

A Work Session was held November 8, 2023 at Hutchinson Hall, Newark Valley at 7:00 P.M.

The following were Present:

PRESENT:

Stuart Yetter, Jr., Supervisor
Warren Smith, Councilmember
Lucy Johnson, Councilmember
Brett Walter, Councilmember
Joseph Tomazin, Jr. Councilmember

Also Present:

Joe Tennant, Highway Superintendent; Jim Marzen, Hyde Clark, Karen Gunther, Jenna Gunther, Nick Gunther, Erik Vergason

Meeting Called to Order

Supervisor Yetter called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Yetter led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

New Business

Public Hearing 2024 Preliminary Budget

Resolution # 122-2023

**Open Public Hearing for the 2024
Preliminary Budget**

On a motion offered by Councilmember Smith, and seconded by Councilmember Tomazin, Supervisor Yetter opened the Public Hearing for the Preliminary Budget for 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Councilmember Walter - AYE
Councilmember Johnson – AYE
Councilmember Tomazin, Jr. - AYE
Councilmember Smith - AYE
Supervisor Yetter, Jr. – AYE

Motion Carried

Supervisor Yetter discussed the 8,000-tax cap and finding cuts on DA side for A side. Supervisor Yetter said he was finally able to get into the state's comptroller site, as he was locked out. Supervisor Yetter asked for public input, there wasn't any.

Resolution # 123-2023

**Close Public Hearing for the 2024
Preliminary Budget**

On a motion offered by Councilmember Tomazin, and seconded by Councilmember Smith, Supervisor Yetter made a motion to close the Public Hearing for the Preliminary Budget for 2024 at 7:05 PM.

Councilmember Walter - AYE
Councilmember Johnson – AYE
Councilmember Tomazin, Jr. - AYE
Councilmember Smith - AYE
Supervisor Yetter, Jr. – AYE

Motion Carried

Resolution # 124-2023

Adopt the 2024 Preliminary Budget

On a motion offered by Councilmember Johnson, and seconded by Councilmember Tomazin, the Town Board adopted the 2024 Preliminary Budget with an unexpended balance on DA from \$90,000 to \$98,000.

Councilmember Walter - AYE
Councilmember Johnson – AYE
Councilmember Tomazin, Jr. - AYE
Councilmember Smith - AYE
Supervisor Yetter, Jr. – AYE

Motion Carried

Highway Report

Highway Superintendent Joe Tennant discussed new truck is licensed and they've started brushing, and fixing up equipment for winter. Stones are in for the new building and all leveled, and ready for concrete.

Supervisor Yetter discussed with the Town Board that Jeff Rockwell wants another draw for payment. He had it drawn up in the amount of \$93,967.00 for additional materials, if The Town Board approved. Supervisor Yetter also had said that he is subtracting the things not in the contract. Brief discussion on the over head doors, contractor was concerned.

Resolution #125-2023

Authorize Supervisor Stuart Yetter to Approve Payment of \$ 93,967.00 to Jeff Rockwell, for New Highway Building

On a motion offered by Councilmember Walter, and seconded by Councilmember Smith, the Town Board authorized Supervisor Yetter to make the payment of \$93,967.00 to Jeff Rockwell for the New Highway Building.

Councilmember Walter - AYE
Councilmember Johnson – AYE
Councilmember Tomazin, Jr. - AYE
Councilmember Smith - AYE
Supervisor Yetter, Jr. – AYE

Motion Carried

Supervisor Yetter explained that we need to revise Highway Superintendent Stephen Joe Tennants work hours, we had rounded it to 30 days and they kicked it back as it is 29.59 days.

Resolution #126-2023

Adopted Standard Workday Resolution for Highway Superintendent Stephen Joe Tennant as Amended for 29.59 days

On a motion offered by Councilmember Smith, and seconded by Councilmember Tomazin, the Town Board adopted Standard Workday Resolution for Highway Superintendent Stephen Joe Tennant for his workdays to 29.59 days per month.

