

**November 6, 2023- 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, November 6, 2023, at the Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, New York and via Zoom.**

**The members of the Town Board present were:**

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

**Also attending:**

**Ryan Matt, Attorney for the Town  
Wendi Evans, Town Clerk**

**Also in attendance:**

**Code Enforcement Officer Kyle Doyle, Public Works Commissioner  
Joel Kie, Town Engineer Ron Lake, Administrative Assistant Darrell  
Dennison and 4 guests.**

**5:30 PM: PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT WITH THE  
PROSPECT TERRACE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**

Supervisor Marinaccio opened the Public Hearing at 5:30 PM noting 4 members of the public present.

**TOWN OF DICKINSON  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON FIRE PROTECTION  
AGREEMENT WITH THE PROSPECT TERRACE  
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Dickinson on November 6, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, NY, to consider a new fire protection agreement with the Prospect Terrace Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. for fire protection services to Town of Dickinson Fire Protection District No. 1 for the term of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028.

For such services Prospect Terrace Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. shall be paid the following sums during the term of the Agreement: 2024-\$107,044, 2025-\$107,044, 2026-\$107,044, 2027-\$111,325.76, 2028-\$115,778.79. The agreement would require adequate insurance be maintained, and the Prospect Terrace Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. to answer and attend all fire calls in the Fire Protection District.

Interested persons shall be entitled to be heard upon said proposed agreement. Persons with disabilities who require assistance in attending said public hearing, or in furnishing

comments and suggestions, should contact the undersigned to request such assistance. Communications in writing in relation thereto may be filed with the Town Board prior to the public hearing.

Dated: October 24, 2023

Wendi Evans  
Town Clerk, Town of Dickinson

Questions:

- Councilperson Gardner asked if this was in the budget and the answer was “yes, it is.”
- A resident questioned what the other source of incomes are for the Prospect Terrace Fire Co receive. The answer was “Only the Town of Dickinson.”

Supervisor Marinaccio closed the Public Hearing at 5:38 PM

**5:38 PM: PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF DICKINSON FOR THE YEAR 2024**

Supervisor Marinaccio opened the Public Hearing at 5:38 PM noting 4 members of the public present.

**TOWN OF DICKINSON  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE  
PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2024**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the preliminary budget of the Town of Dickinson for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024 has been completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk at Dickinson Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, NY, where it is available for inspection during office hours.

The Town Board of the Town of Dickinson shall hold a public hearing on said preliminary budget at Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, NY on November 6, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. showing such changes, alterations and revisions as shall have been made therein by the Town Board. At such public hearing, any person may be heard in favor of or against the preliminary budget as compiled or for or against items therein contained.

The following are the proposed year 2024 salaries for the elected officials of

The Town: Supervisor	\$30,862.00
Town Council members (4)	\$12,442.00 (each)
Town Clerk	\$49,586.00
Public Works Commissioner	\$72,072.00
Town Justices (2)	\$27,037.00 (each)

Pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 258 of the laws of 2008, this shall service as

notice of the exemption report. The report is posted on the Town's bulletin board, is annexed to any tentative or preliminary budget, and shall become part of the final budget.

Interested persons shall be entitled to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the entire budget or any portion thereof. Persons with disabilities who require assistance in attending said public hearing, or in furnishing comments and suggestions, should contact the undersigned to request such assistance. Communications in writing in relation thereto may be filed with the Town Board prior to the public hearing.

Dated: October 24, 2023

Wendi Evans  
Town Clerk, Town of Dickinson

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that we will be voting on the budget at next week's Regular Meeting. Supervisor Marinaccio closed the Public Hearing at 5:42 PM.

### **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT NOVEMBER WORK SESSION REPORT**

#### **2024 TOWN OF DICKINSON BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

##### Expenses:

- We completed a large project on Sunrise Drive in 2023 to replace sewer laterals, secure water pipe, pave and replace street curbs.
- The cost of health insurance was increased by 6%
- For 2024 there will be an overall 5% salary increases for appointed employees and elected officials, with pay adjustments made for the Town Supervisor, Highway Superintendent, Code Officer, and Water & Sewer Public Works Manager.
- We've seen the cost of materials increase over the past year, along with our Health Insurance.
- Our Appropriations are up \$231,291 in 2024, however our Estimated Revenue is up \$924,689 in 2024.

##### Revenue:

- Small increase in property tax for the general fund at 1.29% which keeps us well within the 2% Tax Cap Limit.
- Sales tax budget is projected to increase by 5% in 2024
- We've streamlined our Water and Sewer billing costs to help keep the cost and expenses sustainable.

