

November 09, 2020– REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Town of Dickinson Town Board was called to order with the pledge of allegiance by Supervisor Michael A. Marinaccio at 6:00 PM on Monday, November 09, 2020 via Zoom teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The members of the Town Board present were:

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

Also in attendance:

**Angelo D. Catalano, Esq., Town Attorney
Susan M. Cerretani, Town Clerk
Code Enforcement Officer Rafferty, Town Engineer Lake, Public Works Commissioner Kie, Zoning Board Chair Compton, Planning Board Chair Ford, Town Assessor Cahill, Administrative Assistant Wike, Attorney Marina Resciniti and client Ms. Brown.**

CHAIR

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

November 2020 Supervisor’s Report

This meeting is being held remotely via ZOOM virtual meeting software. The public can view or listen to this meeting live via the ZOOM app, web browser and/or by telephone. This meeting is being recorded and will be transcribed at a later date.

Also, at this time, anyone who is not an officer of the town, will be muted until I ask for comments from the public. Please state your name when you are called upon and recognized by me. Please avoid any background noise while you are speaking.

Before I begin my monthly report, please join me in a moment of silence in the passing of David Rieger, a longtime member of the **Prospect Terrace Fire Company** and as our former Town Dog Control Officer.

Let us proceed with my Supervisor’s Report for November.

1. Please take notice that we continue to maintain strict measures in place relating to anyone visiting the Town Hall to conduct business. That includes all town staff and elected and appointed officials. We now have a **RING System** installed at both entrance doors to the building. You will be asked

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SUPERVISOR’S REPORT CONTINUED:

what sort of business that you need to conduct. You must wear a face mask or you will not be allowed to enter the Town Hall, you must use hand sanitizer on your hands which will be provided at the both entrances and at the Town Clerk’s counter and the Old Front Street entrance. You must sign in prior to conducting any town business. Additional procedures are listed on our Town website. The Town State of Emergency remains in place until further notice. Our town continues to operate under a State of Emergency due to the epidemic.

2. The **County Mobile COVID-19 rapid testing vehicle** will be moved to **SUNY Broome** for a period of time. Only people with symptoms should be making an appointment. (previously in Johnson City)
3. I had a **ZOOM** meeting with Congressman Brindisi who stated that he is working with a bi-partisan group of Congress members in developing a **Relief Bill**. His focus is on small businesses, schools, broadband, unemployment relief, agriculture, and local governments. He would prefer that local governments get pass through relief from the Federal Government instead of having to go through the State which tends to be more complicated.
4. Sales Tax revenue share for our town for the third quarter is \$255,390.86. Last quarter was \$195,599.95. To date we have received \$691,983.92. We budgeted \$820 K for 2020.
5. New York State has mandated that municipalities generate an **Employer Emergency Plan** to protect employees and contractors in the event of another public health emergency declaration in New York State. While we have policies in place to protect our staff and residents who enter our buildings, we need to follow the guidelines set by the state. I have assigned Councilman Steve Gardner to assist me and Superintendent Joel Kie in generating a plan.
6. I spoke to Michael Ponticello, **County Emergency Services Director** regarding the accumulated **COVID-19** cases in our town. Though in the beginning nearly all confirmed cases were from the County Jail, as of October 30, we had 72 accumulated cases, and many were from community spread. There are 16 active cases in our town.

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SUPERVISOR’S REPORT CONTINUED:

7. I participated in an October 28th ZOOM meeting sponsored by the **Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce** regarding **COVID-19 Economic Recovery**. I found the meeting to be very interesting and informative. Representatives of state, federal, county, and local governments, as well as from business, education and human service agencies took part. The main focal point was how to maintain some normalcy while at the same time taking all necessary safety precautions in order to avoid the spread of the virus. It was also found that persons under 50 years old had increases in positivity rates and there was an increase in death rates for older persons. It was also noted that only 40% of the population in Broome County have good access to broad band. Agriculture/dairy farmers are taking a major hit economically due to the slowdown in restaurant business and in schools. Meat producers are having a difficult time in keeping up with demand due to lack of workers.
8. I reviewed the town credit card charges and found no issues.
9. New York State reported that there was a \$452 million dollar shortfall for the 3rd quarter of sales tax revenue.
10. Statement from the **New York Association of Towns: The NYS Division of Budget** is open to the idea of working with Justice Court fines to increase revenue for towns and the state.
11. Today we will be voting for the **2021 Town Budget**. As in the past, everyone did a great job in keeping costs to a minimum and working as a team to come up a fair budget that will continue to serve our residents in an effective and quality manner. Our tax rate remains one of the lowest in the county while offering great services from our Town Clerk’s office, our courts, and our public works departments. As a comparison, the tax rate in Binghamton is around \$22.84 per thousand for residential and \$41.08 per thousand for commercial. They do have police, fire, and garbage services so we keep that in mind. Our tax rate for both commercial and residential is under \$2.90 per thousand which is a good deal considering what we offer in services.

