

March 6, 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, March 6, 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**

Also attending:

**Oliver N. Blaise III, Esq., Town Attorney
Susan Cerretani, Town Clerk**

Absent:

Sharon M. Exley, Councilwoman

Also in attendance: Public Works Commissioner Kie, Town Code Enforcement Officer Rafferty, Town Engineer Lake, Residents Tytus Haller and James Love.

CHAIR

Supervisor Marinaccio presented his Work Session report:

1. Mr. Marinaccio stated that the **Association of Towns Annual Meeting and Training School** was once again a great success. Supervisor Marinaccio and Councilman Gardner attended many classes relating to our town operations and found them to be very informational. The Supervisor will have more on this event for the next meeting.
2. Supervisor Marinaccio reported that once again we had an issue at **231 Bevier St.** On Sunday, February 26, he received a call from a resident informing him that the previous occupant got into the house somehow. Mr. Marinaccio contacted Lt. Harding who then contacted the State Police to let them know that the house was condemned and no one was allowed inside without permission from our code officers. The State Police decided to not get involved due to lack of knowledge on condemned homes. Supervisor Marinaccio again called the Sheriff and they sent their own squad car once one became available. Mr. Kie was notified as this was taking place. Supervisor Marinaccio stated that due to safety concerns, we do not want Mr. Kie or Mr. Rafferty confronting anyone who might get into the house.
3. Supervisor Marinaccio and Councilman Gardner attended the **State of the City Address** last week and found it to be very interesting and very positive. Supervisor Marinaccio congratulated Mayor David on a job well done.

Supervisor Marinaccio stated a group of local elected officials held a press conference on Thursday, March 2 at **DeGennaro's** Restaurant in Endicott for the purpose of countering the fabricated statements that the governor keeps making about local governments. Towns in counties throughout New York held similar conferences. Mr. Marinaccio stated that we are planning to take more aggressive action in the near future.

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Supervisor Marinaccio offered the floor to resident Tytus Haller who voiced his concerns regarding parking issues on Terrace Drive in Sunrise Terrace. Mr. Haller pointed out that there are obstructed visibility safety issues on the inside loop portion of Terrace Drive and suggested parking be eliminated in that area or moved to the other side of the street.

The second issue that Mr. Haller brought to the board's attention is that there is not a "no parking" area in front of the stop sign on Iris Drive approaching Terrace Drive.

Supervisor Marinaccio asked that Public Works Commissioner Kie and Code Enforcement Rafferty do an assessment, make recommendations and bring back to the board for discussion next week.

Supervisor Marinaccio informed the board that Councilwoman Exley's mother Elizabeth Roche, passed away on Thursday, March 2nd.

Supervisor Marinaccio welcomed **Broome County Deputy Executive** Kevin McManus. Mr. McManus reviewed the County Executive's State of the County Address. He touched on 4 areas of concern:

- **FINANCE**

- The Comptroller has stated that Broome County has been fiscally stressed for the last three years. At the end of 2015 the fund balance was approximately \$5.5 million. The projection is that there will be approximately \$4- 4.5 million left at the end of 2016, partly due to a one time casino fee of \$3.7 million.
- There are concerns about future floods, sales tax not coming in as projected, and ACA repeal (if repealed that translates into a \$3 million loss in revenue)
- A hiring freeze has been instituted. Consolidating as many positions as possible. A traveling freeze has been instituted for any travel that is not for a mandated program.
- Broome County Legislature Chairman Dan Reynolds has requested a full in-depth audit by the State Comptroller.
- New Purchasing Director has instituted internal and external purchasing procedures working with department heads to streamline the process. Training programs have been initiated.
- Shared services committee has been put together.

