

Town of North Hudson
Regular Town Board Meeting
November 17, 2020 6p.m.

Present were Supervisor Stephanie DeZalia, Councilman Marshall Gero, Councilman Brian Caza, Councilman Robert Dobie, Councilwoman Maureen Marsden and Town Clerk Martha King.

No public in attendance. Meeting was closed to the public due to COVID.

Supervisor DeZalia called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. and led in the salute to the Flag.

Supervisor DeZalia asked the board to remain standing and take a moment to acknowledge and thank our Veterans for our freedoms since we were not able to hold the traditional Veterans Day Ceremony due to COVID.

Supervisor DeZalia sent a warm heartfelt Thank You to Dani Parent for making and placing a wreath at the Veterans Wall.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting as amended.

So moved by Marshall Gero and seconded by Maureen Marsden.

All in Favor. Ayes -5, Noes-0

Approval of the minutes from the Public Hearing held on November 5, 2020 for the review of Local Law #2 of 2020 Law to Override the Tax Cap.

So moved by Robert Dobie and seconded by Marshall Gero.

All in favor. Ayes -5, Noes-0

Approval of the minutes of the Public Hearing held on November 5, 2020 at 5:15pm for the review of the Preliminary 2021 Budget as amended.

So moved Brian Caza and seconded by Marshall Gero.

All in favor. Ayes-5, Noes-0

Supervisors Financial Report

As of October 31, 2020

Checking Accounts

Town of North Hudson Checking	0.10%	\$ 484,901.88
General Fund		\$ 451,931.88
Fire District		\$ 32,970.00
Highway Fund Checking	0.10%	\$547,086.44
Total All Funds		\$1,031,988.32

Closure to Public- Meetings

Supervisor DeZalia was advised by the Chairman of the Essex County Board of Supervisors and the Director of Public Health to hold all further Town Board Meetings virtually, without public, in order to slow the spread and eliminate the risk of all being quarantined due to exposure by one. Supervisor DeZalia has taken that advice and all Town Board meetings will be held without the public until further

notice. Since some board members do not have the internet capability of virtual meetings, the Town Board will continue to meet at the Town Hall with masks and distancing until a solution is found. She is looking into video capabilities and other virtual meeting options.

Old Business

A. Dangerous Dog Contract

Supervisor DeZalia has signed the contract for the Animal Shelter agreement with Eagles Nest Veterinary Hospital for the shelter of dogs that are deemed dangerous. This is a one-year contract and the agreed \$500 deposit will be held for services rendered. The contract price of \$500 has been paid. This was approved at the October meeting and is resolution #61 – 2020. She has received back the signed contract and will send it to NYS Agriculture and Markets. It was noted that most other County towns have opted to also contract with them.

B. Speed Signs

Supervisor DeZalia will get new estimates on radar flashing signs to be placed at the north and south ends of the hamlet. Due to the increased volume of traffic it has become a great safety concern. The Board has spoken about placing speed signs and reduction of speed in the hamlet various times. The estimates from last year were approximately \$5,000 for two signs. There has been increased traffic due to more visitors coming to the high peaks area, the campgrounds and to the Paradox Brewery thus causing a safety concern. There is also an anticipated increase with snowmobile traffic as well. Paul from Paradox Brewery and the Underwood Club have both spoken with Supervisor DeZalia on multiple occasions about their safety concerns with the increase in traffic. This is being looked at as a matter of public safety and an enhancement to tourism. The cost of these signs would be applied to the ROOST money to be used in marketing and tourism due to the increased volume of traffic. It will enhance the experience of tourists visiting our community. These flashing signs being used in many towns in the county.

C. Grants

Community Resources has reached out to Supervisor DeZalia and would like North Hudson to proceed with their projects that were put on hold. It was budgeted for this year and has been kept in the 2021 Budget. This grant is a 100% reimbursement grant from DEC EPF-Main St Revitalization and Economic Development. Supervisor DeZalia would like to see the pavilion, the water project and main street revitalization projects done in 2021 as they were proposed for the grant in 2018 and 2019. She is also working on trying to utilize the DASNY \$50,000 grant the Town was given for the conceptual horse arena. She asked the Board if a horse corral is really needed as the State is looking to add additional campsites and a corral. She stated the water project is a big deal and the engineer believes we need to drill a new well. It will be looked into further.

The LED sign Town Hall was also discussed. Supervisor DeZalia would like to see the Town Hall sign project get done. She will reach out for an estimates for a two-sided LED sign for in front of the Town Hall. The Newcomb Town Hall sign was done by Ray Signs of Schenectady. They can build the desired sign to meet our specifications. The choice of hard wired and solar power, and size and placement were discussed. Estimates will be forthcoming. These project have been approved by the board and just needing estimates, bids and scheduling.