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SUPERVISOR’S REPORT CONTINUED:

12. We received the third quarter payment for inmates from other jurisdictions housed in the **Broome County Jail** for \$27,636.83. Total income from the jail year to date is \$116,459.25. This includes the lump sum payment made to the town. We budgeted \$70,000 for 2020.
13. The 2021 Town Holiday and Meeting schedules are ready for review. They will become official at our January 2021 organizational meeting.
14. I am pleased to announce that Judy Mickelson who resides on Rosedale Drive in Sunrise Terrace has agreed to become a member of the Town Planning Board effective January 1, 2021. I would like to ask for a unanimous vote from the town board when we get to the voting part of today’s meeting. Judy has shown great interest in our town especially when we were trying to save the **Sunrise Terrace Community Center**.
15. I had a conversation with Kelly Fancher who works for the **Greater Binghamton Chamber** and is the **Film Development & Social Media Manager**. She is looking for various information and pictures of areas of our town and any unique features in our town. I can think of many: **Cutler Pond, SUNY Broome Campus, Cornell Cooperative Extension, BOCES**, and much more. I will be participating in a **ZOOM** meeting on a date yet to be determined to learn more about this new program. Broome County has agreed to participate, and I am sure most if not all municipalities will join in this effort to attract new businesses, visitors, etc.

Code Violations

1. Order to Remedy issued for 144 Old State St., hot water tank installed but not completed. Tennant claims no hot water for months.
2. 21 Merrill St., Order to Remedy Violation Notice, leak in the roof causing water to drip into the kitchen area.
3. Appearance Ticket issued to the **Church of Eternal Manna**, broken windows, tall weeds.

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SUPERVISOR’S REPORT CONTINUED:

Dog Control Officer Report for September

TOWN: 2 calls for October. Stray dog (found), dog chasing woman while walking her dog. Met with the dog’s owner and resolved the issue.

VILLAGE: 2 calls for October. Stray dog located in the city and caught. 2 pit bulls running loose. A man left his truck open and the dogs got out. Dogs caught and returned to the truck.

NYSEG UTILITY SHUTOFF NOTICES

There were no **NYSEG** notices sent out to any of our residents this month.

Reminder that the Town Hall is closed on November 11, Veterans Day and on November 26th and 27th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Next meeting is Monday, December 7th at 5:30 PM.

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that the board members received a letter from Jack Cahill that detailed all his accomplishments as the Town of Dickinson Assessor, and he requested an increase in salary for himself and his assistant. Councilman Burns commented that Jack Cahill does a wonderful job in his position, has worked very hard and has picked up a lot of mistakes from the previous assessor. Supervisor Marinaccio thanked Mr. Cahill and his assistant Susan Cerretani for doing a great job but noted that the 2% salary increases that were budgeted cannot be raised at this point in the budget process.

Supervisor Marinaccio reported revenue numbers:

Sales tax:

We are at \$692,000

We budgeted 820,000

Jail revenue:

We are at \$116,400

We budgeted \$70,000

Court revenue:

At \$121,000

Budgeted \$210,000 – we will fall short

Town Clerk is ahead of last year

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hinman, Howard & Kattell attorney Marina Resciniti requested on behalf of her client Ms. Gale Brown that the Board consider changing section 299-19 of the Town Code to permit 4 hen chickens on a residential property.

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that the Board will take her request into consideration.

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Assessor Jack Cahill commented on the budget, making it known that he was displeased with his rate of pay for all of his accomplishments in the Assessor’s office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

• **FINANCE**

○ **SUPERVISOR MONTHLY REPORT**

Councilman Morabito made a motion to accept the **September 2020 Supervisor monthly report** seconded by Councilman Gardner. All in favor.

○ **TOWN CLERK MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Councilman Morabito made a motion to accept the **October 2020 Monthly Financial Report** for the **Town Clerk** in the amount of **\$1,614.00** seconded by Councilman Burns. All in favor.

○ **TOWN COURT MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Councilman Morabito made a motion to accept the Financial Report for the **Town of Dickinson Court** for the month of September 2020 in the amount of **\$29,384**. On a motion of Councilman Morabito and seconded by Councilwoman Exley. State: \$25,549.00 County: \$465.00 Town: \$3,370.00 All in favor.

