

**November 2, 2020 – 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, November 2, 2020 via Zoom teleconferencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**The members of the Town Board present were:**

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

**Also attending:**

**Angelo D. Catalano, Esq., Attorney for the Town  
Susan M. Cerretani, Town Clerk**

**Also in attendance:**

**Code Enforcement Officer Stephen Rafferty, Public Works  
Commissioner Joel Kie, Zoning Board Chair Jeanne Compton,  
Planning Board Chair Jerry Ford, Administrative Assistant  
Beverly Wike, Mr. Jonah Bixby representing the Chenango  
Fire Department**

Supervisor Marinaccio opened the meeting:

Welcome everyone to our Nov. 2, 2020 Work Session

Today we have 3 Public Hearings to present:

1. 2021 Town Budget
2. Sharing Maintenance of Highway Lighting which is a **NYSDOT** Contract regarding the new lighting that will be installed along the **All-Purpose Trail** that will extend from the Exit 5 on/off ramp to the City line.
3. We also will have a hearing on the **Chenango Fire** Protection contract which begins in 2021 and will be for 5 years.

Supervisor Marinaccio requested that the Public Hearing #3 for the Chenango Fire Contract be taken out of order and be held first.

**PUBLIC HEARING # 3 – CHENANGO FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT  
RENEWAL**

Public Hearing # 3 was opened at 5:31 by Supervisor Marinaccio

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Mr. Jonah Bixby, a 20-year member of the fire-fighting community, joined the meeting as a representative of the **Chenango Fire Company**. Mr. Bixby addressed the Board regarding the contract renewal, noting that the proposed 2021 contract rates will remain the same for the first year and increase \$750 each year thereafter to a \$50,000 total at the end of the 5-year contract. The **Chenango Fire Company** is proposing to spread out the increase over the next five years to help alleviate the economical financial stress on the local municipalities due to the pandemic.

The Fire Company will be replacing 3 of the fire apparatuses with 2 trucks. One will be a multipurpose truck. Mr. Bixby provided detail regarding the pumper trucks and the squads in their inventory. The **Chenango Fire Department** has a total of 55 members - 25 currently active.

Public Hearing #3 was opened to questions.

Mr. Bixby gave Councilman Burns the specifics on the truck replacements. Councilman Morabito asked if the Fire Company has incurred increased expenditures due to the coronavirus. Mr. Bixby stated that they have received N95 masks, aprons, goggles, and hand sanitizer from the State at no cost. Mr. Bixby stated that they experienced a lower call volume at the beginning of the pandemic but are now back to normal volume.

Supervisor Marinaccio explained that the Board will vote on the contract at next weeks' meeting. The contract will then be signed and returned to the Chenango Fire Department.

Mr. Bixby thanked the Board for the opportunity. Supervisor Marinaccio replied in kind.

Public Hearing # 3 was closed at 5:37 pm by Supervisor Marinaccio

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that on Saturday, October 24, the Town of Chenango had a large water main break. He was contacted by Town of Chenango Supervisor Joann Klenovic within minutes of the break. The water supply from Chenango was turned off. There was no effect on our residents since we have Binghamton as a backup and our large water tank had plenty of water to cover the campus, Chenango Shores and Sunrise Terrace. The large leak was found and located in the Northgate Plaza vicinity.

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Public Hearing #1 was opened at 5:39 PM by Supervisor Marinaccio.

### **PUBLIC HEARING #1 – 2021 BUDGET**

Supervisor Marinaccio highlighted some key items in the 2021 Budget:

This was a difficult budget to put together, but our staff and elected officials worked as a team to come up with what I believe is a great budget in spite of the ongoing epidemic that we are currently in.

The only cut to services was the sidewalk 50/50 cost split. We hope to have it back in place next year. That was a \$30,000 line item.

There is a slight increase in property taxes, for an average home in Dickinson assessed at \$120,000, the increase totals \$12 for the year.

The Highway Department cut its budget by around \$200K which greatly assisted us in keeping the tax increase very low and under the tax cap.

Health insurance costs continue to rise at an alarming rate. We are looking at around a 4.2 percent but that may be reduced once it is finalized.

We gave a 2% salary increase to staff and officials.

Materials for our various operations continue to increase especially during the epidemic

We continue to purchase much needed items for the protection of our staff and residents who come to the town hall.

Public Hearing #1 was opened to questions.

None being heard.

Public Hearing # 1 was closed at 5:47pm.by Supervisor Marinaccio.

Public Hearing # 2 was opened at 5:47 by Supervisor Marinaccio

### **PUBLIC HEARING # 2 – SHARING MAINTENANCE OF HIGHWAY LIGHTING COSTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NYSDOT PROJECT**

Supervisor Marinaccio gave an overview of the **NYSDOT** Shared Lighting Contract:

This is a continuation of existing contracts that we have with the **NYSDOT** regarding lighting. There is no cost to the town in the installation of the new lighting systems but once in place, we are responsible for the maintenance of them as with all lighting on state roads and highways including the cost of electrification.

Public Hearing # 2 was opened to questions.

None being heard, Public Hearing # 2 was closed at 5:49 pm by Supervisor Marinaccio.

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### **REMINDER:**

Our next board meeting is next Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.  
Our Town Hall will be closed on Veterans Day, November 11 and on November 26 & 27 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

### **ATTORNEY**

#### **2021 BUDGET**

Attorney Catalano stated that we will have a resolution next week to adopt the 2021 Budget. Mr. Catalano remarked that the board is taking a good, conservative approach considering the unknown budget cuts from the State.

#### **SHARING MAINTENANCE OF HIGHWAY LIGHTING CONTRACT WITH NYSDOT**

Attorney Catalano stated that we will have a resolution next week to accept the sharing maintenance of highway lighting contract with **NYSDOT**. Mr. Catalano stated that the contract is a basic, standard contract that we cannot make changes to and that is ok. It is called a contract of adhesion.

There is no cost to the Town for the lighting installation however we will be responsible for the maintenance of the lights.

#### **CHENANGO FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT RENEWAL**

Attorney Catalano stated that we will have a resolution next week to accept the Chenango Fire Protection 5-year Contract Renewal.

Mr. Catalano remarked that fire departments across the state are receiving a lot of funding due to the coronavirus.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

- Public Works Commissioner Kie stated that next week is the last week for yard waste pickup.
- The Highway Department crew will continue leaf pickup. The crew came in on Saturday to pick up leaves.
- The Airport Road LED high mast lights are being installed.

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Supervisor Marinaccio stated that a candidate for the Planning Board will be introduced by name at the next board meeting.

Councilwoman Exley asked the status of the code violation on St. Stan's School. She stated that the windows remain broken out. The Code Department issued an appearance ticket this week. Mr. Kie stated that the Town cannot legally get on the property and board it up. He stated that the local contact is not answering correspondence.

Councilwoman Exley reported that garbage cans are permanently at the curb at the 338 Prospect Street property. She said we have an ordinance on garbage cans. Mr. Kie stated that the cans are put out to the curb for garbage and left for a couple extra days and then filled with leaves and put out to the curb. Ms. Exley countered that this is not just a recent occurrence. The garbage cans have been at the curb long before leaf pickup began. Mr. Kie said he would drive by and look at it.

On motion by Supervisor Marinaccio, the work session was adjourned by a motion from Councilman Morabito and seconded by Councilman Gardner at 6:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cerretani  
Town Clerk