

A Regular Town Board meeting was held on October 3, 2019 at Lysander Town Hall, 8220 Loop Road, Baldwinsville, New York.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Saraceni, Supervisor
Robert Geraci, Councilor
Roman Diamond, Councilor
Robert Ellis, Councilor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Peter Moore, Councilor

OTHERS PRESENT: Dina Falcone, Town Clerk; Al Yager, Town Engineer; David Rahrle, Comptroller; Theresa Golden, Assessor, Gerald Hole, Highway Superintendent, and several residents.

Supervisor Saraceni called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge to the Flag.

Presentation of the Budget

Dina Falcone, Town Clerk, officially presented the Tentative 2020 Budget to the Board.

Additions and/or Deletions to Agenda

There are added and deleted motions on the agenda which were discussed in work session:

- “A” removed
- “B” remains
- “C” modified, removing ‘parts related to requests’
- “D” remains
- “E” remains
- “F” removed
- “G” remains
- “H” remains
- “I” added, (To authorize the Supervisor to sign the Plumley Engineering Proposal)

Citizens Comments:

Kevin Rode of Greymoor Way asked about the total cost of the spray park as he received paperwork from the Town Engineer which listed \$363K. He asked how much there was in the In Lieu of Parks fund at the time [the spray park] was built, and if there was a difference in money between what the cost was, and what the amount was in the In Lieu of Parks fund. Mr. Rode asked how TOL came up with the difference and if the grant was received.

Comptroller David Rahrle said he has notification that NYS was cutting the check in September, but TOL has not received it as of yet. **Supervisor Saraceni** said the grant dollars are coming in the amount of \$100K. He said at the time the project was vetted, there was approximately \$210K in the In Lieu of Parks account. He said that because TOL was spending so much time and focus on that account, as they started looking at the numbers, they weren’t adding up. He said TOL looked at the growth in the town over the last 20 to 30 years, and in the process of running an audit on the numbers, they found that the fund is actually up to approximately \$40K to \$45K in In Lieu of Parks money - that was never billed out [or collected] by [or anyone employed by] previous administrations. **Supervisor Saraceni** said if that money is added, including the \$100K check that will be received from the state, TOL should be in good shape.

Mr. Rode said that leaves \$8K [leftover], and asked if that would be considered a contingency expense to cover costs. **Supervisor Saraceni** said yes. Mr. Rode asked about parks funds that weren’t paid over the previous years, and if TOL is setting up a law as to who collects those fees at the time of Planning Board meetings. **Supervisor Saraceni** said they will be doing that and issuing an audit report as well.

Town Board Comments:

Supervisor Saraceni said the Town Board received the [Tentative] budget. Copies will be made available for the public [in the Town Clerk’s Office]. They will be available on the website as well.

Supervisor Saraceni said that because of how the budget is laying out, the Board is going to change how the budget is presented, and how it will go about crafting the final budget. He said that when he was the mayor of VOB, he was involved with 11 municipal budgets, and there were many budget work sessions. He said the VOB budget was very intricate; the DPW would submit a budget that looked very similar in thickness to the binder he was presented. There was a Highway, Water and Sewer Department, and it was an exhaustive effort to work through.

Supervisor Saraceni said that this year, most of the departments are at or just above the requests from last year. There are just a few things for the Board to consider in the majority of the departments. Two of the departments, which make up a majority of the budget between 60 and 70 percent is parks and HW. This year, he said, he thinks it is important, especially based on the request in HW, that the public sees how the “sausage is made” so to speak. TOL has a (pretty) flat line budget for the most part, but he thinks it’s important that as they work through it, the public sees the process.

Supervisor Saraceni said he is changing the discussion dates on the budget. The budget was just presented to the Board, and the Board will have two weeks to work down through it, make any notes for the majority of the departments through e-mail, and he and Comptroller Rahrle or whichever department head there are questions for; he said to feel free to ask questions,. He said most of the budgets are pretty straight forward, and the funding requests are very similar to last year. Work session for the budget will be done at the next Board meeting, at 7:00 PM after the additions/deletions [and public hearings]. The Board will begin with the Parks budget, then on to the Highway budget and then, through the other budgets that evening. **Supervisor Saraceni** said if the [discussion is not finished] that evening, he will call another Town Board meeting for the following Thursday. Given the fact that it is those budgets that are not voluminous as far as what is presented to the Board to consider, they should be able to work through those line items, and if need be, call for additional meetings.

Supervisor Saraceni said he thinks that it is important that the public sees the process. There will be regular work sessions to discuss normal town business, and whatever projects that will be talked about and then the Board will move into the meeting at 7:00 PM and go through Department Head Reports and get into the budget.

Supervisor Saraceni said that Park in the Dark is this Saturday in Lysander Park and will be a great event for the kids. He will be judging costumes with Ashley Casey.

