

## WORK SESSION MINUTES

March 6, 2024

The Town Board of the Town of Royalton held a Work Session on Wednesday March 6, 2024, at the Royalton Town Hall, 5316 Royalton Center Road, Middleport, NY. Supervisor Jeffrey Brown opened the Work Session at 5:35 PM with the Pledge to the Flag.

The following were present:

Supervisor	Jeffrey Brown
Town Clerk	Marie L. Little, MMC/RMC
Town Board Members	Lee Criswell, Bradley Rehwaladt, Joshua Walker, Carol Wittcop
Highway Superintendent	ABSENT: Shawn Zglinicki
Water/Sewer Superintendent	Brian Cummings
Town Attorney	Thomas H. Brandt
Town Engineer	Paul McGarvey – GHD
Also present were:	See attached sheets

Engineer McGarvey updated the town board members on the projects they are working on. The engineering report was submitted to the board members via email.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding issues with Ag & Markets and the DEC on lateral restrictions for water lines. Supervisor Brown will contact the Association of Towns regarding this issue as well as Senator Ortt and Assemblyman Norris.

National Grid has an issue on Akron Road and the Phase 16 Water Project. They claim that they own a portion of the road. Attorney Brandt suggested that Engineer McGarvey send information to Niagara County for further clarification/direction on this issue.

Water/Sewer Superintendent Cummings advised the board members that the water line for Kyle Brent's place will be dedicated back to the town by formal deed. Mr. Brent's attorney will provide the documents to the town.

Robert's Way in the same area was also discussed. This was never dedicated and accepted by the town. Engineer McGarvey stated that sequencing of this issue will be important.

Mr. Brian Michalak addressed the town board regarding manure, wood, junk cars, etc. all over a property on Bulmore Road. . This is a narrow road, and he almost had an accident. There are vehicles left on the side of the road and junk had to be moved out of the way so the road can be plowed. Discussion continued regarding the reassessment being done by our Town Assessor. Mr. Michalak stated that he does not feel that Mr. Hartman has time to do this. Mr. Michalak registered complaints against Mr. Hartman regarding a lack of inspections and stated that Mr. Hartman tells owners to just take pictures and he is fine with that. Supervisor Brown stated that he doesn't know that Mr. Hartman isn't visually inspecting the properties. Mr. Michalak stated that he has done several jobs over the past few years that have not been inspected. Supervisor Brown stated that he will speak with Mr. Hartman regarding these complaints.

Councilman Walker asked what the plan is for when Attorney Brandt leaves. The board should start entertaining other firms to take over as our attorney. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding this issue.

Councilwoman Wittcop had nothing to discuss at this time.

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Town Clerk Little went over the following issues for discussion and resolutions:

- ❖ Cemetery mowing bids – there were two (2) bids received as follows:

<b>Name of Company</b>	<b>Company Address</b>	<b>Phone #</b>	<b>2024 Price</b>	<b>2025 Price</b>	<b>2026 Price</b>
Exclusive Property Services. LLC	7761 W. Somerset Road	716-302- 9229	\$ 46,500.00	\$ 47,895.00	\$ 49,332.00
Zachary Rouse	Appleton, NY 14008		\$7,750.00/mo.	\$7,983.00/mo.	\$8,222.00/mo.
Lockport Lawsharks, LLC	225 Lincoln Avenue	716-799- 2975	\$ 50,712.00	\$ 52,233.00	\$ 53,800.00
Robert Pagan	Lockport, NY 14094		\$8,452.00/mo.	\$8,705.00/mo.	\$8,967.00/mo..

A resolution will be put forth on the agenda to award the contract to Exclusive Property Services, LLC.

