

**Town of Middlesex
Regular Meeting
June 13, 2019**

Present: Wayne Dunton, Supervisor
Leon Button, Councilman
Peter Gerbic, Councilman
James Grant, Councilman

Absent: Jack Bauer, Councilman

Also Present: Todd Conaway, Highway Superintendent
Sabra Dunton, Reading Center Librarian/Bookkeeper
Patrick Grimaldi, Assessor
Dawn Kane, Code Enforcement Officer
Lynn Lersch, Planning Board/ZBA Clerk
Dan Robeson, Heritage Group
Bruce St. Lawrence, Project Manager

Recording Secretary: Lynnette Miller, Clerk

Supervisor Dunton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 1216 Route 245, Middlesex.

Guest Speakers(s)

Board of Elections

Supervisor Dunton introduced Amy Daines, Yates County Board of Elections Commissioner. Amy included the following information in her presentation to the Board; the BOE budget and annual report, voter pre-registration for high school students, voter registration transfer for residents who move from one county to another, campaign finance changes, primary consolidation, a new law allowing employees paid leave for time off to vote and the possibility of online voter registration. In addition, Amy talked about early voting that will take place for nine days beginning October 26th at 10 a.m. each day. Yates County will be looking into grants that would provide electronic poll books/laptops for future voting. Ninety voting inspectors have been certified. The BOE staff has been trained in cyber security.

Councilman Grant asked Amy how the BOE will address the issue of non-citizens voting. Amy informed the Board that the voter registration form asks a person to identify that they are a US citizen. Anyone who answers untruthfully is in violation of the law. This becomes complicated since voting inspectors can request to see a driver's license as proof of identification. Once NYS starts issuing driver's licenses to non-citizens this will become an issue at voting time. Amy informed the Board that there is no definitive answer currently. Supervisor Dunton thanked Amy for keeping the Board informed.

Southern Tier Library System

Supervisor Dunton introduced Brian Hildreth, Director of the Southern Tier Library System and added that the STLS supports the Town's reading center. Brian distributed handouts to the Board. He explained that the Southern Tier Library System is a state funded agency that provides library support to several area counties. In 2019 the NYS Education Department updated the minimum standards for all public libraries across the state. These standards will become effective January 1, 2021. At this time there is no adverse effect on the Town's reading center and the support received from the STLS, since it

is not a chartered library under education law and, therefore, not required to adhere to these standards. However, beginning in 2021 the State is asking that only chartered libraries be supported by any public library system eliminating services to any reading center. Brian is interested in initiating discussion and providing support to the Town to help our reading center become a chartered library. Supervisor Dunton asked about the process. Brian explained that the Town's reading center meets most of the current minimum standards for a library charter. The new standards would include additional automation support, including an online catalog. Reading Center Librarian Sabra Dunton informed the Board that the services provided by the STLS are used each day the reading center is open. She finds their services to be necessary. A discussion followed regarding the details of the benefits and concerns. Supervisor Dunton stated that the Board would look into this further. He thanked Brian for his presentation.

Approval of Minutes

Supervisor Dunton requested a motion to approve the minutes as written for the May 2019 Board meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Button, seconded by Councilman Gerbic.

*All in favor; none opposed – Motion carried.

Assessor – Pat Grimaldi

- Grievance Day went well. The Board of Assessment Review had two applications to discuss.
- NYS is advocating for homeowners to sign up for the STAR Credit vs. STAR Exemption. Pat explained that with STAR Credit, homeowners pay and then get a reimbursement check. With STAR Exemption, the credit is allowed at the time the tax bill is paid.
- The Town is at 96% equalization rate.

Highway/Buildings/Grounds – Todd Conaway

- Board members were given the highway monthly report.
- The highway guys are busy working on graveling roads and mowing roadsides.
- A discussion about the purchase of the box for truck #6 will be held at a later time in tonight's meeting.
- On May 16th Highway Superintendent Conaway, Supervisor Dunton & Board members went on a ride throughout the Town to evaluate road issues in an attempt to prioritize the remaining highway budget.

