

**January 11, 2021 – 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, January 11, 2021 via Zoom teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86225375974?pwd=alNoSE1UUHRFN2lVdi9lNk96aWgwQT09>

Meeting ID: 862 2537 5974

Passcode: 936893

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

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

**Michael A. Marinaccio, Supervisor**

**Stephen M. Gardner, Councilman**

**Sharon M. Exley, Councilwoman**

**Danny F. Morabito, Councilman**

**Thomas J. Burns, Councilman**

**Also in attendance:**

**Nathan D. VanWhy, Esq., Town Attorney**

**Susan M. Cerretani, Town Clerk**

**Code Enforcement Officer Stephen Rafferty, Public Works Commissioner**

**Joel Kie, Zoning Board Chair Jeanne Compton, Planning Board Chair**

**Jerry Ford, Town Engineer Ron Lake, Administrative Assistant Bev Wike, and one member of the public.**

**CHAIR**

1. This meeting is also being held remotely via **ZOOM** virtual meeting software. The public has the ability to 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.

Public Hearing opened at 6:08 pm

Public Hearing regarding the **Spectrum Franchise Contract**

This is a 10-year agreement. Franchise fees paid to the town will be 5% of their total gross on Dickinson customers. Agreement will continue to allow one free cable service to the town hall/garage.

Attorney VanWhy stated that the current version of the agreement will be the final version with only minor revisions. He recommended that we hold off on the approval until we get the final sign off from Spectrum.

Public Hearing closed at 6:11 pm

## January 2021 Supervisor's Report

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 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 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, which I recently renewed for January 2021, remains in place until further notice. Our town continues to operate under a State of Emergency due to the epidemic.

2. **2020 Town Review**

As everyone is aware, 2020 was one of the most challenging years that we have ever faced. **COVID-19** epidemic posed extreme challenges to not only for our town operations, but for the general public. As of today, the challenge continues but there is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. While our town and all the other municipalities continue to operate under a State of Emergency, thanks to our elected and appointed officials, our staff who work in the town court system and in our public works departments, we have been able to keep our town operations running as smoothly as possible with little or no major interruptions. We put together a great budget for 2021 despite reduced income from our various sources and with a very small increase in our property taxes. We will continue to be challenged for most of this year due to the epidemic, but I am certain that we will maintain our town in an efficient and cost-effective manner. I am proud of our town, our residents, our staff, and town officials and appreciate all their efforts in making the Town of Dickinson a great place to live and work.

It is with great sadness to announce to all of you tonight that our very Own Bev Wike has decided to retire. We have not come up with an exact date yet, but it will be around early spring. We are working rewriting a job description for the position. Once we complete that we will begin the search process by advertising her position as well as by word of mouth. As all of you, Bev has done an admirable job in all the facets of her responsibilities and they are many. Our plan is to hire someone and have Bev train with the new hire for at least a month. I will keep the board up to date as we move forward in filling this very important position.

3. I reviewed the town credit card charges and found no issues.
4. Reminder: The **Annual AOT Training School** will be held virtually from Feb. 14 through the 17<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$100 per person for member towns. I have registered for the school and will be voting in the annual business meeting that will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Dan Morabito is designated as the alternate in the event I am unable to attend the business meeting. I will discuss this further with Dan as we get closer to the date.

