

## March 08, 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, March 08, 2021 via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85332005251?pwd=VldnWnlMZC94Q1ZFL3VJWkZlQ0wydz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3200 5251

Passcode: 816667

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 via Zoom:

Nathan D. VanWhy, Esq., Town Attorney

Susan M. Cerretani, Town Clerk

Also attending via Zoom: Broome County Executive Jason Garnar, Highway Superintendent Joel Kie, Code Enforcement Officer Stephen Rafferty, Town Engineer Ron Lake, Administrative Assistant Beverly Wike, Zoning Board Chair Jeanne Compton, Project Manager from L&T Construction, Planning Board Chair Jerry Ford, Planning Board Member Judith Mickelson, and 3 members of the general public.

## CHAIR

### SUPERVISOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

March 2021

1. This meeting is 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.

### 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

## March 08, 2021 – REGULAR MEETING

### SUPERVISOR'S REPORT CONTINUED:

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 St. 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. I reviewed the town credit card charges and found no issues.
3. I am still waiting for a call back from Bob Meade, Commercial Relator, in regards to the vacant property next to our town garage
4. I participated in the **2021 NY Association of Towns Annual Training School**. Here are the classes I participated in: Working Together to Assist Local Government in the aftermath of **COVID-19**; Managing Your Budget in Times of Fiscal Stress: Managing Your Cash Flow; Employee Leaves and Accommodations; Sales Tax Trends and Sales tax Withholding Programs. I also attended both the Opening Sessions and Breakfast Sessions with Senator Schumer, NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, NYS Attorney General Letitia James, Senator Kruger, Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul. The virtual classes and business meeting were done successfully, and I found the classes to be very informative. I was also voted in as 4<sup>th</sup> Vice-president of the Association.
5. Received a letter from **County Real Property Director** Michael Decker informing us that Broome County will be canceling taxes by Legislative resolution for tax foreclosed properties this February. For Dickinson, our payable portion is \$3,352.42. Also, due to the pandemic and subsequent **NY Governor's State of Emergency Executive Orders** relating to the tax foreclosure moratoriums, coupled with the prohibition of large assemblies of people, the normal tax property auction timeline and timely processing has been severely hampered.
6. Dog Control coverage for some towns is becoming a concern due to lack of qualified staffing and other issues. Our shared service with Fenton remains in place and we are doing very well so far. Our Dog Control Officer has made arrangements to cover both the town and village in his temporary absence when he is on vacation. He has trained staff that will cover us and there will be a \$50 per call charge if Greg is on leave.
7. I received a call from someone claiming they are a Village resident complaining about sales calls from energy companies. He claims he called **NYSEG** and that they

**March 08, 2021 – REGULAR MEETING**

**SUPERVISOR’S REPORT CONTINUED:**

told him that the Town of Dickinson is responsible for the calls due to the community aggregate we have with **MEGA**. I called **NYSEG** and was told that they do not make such statements. I called and talked to Katie from **MEGA** and she also stated that they do not give out customer information.

8. Relating to door to door or phone calls from people that say they are with an energy company, do not give or show them your electric bills or any other information. There have been groups of people going door to door in our town soliciting the sale of energy contracts. They are do so illegally. Do not give them any information. Call the police.
9. New York ranks seventh among all the states in the percentage of adults who are experiencing food scarcity, at 14 percent compared to the 11 percent national rate, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s latest Household Pulse Survey.
10. We have several meetings scheduled this week: Wednesday at 10 am Sharon, Steve and I are meeting with Joel to discuss truck replacement plans. On Thursday Steve, Joel and I will be finishing the **Town Disaster Plan** that was mandated by the state. Once completed, it will go to the town board for approval. Friday, we are having a meeting in regard to the door replacements for the town hall. Sue, Kathy, Steve, Bev, and I will be participating. Our court staff we able to get a \$2K grant from **J-Cap**. The total cost to replace the doors with automatic type doors and added security is in the \$30K range. The **SAM** Grant that I was able to get 5 years ago and still waiting for final approval is now be addressed by Senator Akshar. Letters have been sent to the **Senate Majority** and the **Dormitory Authority**. That grant was for \$50K and will be used, once we get it, for the doors. However, the doors need to be replaced and that will be addressed at our Friday meeting.

