

April 22, 2022 – SPECIAL MEETING

A Special Meeting of the Town of Dickinson Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Michael A. Marinaccio at 11:30 AM on Friday, April 22, 2022 at the Town of Dickinson Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, NY 13905.

The members of the Town Board present were:

**Michael A. Marinaccio, Supervisor
Stephen M. Gardner, Councilperson
Danny F. Morabito, Councilperson
Thomas J. Burns, Councilperson**

Also attending:

Susan Cerretani, Town Clerk

Also in attendance:

Public Works Commissioner Joel Kie, Town Engineer Ron Lake

Absent:

Sharon M. Exley, Councilperson

Public Works Commissioner Kie opened the meeting noting that the purpose of the meeting was:

1. Informational for the future
2. To help him make decisions about the Sunrise Drive project.

Mr. Kie provided handouts to the board members:

- three photos of Sunrise Drive (road, curbs, and gutters)
- Two proposals from R. Devinentis Construction, Inc
 - o Concrete Curb (East 7 West Sides) & Underdrain (West Side Only) at Sunrise Drive – dated 04/11/2022
 - o Revised proposal – Street Improvements at Sunrise Drive - dated 04/15/2022
- A list of water projects for this year, a list of future water projects, and a list of future sewer projects.

Mr. Kie stated that Sunrise Drive in Sunrise Terrace needs to be repaired. There are major water and drainage issues. The original plan was to mill and pave the road this year. One hundred thousand dollars was set aside to do that; however, that is a lot of money to put into a road that will not solve the drainage issues.

Mr. Kie continued to say water flows down the hill and the water goes over the top of the curb and runs down the road to the catch basins. What happens is that in the wintertime it freezes and expands outward into the road. There were two really bad spots that we put a ton of stone in and tied it into the under drain. Now the water comes out of the woods. We stopped two major spots, but the photos show the water coming over curb. They are designed to work that way, but the curbs do not have a lot of depth and they heave and thaw, so the water does not run down the gutter part and causes erosion and does not go into the catch basin where it was designed to go. There always will be water running on the uphill side and the soil conditions are a lot of clay and shale. A lot of the water is getting underneath the road and causing it to crack and heave and buckle.

Mr. Kie stated that Sunrise Drive was one of the first roads he paved, and he has been at the town for sixteen years. The poor condition of the road causes extra wear and tear on the plows. Mr. Kie's first thought was to tear the curbs out and put in new underdrain and new curbs. Mr. Kie directed the board members to take a look at the proposal cost sheet in the amount of \$348,000.00 for ripping out all the

April 22, 2022 – SPECIAL MEETING

curbs, new underdrain, uphill side perforated pipe and stone – no topsoil. Edging will have to be placed on the uphill side with at least six inches of stone.

There was a lengthy back and forth between Councilman Morabito and Public Works Commissioner Kie. Mr. Morabito would like to avoid having an unsightly view of rocks all the way up Sunrise Drive because five years down the road the grass and weeds will grow through and will be a mess and look terrible. He would like to see an alternate solution. Mr. Morabito stated that he would like to communicate with the residents on the upper side of the street that this is the opportunity to take care of your water problems by installing a French drain and the town will connect them into the storm drain system. It would be totally voluntary and probably all of the residents will not do it, but it will always remain an option to tie in. We cannot force the residents to connect unless we establish a storm district. Mr. Morabito suggested that we put infrastructure in place and tie everyone in. It is the safe way. If we are going to invest so much money into the project, he wants to be sure that it is done the right way.

Mr. Kie stated that we will always have surface runoff and ten percent of the water will never be caught. Mr. Morabito asked why spend all this money if you are going to tie in drains that will direct 90 percent of the water. Mr. Kie stated that even if you tie in you will still have runoff from jumping the curb. Mr. Kie stated there is no other option. There is a concern that when people mow, the grass clippings will clog it up and it will overflow again and will have to be cleaned out every year.

Mr. Kie stated that the middle section of the road, the water catches behind the curb and percolates up. If you crown it and push to curb line, it is going to heave and erode the edge of blacktop. There is an area that is almost flat and needs two inches to crown. In the winter, water off the hill gets under the ground and causes the road to heave more because it does not have good soil material under it.

Mr. Kie stated that if you are going to spend \$350,000 to put in new curbs and drainage in, you may as well rip the road out and put new sub-base in and do it the right way. You are making an investment. Then when you pave the road, it will last 15-20 years and will help alleviate some of the problems the people are having one street down on Rosedale Drive. There are so many springs in the backyards.

