

July 10, 2023 – WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING

The Work Session and Regular Meetings of the Town of Dickinson Town Board were called to order with the pledge of allegiance by Supervisor Michael A. Marinaccio at 5:30 PM on Monday, July 10, 2023, at the Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, New York

This is the first of the regular meetings which begins the summer schedule of July, August, and September combining our Work Session with the Regular Meeting on the second Monday of those months with a start time of 5:30 P.M.

The members of the Town Board present were:

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

Also attending:

**Nathan D. VanWhy Esq., Attorney for the Town
Wendi Evans, Town Clerk
Public Works Commissioner Joel Kie, Code Enforcement Officer Kyle
Doyle, Town Engineer Ron Lake, 22 Guests and Residents.**

July 2023 Town Board Meeting

Supervisor's Report

1. I reviewed the credit card monthly charges and found no issues.
2. The homeless person who has been residing in the bus shelter at Front and Old Front St. continues to occupy the shelter. He has been there for a very long time and takes up the entire shelter so bus passengers waiting for the bus have to stand outside of the shelter. We have voiced our concerns with county transportation and the sheriff. The sheriff himself went to see this person and talked to him asking what the sheriff could do to help him. The homeless person did not want any assistance. He has been or is a client with DSS. County Transit stated that they have no authority to remove this person from the shelter. I suggested that a mental health crisis professional go and speak to this person which did take place but so far, no change.
3. I received a letter from a resident who voiced his concern regarding the homeless person in the shelter which is in close proximity to his home. He also voiced other concerns, one of which is not accurate: he stated that he blames the Town Planning Board for the location of the shelter, which is totally not true, the town has no say in where bus shelters are located. Also, the roundabouts were not a town project but rather a NYS Dept. of Transp. Project which greatly reduces the

July 10, 2023 – WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING

time vehicles are staged at this busy intersection as compared to when there were traffic lights.

4. A group of us from the court staff, Joel, Darrell and Wendi met with a representative from Blue Storm to discuss some issues with IT regarding court operations. Blue Storm will make any changes with IT operations that are needed to address the court office concerns.
5. I attended the SUNY-Broome Time Capsule Burial on June 22, and I had the opportunity to speak as well as donate one of our Public Works caps to be included in the capsule. The cap represents the great working relationship we have had with SUNY Broome and will continue that tradition in years to come.
6. On July 20, I will be meeting with the new SUNY-Broome President, Dr. Hawkins, here at the town hall. I am looking forward to meeting Dr. Hawkins as we begin a new and productive relationship with him and the college.
7. **St. Stan's School** Inspection: PW Commissioner Joel Kie, Councilman Dan Morabito and I accompanied Code Officer Kyle Doyle during the safety inspection of the old, vacated St. Stan's School on Prospect St. We noticed many concerns and some possible structural issues, but we will wait for a complete report from Kyle.
8. Our request for our town to add a occupancy fee on hotel and motel rooms was not carried by senator Webb who refused to co-sponsor the Bill in the Senate.
9. I had a discussion with the new BC Parks Commissioner, Brenda Gowe regarding the renovations to the **BAGSAI** baseball fields. I voiced concerns about lighting and hours that any games would be played in the evening. Ms. Gowe assured me that games had to start no later than 8 pm and end around 10 pm. The lighting is designed to not spill over into our neighborhoods and will illuminate downward onto the field. The county is aware of the town noise ordinance and will abide by it. There are no loudspeakers in the field. The baseball season will not take place there this year and no grand opening is planned. If there are any issues, she would be happy to address them by either us or by residents.

Code Violations/Appearance Tickets

Violations	
Property	Type
650 Old Front St	Operating a Flea Market w/o Permit
68 Sowden St	Trash & Debris
156 Bigelow St	Tall Weeds & Grass
41 N Broome St	Tall Weeds & Grass
31 Pulaski St	Tall Weeds & Grass
33 Pulaski St	Tall Weeds & Grass
40 Sunset Dr	Tall Weeds & Grass
63 Adams St	Trash & Debris
27 Jameson St	Walls & Roof Framing Violations
700 Old Front St	Trash & Debris
15 N Broad St	Pool installed with expired permit/no electrical inspection/pool alarm
29 N Louisa St	Pool installed with no permit/no electrical inspection/pool alarm
290 Lower Stella Ireland Rd	Fence Installed without Permit
61 Old State Rd	Siding work without permit
20 N Broad St	Roof, Sanitation, Windows, Exterior Structure Protective Treatment
220 Lower Stella Ireland Rd	Operating a business in a residential district / Roof with no perm
11 N Broome St	Tall Weeds & Grass
22 N Louisa St	Tall Weeds & Grass
288 Lower Stella Ireland Rd	Tall Weeds & Grass
701 Old Front St	Trash & Debris
606 Old Front St	Tall Weeds & Grass
557 Old Front St	Tall Weeds & Grass
27 Terrace Dr	Tall Weeds & Grass
362 Prospect St	Several Fire and Property Maintenance Violations
33 Stearns Rd	Tall Weeds & Grass
83 Sunset Dr	Tall Weeds & Grass
10 Lower Taft Ave	Trash & Debris
9 Clifton Ave	Dumping grass clipping along town right of way

