

Town of Newfield
Regular Town Board Meeting
April 22, 2021

The April 22, 2021 Work Session meeting was held via Zoom in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 202.1. Meeting instructions were on the Town website.

Present via Zoom: Michael Allinger, Supervisor, Councilmembers- Joanne James, Christine Laughlin, Heather McCarty, Casey Powers, Town Bookkeeper Blixy Taetzsch, Town Clerk Karen Miller Kenerson and 7 others.

Supervisor Allinger called the Town Board Meeting to order at 7:00 PM, Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilperson Laughlin.

Agenda Approval- Councilperson Laughlin asked to speak about a pop-up vaccination event. Town Clerk Kenerson asked to be added to New Business

Privilege of the Floor-

Laurie Mras- spoke to the Board on behalf of Project Graduation asking permission to have Highway Department hang senior banners from the light poles and to have a senior parade from the People's Baptist Church down Main Street to the Newfield Fire Hall at 12:00 pm on June 5, 2021. This was supported by the Board.

Communications-

Supervisor Allinger stated the Hamlet Beautification Committee would like to install a visitor log in box near the Covered Bridge. A member of the Committee will present at the May 13th meeting.

Supervisor Allinger stated he had met with Renee Carver regarding upgrading the Board Room with video equipment for future hybrid meetings. Supervisor Allinger will present the quote at the May 13th meeting for discussion/approval. Supervisor Allinger also stated the Broad Bank kick off meeting had taken place the previous week. A 120-day study will begin with gathering data of the underserved, then a market assessment, a high-level design developed for each town, then an operation and maintenance plan for review. Supervisor Allinger will be meeting with Chuck Bartosh from Clarity Connect April 27th regarding further development up the Millard Hill Road.

TCCOG- Enfield Councilperson Robert Lynch reported there had been an informational meeting held earlier with a presentation on algae bloom in Cayuga lake. Also discussed was marijuana legislation and the possible opt out of the legalization for municipalities and also a discussion to ask the State Legislature to liberalize restrictions for online meetings.

Clean Energy Task Force- Councilperson McCarty reported the scoping document had been approved and the committee was finalizing plans for the webinar for May 26th.

Finance & Personnel- Bookkeeper Blixey Taetzsch reported she has posted the Town energy inventory use for the past 2 years to the TEAMS folder and that Highway Superintendent Berggren was now gathering the fleet information requested.

NEW BUSINESS

Co-Vid Vaccine Clinic

Councilperson Laughlin stated she has spoken with Tompkins County Health Department Director Frank Kruppa regarding a pop-up vaccine clinic in the Town of Newfield in the lower Elementary Gym at the Newfield Elementary School. Date to be determined and will be posted on the town website.

Building Use Request

Town Clerk Kenerson asked the Board if the Quilters group who come to the Town Hall once a month could return to use the Board room. The request was approved with the stipulation that the quilters who come are vaccinated, practice social distancing, wear a mask in the building and are asymptomatic.

ACTION ITEMS

Review and Approval of 5-year term appointments of Leo Tidd (Chair) and Jim Haustein to the Planning Board

Motion was made by Councilperson Powers to approve the 5-year appointments of Leo Tidd and Jim Haustein to the Newfield Planning Board, seconded by Councilperson James.

Vote AYES 5 Allinger, James, Laughlin, McCarty and Powers

NAY 0

Carried

PRESENTATIONS

Lou Vogal from Taitem Engineering on NY Stretch Energy Code

Mr. Vogal presented to the Board the NY Stretch Energy Code that is a code that overlays on top of the current energy code for new construction. The purpose is to save energy and reduce emissions. Grants are available to communities who adopt the NY Stretch Energy Code in 2021.

Presentation of the 2020 Town Audit

Duane Shoen and Evan Cleveland from INSERO presented the draft financial statement to the Board.

Motion was made by Councilperson James to accept the draft 2020 financial audit, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

Vote AYES 5 Allinger, James, Laughlin, McCarty and Powers

NAY 0

Carried

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Newfield CEA's

The discussion was tabled until May 13th due to the slide presentation and additional research from Jeffner Allen not being available.

At 8:30 PM, a motion was made by Councilperson Powers to move into an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues seconded by Councilperson Laughlin.

At 9:40 PM, Motion was made by Councilperson Powers to exit Executive Session, seconded by Councilperson Laughlin and the Regular Meeting of the Newfield Town Board resumed.

At 9:41 PM, Councilperson James offered a motion adjourn, seconded by Councilperson Powers

Respectfully Submitted,

April 23, 2021

Karen Miller Kenerson, RMC
Town Clerk