Code Enforcement – Dawn Kane

- The Board was given a copy of the monthly report from the code enforcement office.
- Code Officer Kane has been working with some residents on clean-up issues. Good efforts have been made by everyone involved.
- Several building permits have been issued. There were five Planning Board actions this past month with more forthcoming. The weather has been a struggle.
- The solar project is going well. There is a work meeting each Wednesday morning.
- Work on Tuscany Lane is progressing. The weather has been an issue. Work is scheduled to resume this weekend.
- The beach has been quiet due to cold and rain. Five lifeguards have been hired with two more officially hired today. There has been a change by the County regarding physicals and their expiration. Dawn updated the Board about the new requirements. The beach is open seven days per week.

Planning Board/ZBA – Bruce St. Lawrence

- The Planning Board has been busy with five new applications this month and three old business applications.
- Ferrellgas is interested in building a storage/distribution facility on Route 364 north of Middlesex.
- Lynn Lersch reported that three applications have been received from residents interested in serving on the Planning Board. Interviews will be held June 19th. Currently, John Gilbert has resigned leaving one seat to fill. There is also the opportunity to bring on alternates.
- On Tuesday, July 9th the State will be at the Town Hall to conduct an audit of the Water Project that was completed 2 1/2 years ago. This is a mandatory monitoring of grant dollars that were received. Bruce explained the process and he will gather the information to be presented.

Historian/Heritage Group – Dan Robeson

- This weekend the Overacker's Corners Schoolhouse will be open to the public from 12 noon – 4:00 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday for the NYS Path Through History Weekend. At 2 p.m. on Saturday there will be a ceremony dedicating a tree planted at the schoolhouse in memory of Ruth Clark.
- Citizen's Appreciation Day will be held Sunday, August 4th at 2:00 at the Middlesex Fire Hall. This year's honorees are Clair Slack, Donna Alexander and Dr. Robert Ostrander.
- Seneca Heritage Day will be held on Saturday, August 31st at 2:00 p.m. at the Overacker's Corners Schoolhouse. This year's theme will be "Sisters in Spirit." Bill Crouse and the Allegany Dancers will provide song and dance. The annual "Ring of Fire" on Bare Hill will follow that evening.

Water District - No report.

Legislator's Report - Ed Bronson

- The County budget process is being reviewed with the first phase of the capital plan for 2020.
- Yates Transit Service has reported an increase of 352 riders for the first quarter of 2019 over the first quarter of 2018.
- Yates County Public Health is looking to share a disaster preparedness coordinator with Schuyler County.
- The State has mandated that the County have a shared services committee. One meeting has been held. Four committees were formed to look into shared services between the County and Towns in the following areas; IT, TIS, lifeguard and centralized assessments. The next meeting is July 25th.
- The Occupancy Tax Law is being reviewed.
- There are five properties to be auctioned for unpaid taxes. One is on Shay Road in the Town of Middlesex.
- The County's comprehensive plan is being updated.
- The County has authorized funding to Keuka Lake Association for stream monitoring around Keuka Lake to gather information about harmful algae blooms and ways to combat the problem.
- The Williams Street bridge project will be delayed until next year. There is a problem with ownership of one of the adjacent properties.

Public Comments

- Resident Ed Bronson informed the Board that there will be a pig roast fundraiser for the Friendship House June 23rd at the Lincoln Hill Farm on Route 247 beginning at 1:00 p.m. Music will be provided by local musician Brian Ayers from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$50 each. The Friendship House needs more space and this fundraiser will raise capital towards an addition or purchase of a new building.
- Resident Beth Bingham spoke to the Board regarding the proposed donation of a swing set to be placed at the Vine Valley Beach. For 18 years Beth was a registered child care provider who routinely visited the Vine Valley Beach with children in her care. Beth expressed concern stating that NYS regulations must be followed in order to ensure safety for all beach goers. Beth presented the Board with a handout of requirement details. She spoke about children using the whole space, which is mostly sand, not only to dig but to run and roll in. A discussion ensued regarding logistics of public safety including who would be responsible to monitoring activity. Beth thanked the Board for their consideration.

