

**TOWN OF DELHI  
BOARD MEETING  
February 13, 2023  
7:00PM**

Supervisor Tuthill called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Those present:

Councilmember's: Margaret Baldwin, Matt Krzyston, Christina Viafore, and Bill Cairns.

Highway Superintendent Daren Evans

Residents: Ann Roberti, Vicky Klukkert, Mathew Burkert, John Sandman, Laurie Rankin, Amy Randall, Percy ?, Ruben Madanka, Thomas B. Clark, David DeForest, Kristin DeForest, David Kopecek, Kathy Mario, Jim Smart, Cindie Smart, Sam Samudrala, Josh Morgan, Dale Downin, Will Outsen

**The Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Councilmember Krzyston.

**Privilege of the Floor:**

Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower President Ann Roberti spoke regarding their progress and petitioned the town sign a MOU and work with them to secure necessary permits and work with DEP to help with a land use permit of their property.

Lori Rankin, the Director of NYS's Chapter of the Fire Lookout Association and also the Volunteer Coordinator at the nearby Balsam Lake Mountain Fire Tower which is also part of the Catskill Fire Tower Project. She discussed the safety of fire towers and informed the board of other communities have restored and erected towers.

John Sandman a Delhi resident stated he was on the board of the Catskill Mountain Club and also the Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower. He gave a brief history of the Bramley Mountain Trail. He feels the tower would help with tourism tremendously.

Rich Ambrose a welder/fabricator discussed helping the fire tower. He further discussed his work at Dirt Road Campground and then he requested to have the Code Enforcement Officer removed from office immediately.

Brad Lockwood co-owner of Dirt Road Camp requested the immediate termination/removal of the Code Enforcement Officer. Lockwood discussed his meetings with the Planning Board.

Horace Lee discussed his concern with the campground and the road being a private road and its condition, he stated the comments prior were inappropriate.

Alex Hardison a resident of Dirt Road stated the road is in good condition; he stated the campground that has been open since 2019 was not an issue and was shut down.

**Approval of January 9, 2023 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes:**

Councilmember Viafore noted that in the January 9<sup>th</sup> minutes that Highway Superintendent Evans was not present. With the change that Evans was not present Councilmember Viafore made the motion to approve the January 9, 2023 minutes. Councilmember Cairns seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

Supervisor Tuthill stated that all required audits have been completed. Councilmember's Viafore and Baldwin met with the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Town Bookkeeper and Town Justice Court Clerk and completed the annual audits. Councilmember Baldwin added that it is a good

education each year to see the amount of work with checks and balances and reporting to the state. It's impressive as to the accuracy with all departments; the town is lucky. Supervisor Tuthill agreed.

**New Business:**

Supervisor Tuthill requested a motion to accept the 2022 Annual Financial Report for the Joint Fire District of Delhi. Councilmember Cairns motioned to accept the above report with Councilmember Krzyston seconding. Motion carried.

The Clerk presented the board with a records of disposition request per the LGS. Councilmember Krzyston made the motion to allow the clerk to dispose of the records no longer required to be kept per the NYS disposition schedule with Councilmember Viafore seconding. Motion carried.

**Highway/Machinery: (Councilmember's Baldwin & Cairns)** Written report from Superintendent Evans provided to councilmembers. Evans discussed the equipment repairs.

He discussed Hamden Hill issues due to the weather and extreme heavy truck traffic from NYSE&G/NYS Power Authority Substation project. The town has done temporary fixes and will continue to monitor the road until conditions are good for more permanent repairs.

The Helfgott-Renfroe donation money was used for the salt spreader, it has arrived and was installed on the 2012 Ford.

Crews have been preparing roads for road work season; brush cutting and some ditch cleaning will begin on Arbor Hill.

Councilmember Baldwin stated Evans and the crew do a great job.

**Personnel: (Councilmember's Viafore & Baldwin):** Councilmember Baldwin stated she has been keeping in contact with the departments. Town Justice Burkert has some great plans. Burkert announced the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial has provided new monitors and upgraded the computer systems.

**Recreation/Health/Youth: (Councilmember's Viafore & Baldwin):** Councilmember Baldwin stated that KJ from Parkitect was here to discuss Phase II of the playground project and met with Baldwin giving her ideas, she met with Supervisor Tuthill also. As it stands now Phase II could be installed in the fall, but we have a ways to go to get the funding. She also stated Oneonta Fence will begin the new fencing in April maybe early May.

Councilmember Viafore stated they had received an email from a resident regarding placing signs for allergies at the playground. The board agreed the sign will be helpful.

Councilmember Cairns and Baldwin went to the pool/playground and inspected them. There are lights that need to be repaired or replaced. He is looking at a recommendation for the ceiling in the chemical room to keep the heat better in that room.

Councilmember Krzyston stated he would like to see the town again approach the O'Connor Foundation for the grant for the playground. Councilmember Baldwin stated she believes she and Tuthill understand why it wasn't chosen the last round for the grant. Tuthill stated certain things weren't completed in the last round of Phase I. Councilmember Viafore is looking into other grant opportunities.

**Economic Development/Shared Services: (Councilmember Cairns & Krzyston):** Councilmember Krzyston stated the St. Patrick's Day Parade will be March 18<sup>th</sup> and will be coming up, bigger and better than ever.

**Buildings: (Councilmember Cairns & Krzyston):** Councilmember Cairns stated there is an issue with the window in the assessor's office.