New Business

Departmental Reports

Supervisor

Supervisor DeZalia has placed in the Board packets information put out by the Association of Towns regarding the NYS Mandated Future Health Disaster Plans that are required by the Town by April 1, 2021.

Also a letter from the Essex County Agricultural Society Inc. looking for help with next year's fair. Board members were asked to read it as it will be discussed at Decembers meeting.

Supervisor DeZalia has attended in person workshops October 27, 28th and 29th titled: *"Tools for practical Communication", Running your Highway Department"* and *Local Roads Done Right."* She also attended Virtual Webinars on November 3rd & 12th titled *" Powers and Duties of Local Highway Officials", "Dollars and Sense of Municipal Operation"* and will participate in the webinar on November 24th titled *"I have Snow and Ice"*. Supervisor stated these were very helpful to understand that department better. She stated it was beneficial to understand the Highway operations. And have a better understanding of what is required by law, what the Town Board and Supervisor need to be looking at and what should and shouldn't be done.

Highway

On November 5th Superintendent Duntley and Supervisor DeZalia spoke with FEMA about what is still needed for Pepper Hollow on a Virtual Site inspection. Supervisor DeZalia is working on the DEC permit and the letter to the APA to get what is required for the mitigation project.

Transfer Station

Attendant Tony Venner spoke to Supervisor DeZalia and will keep the supervisor informed of anything that occurs in that department. Supervisor encouraged all residents to recycle as much possible to keep the trash cost down.

Zoning

Jon Senecal remains very busy with permits and inspections.

Courts

Work on the courthouse steps is almost complete. There is still some work left and it will be completed as weather allows. Mr. Gero indicated the contractor has done a good job. The town will only be billed for the work that has been completed at this time.

A "Thank You" was given by Supervisor DeZalia and the Town Board to Larry Koller for accepting the demolition from the courthouse porch renovation. It was used for clean fill.

Town Clerk

The town clerk has received a Freedom of Information Act request from "Protect The Adirondacks" signed by Peter Bauer. They are requesting Building Permit records from the last 19 years. Supervisor DeZalia and the town clerk will meet with Jon Senecal, Zoning Officer, to see if this request can be easily completed or if it will be too difficult task to complete. Someone will have to go through 20 years of zoning and building permit records. The FOIL will be responded to as required.

County Reports

A. Chairman Glliland addressed the Board of Supervisors about the recent uptick of COVID cases in the north Country Region. He Advised the Board of Supervisors to go Virtual again. All Essex County Board of Supervisors Meetings will be held Virtual again. Supervisors meetings will be held remote until further notice. The Chairs will be at the Board Room on respective Monday's of each meeting they chair. Everyone else will be virtual on a GOTOMEETING screen. Supervisor DeZalia will attend the DPW, Personnel and Finance Committees. She is the Chairwoman of the Personal Committee.

B. Linda Beers, Director of Essex County Public Health, gave an update to the Board of Supervisors regarding the recent increase in COVID cases, it was also her recommendation to do the same at Board and Town levels. She advised all to be vigilant and continue to do all possible to protect our communities.

C. Jim Dugan will be meeting with ORDA to discuss plans for the safe transportation and the continued operation of the Essex County Public transportation busses to transport to ski resorts. The buses have been shut down, operating on a by reservation only service for shoppers. They will try to design a transportation plan to keep everyone as safe as possible.

D. The Essex County IDA has been awarded funding from the USDA to expand the revolving loan program. This can be used for machinery, equipment, Working Capital, furniture, fixtures, and real property. The minimum loan is \$10,000 with 4% interest. This loan is available to for Profit Businesses that employ less than 50 persons and having less than a \$1 million dollar projected gross income. Contact Carol Calabrese at the Industrial Development Agency at (518) 873-9114 or at ccalabrese@essexcountyids.com.

E. Dan Palmer presented the tentative Essex County 2021 Budget with a 2.13% increase from 2020. It was noted by Supervisor DeZalia that Mr. Palmer is up for reappointment in 2021.

Local Law #2 2020

Public Hearings were held on Local Law #2 2020 to Override the Tax Levy Limit and for the presentation of the Preliminary 2021 Town Budget on November 5, 2020 for the public to be heard. There were no public present and no correspondence was received in either matter.

Resolution # 68-2020

Resolved to adopt proposed Local Law #2 entitled "*A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in GML§ 3-C*"

Moved by Robert Dobie and seconded by Marshall Gero.