## January 11, 2021 – REGULAR MEETING

### SUPERVISOR'S REPORT CONTINUED:

5. As a reminder, **Broome County Real Property** will no longer offer off-site collection for property tax payments in any of the towns. Off-site tax collection offices will be centralized at the **Oakdale Mall**, former **Sears** building and the **Broome County Office, Edwin L. Crawford Building**. Both locations will have a drop-box available for payments as well. The former Sears location will be open Monday through Friday from 9am to 3:45pm for collection of current taxes only, for the entire month of January and the last days of the months in February and March for property tax payments, for the towns that **Broome County Real Property** collects taxes for. The Broome County Office location will continue to collect both current and delinquent taxes year-round Monday through Friday from 8am to 3:45pm.
6. The Town Planning Board will be conducting a meeting on Monday, January 25, starting at 6 PM. The meeting will be held via **ZOOM**. Invites will be sent to the members of the Planning Board, Town Clerk, Town Attorney, Steve Rafferty, and Tom Burns. The meeting will be posted on our web site so that the public and other town officials can attend. The Planning Board will be reviewing the proposals from **Fairview Recovery**. Screen Sharing will take place to show all the plans and specifications of the proposal and everyone using video will be able to view the plans. There will not be any voting on this project by the Planning Board at this time while they wait for the County Review results.
7. Met with the County on Friday on a **ZOOM** meeting to discuss **COVID-19** status. Numbers are up significantly. 260 positive cases reported in one day. The average was around 100 cases. 106 people are currently being hospitalized. They expect numbers to come down in February. We are currently in the 1A mode which is established by the state regarding vaccinations. There were 5000 vaccines available and all have been given out. 1-A is for nursing home patients, nursing home staff, etc. 1-B will be in place today. That group includes teachers, school staff, school nurses and health providers, transit workers, public works staff, first responders, people 75 years and older. This will be done through appointments and the vaccinations will be given out pending supply. The county is also looking at developing mass vaccine sites throughout the county capable of handling around 1000 people per day and pending supplies. Hospitals, pharmacies, and possibly various medical centers will also be giving the vaccine shots. The county is looking for volunteers to assist in contact tracing which can be done from your home, traffic controllers, etc. Anyone that is interested in volunteering may call Mary McFadden at the County Health Department at 778-2802 or Emergency Services Director Michael Ponticiello at 778- 2170.
8. It was also reported that sales tax numbers in New York have increased from deficit of 13% down to 3% from last year's totals which is great news to all municipalities who greatly depend on sales tax to run their operations. We should have a handle on sales tax revenue sometime in February.

**January 11, 2021 – REGULAR MEETING**

**SUPERVISOR’S REPORT CONTINUED:**

- 9. Ron Lake is home recovering from recent surgery. Wishing Ron a speedy and complete recovery.
- 10. I just received a message from the Broome County Emergency coordinator Michael Ponticello today and he stated that the **NY State DOT** is looking into the road blocking by the **Norfolk Southern Railroad**.

**Code Violations**

847 Front Street order to remedy. Ping pong table in front lawn.

47 Adams Street order to remedy. Property maintenance code - rubbish and garbage on the front porch.

**Dog Control Monthly report December 2020**

**TOWN:** 1 call, stray dog running lose. Could not locate the dog. Talked to the owner of the dog, Snowden St. resident, he is looking for a new home for the dog once the dog is found.

**VILLAGE:** 2 calls: Report of barking dog. The owner of the dog was spoken to and she stated she would take corrective action.

Report of a stray dog running lose. Unable to locate the dog.

**NYSEG UTILITY SHUTOFF NOTICES**

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

Our next Town Board Meeting is scheduled for February 1, 5:30 PM, most likely via Zoom.

Fireworks at Otsiningo Park are scheduled for Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm.

Councilman Morabito mentioned that there is a broken shelving unit and a broken branch in the front lawn at 149 Iris Drive that is unsightly and would like to see removed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None being heard.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

• **PUBLIC WORKS**

- Councilwoman Exley is now the Co-chair of the Highway Department. She and Highway Superintendent Kie are working on a feasibility study to create a sidewalk district on Front Street.

**January 11, 2021 – REGULAR MEETING**

- Councilwoman Exley stated that 3 members of the Highway Department are planning on retiring. Supervisor Marinaccio replied that Highway Superintendent Kie has a plan in place for the replacements.

- **FINANCE**

- **TOWN CLERK MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Councilman Gardner made a motion to accept the **December 2021 Monthly Financial Report** for the **Town Clerk** in the amount of **\$1,613.00**, seconded by Councilman Morabito. All in favor.

- **TOWN COURT MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Councilman Morabito made a motion to accept the **Financial Report** for the **Town of Dickinson Court** for the month of **October 2020** in the amount of **\$35,945.00**

On a motion of Councilman Gardner and seconded by Councilman Morabito.

State: \$35,945.00 County: \$595.00 Town: \$6,030

All in favor.

