

June 6, 2022 - WORK SESSION

The Work Session of the Town of Dickinson Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Michael A. Marinaccio at 5:30 PM on Monday, June 6, 2022 at the Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, New York and via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81757883852?pwd=UXNyYXF4QWhRYmZtLzNyM0NIQk9kdz09>

Meeting ID: 817 5788 3852

Passcode: 840235

1-646-876-9923

The members of the Town Board present via Zoom were:

Michael A. Marinaccio, Supervisor
Stephen M. Gardner, Councilperson
Sharon M. Exley, Councilperson
Danny F. Morabito, Councilperson
Thomas J. Burns, Councilperson

Also attending:

Nathan D. VanWhy, Esq., Attorney for the Town
Wendi Evans, Deputy Town Clerk

Also in attendance:

Public Works Commissioner Joel Kie, Code Enforcement Officer Stephen Rafferty, and Zoning Board Chair Jeanne Compton.

CHAIR

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

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- I have received a few inquiries regarding projects on Glenwood Rd. One was for the county Veteran's Center. The County Executive asked me if I would support this three-million-dollar project which would be located at 507 Glenwood Rd., same address as where the battery storage project was going to be built, but this project would be off to the north of the lot and in between the two homes that are there. After viewing the property with Joel, I notified the county executive that I would not support the location and notified him that there were no sewer or water lines there. The county is now researching other properties that are on a bus line. One is near **SUNY Broome** Campus. More on this when I have more information. I know that the town supports our veterans and location of this project is important to not only the veterans but also with our residents.
- We have sent out 107 warnings to turn off water due to unpaid water bills This amounts to around \$44K. Nate has given us a draft letter that we will incorporate in the warning notices.
- As an example of how the town can lose large amounts of water on unpaid water/sewer bills, when 51 Pulaski was auctioned off buy the county, we lost \$1215.11 on an unpaid water/sewer bill. This is an issue that all municipalities face and needs to be addressed at some point.
- This morning there was a large black bear in my yard.

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SUPERVISOR'S REPORT CONTINUED:

- Tonight, we will consider the hiring of Darrell Dennison for the position of Administrative Assistant. Councilman Gardner will give us a short review on Darrell.
- Received a voicemail from Eureka Vapor who seems to be scoping the area to put a location.

ATTORNEY

Attorney VanWhy started a discussion regarding enacting a local law authorizing the Town Board and its committees and subcommittees to use videoconferencing technology to participate in public meetings.

First of all, Mr. VanWhy asked if the board would like to schedule a Public Hearing to enact the Local Law and explained that the new law allows up to two members of the board to attend remotely and not have the public in attendance at those remote locations as long as there is a quorum of the board (3 people) in a physically accessible location. Some of the requirements include transcription of meetings on request, recordings made available on the website, copies of the recordings must be kept on file for five years, etc. There is a potential cost associated with storing the electronic data files and transcription. It allows for extraordinary circumstances that will be set out by policy. First you need to establish the local law, and then you adopt the policy outlining the specifics.

Supervisor Marinaccio suggested that we do it not just for **COVID** related reasons; it would be available for other reasons too. All members agreed we should have the option and we can always undo the Local Law if it is not working.

At the next meeting we will schedule a Public Hearing for the July 11th Work Session/Regular Meeting.

RESOLUTION 2022-21

Councilman Gardner mentioned that he and Supervisor Marinaccio and Beverly Wike met with Darrell Dennison. Darrell has a very strong background in computer technology and IT. Mr. Gardner stated that we have a fully integrated accounting system that we work with, and Darrell has supported this system with the work that he has done with the Town with our IT support. According to his resume, he has Budget Planning, Accounting Management, and Data Analyzing experience. Beverly will mentor him to learn the water and sewer billing. He will be responsible for the cemetery finances. Darrell has worked with vendors and will recognize those procedures including vouchers and cutting checks. He has Microsoft experience as well.

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SUPERVISOR'S REPORT CONTINUED:

The following Resolution was offered by Councilperson Gardner, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilperson Morabito to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Dickinson, Broome County, New York as follows:

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE HIRING OF DARRELL DENNISON FOR THE POSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AT A STARTING SALARY OF \$44 THOUSAND DOLLARS, A STIPEND OF \$2 THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE CEMETERY AND AN ADDITIONAL \$10 THOUSAND DOLLARS ONCE TRAINED FOR WATER/SEWER BILLING AND MONITORING WITH A START DATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

The question of adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows: All in favor. Vote Ayes –5, Nays – 0, Absent-0.

Supervisor Marinaccio voting Aye
Councilperson Gardner voting Aye
Councilperson Exley voting Aye
Councilperson Morabito voting Aye
Councilperson Burns voting Aye

All in favor.

Attorney VanWhy prepared a letter regarding the water shutoff notices giving the delinquent folks an opportunity within a certain period of time to request a hearing, to come in front of some body or person to state their case. The customers have a legal right for a hearing. We need to have at least one hearing officer who will be responsible for making decisions on how to handle each individual whether it be a recommendation to the Town Board, or we can trust the hearing officer to make the appropriate decision.

Supervisor Marinaccio suggested that we select Joel and Bev. Joel is familiar with water and sewer, and Bev has great knowledge of the water/sewer program and residents. Attorney VanWhy suggested we have three officers or an odd number. Councilman Morabito commented that the two officers have to make a decision and if they cannot agree then the water is turned off.

There is a State Grant program, if needed, if someone cannot pay their water and sewer bill. If they qualify, we get paid directly. It is up to the individual property owner to apply.

Attorney VanWhy stated that the water/sewer bills are sent to the property owner. We have to notify the tenants if the water is to be turned off. Give the tenant the opportunity to put the water bill in their name if the landlord is not paying the bill and pay the future bills.

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that the County is working on not allowing municipalities to put water/sewer bills on taxes. We lost eleven hundred dollars last year on unpaid water/sewer bills. The Village of Endicott lost seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars last year.

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Attorney VanWhy followed up by asking that a resolution be placed on next week's meeting agenda designating Bev and Joel as the hearing officers for any water shut offs.

One hundred seven water shutoff letters were sent out.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Commissioner Kie stated that the sign says exit 5 northbound will close June 13th. We will be responsible for the multi-use walkway that is attached to the south side of the bridge.

Matt replaced the altitude pressure reducing valve and bypass valve on Glenwood Road and completed it. He started the loop today.

CODE

Nothing to report.

ZONING

Nothing to report.

Councilman Gardner brought up that there is no Jameson Street sign. Mr. Kie is aware of it.

On a motion by Councilperson Morabito and seconded by Councilperson Burns, the work session was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi Evans
Deputy Town Clerk

WE/smc