- **JOBS**

- Labor force shrinking – 6,000 jobs have been lost over the last several years.
- 1,500 jobs are available but not filled due to lack of training
- Plan to build a one stop center for veterans
- Developing a new Broome County website

- **AIRPORT**

- Industry driven
- Recently lost two airlines
- Pilot shortage because of requirements regarding flight hours
- Airport Commissioner and deputy are developing a strategic action plan to include public relations, marketing and getting air service
- Exploring the possibility of a SUNY Broome aircraft maintenance program

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- **OPIOID CRISIS**

- The County Executive has declared the opioid epidemic a public health emergency.
- 76 deaths due to drug overdoses last year
- Broome County has the highest property theft crime rate in the state and is directly related to the drug crisis.
- The Health Director has been named the lead on the Broome Opioid Abuse Council which is the drug task force
- Costing millions in dollars in jail costs and increased coroner fees
- Narcan is being tracked by agency and by where and how much was administered.
- Prescriptions led to this crisis
- Governor has proposed several treatment centers

COMMENTS:

Mr. Marinaccio stated that the Town of Dickinson has a 400 thousand square foot building available on Glenwood Rd. that would be ideal as a treatment center.

Councilman Morabito asked Mr. McManus whether there had been any discussion regarding consolidating airports. Mr. McManus unfortunately that is going to be a long term project. Most of our people are going to Syracuse. Syracuse airport just received 40 million dollars to update the airport. Elmira makes no money off of **Allegiant Airline**. Elmira is trying to build an activity at the airport and make money on the parking and concessions. After all, 40 million dollars was pumped into their airport.

Resident Jim Love questioned the timetable regarding the shutdown of the **Greater Binghamton Airport** main runway for a month for repairs. He believes it is putting a band aid on the problem. He remarked that the airline industry is changing and he feels a decision must be made as a county and as a community to select one airport whether it is the Elmira, Ithaca or the Greater Binghamton Airport, because all three of them cannot be sustained. Councilman Morabito noted that business industry is changing also in that travel has decreased and being replaced with telepresence.

Mr. Love also voiced his displeasure with the management of the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant.

In conclusion, Mr. McManus thanked the Board and noted that he and the County executive are making the rounds to 25 or 26 municipalities. Mr. Marinaccio thanked Mr. McManus for his presentation.

ATTORNEY

AGREEMENT BETWEEN TOWN OF DICKINSON AND THE BROOME COUNTY DOG SHELTER

Attorney Blaise asked Town Clerk Cerretani to research whether the board passed a resolution authorizing the agreement between the Town of Dickinson and the Broome County Dog Shelter. If not, it will be put on next week's agenda for approval.

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SOLAR COMMITTEE

Attorney Blaise reported that the Solar Committee held a meeting Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Mr. Blaise stated that there has been much progress made and he has a draft local law in place. Mr. Love has been compiling comments which he will pass on to Attorney Blaise. The committee will meet at the end of April. Mr. Rafferty will update the zoning schedules.

BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION

Attorney Blaise will follow up with a revised building permit application next week

PUBLIC WORKS

- Public Works Commissioner Kie reported that there are lane closures on Route 17. The contractor is starting to drill for the sound barrier wall for the opposite side of the highway and extending the barrier farther than originally planned.
- Because of the construction of the 25 foot high sound barriers, the **Microtel** sign will sit low. The **Microtel** will have to alter the base of the sign in order to extend it higher than 10 feet.
- Commissioner Kie reported that the ADA concrete block sidewalks at **SUNY Broome** North College Drive entrance were damaged either by BCC or the State DOT, yet the Town had to repair it. Mr. Kie is upset that we are responsible for making repairs when we weren't the ones who damaged it.
- There was a discussion regarding sidewalk maintenance. **Town of Chenango** charges residents and businesses a per foot maintenance fee. Town of Dickinson currently has 5,000 ft of sidewalk and an additional 2,500 additional feet will be added with the proposed construction of the multi use path.
- Town Engineer Ron Lake attended a MS4 class on Thursday. He stated that next year there will be new requirements for storm water and he recommended that the budget for MS4 be increased next year.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

None

ASSESSOR

None

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARDS

None

On motion by Supervisor Marinaccio, the work session was adjourned by motion from Councilman Morabito and seconded by Councilman Burns at 6:34PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cerretani
Town Clerk