July 10, 2023 – WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING

BUILDING PERMITS	
Property	Type
20 Jameson Rd	Fence
14 N Moeller St	Extension for Remodel
9 N Louisa St	Porch Steps
159 Rosedale Dr	Fence
61 Old State Rd	Siding
15 N Broad St	Pool
10 Deyo Hill Rd	Fence
290 Lower Stella Ireland Rd	Fence
290 Lower Stella Ireland Rd	Deck
3 Maiden Ln	Garage
220 Lower Stella Ireland Rd	Roof
220 Lower Stella Ireland Rd	Large Window Replacement
15 Forest Hills Blvd	Roof
1 Witman Ln	Metal Carport
29 Pleasant Court Dr	Deck
Fire Inspections	
Property	Type
362 Prospect St	
367 Prospect St	

Dog Control Officer Reports:

TOWN: 8 calls, all for past due dog licensing.

Village: 2 calls, both for stray dogs

NYSEG Utility Shutoff Notices:

No notices received.

Next Town Board Meeting

Our summer board meeting schedule begins in July and will run through the September meeting. The next Town Board meeting is scheduled for August 21, **combined 5:30 PM work session and regular board meeting.**

July 10, 2023 – WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Several residents expressed their concern with the disturbing clients that are staying at the **hotels** on Old Front St. They want to feel safe in their homes and are concerned with the children being in the park across the street. They questioned if a sex offender could be within so many feet of a park. Supervisor Marinaccio explained the different levels and that the New York State law with Level 1 they may live anywhere, Level 2, they can live anywhere and Level 3, they are limited as to where they can live. He has talked to the Sheriff, and he has been told that they are placed in the hotels by the DSS. The town has foiled the Sheriff's office and the State police and received all the phone calls that were received and there were over 300 to the Sheriff's office in a 2-year span and 150 phone calls to the State police all regarding the hotels. The Town's attorney, Supervisor Marinaccio, and the owner of the hotels met together and were going to close the hotels which is a very lengthy, expensive process but the Town was determined to make it happen. The owner, Mr. Patel, closed it on his own only temporarily. Supervisor Marinaccio has talked to everyone he can possibly talk to, and the board supports him 100% that we would do anything that we can do to make this go away. He reminded the police that our playground is primarily for children but now we have all these folks that have some issues coming into our area. If a level 3 is being placed in the hotel, then Supervisor Marinaccio believes that is a violation and it will need to be addressed and the board will seek legal action. He explained he is going to reach out to Sheriff Akshar regarding it and he stressed that residents should voice their concerns to the Sheriff and DSS repeatedly. The Town board does not close our eyes to it and the board is very concerned. If you see something, say something. We have asked for an increase in the appearance of sheriff's circling in our neighborhood to help keep our neighborhood safe.
- Another concern was the gentleman that is living in the bus stop. Supervisor Marinaccio has addressed this to the sheriff, and they cannot forcefully make him move so the town's hands are tied on what we can do.
- A resident questioned if the town had notified all the residents regarding the increase in the **water bills**. Supervisor Marinaccio explained that yes, there was a public hearing, it was on the website, etc. The increase will be reviewed at the end of the year on how it will impact the bills in the future.
- The **BAGSAI** complex was a concern with one resident regarding the noise. Supervisor Marinaccio explained that there is a noise ordinance for 11:00 pm and that there is nothing else we can do regarding it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **PUBLIC WORKS**
 - Councilperson Exley explained that **Sunrise Dr**, the underground work is almost completed. It will be another week or so of being inconvenienced for the residents. The new road should last 15-20 years.
 - Sewer and Water Superintendent Matt Fitzpatrick had discovered in the records that BOCES, BCC, Broome Developmental Center, the Jail and the cooling towers have had old meters and they have not been registering the correct amounts. We took a loss of about \$60,000 over time. New meters have been replaced so we will be recollecting those loss of funds over time.

