

October 2, 2017 – 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, October 2, 2017 in the Town Hall, 531 Old Front St., Binghamton, NY.

The members of the Town Board present were:

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

Absent:

Sharon M. Exley, Councilwoman

Also attending:

**Keegan Coughlin, Esq., (o/b/o Oliver Blaise III, Esq. Attorney for the Town)
Susan Cerretani, Town Clerk**

Also in attendance:

**Code Enforcement Officer Stephen Rafferty, Town Engineer Ron Lake,
Public Works Commissioner Joel Kie, Zoning Board Chair Jeanne
Compton, Client Relationship manager for Energy Next MEGA (CCA)
Community Choice Aggregation Danielle McMullen, Broome County Clerk
Rick Blythe, Binghamton Press Reporter Jeff Platsky, and nine members of
the general public.**

Supervisor Marinaccio asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the Las Vegas shooting.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing was opened with a presentation by Danielle McMullen, Client Relationship manager for **Energy Next, MEGA (CCA) Community Choice Aggregation.**

Community choice aggregation (CCA) is a community energy program through **MEGA** that enables local governments to aggregate electricity demand within their jurisdictions in order to procure alternative energy supplies while maintaining the existing electricity provider for transmission and distribution services. Ms. McMullen provided a 45 minute power point overview of the program and answered questions from residents about the program. Ms. McMullen stated that with the **CCA** program residents will still pay the delivery portion of their electric bill to the utility company (e.g. **NYSEG**). **CCA** would be the energy supply portion of the bill. **NYSEG** would still be responsible for power outages and maintenance. Best prices will be chosen from multiple companies at a fixed rate for a 3 year period. Ms. McMullen spoke briefly about green renewable energy and time of use customers. Supervisor Marinaccio stated that the town will move forward with the steps of the program and will continue educating our

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residents. The Supervisor stressed that residents may hop on board or opt out of the program. If residents are under contract with a third party supplier they will not be automatically enrolled in the program. Mr. Marinaccio mentioned that the Binghamton Press published a great article on the energy program and thanked Jeff Platsky for his fine reporting. Educational information is on the Town’s website and at the Town Clerk’s office. Councilman Gardner is designated as the CCA liaison.

CHAIR

2018 BUDGET PROCESS

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that the **Preliminary 2018 budget** has been completed and presented to Town Clerk Susan Cerretani who has published it on the Town of Dickinson website. The budget is also available for viewing at the Clerk’s Office.

ATTORNEY

NYSEG FIRE HYDRANT

Attorney Keegan Coughlin relayed that Attorney for the Town Oliver Blaise is communicating with NYSEG’s attorney regarding the damaged fire hydrant.

PUBLIC HEARING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A Public Hearing will be held regarding the **Updated Comprehensive Plan** at next week’s regular town board meeting.

PARKING ON FOREST HILLS BLVD

A Public Hearing will be scheduled regarding parking restrictions on **Forest Hills Blvd.** at next week’s regular town board meeting. GPS coordinates are needed and residents in the nearby area will be notified.

WATER RATES AND SEWER RATES

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that the Water Department is suffering. In order to help out the water department the board is proposing to exchange \$2.00 per 100 cubic ft of sewer bill and tie it in with the water rate. Supervisor Marinaccio stated that rates won’t go up higher; the water and sewer department would just be exchanging water and sewer rates. A Public Hearing will be scheduled at next week’s regular town board meeting.

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PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Commissioner Kie reported that the crew is placing topsoil along Adams Street. Leaf pickup has begun. The last brush pickup will be after Veterans Day.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Supervisor Marinaccio reported that **Taste of New York** is now open.

Councilman Gardner reported that he attended a meeting on September 21st regarding **Zombie Properties**. The **Village of Johnson City** and the **Town of Union** have a serious problem with vacant, unoccupied properties. They are trying to find ways to secure these properties. The properties are bringing the surrounding properties values down. Councilman Gardner has a list of properties that we are keeping an eye on in the Town of Dickinson. Councilman Gardner will report back to the board with more information once he learns more.

On motion by Supervisor Marinaccio, the work session was adjourned by motion from Councilman Morabito and seconded by Councilman Burns at 6:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cerretani
Town Clerk