

September, 1, 2020 – Workshop Meeting

The September workshop meeting of the Gardiner Town Board was held this evening at 7 PM. This meeting was conducted on Microsoft Teams as a virtual meeting. Present were Supervisor Majestic, Councilmen Carucci, Dukler & Wiegand and Councilwoman Walls. There were approximately 17± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 7 – Town Hall and Highway Dept. will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

CENSUS 2020

Supervisor Majestic reminded all that the 2020 Census must be completed by September 30.

BUDGET 2021 REQUESTS

Budget requests have been disbursed to all departments. Supervisor Majestic is currently working on the tentative budget for 2021.

REVENUES

The Town has received the second quarter sales tax payment in the amount of \$43,346.72. Total received to date \$130,118.72. One more payment will be received by the end of the year.

BOARD VACANCIES

There are currently vacancies on the Board of Ethics and Parks & Recreation. These positions will be advertised. Board members in expiring positions will be notified to see if they are still interested in continuing on their respective boards.

MCKINSTRY ROAD BRIDGE

Ulster County Department of Public Works has informed the Town that the bridge over the Shawangunk Kill on McKinstry Road is closed as the structure has become dangerous at any weight limit. It is possible it will be closed for at least 2 years. The Public Works Department will need to have the bridge engineered and a bid process will take place for the reconstruction.

PARK PAVILION USAGE

The Town has received several requests to from various local businesses and groups. The Town will be able to help the Gardiner Library, Daisy Girl Scouts and Stone Wave Yoga, allowing them to use the pavilion for their events.

LAZY RIVER LICENSE APPLICATION AND FEE

Supervisor Majestic reviewed the background on the Lazy River license application and fee. Building Inspector and Zoning Enforcement Officer Andy Lewis did a thorough review of the application and found several inconsistencies in the application. A revised application was submitted. Mr. Lewis has drafted a letter in reply to the application which is currently being reviewed by our attorney. Only items that are in compliance will be addressed. Non-compliance issues will be addressed in the Campground Floating District application. Next is the license fee of \$20 per site. Lazy River paid this under protest. After careful review Councilman Wiegand suggested reducing the fee from \$20 to \$15. Attorney Allyson Phillips agreed on the \$15 for this year with adjusts made annually. Supervisor Majestic asked Board members to think about the proposal and be prepared to vote on both items at next week's meeting.

SHORT TERM RENTAL

Councilman Wiegand addressed the open issues regarding the Short-Term Rental Law. One rental per primary residence. If it is owner occupied there would be no limit on rental days but Board members wondered if there should be. For non-owner occupied there would be a maximum number of days for rentals at 150 days/year. Councilman Dukler was not concerned with the number of days but with the behavior of renters. There needs to be a mechanism for enforcement. Councilman Carucci agrees and suggested defining what is a major and what is a minor infraction and set the consequences for each. Mr. Wiegand suggested making the definition for primary residence more specific. Perhaps a Gardiner address should be on their tax return. Should the number of permits be capped? The Town can check with the County to see how many are currently registered. Should rentals be allowed in SP-2 & SP-3?

Councilwoman Walls addressed the possibility of incorporating this law into the current zoning law rather than creating a stand-alone law. Supervisor Majestic stated that this may not allow the Town to have the “teeth” needed to enforce infractions. Attorney Phillips prefers the Town to adopt a stand-alone law. Supervisor Majestic and Councilwoman Walls will come to a decision with the attorney and bring the decision back to the Town Board for a vote. Councilman Dukler asked that they receive the decision in enough time to review before the vote.

MURAL POLICY

Supervisor Majestic stated that things did not go exactly as she thought with this mural at Majestic Park. She believes there was a great deal of miscommunication and attributes this to the virtual meetings. The mural has become controversial which is resulting in the need for a policy. This becomes tricky since it involves the 2nd amendment. Board members discussed having a procedure in place that covers not only the mural but on how municipal property can be used. Councilman Carucci suggested setting a policy making it known what the steps are and avoiding any miscommunication. Councilman Dukler offered to work with Councilman Carucci creating this policy. The disclaimer was also discussed and a motion was made by Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Supervisor Majestic to restate the disclaimer as follows: mural design artwork and wording is a product of the New Paltz High School art students. This would be on a separate sign. Councilman Dukler & Wiegand and Supervisor Majestic voted aye. Councilman Carucci and Councilwoman Walls voted nay. Motion carries.

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATE PRESENTATION

Councilman Carucci stated that there are 2 companies that Climate Smart Gardiner is considering for administrator of the program for the Town of Gardiner. He stated that Climate Smart Gardiner will be meeting tomorrow night and before he makes his presentation, he would like to allow the committee to review the presentation and recommendation and present it a next week’s meeting.

ULSTER COUNTY SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT

As stated earlier in the meeting McKinstry Road has been closed due to the deterioration of the bridge crossing the Shawangunk Kill. This road is part of the agreement with the Ulster County DPW and the Town of Gardiner Highway Dept. for snow plowing that was accepted at last month’s meeting. This closure changes the agreement as it will take twice as much time to complete the plowing of this road. Superintendent of Highways Brian Stiscia has proposed to the County an increase of \$10,000 for the additional work. The Town will await to hear from the County on their proposal.

HEARTWOOD BASELINE REPORT

Kelly Dobbins-Morris, a senior planner with Orange County, was hired by the Town of Gardiner to review the conservation easement baseline documentation presented to the Town from Heartwood. Councilman Wiegand conducted a site visit on Saturday August 22 with Ms Morris and Philip Rapaport, owner of the property. From that visit and review of the documents, Ms Morris will prepare a report for the Town of Gardiner on her findings. We should receive it shortly.

CREDIT CARD POLICY

Town Clerk Michelle Mosher provided the Town Board with a draft policy, as requested, for the use of credit cards as acceptance of payment for fees at the Town Hall. Board members will review the policy and the hope is to adopt this policy at next week's meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Councilwoman Walls wished to discuss what the Town of Gardiner could do towards equality. Her focus on structural issues and democracy has led her to suggest creating a position of ambassador of peace and justice. Ms Walls would like to adopt a resolution next week and is nominating Councilman Dukler to fill this position. Supervisor Majestic also suggested having a special quarterly meeting for the purpose of discussing other ideas that the Town can do towards this issue.

Councilman Wiegand asked if a presentation could be made by the Parks and Recreation Committee regarding the results of the survey they conducted. Mr. Wiegand also asked if our attorney could create a timeline and flow chart for the campground evaluation. He finds this process to be very time consuming.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilman Carucci and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher
Town Clerk