Vine Valley Beach Improvement Project – Bruce St. Lawrence

- A preliminary quote was received from Lowe's to replace the fence and installing a fence around the water well. Supervisor Dunton added that the quote included \$2,184 for the fence, \$806 for additional fencing around well manhole and \$1,012 for removal of the old fence. After a brief discussion, the fence topic will be tabled until next month.
- Regarding the water system, a final sign-off letter was received from the State DOH. Bruce placed a marker buoy out in the water to denote where the well intake pipe is located. The intake pipe is located in fairly shallow water. He will plan to remove it each fall.
- Councilman Gerbic asked about the placement of the swim area ropes, wondering if the swim area can be expanded. Dawn explained that the swim area is based on the actual square footage of the beach using a specified equation. Additionally, Dawn explained the buffer needed between the swim area and boat traffic. She also expressed the need for a light at the end of the dock.

Town Clerk – Lynnette Miller

Board members were given copies of the town clerk monthly report.

Supervisor's Report – Wayne Dunton

- The Board will meet on Thursday, July 25th at 7 p.m. at the Vine Valley Community House to update community members and answer questions.
- All news for the Town newsletter is to be given to Town Clerk Lynnette Miller by June 15th.
- Excellus BC/BS has notified the Town that they are applying for a proposed premium rate increase of 7.4%. This would affect health insurance costs.
- Supervisor Dunton will be meeting tomorrow morning with the Village of Rushville deputy mayor, water superintendent and possibly the mayor regarding the water district rate increase. He is hopeful that they can come to an agreement before going to mediation.
- Regarding the monthly report, to date the Town is on budget. Bookkeeper Sabra Dunton attended a NYS sponsored finance school. She will plan to give a report at a later date.
- Supervisor Dunton asked Highway Superintendent Conaway to present estimates received for the replacement truck box for truck #6. The recommendation from Todd is for the purchase of the Viking stainless steel dump box in the amount of \$45,315. A brief discussion followed. See resolution below.

- Supervisor Dunton asked Code Officer Kane to give an update on zoning changes. Dawn informed the Board that a work session will be held by the Planning Board this week to discuss clarification and definition of zoning terminology, specifically storage buildings built using pole barn construction. Dawn will update the Board in July.

Resolutions

Resolution 33-19

Yates County Mowing Agreement

On a motion by Councilman Button, seconded by Councilman Gerbic, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Dunton, Button, Gerbic, Grant
	Nays	0	
	Absent	1	Bauer

Resolved to sign and accept the Yates County Mowing Agreement for 2019.

Resolution 34-19

Truck Box Purchase

On a motion by Councilman Grant, seconded by Councilman Button, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Dunton, Button, Gerbic, Grant
	Nays	0	
	Absent	1	Bauer

Resolved to accept the bid to purchase the Viking stainless steel truck box in the amount of \$45,314 for the 2012 Western Star truck #6.

Resolution 35-19

Monthly Report/Line Item Transfers

On a motion by Councilman Grant, seconded by Councilman Gerbic, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Dunton, Button, Gerbic, Grant
	Nays	0	
	Absent	1	Bauer

Resolved to accept the Monthly Report and Line Item Transfers to date for June 2019.

Resolution 36-19

Audit of Claims

On a motion by Councilman Button, seconded by Councilman Gerbic, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Dunton, Button, Gerbic, Grant
	Nays	0	
	Absent	1	Bauer

Resolved that the bills contained in the June 2019 Abstract have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

General Fund	Vouchers No: 1150-1178	\$10,662.08
Highway Fund	Vouchers No: 2119-2138	\$10,712.57
Water District	Vouchers No: 3023-3028	\$ 7,767.80

Committee Report

Councilman Gerbic reported that Clean and Green has presented an estimate for \$650 to stain and seal the gazebo, including the roof at the Vine Valley Beach. Three spindles need to be replaced, not included in the price. Dawn will get the spindles and Todd will take care of getting them placed before the work is done. Councilman Gerbic will notify Clean and Green.

Resolution 37-19

Vine Valley Beach Gazebo

On a motion by Councilman Gerbic, seconded by Councilman Grant, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Dunton, Button, Gerbic, Grant
	Nays	0	
	Absent	1	Bauer

Resolved to accept the estimate from Clean & Green to stain and seal the gazebo, including the roof, at the Vine Valley Beach for \$650.

With no further business, on a motion by Councilman Button, seconded by Councilman Grant, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Lynnette F. Miller, Town Clerk