Roll call Vote:

Brian Caza-Aye

Marshall Gero-Aye

Stephanie DeZalia Aye

Robert Dobie Aye

Maureen Marsden Aye

Town Budget 2021

Supervisor DeZalia made note of some items that were left out or omitted from the article in the November 14th edition of the Sun Newspaper.

The total appropriations for the General Account are at a 1.71%, an increase above 2020.

General Fund Estimated Revenues are at a .19% increase, only due to the new Occupancy Tax revenue that will be coming in from the Community Tourism Fund.

Highway Appropriations are at an increase of approximately .79% with increased revenues of approximately .56%. Supervisor DeZalia stated with an overall increase in appropriations of 1.21% property value in North Hudson. Property value in North Hudson is not on the rise like in other parts of the county due to the large amount of State Land. She pointed out that our taxable value went down almost \$2 million in 2019 and \$2 million again this year. We are expecting this again next year as well. This is due to NY States' transition assessment decrease of 2% per year. When taking the amount to be raised by taxes and our total taxable value going down, the tax rate per 1000 will be significantly higher even if no changes in appropriations or revenues occur. The taxable value of property in North Hudson has to be taken into

consideration. Supervisor noted that all departments need to tighten spending as we will be facing this again next year.

Resolution # 69-2020

Resolved to adopt the proposed 2021 Annual Budget as written for the Town of North Hudson.
Moved by Brian Caza and seconded by Marshall Gero.

Roll call:

Brian Caza-Aye

Marshall Gero-Aye

Stephanie DeZalia-Aye

Robert Dobie- Aye

Maureen Marsden- Aye

Abstracts

Motion to approve abstracts for General and Highway funds by Marshall Gero seconded by Robert Dobie.

All in favor

Ayes-5, Noes-0

Audit Judges Financial Report

Motion to approve the Judges report by Maureen Marsden and seconded by Robert Dobie

All in favor

Ayes-5, Noes-0

Privilege of the Floor:

Councilman Caza asked the status of the 250 loader and if it was presently running, it was believed it is still not running. He stated it has been being worked on all year and would like to know exactly what is wrong with it, also stating that the Town just keeps dumping money into it. Councilman Dobie state the problem needs to be diagnosed and fixed and the Town needs to stop putting money into it without it being resolved. He stated he believes it would have been much better if it had gone to Anderson to be diagnosed and repaired. Supervisor DeZalia stated she believes that the procurement policy is not being followed with this repair as well as the bidding process. The Board will ask the Highway Superintendent to make a list of what is wrong with the 250 and bring it back for review and a decision on what the next step is will be made. Supervisor DeZalia will be meeting with all department heads and review the Procurement policy. The department heads will be held accountable for all purchases made in their departments and reminded they must follow Town policy.

Councilman Gero asked the status of the Plumstead code complaint as he is not seen any improvement. It was suggested by Supervisor DeZalia that the Committee have another meeting with Zoning Officer Jon Senecal and Mr. Plumstead. She asked for reports on all committee meetings. Councilman Caza stated a time frame needs to be established and adhered to. Mr. Caza suggested a certified letter to Mr. Plumstead outlining all tasks to be completed and a cutoff date in order to be in compliance. If it is put in writing and the letter is sent certified mail it will erase any doubts whether he was informed of this or not.

They will meet with Jon Senecal on Thursday to start this process. Councilman Gero suggested the matter of open permits should be looked into as well.

Supervisor DeZalia addressed the vandalism at the Town Hall. Terry DeZalia spoke with her after hearing about it out in the community. He stated he knew who did the vandalism and if the Town decided to do something formally about it he would reveal the name at that time. Supervisor DeZalia addressed the Board stating she was disappointed to find out that her individual conversations with them regarding the vandalism at Town Hall went out into the public. Discussion of a camera was brought up. No action taken at this time on this matter.

Executive Session:

Motion to go into Executive Session for a personnel matter at 7:00p.m.

Motion by Robert Dobie and seconded by Maureen Marsden

All in favor Ayes -5, Noes-0

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:25p.m.

Motion by Robert Dobie and seconded by Maureen Marsden

All in in favor Ayes-5, Noes-0

The Board met in executive session in the matter of a disciplinary action on an employee.

Supervisor DeZalia will speak to the employee in the morning.

She will meet with the employee and they will be placed on probation effective at that time.

The probationary period is to start Wednesday November 18th.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 7:30p.m.

Moved by Robert Dobie and Seconded by Maureen Marsden

All in Favor

Ayes-5 Noes-0

Respectfully submitted

Martha M. King

Town Clerk