



VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
243 MAIN STREET • JOHNSON CITY, NY 13790
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Village Board

Gregory Deemie, Mayor

Richard Balles, Trustee

Deborah Fuller, Trustee

Martin Meaney, Trustee

John Walker, Trustee

Minutes of a Work Session of the Johnson City Village Board held at 5:30pm on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 in the Municipal Building, 243 Main St., Johnson City

Present: Gregory Deemie, Mayor
Richard Balles, Trustee
John Walker, Trustee
Deborah Fuller, Trustee
Martin Meaney, Trustee

Absent: None

Also Present: Cindy Kennerup, Village Clerk/Treasurer
Jeff Jacobs, Attorney for the Village
Thomas Johnson, Deputy Treasurer

The Board met with Director of Public Services Robert Bennett to discuss the proposed IMA with the Village of Endicott for sewer vacor services. Trustee Meaney asked if Mr. Bennett had the map for the sewer cleaning. Mr. Bennett explained that it is kept in the sewer room at the DPW garage. They are in the process of digitizing that and explained how the I-pads work. Between Grand Avenue and Floral Avenue is the main part of our combined sewer system which is where the storm is connected to the sanitary. Mr. Bennett reviewed the trouble areas that the sewer crews focus on and the process for cleaning the sewers. Trustee Meaney asked how many times we have sent the sewer vac and crew to Endicott. Mr. Bennett stated that before the IMA it was 2 or 3 times. Twice it has been only for an hour and most of that is travel time. Endicott's truck was out for repair. They have it back now and since they have had it back we did go help them once. Trustee Walker asked if Endicott has paid us any money. Mr. Bennett stated yes and explained what transpired with Endicott stating that they were willing to do an IMA. Trustee Meaney asked if Mr. Bennett could estimate how many times we would have to go help Endicott. Mr. Bennett explained that it would probably be next to nothing since their truck has been repaired but when it was down we went approximately 3 times in a 3 – 4 month period. Trustee Meaney asked if Mr. Bennett felt that an IMA was still warranted since Endicott had their truck back. Mr. Bennett stated yes because if something should happen in the future then we already have something in place. Trustee Meaney asked why there is no out clause in the IMA. Attorney Jacobs reviewed the section that pertains to renewal and termination of the agreement. It was discovered that the Board was missing a large portion of the agreement. Attorney Jacobs reviewed and explained the sections that the Board was missing. Trustee Walker mentioned a catch basin in front of a house on Ackley Avenue. Mr. Bennett explained why the Village plugged the catch basins on Ackley Avenue many years ago. Trustee Meaney asked if there was any plan to get through all of the catch basins. Mr. Bennett explained that as staffing levels allow it they are working on it and explained what the sewer department does during the week. Catch basins are lower on the priority list. The primary priority of the sewer department is to make sure we are doing what we have to do to stay in compliance with our consent order from the DEC. Mayor Deemie stated that the catch basins on Main Street and Riverside Drive are the state's responsibility. Mr. Bennett stated yes, but the state doesn't have the



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equipment that we have. Sometimes the state is out this way and will clean that out, sometimes we help them. Trustee Meaney asked if we bill the state. Mr. Bennett stated that the short answer is no but we in return we get in kind things like borrowing the portable lights for Field Days.

The Board met with Supervisor of Public Works, Mike Sherba to discuss the purchase of a truck from the Town of Binghamton. Mayor Deemie explained that we have borrowed this truck on several occasions. Mr. Sherba explained that back during the 2006 flood, the Town loaned us 3 ten wheel dump trucks to use for debris removal. Our trucks are single axel and hold half of what the Town's trucks hold. Any time we mill a road the Town would loan us one or 2 of these trucks. The Town of Binghamton have come to our aid countless times. The going rate to rent this type of truck is \$85.00/hr. The only time the Town charged us was during the 2011 flood and that was because of FEMA. The Town is in the process of downsizing their fleet and was sending a few of these trucks to the auction and offered to sell one of them to us – a 2001 International truck. The price is \$18,000.00. The Town Board already voted to sell it to us for that price. Mr. Sherba explained that every year the DPW sends equipment to the auction and receives a portion of what the Village gets from the auction to supplement their lines for equipment. Mr. Sherba explained that by using the proceeds from this year's auction would allow the DPW to purchase this truck at no expense to the Village. The cost to purchase one of these vehicles brand new is \$190,000 - \$250,000.00. This truck is 4 wheel drive and also comes with a plow. A similar used vehicle can range from \$35,000 to \$50,000.00. Trustee Meaney asked how long do they anticipate this being a useful vehicle. Mr. Sherba explained that as it sits now, hopefully 5 – 8 years. Trustee Walker asked if all of our DPW employees are licensed to use this type of vehicle. Mr. Sherba explained that it is a requirement that all of our DPW employees have CDL licenses. Trustee Walker asked about painting the vehicle. Mr. Bennett explained that all we are required to do is to put the Village seal on it. Mayor Deemie said go ahead with it just keep the Board apprised. Mr. Bennett said the first step is to see how much we get from the auction.

