

A Regular Town Board meeting was held on November 3, 2022, at Lysander Town Hall, 8220 Loop Road, Baldwinsville, New York.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Robert A. Wicks, Supervisor
Robert Geraci, Councilor
Peter Moore, Councilor
Jeffrey Kudarauskas, Councilor
Kevin Rode, Councilor

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dina Falcone, Town Clerk, Anthony Rivizzigno, Town Attorney; Kevin Merrill, Parks and Recreation Director, Ken Svitak, Highway Superintendent, Jennifer Fricano, Comptroller, and several guests and residents.

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

Adoption of October 5, 2022 Minutes

RES#178/2022

The October 5, 2022 Special Meeting minutes were adopted.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Abstain	Councilor Rode	Abstain		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

Adoption of October 6, 2022 Minutes

RES#179/2022

Motion by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Rode to adopt the October 6, 2022 Town Board Meeting minutes.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Rode	Aye		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

Adoption of October 20, 2022 Minutes

RES#180/2022

Motion by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Rode to adopt the October 20, 2022 Town Board Meeting minutes.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Rode	Aye		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2023 BUDGET

RES#181/2022

Motion made by Councilor Rode seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to open the public hearing at 7:01 PM.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Rode	Aye		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

The presentation of the budget was conducted by Supervisor Wicks and Comptroller Jennifer Fricano. A PowerPoint of the presentation is available on the website: www.townoflysander.org.

Citizens Comments/Questions

Liz Schmitt: *I have a general question about the reserve fund that you have – [funds] on hand to tap for these expenditures - is there a philosophy or policy about what reserve fund you try to maintain as a percentage of your operating budget?*

Supervisor Wicks: *That will depend on what comes up; so generally, the State Comptroller doesn't give any municipality guidance on how much they should have. The different municipalities have different needs. And depending on what's coming up like this one, we have more money. We had more money this year in the fund balance than we did a couple of years ago. And that was because we saw the costs rising - the inflation and the gas coming up. So we push that fund balance off as much as we can. We try to save as much and knock down spending so that we can hold that fund balance in a reserve so that if something comes up like it did this year, we spent an extra \$170,000 for the highway, so we didn't have to raise taxes. But is there a specific percentage? No, every municipality is different, but I can tell you that the county just raised theirs another 5% because they're in the same situation. We're there. They see what's going on. So they want to have more money in reserve because they want to be able to offset the taxes.*

Fred Burtch: *I've got a question. But maybe a statement as well. I just wanted to ask you - maybe the Board members – if anybody wanted to chime in – it is with respect to the Town's budget. Do our elected officials treat the office like it was their household? In other words with expenditure, what we need done and how we have to spend? I'm thinking of our equity. So we're thinking of our households in the background. Okay. I can appreciate that.*

Supervisor Wicks: *Well, I'll give an example. I'm very conservative. My kids laugh at me because my credit ratings like an 870 or 880 - the reason it is because I don't have a lot of bills, I pay my bills, I don't have any debt. I pay my debt, and I put money in the bank for things that come up. I treat this budget just like I would my household budget. But the difference is - here's the difference. I don't spend money like it's my money. I can't spend it any way I want. I take into account, "This isn't my money." We had one gentleman who came in and he built a house and his assessment went up. The problem was he lost the Social Security from his wife. He only had his social security now and a small pension and he's not somebody that can you know - most people they can handle \$50 or \$100 - this person cannot handle \$50. So I look at it, if you're a household of four and the average household of four in the Town of Lysander is making \$62,000. The median, is \$62,000 for a family of four, two adults and two kids, is not a lot of money. You're getting money, you're taking money in and you're spending it all; and in that situation when my wife, and I were married she was 19 - I was 21. We didn't really have two nickels to rub together. So every week we came in and whatever paycheck we had - all that money was going out. We didn't have extra money to spend. I realized that so when we looked at raising taxes, I didn't want to raise taxes at all - not at all. Now we kept it pretty low. I think that \$10 no matter what situation you're in, most likely you're going to be able to handle \$10 But I do exactly that - I take into account all of these people that that we talk to on a daily basis and saying "Hey, my assessments go up my taxes are going to go up." Well, yeah, okay, they went up but not as much as they think they're going to go up. And we do look at that.*

Fred Burtch: *I appreciate that. I wanted to ask that and then I just wanted to make a general statement. Now, first of all, like when you run a household, if you need to get a project done, we are a household that isn't governed by state rules. In other words, we need to get the driveway resurfaced. We don't just call three companies to get the best estimate. We might call a dozen companies to find the best estimate if we have the time. And so I would ask our elected officials to treat the office the same way as like a household just because the state requires three, there might be times where four or six or seven estimates might be acquirable, which would be a good thing, and then appreciate where you're at. And then the last thing about a general statement that was kind of made during the budget presentation that I kind of wanted to address it might have, you know, rubbed me the wrong way.*

