

November 8, 2018 – Workshop & Budget Public Hearing

The workshop meeting of the Gardiner Town Board met this evening at the Gardiner Town Hall at 7 PM. Present were Supervisor Majestic, Councilwoman Walls and Councilmen Dukler & Wiegand. Councilman Reynolds was absent. There were approximately 12± audience member.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

November 12 – Town Hall will be closed in observance of Veteran’s Day and Thursday & Friday November 22 & 23 in observance of Thanksgiving. Transfer station will be closed on Friday November 23 as well.

November 30 – Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Town Hall at 7 PM. Sponsored by the Gardiner Day Committee.

### **BOARD OPENINGS**

The Town is seeking applicants to the Environment Conservation Committee and the Ethics Board to fill openings now available. If interested contact the Town Supervisor.

### **SUMMER RECREATION DIRECTOR**

The 2019 Summer Recreation program will need a new director. Contact the Town Hall if anyone is interested.

### **REQUEST FOR ZONING DISTRICT CHANGE**

The Town has received a request to re-zone a property located on Route 44-55. Supervisor Majestic asked each Board member to review the documents for discussion at the meeting to be held on November 13.

### **PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW - TAX CAP OVERRIDE**

The legal notice was read by the Town Clerk and the public hearing for the tax cap override was opened at 7:05 PM. Supervisor Majestic explained that this law, if adopted, will allow for the Town to exceed the tax cap established by the State. There were no questions or comments from the audience. Supervisor Majestic moved onto the next item on the agenda.

### **PUBLIC HEARING – 2019 BUDGET**

Supervisor Majestic stated this preliminary budget as presented has an overall increase of 1.48%. Unless major changes are made tonight, the budget will stay under the tax cap. The largest increase will be to the Sewer District. A recent study of the Sewer District confirms that it is near capacity. Additional studies are needed to help the Town Board with decisions that will need to be made with the possible expansion of the Sewer District..

The Town Clerk read the legal notice for the public hearing for the 2019 Budget at 7:09 PM. Supervisor Majestic pointed out 2 minor changes to the budget – the removal of Sewer Reserves and an increase to the Building Inspector’s salary that was mistakenly left out. The public hearing was opened for any questions or comments.

Councilman Wiegand – stated that this was a good solid budget. Would like to keep closer attention to the fund balances.

Bonnie Lanier – asked how many employees get health insurance and whether they were part-time or full-time.

Goeff Meyer – Questioned the Permanent Improvement line of \$158,000. This is more than budgeted. Superintendent of Highways Stiscia explained how the Town receives money from different state programs such as CHiPS which is based on road inventory.

There being no further questions or comments, the Supervisor moved on with the agenda.

### **ZONING CODE AUDIT**

At the October 9 meeting attorney Allyson Phillips pointed out the deficiencies in our zoning code. It is now up to the Town Board to decide a plan to resolve these issues. Board members discussed this at length the possibility of a 6 month moratorium. Comments from the audience included a concern that a currently filed application can be changed during the moratorium allowing for major changes to the application. She was assured that only what is before the Planning Board as of now can be addressed. Board members agreed on enacting a 6 month moratorium to address the deficiencies in the law. It was also agreed upon to have Ms Phillips draft the law tailored specifically to the issues identified. Once the Town Board has received a copy of the law, a public hearing can be scheduled.

### **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING – TAX CAP LOCAL LAW**

On motion of Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried, the public hearing on the tax cap override law was closed at 7:40 PM. As it appears the 2019 Budget will not exceed the cap the local law will not be adopted.

### **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING – 2019 BUDGET**

A motion was made by Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried, to close the public hearing on the 2019 Budget at 7:40 PM.

### **ADOPTION OF THE 2019 BUDGET**

On motion of Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilwoman Walls and carried, the 2019 preliminary budget, with the 2 minor changes, is adopted as the final budget.