When asked by Mr. Marinaccio, Mr. Kie stated that we will pave other streets if we do not do this project this year. With the proposed cost of \$668,000 for the project, we will have to bond. \$90-100k was budgeted. Supervisor Marinaccio stated that whatever we decide to do, bonding is possible. Mr. Kie commented that we have a year. Mr. Marinaccio stated that one of the options is to use the \$375,000.

Other projects:

Stimulus money projects:

- \$27,000 correlator (finds water leaks)
- \$9,300 meter readers
- \$80,000 pressure reducer valve
- \$98,000 Pineview Drive

Leaves us with \$100,000.

April 22, 2022 – SPECIAL MEETING

Future water projects:

- By 2025 Cloud based system for the Water Department meter readings. Software – windows 10 will no longer be supported. It will be an additional 6 K. We have the meter reader already.
- Chenango Shores water mains contain lead - EPA regulations will require us to replace them. We will have to look for Federal Funds, infrastructural funds, or grants at a cost of 2-3 million dollars.
- Finish Old State Rd. water line project – 4 streets left. We have no problems now; it is not urgent. Approximately 6700 ft. to finish.
- We are putting in ionizers at the Sunrise Terrace and Old State Rd water tanks. They are coming to scuba dive. Sunrise Terrace tank was painted approximately 20 years ago. The tanks are basically storage facilities for fire and emergency use.
- New water meters for individual houses were approved in 2003; it has been 20 years. Matt Fitzpatrick is doing a phenomenal job detecting leaks. The cost was \$300 each for the newer water meters; they are accurate.
- Pressure reducing pit to switch to Binghamton water for Prospect Street is expensive - approximately \$250,000. Mr. Kie stated that there is no loop to connect the lower part. The water feed from Johnson City goes under Airport Rd. and would like the option of two sources for the Fire Department, the Microtel, Francis Street etc. We will put it on the wish list.
- Mr. Kie believes that a new control panel for Sunrise Terrace sewer station at 50K would be a good investment. Right now, we do not have capability to turn on and off remotely.
- Mr. Kie stated that the Elaine Drive sewer is working well but it is clay. It is something we should consider replacing as it is the only street in the town we have not paved. It is 1 to 2 years out on the list.

Future water projects equal five million dollars over time.

Supervisor Marinaccio asked where do we stop? People cannot afford this.

Mr. Kie asked if we crunch the numbers and raise the rates a couple of cents now, will we have enough money? We have three years to plan. Can we generate enough surplus?

The \$15.00 (capital improvement) service fee goes towards just water not sewer. Councilman Morabito commented that that fee was supposed to be gone by now but rather than raising the rates we elected to keep the \$15 charge even though that was not the intent of it.

Mr. Kie stated that we budgeted 200k in the 2022 budget for water projects. He went on to say the water projects are being covered by the stimulus money. We have 200k that he would like to put towards starting a program to replace water meters. We replaced approximately one quarter of our meters per year. We have 1200 residents, and we would buy the meters in lots of eighty. It is less expensive if we buy all

April 22, 2022 – SPECIAL MEETING

at once in bulk. As the meter readers get older, they get slower. If we put in new meters people will pay more money. We get billed off the master meter pits readings. We are collecting less because the old meters are spinning slower.

There was a discussion addressing the cost of replacing the meters and/or raising the rates. Replacing the meters would help the homeowners in case of a major undetected leak and the actual meter readings would be more accurate. We probably have ten to twenty people with major water leaks per year.

Councilman Burns asked if we put an order in for the 1,500 water meters now, would they hold the quoted price? Mr. Kie stated that we would have to order them before June, or the price will increase five percent.

Supervisor Marinaccio stated that he believes the stimulus money has to be spent in the next two years. Councilman Morabito stated that we need to make it a priority to figure out what we want to spend the stimulus money on and earmark it.

Councilman Gardner summarized that we will set the Sunrise Drive paving project aside and Mr. Kie added that the plan is to move forward with doing the whole project. Next year we will figure out how we can budget for it.

Mr. Kie stated that he will send a letter out to the residents on Sunrise Drive explaining the proposed plan.

On a motion of Councilperson Morabito and seconded by Councilperson Burns the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Cerretani
Town Clerk