**Code Violations**

1. 63 Adams St., garbage alongside of the house including hot water heater

**Dog Control Monthly report**

**TOWN:** 2 calls for the Town: Notices sent out to 2 dog owners for failing to appear in court. 11 tickets issued for past due dog licensing.

**VILLAGE:** No calls for the Village

**NYSEG UTILITY SHUTOFF NOTICES**

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

**March 08, 2021 – REGULAR MEETING**

**SUPERVISOR’S REPORT CONTINUED:**

Our next Town Board Meeting Work Session is scheduled for April 5, 2021, 5:30 PM

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Supervisor Marinaccio opened the meeting to public comments.  
None were heard.

**2021 STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS**

Supervisor Marinaccio welcomed Broome County Executive Jason Garner to present the **2021 State of the County Address**.

Mr. Garnar’s address was primarily focused on **COVID**; from fighting the virus, PPE procurement, contact tracing, to re-opening schools and businesses, rapid testing, and vaccine allocations. The focus now is on vaccinating residents at the **SUNY Broome Ice Center** as more doses become available.

Mr. Garnar spoke about the difficult financial decisions the county had to make in response to declining revenues, such as a hiring freeze and the postponement of capital projects.

The County Executive stated that the federal government passed a relief plan that includes aid to states, counties, and individual municipalities to offset their pandemic expenses and loss of revenue. The Town of Dickinson is on track to receive \$1.1 million dollars which will not pass through the State.

Mr. Garnar stated that Broome County's economy has started to turn around. The housing market is very strong with increased activity of investors from outside the community. There is opportunity for Broome County to attract businesses from New York City.

Mr. Garnar is hopeful that all our businesses will be opening by June. The Spiediefest will happen this year with some restrictions.

Mr. Garnar was very positive about the future of our community and that we will come out of this year stronger for it.

Supervisor Marinaccio thanked Mr. Garnar for his presentation. 6:30 PM.

Aaron (last name inaudible), Project Manager from **L&T Construction** joined the meeting to explain the scope of the NYSDOT US Rt. 11 over I-81 bridge replacement/roundabout project. Work will begin Wednesday, starting mostly on the Bevier Street side of the highway. The contractor will begin building the bridge and once that is finished at the end of the year the construction of the roundabout will begin.

Supervisor Marinaccio asked if they will be working 24/7. Aaron replied that 95 per cent of the project will be built during the business hours of Monday through Friday from 7 am to 5 pm.

## March 08, 2021 – REGULAR MEETING

Aaron stated that when they shut down Bevier Street it will require a 24-hour closure. These are **DOT** mandates.

There will be a 15-day shut down closure in the spring of '22 which requires night work on the Bevier Street side.

There will be a 2-week shut down on the roundabout area near McDonalds with the restriction that **SUNY Broome** must be out of session. This will occur most likely summer of 2022.

The off-peak work on Rt 81 will mainly be for steel erection and bridge construction.

Jerry Ford asked if it would be a complete shutdown. Aaron replied that Bevier Street northbound on and off ramp will have a detour in place and there will be a detour for Sunrise Terrace via a temporary road on the spur portion of Old Front Street.

Public Works Commissioner asked Aaron for a contact number or email address for future questions and information.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None heard.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### • **FINANCE**

##### ○ **SUPERVISOR'S MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Councilman Morabito made a motion to accept the **December 2021 Supervisor monthly report** seconded by Councilwoman Exley. All in favor

##### ○ **TOWN CLERK MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Councilman Gardner made a motion to accept the **February 2021 Monthly Financial Report** for the **Town Clerk in the amount of \$1,181.50**. On a motion by Councilman Gardner seconded by Councilman Burns. All in favor.

##### ○ **TOWN COURT MONTHLY REPORT**

Councilman Gardner made a motion to accept the **January 2021 Monthly Financial Report** for the **Town Court in the amount of \$28,049.88**. On a motion by Councilman Gardner seconded by Councilman Morabito. All in favor.