The bottom line is that the Town of Dickinson remains one of the lowest taxed towns in Broome County while continuing to offer many great services that our residents expect from their town. We will continue to seek out ways of saving money through shared

services, more efficient operations and increasing our tax base through new developments, both residential and commercial. Our staff is to be congratulated for their hard work and dedication to the town and its residents. Our town board continues to do a great job in maintaining our town in an efficient and effective manner while keeping our spending as low as possible.

1. Demolition work for the walk bridge project is progressing. No issues so far to report. A large section of the bridge has been removed. Removal of the bridge debris will be ongoing.
2. We have completed our review of the various steps for us to be taken regarding solar projects. Many thanks to the solar committee members and planning board members for their input in this important process. Due to legal time lines that we need to follow, we will be extending the moratorium for a short time and until we hold public hearings and voting on a new town law regarding solar projects. Time line for the extension process is as follows: On November 13 we will introduce the extension. On November 14 we will send a 239 review to the county. On December 4 we will conduct a public hearing. On December 11, we will adopt the revised solar town law. Both of these items will be conducted simultaneously to prevent a gap between the existing and extended moratorium.
3. The sale of the Boland property to SUNY Broome remains in limbo due to the property owners wanting more money for their land. I notified the group pf residents from Chenango Shores that have been chosen to be on a committee. SUNY Broome is in the process of making a counter offer.
4. Our next town board meeting in next Monday, November 13, 6 pm.

## ATTORNEY

### SOLAR DISCUSSION:

Attorney Matt explained that we are simultaneously working on extending the moratorium and the local law as the current moratorium expires December 27<sup>th</sup>. Even if we got everything completed it would not be done by the 27<sup>th</sup>. He is currently working on a draft of the new local law which the board has approved and is being reviewed by Attorney Coughlin currently. Extending it for 3 months and will hope to have the local law in place by that time. Will have the draft ready as soon as possible. Attorney Coughlin went out on leave earlier than expected so there has been a slight delay in moving forward with the process. There should be no gap but if that changes the board will be notified.

### 2024 BUDGET

With no further discussion regarding the **2024 Budget**, Attorney Matt stated that there will be a resolution to adopt the **2024 Budget** at next week's meeting.

**DISCUSSION: APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF CHENANGO WATER CONTRACT**

Supervisor Marinaccio reviewed highlights of the contract:

- 1 year contract @ \$2.65/ Per 100 Cubic Ft.
  - Ample notice of any changes
  - Savings of \$80,000 a year
  - Will be reviewing it at the end of the year.
  - The cost of water is going up.
- On a motion made by Councilperson Morabito and seconded by Councilperson Gardner to approve the Town Of Chenango Water Contract All in favor. Vote-5 Ayes, Nays-0, Absent-0
- Supervisor Marinaccio voting Aye
  - Councilperson Gardner voting Aye
  - Councilperson Exley voting Aye
  - Councilperson Morabito voting Aye
  - Councilperson Burns voting Aye

**PUBLIC WORKS**

- Administrative Assistant Dennison would like to purchase the water dept. software to streamline in place of mailings. Will be able to email which residents have been asking for, check a water bill online, etc. Will need to purchase new software because the old software will be outdated in 2025. There are funds left from the grant money that covers 90% of it. It should be in place by March. The price is \$17, 855.00.

On a motion made by Councilperson Gardner and seconded by Councilperson Burns to approve the purchase of the Water Department Software.

- All in favor. Vote-5 Ayes, Nays-0, Absent-0
- Supervisor Marinaccio voting Aye
  - Councilperson Gardner voting Aye
  - Councilperson Exley voting Aye
  - Councilperson Morabito voting Aye
  - Councilperson Burns voting Aye

- Public Works Commissioner Kie explained that the pipe project on Adams St. is almost completed.
- With the 2024 budget we must show that that we are taking out a 1-year ban for the Adams St. project. Closing will be in a couple weeks. From the special meeting that was previously held. After speaking with our accountant, we do not have to pay anything on the principal in 2024 but a year from the closing date we will have to pay interest which will be \$24,950. It has been added to the budget for the general fund and made an offset, so we did not have to change the numbers on our tax cap by increasing our sales tax revenue by the same amount. We hope to pay it off next year.

- Public Works Commissioner Kie explained that they have a salt spreader, electric printer and a plow that we would like to put on the surplus list so we can do away with them.

On a motion made by Councilperson Morabito and seconded by Councilperson Burns to add a salt spreader, printer, and plow to the surplus list.

All in favor. Vote-5 Ayes, Nays-0, Absent-0

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

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

- Code Enforcement Officer Doyle commented that he will be completing the fire inspections by the end of the year.

The meeting was adjourned on motion from Councilperson Morabito and seconded by Councilperson Burns at 6:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi Evans  
Town Clerk