And I don't know if it was meant to be that way. But when our Comptroller was speaking about maintaining the fund balance at a certain level, and make an attempt to try to keep things in an even flow so they don't go up or they don't go down. And then a reference was made to because 'we don't want our taxes to go up'. Obviously, but we also don't want our services to go down. And then a generalization was kind of made, I thought to where it's got to be one or the other. And immediately I thought to the way I run a household or I see others run a household in just for an example. Say you have a household and you use heating oil to heat it. You live out in the country, and you pay a certain fee, and you find out that you can get propane for a much lower fee or firewood for a much lower fee. So you might have a way that changed the way you heat your home. You can still have your home at the same temperature or even warmer you just have to change the way you do business. So in my perception is it's not always an all or nothing or one or the other. We can save money and also keep our services at a certain level or even maybe even improve services. All we have to do is look at the way we do it in our own households. When things get tough. We find a way to make ends meet and we still get the stuff done so that you appreciate what you're doing.

Supervisor Wicks: *And that's exactly what we do. The only difference between your house and the Town -is, if it was my house, I know where to get things really cheap. I just did. I know a lot of people. I'm old enough now where I have to go for stuff. We can't do that here. We're governed by different rules. And we have to pay prevailing wage. It drives me crazy not that we're paying prevailing wage, but the fact that if it was left to my discretion, I'd be able to get them cheaper, but by law, we can't do that. If you look at the budget, the budget was in disarray. The highway, for instance, we had an extra \$170,000 from the fund balance and also that every part of the budget went up. It went up, but we're not going to put it off so far. We're still the same amount of services. We're not lessening the service. The only thing is we may not do as much sometimes and any economist will tell you when the economy's bad, government should restrain. We shouldn't be putting undue pressure on citizens when they have to make the choice between buying groceries or heating their homes. Those are two bad choices they have to make. So if they have to make those choices, they're not making choices about going on vacation. They're not doing that. They're not making choices about going out to dinner or buying extra clothes or a new pair of sneakers for their kids because they can't afford it. We have to take all of that into account so no government can always be pumping out services at 100% every time. We can't do 50 roads some years, maybe some years we have to do 40. Some years we have to do 30. We make sure that the roads are safe. And you know people are getting the services there. We always maintain a professional level of services. But some years you have to scale [back] and this is one of them. Next year is probably going to be one too. That's why our fund balance - we're trying to keep that beefed up as much as we can. After next year that fund balance, if it's again like this year - that fund balance is going to be down to a very, very low critical point. And you can't get a bond and borrow money because when you borrow money. We have to bond for things at different times. Your bond rating is based on your fund balance and is part of the equation that these bonding companies use to give you a rate. So you don't want to fall below that because we would pay higher interest and everybody pays more. So we can't just deplete that to nothing. But to answer your question: we take all that in - but we're providing pretty decent services for the amount of taxes you're paying and the amount of money that we're putting in.*

MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2023 BUDGET

RES#182/2022

Hearing all comments, motion made by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to close the public hearing at 7:36 PM.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Rode	Aye		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

Citizens Comments

Fred Burtch of Plainville Road thanked the Highway Department for dropping two loads of millings on property he excavated for law enforcement to park off of the road. He noted that the funds he had asked for at a prior meeting were for public safety. He reminded the Board that they had discussed talking with the Sherriff's Office regarding contracting, etc. Mr. Burtch said all tickets have been issued have been by State Troopers. He'd like to do more for the Troopers at some point. Mr. Burtch mentioned the Hayes road residents and their situation. He would like someone from the County level to meet with him and observe before there's another accident.

Town Board Comments

Councilor Moore thanked everyone who came out to view the budget presentation. **Councilor Geraci** said that TOL remains the lowest taxed town in Onondaga County, and **Councilor Kudarauskas** agreed. Councilor Rode commended the presentation on the budget, and said he learned a lot and is pleased with a respectable budget.

Department Head Reports

Kevin Merrill, Parks and Recreation Director spoke about the Halloween window painting event and noted there were over 200 windows that were painted. Pickleball commences; otherwise the park is closed. **Mr. Merrill** advised on the cost of hiring a cleaning service versus hiring an in-house person to clean the building. **Mr. Merrill** calculated those costs based on four hours a day, five days a week for the cleaning companies, which is why the costs from the bidders were so high.

HW Superintendent Ken Svitak mentioned voting and how important it is to come out and vote. He stated that he is working with Mr. Voss at County HW, and he said a resolution needs to be voted upon regarding signage on Hayes Road.

