

September 23, 2024

The Special Budget Board Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Gillette.

Those present were:

Jane Gillette-Supervisor	Paul Dickinson-Hgwy. Superintendent
Moses Beiler-Councilmember	Josh Leviker-Village Mayor/Legislator
Lydia Wojnowski-Councilmember	Rivver Tourville-Highway MEO
Sheena Dickinson-Clerk/Collector	Fred Rivette-Part-time Highway MEO
Robert Bindner-Councilmember	Robb Matthews-Highway MEO
Andrew Place-Councilmember	Lynette Parker-Court Clerk
Grace Metzer-L.C. Grant Coordinator	Rachel Tourville-Village Resident

Correspondence:

-Email and phone call from County Planning & Community Development Department regarding Federal Vacant Property Clearance Grant. See public comment below.

-Deputy Wojnowski attended the Tug Hill Commission Annual Dinner Meeting on September 19, 2024. She gave a report from the meeting and also provided the Councilmembers with a map of the Tug Hill Region.

Public Comment:

-Grace Metzler, Grant Coordinator, with the Lewis County Planning Department was in attendance regarding a property in the Town of Turin that is considered “slum & blight”. The County is working on getting grants through a vacant property clearance program that helps safely demolish properties that have been condemned or are considered “slum & blight”. The property is located at 5508 State Route 26 Turin, NY. The property contains and old farmhouse and barn. The owners are interested in having the old farmhouse torn down and understand that it will be just the house not the barn. If the grant was approved, the owner would have to maintain the property and cannot re-build on it for five years unless they petition the State for a waiver. There will be a public hearing on this matter at the County Court house in October. **Resolution 2024-21- Declaration of Slum and Blight** at 5508 State Route 26, Turin, NY 13473: A motion by Councilmember Bindner to sign and declare the property at 5508 State Route 26 Turin, NY 13473 as “slum and blight” was made, a second by Councilmember Beiler; all in favor, motion carried. The Resolution will be forwarded to the County.

The Tentative Budget for 2025 was presented to the Board for review along with the 2024 Salaries of Town Officials, a list of equipment payments that have been made in 2024, the current MEO pay and benefits and history. There were many discussions.

-Discussed Juneteenth and Lunar Holiday if they will be added to the Paid Holiday off list and the Highway men also brought up if Presidents Day and Marin Luther Jr. Day could be used at floating holidays since they always end up working anyway. This would save on overtime.

-Lynnette Parker brought up the fact that 3% is not enough of a raise for Court Clerk and Justice. She would like to see the Justice get $1,500 more a year and the Court Clerk get a $1,000 more a year. It was stated that the Department Head had asked for 3% and Lynnette stated that she was never asked.

-It was brought up that if the Town decides to do the website grant through the County, we will need to add a line in the budget for the cost/maintenance.

-Councilmember Bindner brought up that he feels the Municipal Building needs updating especially paint and carpet. It was also brought up that the sign out front is falling over. It was decided that the Town/Village should set up a meeting to put together a proposal.

-Paul Dickinson, Turin Fire Chief, brought up that the contract with the Town needs to be increased. West Turin has increased theirs and is doing a 5% increase each year for five years and the Village has done anywhere from an 8-16% increase over the last several years. They are in need of a new fire engine and they are outrageous priced.

-It was brought up that there needs to be a new line in the budget for the Turin Cemetery. The current line is for the Houseville Cemetery.

-It was also brought up by Lynnette Parker that she would like a stipend for being the ZBA Rep. She travels all over, the meetings are timely, and has paperwork that is involved since she is Chair of the Board.

-Josh Leviker stated that the Snow Removal amount from the County this year is $25,652.

-Rivver Tourville, MEO, brought up the fact that the Highway men would like to get uniforms through UniFirst. They have different packages that they offer and pick them up each week for cleaning. They will come out and bring samples and give quotes on the different packages. The Board is interested in seeing the quotes.

-It was also brought up by Josh Leviker that since the ARPA (COVID) money (approx. $16 thousand) had been earmarked for the water project why don't we transfer it into the water fund budget line. Supervisor Gillette will look into this.

With no further business to attend to Councilmember Beiler made a motion to adjourn. A second by Councilmember Place; all in favor, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Sheena L. Dickinson