**March 08, 2021 – REGULAR MEETING**

○ **ABSTRACTS FOR APPROVAL**

On Motion from Councilman Morabito, seconded by Councilman Gardner to approve **abstract # 3**, dated **March 08, 2021** in the amount of **\$164,524.48**. 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 \$164,524.48.**

**Voucher #3 for March 08, 2021 in the amount of \$164,524.48.**

<b><u>General Fund</u></b>	<b><u>\$45,773.08</u></b>
<b><u>Part Town</u></b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
<b><u>Highway</u></b>	<b><u>\$32,065.15</u></b>
<b><u>Fire districts</u></b>	<b><u>\$78,500.00</u></b>
<b><u>Light Districts</u></b>	<b><u>\$3,561.93</u></b>
<b><u>Sewer Operating Dist.</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,253.16</u></b>
<b><u>Water Operating Dist.</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,371.16</u></b>

● **PERSONNEL**

Nothing to report.

● **PLANNING**

Chairman Ford reported that the Planning Board is waiting for the final site plan for the Fairview recovery Center.

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that **MEGA** is up for renewal. Councilman Gardner and Supervisor Marinaccio had conversations with **MEGA** representative Katie Vescio regarding the renewal process. Mr. Marinaccio stated that he is not interested in renewing the program because he does not believe the residents are well served by it. Ms. Vescio said that there would be another solicitation period. Supervisor Marinaccio also does not like the fact that the residents must opt out of the program. Clerk Cerretani agreed that many residents complained about having to opt out. The Town Board members agreed not to renew the **MEGA** program.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Councilman Gardner seconded by Councilman Morabito to approve the **Work Session Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2021** and the **Regular Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2021**. All in favor.

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

All in favor.

**March 08, 2021 – REGULAR MEETING**

**ATTORNEY**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COUGHLIN & GERHART TO PROCEED WITH A LAWSUIT OUTSIDE OF THE RETAINER**

Mr. Mark Florance of Sunset Drive is constructing a garage over the Town's sewer line. The Town and Mr. Florance came to a potential solution and signed an agreement (an amendment to the existing easement). Mr. Florance is no longer in agreement and is not going to comply. Attorney VanWhy is asking for Board approval to proceed with a lawsuit against Mr. Florance. A new Stop Work order will be issued.

**RESOLUTION 2021-8**

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Gardner, 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: AUTHORIZING COUGHLIN & GERHART TO PROCEED WITH A LAWSUIT OUTSIDE OF THE RETAINER AGAINST MR. MARK FLORANCE.**

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: DESIGNATING MAY 15, 2021 AS MUNICIPAL CLEANUP DAY FOR THE TOWN OF DICKINSON**

**RESOLUTION 2021-9**

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Morabito, 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: DESIGNATING MAY 15, 2021 AS MUNICIPAL CLEANUP DAY FOR THE TOWN OF DICKINSON.**

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 in the Clerk's office.

**March 08, 2021 – REGULAR MEETING**

**PUBLIC WORKS – WATER & HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

- Public Works Commissioner Kie reported that all the highway crew members have received one **COVID** vaccination shot and three have gotten the second shot so far.
- Mr. Kie reported that Dan & Matt installed the new electrical control panel that the Board approved the purchase of on Linda Drive and is has made a huge improvement.
- Mr. Kie was at the Habitat for Humanity home for a code issue and while there he met the new family that will be moving into the Glenwood house.
- The highway crew has been busy sweeping, picking up garbage, sprucing the town up and getting a head start on spring.
- There are a couple of catch basins that are going to need some work, but it is a little early in the year to assess road conditions.

**ZONING**

Zoning Board Chair Jeanne Compton reported that there is a zoning request for the property on Prospect St. next to St Ann's. A sign has been erected and she needs to talk to Code Enforcement Officer Rafferty about it before anything is done. The County has said that if the sign remains, there must be landscaping around it. Ms. Compton said she is just going to hold off on it for now.

Councilwoman Exley reported that 338 Prospect Street continues to leave their garbage cans on the curb. Mr. Kie will follow up on the complaint.

Supervisor Marinaccio informed the board members that the pedestrian walk bridge is slated to be demolished in 2023.

The meeting was adjourned on motion of Councilman Morabito and seconded by Councilman Burns at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cerretani  
Town Clerk