- Councilman Morabito made a motion to accept the **Financial Report** for the **Town of Dickinson Court** for the month of **November 2020** in the amount of **\$17,038.00**

On a motion of Councilman Gardner and seconded by Councilwoman Exley.

State: \$14,638.00 County: credit of \$40.00 Town: \$2,440.00

All in favor.

- **ABSTRACTS FOR APPROVAL**

On Motion from Councilman Gardner, seconded by Councilwoman Exley to approve **abstract #13** dated **December 31, 2020** in the amount of **\$119,058.80**.

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 \$119,058.80.**

**Voucher #13 for December 31, 2021 year in the amount of \$119,058.80:**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$55,737.38</b>
<b>Part Town</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Highway</b>	<b>\$37,547.02</b>
<b>Fire Districts</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Light Districts</b>	<b>\$3,725.29</b>
<b>Sewer Operating Dist.</b>	<b>\$18,757.50</b>
<b>Water Operating Dist.</b>	<b>\$3,291.61</b>

**January 11, 2021 – REGULAR MEETING**

On Motion from Councilman Gardner, seconded by Councilman Burns to approve **abstract #1** dated **January 11, 2021** in the amount of **\$148,833.97**.

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 \$148,833.97.**

**Voucher #1 for January 11, 2021 year in the amount of \$148,833.97:**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$75,979.83</b>
<b>Part Town</b>	<b>\$450.00</b>
<b>Highway</b>	<b>\$26,795.29</b>
<b>Fire Districts</b>	<b>\$10,262.00</b>
<b>Light Districts</b>	<b>\$297.55</b>
<b>Sewer Operating Dist.</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>Water Operating Dist.</b>	<b>\$33,049.30</b>

• **PERSONNEL**

Councilman Gardner stated that three of the Highway Department employees will be retiring. Mr. Kie will be working on the replacements during the year.

• **PLANNING**

Chairman Ford stated that there is a meeting scheduled for Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm via Zoom to discuss the Adams Street project that also involves the Zoning Board.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Councilwoman Exley seconded by Councilman Gardner to approve the **December 7, 2021 Work Session Meeting Minutes and the December 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes**. All in favor.

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

Attorney VanWhy introduced the newest member of the VanWhy family – a beautiful little baby girl named Hannah, born on January 5, 2021. Congratulations to the VanWhy family!

**January 11, 2021 – REGULAR MEETING**

**ATTORNEY**

**RESOLUTION: ADOPTING THE 2021 ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION 2021-1**

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 ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTION**

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. Copy on file.

**RESOLUTION: APPOINTING PLANNING BOARD MEMBER JUDIE MICKELSON**

**RESOLUTION 2021 -2**

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: APPOINTING JUDIE MICKELSON AS A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING BOARD.**

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

**RESOLUTION: SPECTRUM FRANCHISE AGREEMENT**

The resolution to approve the Spectrum agreement was put on hold until all the details of the contract are finalized.

**January 11, 2021 – REGULAR MEETING**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

- Public Works Commissioner Kie mini excavator
- Front Street cleared of snow
- Mr. Kie expressed a concern that concern piles of snow were plowed over the wall onto the walking path that had to be removed. He noted that this was an unprecedented snowstorm and is unlikely that it will happen again. The maintenance of the walking trail has not been officially turned over to us.
- The Highway Department will have 3 retirees on the first of the year next year. Mr. Kie stated that there is a 2-year learning curve in training new hires for the Highway Department. He would like to hire one employee now. He has interviewed a candidate that he thinks would be a great asset to the department and the town. He would like to hire another employee this summer. Matt Fitzpatrick will accept the responsibilities of Danny Miller.

Highway Superintendent Kie asked for the board’s approval to hire Kyle Doyle to the highway department.

On a motion by Councilman Gardner seconded by Councilman Morabito to hire Kyle Doyle. All in favor.

Councilman Morabito commented that it is critical for Mr. Kie to take advantage of the winter season to train with the plow.

**ZONING**

Nothing to report.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Nothing to report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None being heard.

The meeting was adjourned on motion of Councilman Morabito and seconded by Councilman Gardner at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cerretani, RMC  
Town Clerk