to acquire the property. The Town will have an appraisal done and the Town would pay \$7,000.00 to the Oil Spill Clean Up Fund. There are many ideas on what to do with the property. He and the Rotary Club will attend the next Parks & Rec meeting in August.

### **Garret Road Sidewalk Update**

Supervisor Connolly stated that there is a piece of sidewalk that will be constructed on Garrett Road to Ballston Avenue. An easement is needed by the homeowner on the corner of Garrett Road and Ballston Avenue; however, there are some questions that the homeowner needs addressed before signing the easement. This sidewalk is at no cost to the Town. The developer agreed to continue the sidewalk from his project on Garrett Road. Highway Superintendent Joe Whalen stated that there will be crosswalks on Ballston Avenue before the school and across Thomas Avenue to safely cross. There is also going to be a push button flash crossing at the intersection of Route 67 and Route 50.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Ballston Birdhouses**

The Supervisor introduced the mayor of the Village of Ballston Spa, Frank Rossi Jr. who spoke on their annual bird house project. Mayor Frank Rossi, Jr. stated that the project has been approved by the Committee of the Arts in the Village. He introduced Mark Blech who is a Village volunteer and organizes this event. Mr. Blech stated that this is the fifth year of the project. It started with 75 entries the first year and last year went up to 600. The program promotes building projects, creativity, and community engagement. This project has been a great way to promote the Village as well as Saratoga County. In the past, they have received news coverage and a lot of great response from the communities nearby as well as the village. The birdhouses are fabricated by volunteers and some of the wood used is donated by Curtis Lumber. The birdhouses are distributed at no charge. The mayor is the person who will judge them. They are then put up around the Village and stay throughout the summer. Mr. Blech stated that the Village is seeking a donation from the Towns of Ballston and Milton as they are



**RESOLUTION 22-210**

**APPROVE THE RECEIPT OF \$534,203.51 REPRESENTING TRANCHE #2 OF THE FEDERAL AMERICAN RECOVERY PLAN ACT FUNDS.**

A motion was made by Councilman Curtiss and seconded by Councilman Carota.

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Councilman Curtiss, Councilman Carota, Councilman Fendrick,  
Councilwoman Jasinski and Supervisor Connolly

Nays 0

**RESOLUTION 22-211**

**APPROVE REALLOCATION OF BUDGET AUTHORITY IN THE 2022 FINAL BUDGETS FOR FUNDS A, B, HIGHWAY, CONSOLIDATED WATER, AND MORNINGDALE COURT WATER FROM THE “CONTINGENCY BUDGETING ACCOUNT” TO THE “UNALLOCATED INSURANCE” EXPENSE ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,925.10 FOR FUND A, \$1,768.00 FOR FUND B, \$6,428.61 FOR HIGHWAY FUND, \$1,430.45 FOR CONSOLIDATED WATER, AND \$62.10 FOR MORNINGDALE COURT TO ADJUST FOR HIGHER THAN ANTICIPATED INSURANCE EXPENDITURES FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2022. THERE WILL BE NO IMPACT TO FUND BALANCE FOR FUND A, B, HIGHWAY, CONSOLIDATED WATER, OR MORNINGDALE COURT.**

A motion was made by Councilman Curtiss and seconded by Councilwoman Jasinski.

Discussion: Highway Superintendent Joe Whalen asked, “In this budget cycle, is this a shortfall or was it not budgeted for”? Town Comptroller David Urkevich stated that the resolution allows the Town to pay invoices for the second half of the year. Related to insurance, the 2022 final budget did not account for any increases which occurred. He will keep this in mind moving forward with the 2023 budget. The reason for the next resolution is similar to this.

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Councilman Curtiss, Councilman Carota, Councilman Fendrick,  
Councilwoman Jasinski and Supervisor Connolly

Nays 0

**RESOLUTION 22-212**

**APPROVE A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE PARADOWSKI WATER AND JENKINS PARK 2022 FINAL BUDGETS TO INCREASE THE “BUDGETED FUND BALANCE DRAW” REVENUE ACCOUNTS AND THE “UNALLOCATED INSURANCE” EXPENSE ACCOUNTS BY \$27.04 FOR PARADOWSKI WATER, AND \$11.66 FOR JENKINS PARK, RESPECTIVELY. THE SOURCE OF THE \$27.04 WILL BE PARADOWSKI WATER FUND, FUND BALANCE, AND THE SOURCE OF THE \$11.66 WILL BE JENKINS PARK FUND, FUND BALANCE.**

A motion was made by Councilman Fendrick and seconded by Councilman Carota.

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Councilman Curtiss, Councilman Carota, Councilman  
Fendrick, Councilwoman Jasinski and Supervisor Connolly

Nays 0

**RESOLUTION 22-213**

**ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL OF CONTI APPRAISAL & CONSULTING, LLC DATED JULY 14, 2022, TO PREPARE A VALUE FINDER APPRAISAL REPORT FOR THE EASEMENT NEEDED FOR THE TOWN OF BALLSTON AND THE BALLSTON LAKE SEWER DISTRICT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,500.00 AND AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT.**

A motion was made by Councilman Fendrick and seconded by Councilwoman Jasinski.

Discussion: Ms. Kaelin stated that this is part of the necessary appraisal for the eminent domain process that has been started against National Grid.

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Councilman Curtiss, Councilman Carota, Councilman Fendrick,  
Councilwoman Jasinski and Supervisor Connolly

Nays 0

*Privilege of the floor on any topic*

*No one wished to speak.*

The Supervisor stated that the beaver deceiver has been installed on the outlet at Ballston Lake/ Ballston Creek. He has not heard if there has been a noticeable change in the increase of the outflow.

A motion was made by Councilman Carota and seconded by Councilwoman Jasinski to adjourn the meeting. All Board members were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Gumienny  
Town Clerk