July 10, 2023 – WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING

- **FINANCE**

SUPERVISOR REPORT

Councilperson Gardner made a motion to accept the **May 2023 Monthly Financial Report** for the **Town Supervisor** in the amount of **\$2,946,676.44** seconded by Councilperson Burns. All in favor.

TOWN CLERK MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Supervisor Marinaccio asked for a motion to accept the **June Monthly Financial Report** for the **Town Clerk in the amount of \$1,833.00**. On a motion by Councilperson Gardner seconded by Councilperson Exley. All in favor.

ABSTRACTS FOR APPROVAL

On a motion from Councilperson Gardner, seconded by Councilperson Burns to approve **abstract #7**, dated July 10, 2023, in the amount of **\$513,992.41**. Vote Ayes-4, Nay -0, Absent-1.

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

Unanimously passed and noted as duly adopted.

Abstract Summary of Audited Vouchers for Funds respectively in the amount(s) of \$513,992.41.

Voucher #7 for July 2023 in the amount of \$513,992.41:

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>\$16,588.24</u>
<u>Part Town</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<u>Highway</u>	<u>\$61,643.23</u>
<u>Highway Project HP23</u>	<u>\$225,676.10</u>
<u>Light Districts</u>	<u>\$2,879.47</u>
<u>Sewer Operating Dist.</u>	<u>\$49,943.50</u>
<u>Sewer Laterals HS23</u>	<u>\$84,477.72</u>
<u>Water Operating Dist.</u>	<u>\$72,784.15</u>

Discussion: Supervisor Marinaccio explained that we got a notice from the **Broome County Sheriff's Office**, and these are the fees that are due for inmates from other jurisdictions. This is the 2nd quarter report. We received a check for \$34,075.86.

Monitored income that we have up to this date:

- Sales Tax – \$278,000.00
- Jail Revenue – \$107,000.00
- Court Revenue - \$62,490.00
- Town Clerk - \$7200.00
- Mortgage Tax - \$14,959.00
- Total is 470,500.00**

July 10, 2023 – WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING

- **PERSONAL** – Nothing to report.
- **PLANNING** – Nothing to report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Councilperson Burns seconded by Councilperson Exley to accept the June 5, 2023, Work Session Minutes & the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 12, 2023. All in favor. Vote Ayes-4, Nays-0, Absent-1.

Discussion: Town Engineer Ron Lake no longer wants to do the **MS4**. Supervisor Marinaccio reached out to John Mastronardi who works with Griffiths Engineering, and they gave us a quote. They provide services for the Town of Binghamton, Conklin, Fenton, Kirkwood, and Union for an average annual fee of \$3,000. The hourly rate of \$125 an hour, which Supervisor Marinaccio feels is a good rate and would like to go with them. He contacted Delta Engineers as well and he felt they were high.

Supervisor Marinaccio asked for a motion to hire **Griffiths Engineering to do our MS4**. On a motion by Councilperson Gardner seconded by Councilperson Exley. All in favor.

ATTORNEY

Attorney VanWhy explained that the Town of Dickinson has received **239 Reviews** of 2 proposed Local Laws that the **Town of Chenango** is passing. Those are laws regarding their solar energy systems and rezoning within the Town of Chenango. They are updating their solar energy law and they are also engaged in an audit of their zoning laws and how they apply to the town since the 1950's forward and there was a question on their towns official zoning maps. With an engineer's help they are now officially adopting a correct map and fixing some things that needed to be addressed as time went by.

PUBLIC WORKS – WATER DEPARTMENT & HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

- Public Works Commissioner Kie explained that the rain we had last week filled in on North Haley where it was plugged, and John St. had some issues too but no damage.
- A lot of concerns with Sunrise Dr project. He has addressed them all with everyone. He has gotten some complaints about communication, they're not valid complaints. They have talked to every person. Councilperson Morabito has been super helpful. Jack, Joel and Danny talked to multiple people over and over again, but still have 2 people that still say they are not communicating. They have handed out notices, put their phone numbers on the notices, if they call, they respond immediately. He explained they have put in their best effort to make people aware and pleased.
- Demolition of 36 Pulaski could happen this week. He will keep us updated on the specific day.

July 10, 2023 – WORK SESSION & REGULAR MEETING

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code Officer Doyle is finalizing the report for St. Stans. He also gave an update on where we are with violations, permits and appearance tickets for the year so far.

- Violations – 106
- Building Permits – 47
- Appearance Tickets – 10

We are possibly on track for a record year.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion of Councilperson Gardner and seconded by Councilperson Burns at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi Evans
Town Clerk