

February 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, February 6, 2023 at the Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, New York.

The members of the Town Board present were:

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

Also attending:

**Attorney Keegan Coughlin Esq.
Susan Cerretani, Town Clerk
Wendi Evans, Deputy Town Clerk**

Also in attendance:

**Public Works Commissioner Joel Kie, Code Enforcement Officer
Kyle Doyle, Town Engineer Ron Lake, ten residents**

CHAIR

**Supervisor's Report
February 6, 2023
Town Board Work Session**

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This meeting is our Town Work Session so before we get into discussions with our residents regarding the SUNY Broome property purchase, we will complete our agenda first then save time for any discussions, questions, etc. regarding SUNY Broome.

1. Regarding the Boland property and the purchase of this property by **SUNY Broome**: All I can tell you is what we are aware of and that there is nothing we can do to stop this purchase. As per my conversations with President Drumm, any development if any, by the school on this property is years away, that there is nothing in the immediate to midterm plans at all for development. President Drum stated that **BCC Foundation** is not involved at all at this point. The County and the **SUNY Broome Board of Directors** are in full support of the purchase of the property for possible future development. President Drumm did state that future use of the property may be for environmental and biology classes in the properties current state. I informed President Drumm that the town would not be interested in giving any project to be built there, egress and ingress using Boland Rd. or John St. I mentioned the serious concerns regarding any water runoff from this property that would impact **Chenango Shores**. Also, I talked to a resident from **Chenango Shores** who walked up to the property, and he stated that the property where tree harvesting has been taking place is not being cleared of all the trees but just some of the trees and trees

were left along the perimeter of the property and other areas of the property. We have been watching the progress of the harvesting to assure that our roads are not being negatively affected.

2. To all department heads, Court, Town Clerk, Public Works, Code Enforcement, Assessor, etc., please submit any articles for the 2023 newsletter as soon as possible to me.
3. Reminder that Steve and I will be in NY for the **NYAOT** Training and Business meetings beginning February 19. I will remind everyone again by email and at next week's meeting.
4. The **NYSDOT** send out letters to the residents in the Sunrise Terrace area regarding the demolition of the walk bridge which has been closed since December. Demolition may begin this year's construction season.
5. I had a long conversation with Nancy Williams, Executive Director of the **Broome County Department of Social Services** regarding to the large amount of former convicted Level One and Two sex offenders who have been released and are moving to the two hotels on Old Front St. I asked about mixing these people with occupants at the hotels and Ms. Williams stated that the former offenders are not mixed with occupants at the hotels that have a child with them. She also stated that these transfers are only temporary and could be for just a day or two. She also stated that **DSS** is not always involved in locating the offenders to the hotels. They may be coming out of the Jail complex or from other locations around the county. There are plans on establishing a shelter that that a not-for-profit agency would oversee and would provide case management. I believe that this shelter would be located somewhere in Johnson City, but I am not totally clear on that. I reminded Nancy that the two hotels are located just across the street from the Terrace Park that is used by children.
6. I would like to the council begin to consider the adoption of offering real property tax exemption of up to 10% for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers who live in our town. This is a statewide endeavor, and one in which could provide added incentives for people to join these lifesaving services. I am asking our town attorney to provide the necessary information for our council to consider for our February 13 meeting. I am 100% in support of this effort.
7. I want to thank Councilman Morabito for taking my place at the **Annual Prospect Terrace Fire Company** dinner and the **Oath of office** for the Fire Fighters, officers, and Board members. I was not able to participate due to testing positive with **COVID**.
8. Our Planning Board has completed their procedures revisions for their Board. Copies were or will be sent out to council for review. I have asked Planning Board Chairman Jerry Ford to go over the changes that they made at our February 13 meeting.

ATTORNEY

UPDATE: STATUS OF LAND TRANSFER OF PROPERTY NEXT TO THE HIGHWAY GARAGE

Attorney Van Why reached out to Maciak's attorney and waiting on abstract title from her. Hope to have a more thorough update at the next meeting.

UPDATE: 36 PULASKI STREET

Attorney Keegan Coughlin explained the bid packets are ready for demolition. Have not heard anything from the property owner. They agreed to start the process of sending them out.

RESOLUTION TO OVERRIDE NEPOTISM LAW FOR ASSESSOR ASSISTANT

RESOLUTION 2023 - 5

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: Override the Town Nepotism Policy to hire an assistant to the assessor. Efforts have been made, and no other interested parties have been found for the position. A motion was made to hire Daniel Scoville, grandson of Jack Cahill.

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

RESOLUTION APPOINTING ASSISTANT TO ASSESSOR

RESOLUTION 2023 - 6

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

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

RESOLUTION: To appoint Daniel Scoville for the Assistant Assessor position, \$19.00/hour, 15 hours per week.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Commissioner Joel Kie- Nothing to report.

Councilman Danny Morabito requested that we start the resolution soon regarding the bonding paperwork for the project on Sunrise Drive. Construction will begin in the springtime. Attorney Keegan Coughlin is going to follow up and we will vote on it at the Regular Meeting next week. Estimate cost for the project is \$1 million- \$2 million.

ZONING

Recognized Jeanne Compton for her many years of service.

CODE

Code Enforcement Officer Kyle Doyle updated us on the property 478 Glenwood Rd. A notice was left on the door. It has been vacant and will be going into foreclosure. It is in the county's possession.

DISCUSSION: Supervisor Mike Marinaccio expressed to the residents regarding the possible sale of the Boland property, to stay vigilant, keep doing what you are doing, email administration, call the school etc. Supervisor Marinaccio has been in contact with Chairman Dan Reynolds reminding him of the flooding that we have had years ago. Chenango Shores was heavily impacted. Chairman Reynolds, as far as he knows says there is not any student housing being planned. SUNY Broome dorms are only 50% occupied. A concern is that **Binghamton University** will be getting involved. A call was made to the President of Binghamton University College to see what their thoughts are. Waiting for a returned call. Dr. Drumm and Chairman

RESIDENT CONCERNS:

- Worried about the springs being affected. Someone came in and helped with the ditch and it made it worse. Later on, an 8 ft. ditch was dug and it has helped. They recommended building somewhere else where it is dry. Town of Chenango is aware of it and are trying to work on the problem. Any vacant property or empty lots next to homes and it is privately owned at some point it may get developed at some point.
- Concerned about the road that is being logged and there being a "Road is Closed" sign. The town put a "No Trespassing" sign and that should be the only sign that is on it. The town is not giving them any access.
- Concerned if the college builds what will happen to the tax roll. Supervisor Marinaccio said it will reduce it but not sure by how much.
- Concerned how the town can tell the college not to build. Attorney Coughlin explained there would have to be a buffer. The key is what the line is to the properties.
- The residents recommended that the town take a look at the land as there is equipment on it and they are closing the road and it is a mess.

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- A resident was concerned with them working on the weekends. Public Works commissioner Joel Kie explained they have a lot more freedoms and rights. They are trying to work on the cold days and be respectful to our town to not damage the road.
- A resident signed an easement for their property on John St 13 years ago. Easement was to slow down runoff. Public Works Commissioner Joel Kies explained he will reach out to the college contacts if the county were to buy the Boland property. Trying to get the water fixed is the biggest concern.

On motion by Supervisor Marinaccio, the work session was adjourned on a motion from Councilperson Morabito and seconded by Councilperson Burns at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi Evans
Deputy Town Clerk