

TOWN OF KIRKWOOD WORK SESSION

January 26, 2021

Present: Supervisor Lewis Grubham
Councilman Robert Weingartner (via Zoom)
Councilwoman Katie Legg
Councilman William Diffendorf, Jr.

Also Present: Robert McKertich, Attorney
Kelley Diffendorf, Town Clerk
John A. Finch Jr., Commissioner of Public Works
Marchie Diffendorf, Planning Bd. Chairman
Duane Travis, ZBA Chairman (via Zoom)

1. Discussion – Highway Expenditure Report. (JAF)

John Finch said I passed this report out at the last meeting. This depends on how much CHIPS money we get. I didn't use all of our CHIPS money in case it does get cut back. What I have on that list will still get completed. If we get more money I can add to it.

2. Discussion – Water Quality Improvement Project (salt & sand barn.) (JAF)

Supervisor Grubham said we are supposed to be getting the ok any day to get started on this project. We want to order the building for the new salt barn because pricing is going to go up about 15% sometime next month. We've been waiting for the final go ahead from the State, although they told John Mastronardi it's all ok. John Finch said we have a verbal agreement but we are waiting for the official documents to come for Supervisor Grubham to sign. I talked with Hybrid today and she will let me know if she hears of any increase coming. Supervisor Grubham said when it gets approved I will hold off signing it to be sure we have the final go ahead from the State. If we can approve it at the next meeting we will be all set to go.

John Finch said if we do approve this contract we will place the order for the canopy, we don't actually pay for it until it arrives. We are going to schedule it sometime in August to give us plenty of time to get the concrete and black top done. If we approve it and something falls through we will be out \$1500 for the contract and half of the engineering foundation which is another \$1750. We could be out \$3250 if something catastrophic happens with the grant. John Finch replied to Councilman Diffendorf if we don't order the structure until we get the ok and they have an increase it could be \$10,000-\$15,000 more out of our pocket, on top of half of the grant which is \$230,000. The \$3250 is what we would pay for getting out of the contract and the down payment for having the design work done on the concrete. Supervisor Grubham said I don't really see this not happening. The head guy in Albany has been in talks with John Mastronardi saying it's going to go, but he can't give the official go ahead. They have set the money aside.

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3. Discussion – Parks Mower. (JAF)

John Finch said we had budgeted to replace the 2017 mower this year that is currently in the Parks for a brand new zero turn mower. We have received a trade-in value of \$5000 for the old mower. The Water department is going to purchase that mower for \$5000 through an inter-fund transfer. For the new mower the Parks department would be paying \$8797 and the Water department would pay \$5000 towards it (due to the purchase of the 2017 mower). This spring we will sell the 2012 Kubota mower that is currently in the Water department on the auction site, it has had some issues. The Water department has two mowers. We use the Kubota to mow the water tank area and down back by the wells, it needs four wheel drive due to moisture, and some of the sewer stations. We should get \$1000-\$1500 for the Kubota when we sell it. It's still in nice shape.

Resolution.

4. Discussion – Resolution authorizing the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with Hybrid Building Solutions for a 65 ft. wide by 84 ft. long Calhoun Super Structures HT building for the new Salt Storage Barn, at a cost not to exceed \$90,529.25, in accordance with the attached agreement. (JAF)

Discussed above in #2 – Water Quality Improvement Project (salt and sand barn)

Resolution.

5. Discussion – Final Payment for Mini Excavator – Split between Water (\$13,663.00) & Sewer (\$11,178.00) Departments. (JAF)

John Finch said this is just a follow up to what we have discussed about purchasing a mini excavator. This is the remaining balance that we agreed to pay off in January of this year. We sold the other one on the auction site and received about \$7000 more than what the trade-in value was on it. The amount of \$24,841 is coming out of the Water and Sewer department.

6. Discussion – Resolution pursuant to Not-For-Profit Corporation Law Section 1402(c)(3) approving the Membership Roster for Kirkwood Fire Company, with the understanding that the members so approved will be assigned for which they have been qualified, in accordance with the attached roster.

Resolution.

7. Discussion – Resolution accepting the Recertification of the Record of Activities for James R. Smith, Budget Officer PT, William J. Diffendorf, Jr., Safety Officer, and Cynthia French, Dog Control Officer for the year 2021, in accordance with the attached recertifications.

Resolution.

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- 8. Discussion – Resolution accepting the Recertification of the Record of Activities for John A. Finch, Jr., Highway Superintendent, Kelley M. Diffendorf, Town Clerk, William J. Diffendorf, Jr., Councilperson, and Cynthia French, Member Zoning Board of Appeals, in accordance with the attached recertifications.**

Resolution.

- 9. Discussion – Resolution authorizing Chad Moran to attend the Southern Tier Home Builders & Remodelers Association’s training on February 17, 2021 from 9 AM to 4 PM at the South New Berlin Fire Department, at a cost of \$35.00.**

Resolution.

- 10. Discussion – Monthly cell phone reimbursement of \$50.00 to Lew Grubham. (LCG)** Supervisor Grubham said I would like to see if we can pay \$50 a month for my cell phone. I do everything on that for the Town. All the Town’s email business is on my phone and I do get texts as well.

Resolution.

- 11. Audit of Claims.**

Councilman Diffendorf and John Finch discussed a couple vouchers. The first was regarding a vehicle code scanner, its use and the reimbursement to Bill Tozer for a yearly subscription. Also, the light pole that needed to be fixed on the ramp between Route 11 and Cedarhurst Road would go into general fund.

New Business.

Tech and Building Upgrades

Supervisor Grubham responded to Marchie Diffendorf saying, we are checking into getting equipment to use for Zoom meetings. Along with that there are many things that need to be updated around here. We need to update our internet speed which is very slow right now. We also have problems with our security system. Last time we had an issue it was at least a week before anyone could come to take care of it and I believe the guy drove all the way from Texas to fix it. We need a new security system with someone that is local. We are also looking at our phone system which has been here forever and could use some upgrading. I’ve been holding everyone back a little bit because I don’t know how our money is going to work out with the pandemic still going on, particularly in this first quarter. I have a feeling our sales tax money is not good. But this is stuff we will have to take care of sooner or later. Our building needs repair as well. There are issues with the gutters causing boards to rot. The landscaping in the front has caused the base of the wall to rot. I don’t know how bad it is but the siding itself has rotted out. It needs to be redone. We have to spend money on this building. We’ll get two or three prices so we know what the right price should be when we make the upgrades.

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Adhoc Members for Planning Board and ZBA

Supervisor Grubham said we should start looking for one or two more Adhoc members for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. Marchie Diffendorf said last night at the Planning Board meeting we had one member that couldn't vote because he was bidding on the project and one member was sick. I have no objections to adding more members. Last time I advertised for one no one stepped up. Supervisor Grubham said it's very hard to fill these positions. Councilwoman Legg said this would be a good opportunity to start teaching people these roles. Supervisor Grubham said it's a good idea and I think we should do it.

Open Council Seat

Councilman Diffendorf asked, are we going to do anything about getting another Board member. Supervisor Grubham said right now I'm not in favor of doing much about it. Councilman Diffendorf said at the next meeting I'd like to have a vote on it so it is on the record what the Board feels. Councilman Weingartner said he still feels the same as he mentioned at the last meeting that he is fine with the Board as is. Supervisor Grubham said we can vote on it at the meeting and we should.

Resolution.