The Board reviewed the agenda and the resolutions.

Mayor Deemie explained that the County Executive is ill and will not be attending tonight's meeting. Mayor explained that as per the Board's request for more details in the work session minutes, Deputy Clerk Busko did the last ones almost verbatim and asked the Board to let him know their thoughts.

Trustee Walker asked about the BAN payments. Deputy Treasurer Johnson explained in detail how BAN payments and renewals work. The Board discussed the rates and terms of the Village's bonds and the Moody's rating. Trustee Walker asked about the 2015 projects and the jump in the amounts. Deputy Treasurer Johnson explained that it included the Reynolds Road and Arch Street Bridge projects. Trustee Meaney asked why the huge increase in the fund balance. Deputy Treasurer Johnson explained that part of it was those projects – state aid. Our projects are "spend to get". Also, proceeds of the bond come into the general fund and are reflected as revenue. Trustee Meaney asked about the anticipated revenue from the sewage treatment plant. Didn't they vote to send money - \$2,000,000.00? Deputy Treasurer Johnson stated that we have a bill for \$800,000.00 for a couple of year's flows that was are disputing. Attorney Jacobs explained a past similar issue with the sewage board. Deputy Treasurer Johnson explained how the plant used to bill the municipalities and how convoluted it was and the sewage board is supposed to be working to make that better. Trustee Meaney asked when Moody's would change our rating. Deputy Treasurer Johnson explained that it is up to Moody's. Deputy Treasurer Johnson Deputy Treasurer Johnson explained how complicated the entire process is with bonds and ratings.



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Mayor Deemie reviewed the local laws for the public hearings that are being set at tonight's meeting. Attorney Jacobs reviewed the changes to the parking tickets.

Mayor Deemie stated that there is a special meeting of the sewer board tomorrow at 4pm to discuss litigation. Mayor Deemie said he will attend.

The Board discussed the request to waive the 30 day waiting period for a liquor license for 320 Grand Avenue. Mayor Deemie explained that the applicant is going through the planning and zoning process with the Village.

Trustee Meaney asked about the refusal of a resident to sign the easement for the Anna Maria Drive drainage project. Mayor Deemie was not sure if there was any progress with that individual. There are a couple of others who have also not signed. Mayor Deemie and Attorney Jacobs reviewed the steps Mr. Bennett and the Village had taken regarding the easements for this project.

Mayor Deemie asked Attorney Jacobs asked about the change order protocol regarding digester #3 at the sewage treatment plant and the lack of notification to the Village. Attorney Jacobs asked if the digester project was one that the Village and the City were letting the sewage board do on their own. Mayor Deemie stated the sewage board was leading it but they are pulling back from it. Deputy Treasurer Johnson explained that everything has to be approved by EFC (Environmental Financing Corp.) before it is paid. There must be supporting documentation. EFC did approve this. Attorney Jacobs stated as a co-owner the Village can get whatever information we want. Trustee Meaney stated but we have no say on the change orders. Attorney Jacobs explained that the likely scenario if the Village wanted to review all of the change orders since the City is the lead agency.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

A motion to enter into executive session at 6:52pm to discuss the contract with the Fire Department was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee Walker. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

A motion to exit the executive session at 7:21pm was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee Walker. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

Trustee Walker asked how the Code Committee was doing. Trustee Balles stated that they had another meeting last night and they are getting close to finishing the final draft report. There are some open questions and Trustee Meaney is working on the cost analysis. Trustee Balles is going to ask for extension until the end of December. Mayor Deemie said just get it done ASAP.

Trustee Meaney asked about the litigation with the Village and the Town against Time Warner. Mayor Deemie stated they would need to go back into executive session to discuss it. Trustee Meaney stated it could wait until the next meeting.

Trustee Meaney stated that the light pole at the corner of Rose Lane and Columbia Drive is on the ground and has been for a couple of weeks. Mayor Deemie stated Trustee Meaney could let Bob Bennett know, just please copy him on anything like that so he can follow up.



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Trustee Meaney suggested a residency policy for Village employees and starting slowly with the department heads. Mayor Deemie explained the limitations with civil service and suggested that they could look at that going forward.

Attorney Jacobs stated that regarding Time Warner, we have until October 14th to file rebuttal briefs.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned at 7:26pm.

Cindy Kennerup
Village Clerk/Treasurer

CK/db

Recordings of the Village Board meetings and work sessions are available for review through the Village Clerk/Treasurer's Office.