• **ABSTRACTS FOR APPROVAL**

On Motion from Councilman Morabito, seconded by Councilman Gardner to approve **abstract # 11**, dated **November 09, 2020** in the amount of **\$216,722.14**.

Vote Ayes-5, Nays-0, Absent-0.

- Supervisor Marinaccio voting Aye
- Councilman Gardner voting Aye
- Councilwoman Exley voting Aye
- Councilman Morabito voting Aye
- Councilman Burns voting Aye

Unanimously passed and noted as duly adopted.

Abstract Summary of Audited Vouchers for Funds respectively in the amount(s) of \$216,722.14.

Voucher #11 for November 09, 2020 in the amount of \$216,722.14:

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>\$95,744.52</u>
<u>Part Town</u>	<u>\$3,941.17</u>
<u>Highway</u>	<u>\$30,931.06</u>
<u>Fire districts</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<u>Light Districts</u>	<u>\$2,584.61</u>
<u>Sewer Operating Dist.</u>	<u>\$10,997.26</u>
<u>Water Operating Dist.</u>	<u>\$72,523.52</u>

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Councilman Gardner seconded by Councilwoman Exley to approve the **Special Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2020**, the **Work Session Minutes of October 5, 2020** and the **Regular Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2020**. All in favor.

Vote Ayes-5, Nays-0, Absent-0.

Supervisor Marinaccio voting Aye
Councilman Gardner voting Aye
Councilwoman Exley voting Aye
Councilman Morabito voting Aye
Councilman Burns voting Aye

ATTORNEY

RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2021 BUDGET

Attorney Catalano stated that a Public Hearing was held at last week’s work session regarding the **2021 Budget**.

RESOLUTION 2020-20

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Gardner, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Morabito to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Dickinson, Broome County, New York as follows:

RESOLUTION: ADOPTING THE 2021 BUDGET

The question of adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows: All in favor. Vote Ayes–5, Nays–0, Absent-0.

Supervisor Marinaccio voting Aye
Councilman Gardner voting Aye
Councilwoman Exley voting Aye
Councilman Morabito voting Aye
Councilman Burns voting Aye

All in favor. Budget available in the Clerk’s Office and posted on the Town of Dickinson website.

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RESOLUTION 2020-21 NYSDOT COST SHARING AGREEMENT FOR THE HIGHWAY LIGHTING PROJECT ON THE NEW TRAIL

RESOLUTION 2020-21

The following Resolution was offered by Councilwoman Exley, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Burns to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Dickinson, Broome County, New York as follows:

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE AGREEMENT WITH NYSDOT REGARDING THE COST SHARING AGREEMENT AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE HIGHWAY LIGHTING PROJECT ON THE NEW TRAIL

The question of adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows: All in favor. Vote Ayes–5, Nays–0, Absent-0.

Supervisor Marinaccio voting Aye
Councilman Gardner voting Aye
Councilwoman Exley voting Aye
Councilman Morabito voting Aye
Councilman Burns voting Aye

All in favor

CHENANGO FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT RENEWAL

Attorney Catalano stated that a Public Hearing was held at last week’s work session regarding the Chenango Fire Protection Contract renewal.

RESOLUTION 2020-22

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Morabito, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Gardner to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Dickinson, Broome County, New York as follows:

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE CHENANGO FIRE PROTECTION 5-YEAR CONTRACT RENEWAL

The question of adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows: All in favor. Vote Ayes-5 , Nays–0, Absent-0.

Supervisor Marinaccio voting Aye
Councilman Gardner voting Aye
Councilwoman Exley voting Aye
Councilman Morabito voting Aye
Councilman Burns voting Aye

All in favor. Contract to be signed and copy to Chenango Fire Department.

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RESOLUTION 2020-23

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Burns, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Exley to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Dickinson, Broome County, New York as follows:

RESOLUTION: APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JUDY MICKELSON TO THE PLANNING BOARD EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021.

The question of adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows: All in favor. Vote Ayes–5, Nays 0, Absent-0.

Supervisor Marinaccio voting Aye
Councilman Gardner voting Aye
Councilwoman Exley voting Aye
Councilman Morabito voting Aye
Councilman Burns voting Aye

All in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS – WATER & HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

- Public Works Commissioner Kie reported that this is the last week for yard waste pickup.
- The Highway Department will continue picking up leaves until they are gone or as weather permits.

PERSONNEL

- Nothing to report

PLANNING BOARD

- Nothing to report

ZONING BOARD

- Nothing to report

The meeting was adjourned on motion of Councilman Morabito and seconded by Councilman Burns at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cerretani
Town Clerk