Adoption of Minutes

RES#187/2019

Motion by Councilor Diamond seconded by Councilor Ellis to adopt the September 19, 2019 Town Board Meeting minutes.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Abstain
Councilor Moore	Absent	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

Department Head Reports:

Theresa Golden announced that the STAR call center in Albany has been inundated with large call volume with STAR questions so they have extended their hours through October 6th. Weekday’s people can call between 8:30 AM and 7:30 PM, and Saturday and Sunday this weekend they will be open from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The number is 518-457-2036, if there are other issues that are not resolved residents may call the Assessor’s Office; there is an Assessor’s hotline that [Ms. Golden] has access to and has had success with providing resolutions for property owners.

Ms. Golden said she is working on the 2020 Assessment Roll, sales reviews, exemption processing permits, and inventory changing. **Supervisor Saraceni** opened the floor for questions to the Assessor. There were none.

Gerald Hole, HW Superintendent, said that Drakes Landing (the last 1300 feet by Route 31) has been repaved. The only thing left to do is striping, weather permitting. He said the repairs for Seneca Estates will hopefully be done this coming week, also weather permitting. He said HW will be there with an excavator and pipe, as a structure is being made on Mariner’s Trail. He said people will not be able to get through there for a while. He said that portion is near the end. He said there are ways out of there, and people will be able to get out. **Mr. Hole** said it is a major pipe project, and HW is going to try and do the part they need to do before winter to stop the road from collapsing; the balance of it may have to happen in the spring.

Mr. Hole said that on the 20th of September, 1982, Al Markham began working with TOL. **Mr. Hole** said he was disappointed that [Mr. Markham] left September 26th, his last day, after 37 years, and there was no acknowledgement from [TOL] administration. He felt that was self-absorbed of the Board and the Supervisor, to not at least (“whether you like him or not”) shake his hand and say “congratulations”. **Mr. Hole** said [that for 37 years], day and night, Mr. Markham started in the old barn on Lamson Road, then Elizabeth Street, and the current location. He said guys who have retired in the past have retired with those (kind) of years of service, and proclamations were made by the Supervisor who [would have] come to the HW facility and presented it to him, and would have pictures on the wall of past events, etc.

Dina Falcone, Town Clerk thanked the Board for considering the local law that we will set a public hearing for active military that will waive the town portion of the marriage license fee, which is \$17.50. **Ms. Falcone** stated that the Governor passed a law where the state is removing their fee, which is \$22.50, so it is up to the town, if they want to remove the other portion of the fee for active duty military. There is a process to amend fees in the code, and this is what is being done tonight. It is a great service for what we can do for our military.

Supervisor Saraceni made a comment in response to Mr. Hole’s comments about Mr. Markham. He asked at the previous meeting if the HW Superintendent had any comments on the retirement of Al Markham. **Supervisor Saraceni** mentioned specifically that he had an opportunity to work with his brother, but did not have an opportunity to work with Mr. Markham. He said he invited comments from Mr. Hole, and comments were made briefly that he “came to work on time”. **Supervisor Saraceni** said he was surprised at how little fanfare there was [about] the retirement of the gentlemen who served TOL so well. He said he was glad it was mentioned today and he had no problem inviting him back to this Board and recognizing him publicly. **Supervisor Saraceni** said usually those types of activities come from the department head’s lead.

Regular Agenda Items

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE APPROVAL OF A CREDIT FOR TAX MAP NUMBER 021.-03-06.0 AS REQUIRED TO UPDATE WEST PHOENIX SEWER UNIT CHARGES

RES#188/2019

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Ellis to authorize the approval of a credit in the amount of \$855.23 to the tax bill of Goodman Living Trust, 2989 W. Bridge Street, in the Town of Lysander, tax map number 021.-03-06.0, as the property was damaged by fire in 2017, and the structure removed prior to March 1, 2018 taxable status date. (The Assessment was reduced in 2017 to reflect fire damage. Notification of demolition was not received, as required to update West Phoenix Sewer unit charges. Sewer unit charge for vacant land per schedule should be ½ unit, not the 3 units billed in January 2019.)

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Absent	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

Discussion:

Supervisor Saraceni said this resolution was considered because he was told by the Code Enforcement Officer that TOL doesn’t issue Demolition Permits, and that TOL needs to write Code to address that. Supervisor Saraceni did some research and found that it is in the Code, and not only is it in the code but there is a fee schedule for it. He met with the Code Office and TOL will start issuing Demolition Permits for those types of services. It is important for many reasons: public safety, and for the Assessor’s office to understand who should be removed from service districts such as sewer districts and lighting districts. TOL must know that the people doing the work are insured, and that services are disconnected properly. There was no reason given to the Supervisor as to why TOL hasn’t been issuing the permits.

**MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE BUDGET MODIFICATION REQUEST AS
PROVIDED BY THE TOWN COMPTROLLER
(MINUS THE PARK DRAINAGE PROJECT REQUEST)**

RES#189/2019

Motion made by Councilor Diamond seconded by Councilor Geraci to authorize the Budget Modification Request as provided by the Town Comptroller minus the Park Drainage Project request.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Absent	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

**MOTION TO HOLD AND ADVERTISE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR
ADOPTION OF A LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT**

RES#190/2019

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Ellis to hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at Lysander Town Hall, at 7:00 PM, with respect to the adoption of a local law to override the tax levy limit established in GML Section 3c, and that the Town Clerk shall advertise for same.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Absent	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

Discussion:

Supervisor Saraceni said that this is a preliminary move in the event that the TOL budget exceeds the 2% tax cap. According to the law it's either 2% or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. There have been times when towns have the legal authority to increase taxes – as low as .65%, therefore TOL has to do this in the event that the final budget exceeds 2%. Councilor Geraci said this is nothing new; previous administrations have done this as well. It's a preventative proactive event. TOL will try to keep the budget under the cap. Supervisor Saraceni said it is a ridiculous law, as it has been advised by Association of Towns to stop raiding fund balances to cover expenses in the towns. Towns have the ability and the capacity to understand what their town needs, and for Albany to say "here's some arbitrary number we have come up with, because both sides of the aisle can agree upon it; I don't think it's a very responsible way for government to run. We have seen municipalities and villages and towns struggle to stay under this 2% tax cap, and when they introduced it, they put out a carrot if you stay under the cap then residents get a refund check. Those checks are no longer based on towns and villages staying under the cap. Only school districts. [People might] see town's raid fund balances to cover expenses. He says it's a bad law and he has stated this before. At the very least, Albany should consider taking special districts out of the equation.

**MOTION TO HOLD AND ADVERTISE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING
FOR ADOPTION OF A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 146
SECTION (1) OF THE CODE OF TOL (MARRIAGE LICENSE FEES)**

RES#191/2019

Motion made by Councilor Diamond seconded by Councilor Geraci to hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at Lysander Town Hall, at 7:00 PM, with respect to the adoption of a local law to amend Chapter 146 Section (1) of the Code of the Town of Lysander, and the Town Clerk shall advertise for same.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Absent	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

Discussion:

Supervisor Saraceni read a portion of the proposed law. The verbiage will be reflected in “fees” of the Code of the Town of Lysander. Supervisor Saraceni read as follows: “Whereas, the State of New York issued an Executive Order waiving the State’s portion (\$22.50) of the Marriage License Fee charged for Active Duty Military Personnel and, whereas, the Town of Lysander Board also desires to waive the Town portion (\$17.50) of the Marriage License Fee for Active Duty Military Personnel, we therefore, move for the adoption of a resolution to adopt Local Law #3 of 2019 amending Chapter 146, (Fees for Marriage Licenses, certificates and searches) of the Lysander Town Code waiving the Town portion of the Marriage Fee for active duty military personnel.”

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE CONTRACT WITH AML PROPERTY MAINTENANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,200 FOR SNOW REMOVAL AT THE NYS TROOPER BARRACKS

RES#192/2019

Motion made by Councilor Ellis seconded by Councilor Geraci to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the contract with AML Property Maintenance in the amount of \$3,200 for snow removal at the NYS Trooper Barracks for the 2019-2020 winter season. *Three bids were submitted.*

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Absent	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION TO DECLARE ITEMS SURPLUS (DELL MONITORS)

RES#193/2019

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Diamond to declare the following items surplus:

- Dell, MFG DATE 7/02, tag 0819, DS/N MX-05R108-47605-27P-CCBM
- Dell, MFG DATE 7/02, tag 0821, DS/N MX-05R10B-47605-27P-CBFY

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Absent	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

Discussion:

Comptroller Rahrle said they are the monitors from the Tax Office.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE PLUMLEY ENGINEERING PROPOSAL FOR DRAFTING SERVICES WITH THE BRIDGE NEW YORK CULVERT GRANT, WILLETT PARKWAY CULVERT SLIP LINING PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000

RES#194/2020

Motion made by Councilor Ellis seconded by Councilor Diamond to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Plumley Engineering Proposal for drafting services associated with the Bridge New York Culvert Grant, Willet Parkway Culvert Slip-Lining Project in the amount not to exceed \$15,000 which will be fully refunded by the Bridge New York Culvert Grant.

Supervisor Saraceni	Aye	Councilor Ellis	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Absent	Councilor Diamond	Aye		

All Ayes, motion carried and adopted

Discussion:

Councilor Geraci said thank you to Mr. Yager for looking for grants and this is a chance to fix a culvert with state money. Supervisor Saraceni said this is part of a \$460K grant that TOL was awarded.

New Business (Town Board):

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Diamond and seconded by Councilor Geraci to adjourn the regular Town Board Meeting at 7:28 PM.

This is a true and complete recording
of the action taken at this meeting.

Dina Falcone, Town Clerk