

TOWN OF KIRKWOOD WORK SESSION

December 29, 2020

Present: Supervisor Gordon Kniffen
Councilman Robert Weingartner
Councilman Lewis Grubham
Councilwoman Katie Legg
Councilman William Diffendorf, Jr.

Also Present: Robert McKertich, Attorney
Kelley Diffendorf, Town Clerk
John A. Finch Jr., Commissioner of Public Works
Jim Smith, Budget Officer
Marchie Diffendorf, Planning Board Chairman
Gayle Diffendorf, Deputy Town Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Done prior to the Public Hearing

1. Discussion – Amending the Town of Kirkwood Benefit Plan – Increase HIRP from \$425 to \$450 and increase health insurance contributions for employees to 13% in 2021 and to 14% in 2022 and 2023 and elected officials to 18% in 2021 and to 19% in 2022 and 2023. (GEK) (12/29/20)

Supervisor Kniffen said this has been part of our benefits plan for a long time. When we did away with our prescription card plan many years ago we put this as an additive to our health insurance. It's \$425 that can be used for any medical costs. It has been that way for quite a while so it is being increased to \$450.

We do ask our people to contribute to the health insurance and we are still on the low side of where other towns and municipalities may be. Supervisor Kniffen read the increases from above discussion point.

John Finch said I want to clarify that 2 or 3 years ago the Highway Superintendent and Town Clerk were exempt from the election increases and were grouped in with the employee's rate. Gayle Diffendorf agreed.

2. Resolution reappointing Walter Woolbaugh to the Planning Board for a term to expire December 31, 2025. (12/29/20)

3. Resolution reappointing Cynthia French to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire December 31, 2025. (12/29/20)

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4. Resolution authorizing the continuation of petty cash for 2021, subject to audit by the Budget Director, for the following department at specified amounts, pursuant to Town Law Section 64, Paragraph 1(2): (12/29/20)

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bookkeeper | \$100 |
| Building & Code Inspector | \$100 |
| DPW Commissioner | \$200 and \$35 for Water Department |
| Supervisor | \$200 |
| Town Clerk | \$200 |
| Town Justice | \$200 |
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5. Discussion – SKJ Facilities Management Agreement – Cleaning Company. (JAF)

John Finch said we have been having issues with our current cleaning company, Brooms over Broome, not meeting our standards for the past year. I got a quote from SKJ Facilities Management out of Big Flats. They have a satellite office in our area and they clean businesses locally. I also checked with the Night Shift. SKJ came in quite a bit lower than the other two companies. I checked their references and they were extremely, highly recommended. I'd like to try them out, we don't need to sign a yearly contract, just a 30 day notice if we aren't happy with their work. The references said they are very easy to work with and will come right out if there's a problem. We are currently paying roughly \$1,040 a month for Brooms over Broome. SKJ's price was \$871 a month. I would give Brooms over Broome a 30 day notice and then start with the new company. John Finch replied to Councilwoman Legg saying, we reached out to every company we could find and the Night Shift and SKJ were the only two that responded. Resolution.

6. Discussion – Sewer rents for Frito Lay and Triple Cities Metal Finishing.

(01/05/21)

Mr. McKertich said this pertains to the sewer rents for Frito Lay and Triple Cities Metal Finishing. Our local law currently allows for some allowances in regard to the quantity of water used. This is in order to account for the fact that part of their water used in their processing is lost through evaporation, therefore it doesn't enter the sewer system. We have historically afforded that allowance when determining those two company's sewer rents. Recently we were informed by the Binghamton Johnson City Joint Sewage Board that they were no longer going to recognize that allowance. If they don't recognize the allowance in terms of the calculation for the flow to the Town then we should not be recognizing the allowance when we are setting sewer rates for those two companies. In light of that, the purpose of a resolution is to only approve those engineering allowances to Frito Lay and TCMF if they are recognized by the Joint Sewage Board. Until that happens, we will be billing them based on the normal rate for sewage treatment. Mr. McKertich responded to Supervisor Kniffen saying, Frito Lay is examining their options right now, they are not actively pursuing it.

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TCMF is being more active at this time but they haven't taken any formal action. Supervisor Kniffen said, we hope they make out ok with that.

Supervisor Kniffen responded to Councilman Diffendorf saying, yes this has been going on for a few years. Mr. McKertich responded to Councilman Diffendorf saying, we sent them a bill for back amounts due, that bill comes due in February. Councilman Grubham said Frito Lay responded they will pay but we are not sure yet about TCMF.

7. Discussion – Resolution authorizing the Assessor to renew certain real property tax exemptions without an application for the year 2021. (LCG) (12/29/20)

Councilman Grubham said due to a ruling by the State, the Assessor is now allowing people who have the STAR exemptions and so forth, to not have to come in to prove those exemptions this year. It makes it easier, particularly on the older people, so they don't have to come here with the virus going on. Councilman Diffendorf asked if people need to make changes can they come in to do that. Councilman Grubham said they can probably do it over the phone if they don't want to come in here.

Mr. McKertich said the only two exemptions this applies to is people 65 and older and for people with disabilities. It's those two exemptions that the Governor made an Executive Order that says if the municipalities adopt this resolution then we can recognize the exemptions we had for 2020 and carry them over for 2021 without having them come in and go through the application process again. New applicants can still apply in person.

8. Discussion – 2021 Highway Expenditures. (JAF)

John Finch said I was hoping to have a list of roads done by today. I'm still waiting on prices from Broome Bituminous. Hopefully I will have it next Tuesday so we can discuss it. They got behind once the storm hit.

9. Budget Transfers. (12/29/20)

John Finch replied to Councilman Diffendorf saying the increase in the park contractual was for the tennis courts sealcoating. It wasn't in the budget but we did it to keep them from deteriorating further, it was passed by the Board earlier this year.

10. Audit of Claims. (12/29/20)