Councilmember Walter - AYE
Councilmember Johnson – AYE
Councilmember Tomazin, Jr. - AYE
Councilmember Smith - AYE
Supervisor Yetter, Jr. – AYE

Motion Carried

Old Business

Supervisor Yetter had a brief discussion on the Solar Farm as it has been on going and asked The Town Board if they were all comfortable in making a decision. The Town Board all agreed they were ready to vote. This will be done by a Roll Call Vote.

Resolution #127-2023

Approve Solar Farm App.at 1779 West Creek Rd for TJA Clean Energy NY

On a motion offered by Councilmember Smith, and seconded by Councilmember Johnson, the Town Board approved the Solar Farm App. At 1779 West Creek Rd for TJA Clean Energy NY.

Councilmember Walter - NOE
Councilmember Johnson – NOE
Councilmember Tomazin, Jr. - NOE
Councilmember Smith - AYE
Supervisor Yetter, Jr. – AYE

Denied by a Roll Call Vote - Motion Carried

Councilmember Tomazin explained how no one in the area came to speak their thoughts. Supervisor Yetter explained that it came down to lawful purpose of the landowner, and this decision was not easy, and needed to weigh all the pros and cons.

Supervisor Yetter explained that our last meeting on October 17, 2023 for the public Hearing we didn't have Resolution to authorize expenditure.

Resolution #128-2023

Authorize Expenditure of \$100,000.00 out of the Capital Reserve account following Public Hearing on October 17, 2023 for the new Highway Building and is subject to a Permissive Referendum,

On a motion offered by Councilmember Smith, and seconded by Councilmember Tomazin, the Town Board authorized the expenditure of \$100,000.00 out of the Capital Reserve account following the Public Hearing on October 17, 2023 for new Highway Building and is subject to Permissive Referendum.

Councilmember Walter - AYE
Councilmember Johnson – AYE
Councilmember Tomazin, Jr. - AYE
Councilmember Smith - AYE
Supervisor Yetter, Jr. – AYE

Motion Carried

Department & Council Reports

Supervisor Yetter discussed that Mr. Marzen could serve on both committees, The Town

Planning Board and The County Planning Board. Mr. Marzen had stated that he would like that position as well, as Matt Tomazin resigned from The County Planning Board. It will be submitted to the County for approval. Supervisor Yetter also stated that there is not a Representative on the REAP Board, they meet once a month. They work on extra points for qualifying for grants.

Resolution #129-2023

Appoint Jim Marzen to the Planning Board for Newark Valley. Pending County Approval

On a motion offered by Councilmember Walter, and seconded by Councilmember Tomazin, the Town Board appointed Jim Marzen to The Planning Board for Newark Valley, pending County Approval.

Councilmember Walter - AYE
Councilmember Johnson – AYE
Councilmember Tomazin, Jr. - AYE
Councilmember Smith - AYE
Supervisor Yetter, Jr. – AYE

Motion Carried

Eric Vergason had questions on the Health Insurance and explained that the cost and the co- pays have gone up, and wasn't aware. Supervisor Yetter had explained that we have not changed anything and that the price does go up. He explained that we have the highest Platinum Plan. The state reviews all insurance plans to compare. Premiums and Deductibles up by \$ 100.00. The Councilmembers discussed looking into Insurance for next year to see if there may be other options. The Town has to have fixed cost. Insurance is changing rapidly. Supervisor Yetter stated that he would look into Tompkins County for insurance plans. Mr. Marzan discussed how some people over insure themselves, HSAs can be a good thing and NYS of Health and Healthy living were some other ideas. Supervisor Yetter said we are locked into the insurance for the year.

On a motion offered by Councilmember Smith, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

The next scheduled Regular meeting is a Work Session to be held on November 21, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora L. Corson
Town Clerk

11/8/2023