- ❖ Reminder of the Public Hearing scheduled for Monday, 3/11 for LL #2 for 2024 for the Six-month Moratorium on the Solar/Wind Systems that are designed to use Battery Storage Systems.
- ❖ Received a Thank You card from the Royalton-Hartland Agriculture Foundation and the RH Green Team, for allowing their members to place a member's farm boots at our location. They were able to raise enough funds to continue their club for the rest of this year and for the next school year!
- ❖ Resolution to accept the Supervisors Report for February 2024
- ❖ Town Hall mowing & trimming for 2024. We received a quote for mowing from Chris Wesolek, who took care of this last year. He will mow for \$85.00 per mowing. He has offered to do a spring clean-up including trimming all bushes, weeding, replacing sod from plowing and preparing lawn for mowing for \$375.00. Mulch will be applied before Memorial Day for \$325.00 (not including the price of materials). Weeding and trimming of the bushes as needed will be done for \$125.00 per month. Proof of insurance will be provided. The Town Hall looked great last year and was kept well maintained. A resolution will be put forth on the agenda to accept the proposal from Mr. Wesolek for the 2024 mowing season.
- ❖ I received a Bid Memo from CAM Trenching, Inc. for the grave openings and burials at our four (4) active cemeteries. The prices have increased by \$50.00 across the board. The last bid memo we received was in December of 2019. Does the board want to update our price sheet accordingly to accommodate this price increase? A resolution will be put forth on the agenda to accept the price adjustment from CAM Trenching, Inc.
- ❖ We have received three (3) estimates for the purchase of a 40' Cube Storage Container to store the new garbage totes. They are as follows:
  - All Metal Works \$4,950.00 (New Unit)
  - A-VERDI \$7,030.00 (Reconditioned Unit #46097)
  - A-VERDI \$7,360.00 (Reconditioned Unit #46074)

A resolution will be put forth on the agenda to accept the quote from All Metal Works for the purchase of a 40' cube storage container.

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- ❖ Wolcottsville Vol. Fire Co. new members:
  - Peyton Waterbury – Junior Member
  - Daron Outten – Active Firefighter

A resolution will be put forth on the agenda to accept these new members.

- ❖ What are the plans for the Solar Eclipse on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>? Most town halls are closing at Noon, and a few are closing for the whole day. The Town of Wheatfield is closing at noon and holding a picnic for their employees and families to watch the eclipse together. Any board meetings that were scheduled have been moved to another day to avoid any hassles. The county is expecting up to one million people to be here over the weekend and for the actual eclipse. County EMS, police and fire services are preparing for the crowds and potential issues.

Discussion ensued and the board members don't feel that there will be any issues in our area and are planning to continue to operate "business as usual" during this event. Veterans Park will remain CLOSED until Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> to eliminate cars parking in there on the wet grounds.

Attorney Brandt advised the board members that the people who put in the application for Battery Storage have asked for an exemption. Attorney Brandt stated that he advised them that they are the reason for the Moratorium.

Councilman Criswell stated that he is still gathering information for the windmills. He is trying to get the specs from the original company as we own the windmills. Councilman Criswell will try to contact NYSERDA regarding this issue.

Councilman Rehwaldt stated that he got notice that the stairs at the back of the building will start being built on Monday, March 11, 2024.

Supervisor Brown addressed the LOSAP numbers for Middleport. Discussion ensued regarding this issue.

Supervisor Brown advised the board members that he has received an application for a resident to work at Vets Park for the season.

Supervisor Brown advised the board members that we need to decide what to do with the excess sales tax monies we have received. He would like to see us invest a portion of it in NYCLASS. The funds remain liquid but have a better rate of return.

Discussion ensued regarding the water project in the Hamlet of Gasport. The design for this project needs to be completed. A resolution will be put forth to request a design proposal from GHD, our engineering firm, for this project. We are experiencing a \$70,000.00 annual water loss in the Hamlet

Supervisor Brown requested that the board convene an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the "Medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or relating to appointment, promotion, demotion, discipline or removal."

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### EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Walker, seconded by Councilman Criswell, and carried unanimously that the board convene an Executive Session at 7:15 PM for the reason requested and read by Supervisor Brown.

Present: Supervisor Brown, Councilman Criswell, Councilman Rehwaldt, Councilman Walker, Councilwoman Wittcop, Attorney Brandt, Town Clerk Little

There were no formal decisions made during this Executive Session. No formal minutes were taken.

A motion was made by Councilman Rehwaldt, seconded by Councilwoman Wittcop, and carried unanimously to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:32 PM.

A motion was made by Councilman Walker, seconded by Councilwoman Wittcop, and carried unanimously to reconvene the Work Session at 7:35 PM.

Supervisor Brown advised the board members that Tompkins Insurance wants to bid our insurance needs and asked what they would like to do. The board will entertain a quote from Tompkins Insurance.

There being no further information to come before the Town Board, a motion was made by Councilman Rehwaldt, seconded by Councilwoman Wittcop, and carried unanimously to adjourn the Work Session at 7:36 PM.

*Marie L. Little, MMC/RMC*

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Royalton Town Clerk