Dina Falcone, Town Clerk said that no one has responded to the Trooper Barracks Snow Plow RFP. She will re-issue the RFP in hopes that there are bids by November 17th.

Supervisor's Comments

Supervisor Wicks stated that he attended the Pop Warner Championship games in which three teams from Baldwinsville played in the championship games. Two to three teams ended up winning the championship games. He said that he was impressed with all of the teams and congratulated them on their successes.

Regular Agenda Items

MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2023 TOWN OF LYSANDER PRELIMINARY BUDGET

RES#183/2022

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to adopt the 2023 Town of Lysander Preliminary Budget.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Rode	Aye		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

Councilor Rode suggested that the vote be delayed in case the public has not had a chance to review it. After some discussion, it was determined that voting this date would occur.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE FOR THE 2022 BALDWINSVILLE TURKEY TROT

RES#184/2022

Motion made by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the Special Event License for the Baldwinsville Turkey Trot to be held on Thursday, November 24, 2022.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Rode	Aye		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE CONTRACT WITH SUN ENVIRONMENTAL CORP. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,068 FOR THE WEST ENTRY ROAD HW GARAGE PETROLEUM BULK STORAGE TANK REMOVAL PROJECT

RES#185/2022

Motion made by Councilor Rode seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the contract with Sun Environmental Corp. in the amount of \$13,068.00 for the West Entry Road Highway Garage petroleum bulk storage tank removal project.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Rode	Aye		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION TO ALLOCATE UP TO \$4,700 IN ARPA FUNDING FOR THE SEQR AND ARCHEOLOGICAL STUDY ASSOCIATED WITH THE MILLS ROAD WATER DISTRICT

RES#186/2022

Motion made by Councilor Geraci by Councilor Kudarauskas to allocate up to \$4,700 in ARPA funding for the SEQR and Archeological study associated with the proposed Mills Road Water District.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Rode	Aye		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE CHA EXTRA WORK AUTHORIZATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH SEQR DOCUMENTATION AND ARCHEOLOGICAL STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED MILLS ROAD WATER DISTRICT PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,700

RES#187/2022

Motion made by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the CHA extra work authorization for professional engineering services associated with SEQR documentation and archeological study for the proposed Mills Road Water District Project in an amount not to exceed \$4,700.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Rode	Aye		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION TO APPOINT GRACE COLLINS AS COURT CLERK

RES#188/2022

Motion made by Councilor Rode seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to appoint Grace Collins as Court Clerk to Judge Bryant at the rate of pay \$20.47 as per the starting salary 2022 labor agreement effective October 24, 2022.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Rode	Aye		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION TO APPOINT KEVIN HAMILTON AS WING PERSON

RES#189/2022

Motion made by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Rode to appoint Kevin Hamilton as a wing person in the Highway Department with a starting salary of \$18.51 per hour, per the labor agreement.

Supervisor Wicks Aye Councilor Kudarauskas Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Rode Aye

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION TO EXTEND END DATE FOR DAVID STUENZI

RES#190/2022

Motion made by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Geraci to extend the end date for David Stuenzi to December 31, 2022.

Supervisor Wicks Aye Councilor Kudarauskas Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Rode Aye

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION TO APPOINT DELORES LANDLEY AS CUSTODIAL WORKER

RES#191/2022

Motion made by Councilor Geraci seconded by Councilor Moore to appoint Delores Landley as Custodial Worker I, to provide custodial services at Lysander Town Hall for 20 hours per week at an hourly rate of \$15.37 effective November 7, 2022.

Supervisor Wicks Aye Councilor Kudarauskas Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Rode Aye

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

MOTION TO APPROVE NO PARKING SIGNS FOR HAYES ROAD

RES#192/2022

Motion made by Councilor Moore seconded by Councilor Rode to hold a public hearing on Thursday, November 17, 2022 for the installation of NO PARKING signs along the length of Hayes Road. This resolution shall authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for same.

Supervisor Wicks Aye Councilor Kudarauskas Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Rode Aye

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

RES#193/2022

A motion was made by Councilor Rode and seconded by Councilor Kudarauskas to adjourn the regular Town Board Meeting at 8:10 PM and enter into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and the work history of a particular individual.

Supervisor Wicks Aye Councilor Kudarauskas Aye Councilor Geraci Aye
Councilor Moore Aye Councilor Rode Aye

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

ADJOURNMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

RES#194/2022

A motion was made by Councilor Kudarauskas and seconded by Councilor Rode to adjourn the regular Town Board Meeting at 8:42 PM.

Supervisor Wicks	Aye	Councilor Kudarauskas	Aye	Councilor Geraci	Aye
Councilor Moore	Aye	Councilor Rode	Aye		

All ayes, motion carried and adopted

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

Dina Falcone, Town Clerk