### **NYS DOT**

Three requests have been made to the NYS DOT by the Town. The first request is to install a Pedestrian Crossing Sign by the Post Office. This sign is designed to be at the center lines of the road. Board members agreed that this area was much too narrow and it would be taken out by the first tractor trailer that attempts to go by it. Second request is a traffic study at the intersection of Brynswick Rd and Route 44/55. Dave Corrigan of the DOT informed the Supervisor that a resolution must be adopted by the Board before a study can be done. He also stated that it can take an extraordinary amount of time. The DOT would have to collect data which generally takes several months. It was suggested that if the Town provides the data, gathered from the various agencies that respond to accident calls at the intersection, it would move the process ahead quicker. Superintendent of Highways Brian Stiscia will compile the data.

And finally, a request from a resident to lower the speed limit on Albany Post Road from Bevier Rd to the Town of Shawangunk line. Again, a resolution must be adopted by the Board requesting this. Paperwork is then sent for review. A resolution will be prepared for next week's meeting.

### **FINANCING OF NEW HIGHWAY TRUCK**

The Town is in receipt of 2 quotes on leasing options. Key bank has presented 4.25 % and M&T Bank 4.471%. Supervisor Majestic has been in contact with Riverside Bank and they suggested a 5-year bond. The Town would need to engage bond counsel. Ms Majestic will contact our attorney Mitchell Jaiven to discuss this option.

**SEWER DISTRICT EVALUATION PROPOSAL**

The Town has received a proposal from Pitingaro & Doetsch for the evaluation of the Town's sewer system and plant. The proposal allows for evaluation on the performance and capacity of the plant as well as calculating whether or not remaining undeveloped lots in the sewer district will be able to connect to the system. Recommendations will be made to the Town Board for the district. A motion was made by Councilman Dukler, seconded by Councilwoman Walls and carried, authorizing the Supervisor to sign the contract/proposal at a cost of \$3,400.00.

**MVP GOLD RENEWAL**

The town retiree health insurance renews at this time and Supervisor Majestic is looking for a motion to renew the policy. Councilwoman Walls made a motion, seconded by Councilman Weigand and carried.

**ANNUAL AUD PROPOSAL**

The Town has received a proposal from Pattison, Koskey, Howe & Bucci for the annual AUD required by the State Comptroller's office. Fees for their services are between \$3100 and \$4100. Supervisor Majestic was authorized to sign the proposal on motion of Councilwoman Walls, seconded by Councilman Dukler and carried.

**CATSKILL CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS**

Attorney Paul Kellar has reviewed the contract proposed by Catskill Construction Consultants and has concerns. He believes the contract oversteps the boundaries of noise control. Supervisor Majestic expressed our attorneys concerns to owner Brian Shugg and he has agreed to adjust the contract to accommodate our specific needs. The proposal should be ready for next week's meeting.

**BOOKKEEPING SYSTEM PROPOSALS**

Two companies have done demonstrations on their municipal bookkeeping systems. Business Automation Systems (BAS) and Edmunds Associates. Supervisor Majestic stated that she would like to get feedback from our current provider RDA to see what they may be able to give us. Ms Majestic stated that the key component for her is assistance from the system at budget time. Councilman Wiegand stated the Town Board should talk with those who will be using the program to find out what is important to them. Mr. Wiegand will take the lead on research for a new program.

**NYS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR – SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

On motion of Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilwoman Walls and carried, the town of Gardiner's Sexual Harassment Policy is replaced by the NYS Department of Labor version of the policy. Training for employees must be scheduled in the near future.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Andi Bartczak-Weiss – asked the status of the EV charging station. What is the hold up. Supervisor Majestic commented we are waiting on an easement from the Library. Jessica Rothman – commented that there is unapproved camping at Robibero Winery. Supervisor Majestic suggested speaking with the owners of the winery.

Linda Geary – in regard to the fuel oil spill at The Ranch, she is asking the Town with NYS DEC, to schedule a meeting at the Town Hall for Sand Hill Rd residents. There are many concerned about their wells. Supervisor Majestic is working with DEC on a public forum.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councilwoman Walls, seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher  
Town Clerk