Councilmember Krzyston announced the concession stand project at the pool is finally moving along. NYSE&G will be meeting with the college professors and we will have electricity in there. Supervisor Tuthill stated that the clerk had notified him of issues with the heating system at the town hall, he had her contact a repair individual who repaired the issue.

**IT: (Councilmember Viafore & Krzyston):** Councilmember Viafore stated there are now 129 Nixle members. She further stated she and Supervisor Tuthill met with Joe DeMauro of the county regarding the quotes from Delhi Telephone and ISD. It seems everything is comparable between the two. Tuthill stated we were missing a couple of sheets, Joe recommended going with Delhi Telephone for the phones due to their system. Councilmember Baldwin said this has been going on quite a while and asked what the departments want. Tuthill said ISD needs to provide a couple of things to make sure they are including everything we need. Tuthill stated he also needed a new desktop when all is said and done. Councilmember Viafore will contact ISD for the other information.

**Codes: (Councilmember Cairns & Krzyston):** Tuthill stated he takes issue with the comments today further stating there are two sides to every issue and if you only hear one side you can draw the wrong conclusion rapidly. Further he stated there are issues, we are trying to resolve and we will keep trying to resolve them. As far as Dale Downin and what he does for us, he is totally satisfied; he then thanked Downin for doing his job.

Councilmember Cairns stated in January there were: 3 building permits were issued, 9 inspections / meetings, 6 in-office conferences, 2 c/o letters, 1 certificate of compliance and he drove 88 miles.

### **CODES Monthly Report:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Krzyston to accept the codes report for January 2023 Councilmember Cairns seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Justice Court Report:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldwin to accept the January 2023 Justice Court Reports. Councilmember Viafore seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilmember Cairns questioned if Judge Buckley's time was completed here. Town Justice Burkert stated yes.

### **Clerk's Monthly Report:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldwin to accept the January 2023 report and seconded by Councilmember Viafore. Motion carried.

### **Supervisor's Financial Report:**

Supervisor Tuthill presented the board with the Budget Amendments for 2022. He gave an explanation of the amendments to close out the year end. Councilmember Baldwin made the motion to accept the budget amendment with the change to the justice court overage as to the amount being taken from the town board overage with Councilmember Krzyston seconding the motion. Motion carried.

### **Supervisor's County Report:**

Supervisor Tuthill stated he has gotten the Finance Committee to approve a resolution asking the state to reinstall the \$200,000 SUNY payment. Further the budget for the county was approved in November so any other proposals for moneys need to wait till the next budget cycle.

The building on the corner of Bridge and Main is waiting on flooring and ceilings, they are assuming mid-April for completion.

Councilmember Krzyston stated he was happy to find out DSS was making PILOT payments. It shows they can but he questioned why on some but not other properties. Further Krzyston stated he was disappointed in the reception the community members got when they met with the county to discuss the HOST benefit and appreciates what Tuthill said about the budget being done now so it will have to wait to be looked at. He doesn't believe they were given much encouragement to think that it is even being considered; so if it is being considered that's good, but if it's not that's not fair.

Krzyston felt “Pandora’s box” was opened when Walton started receiving the HOST moneys. Tuthill stated they have been receiving it for years. Krzyston said that doesn’t hold water as the county can afford to do what is being requested. They can be cooperative. Tuthill said he will keep bringing it up but the governor’s budget right now is going to dump multi-million dollars of Medicare payments onto the county on top of what we are already paying; hopefully someone in Albany cuts this. Tuthill stated in most states the municipality doesn’t pay for it, the state pays it. New York has made the counties pay part of it and now they want the counties to be responsible for all of it. If this passes it will make a huge impact on the budget.

Councilmember Baldwin stated that the pools handicap chair that was placed on Auctions International brought in a bid of \$760.00. This is the last time we can place the chair on there as they have a three time limit. Baldwin stated this is a \$6,500 piece of equipment should we explore other avenues or accept the bid. We were hoping for half of the \$6,500. Highway Superintendent Evans stated this is the highest bid we have gotten we need to make a counter-offer. Baldwin discussed her discussion with Aqua Tech and the value of the piece. Tuthill stated we should make a counter offer of \$2,500 and see where it goes. Baldwin will discuss it with Aqua Tech again.

**Abstracts:**

Councilmember Cairns made the motion to approve Abstract #002 – 2023 accounts A – DB Voucher No. 0024 - 0067 equaling \$53,838.25 account “SF” voucher no. 99 - \$248,176.99, TA No. 0096 – 0098 equaling \$14,114.25. Total vouchers presented equaled \$316,129.49. Councilmember Krzyston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Executive Session:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Krzyston to enter into executive session for legal advice at 8:20pm with Councilmember Cairns seconding. Motion carried. Supervisor Tuthill requested Town Attorney Merzig, Code Enforcement Officer Downin, Planning Board Chair Morgan and Planning Board member Rossley to remain.

Motion was made by Councilmember Cairns to exit executive session at 9:39pm with Councilmember Krzyston seconding. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

Reconvened to regular meeting at 9:40pm. A motion was made by Councilmember Krzyston to enter into a MOU with the Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Viafore. The board requested roll call as follows on the motion by Krzyston:

	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Councilmember Krzyston	<u>  X  </u>	
Councilmember Cairns		<u>  X  </u>
Town Supervisor Tuthill		<u>  X  </u>
Councilmember Baldwin		<u>  X  </u>
Councilmember Viafore	<u>  X  </u>	

Motion to enter into agreement with the Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower fails per above vote.

Councilmember Baldwin made a motion that we would like to support the Friends of Bramley Mountain Fire Tower efforts to put the tower back up; we cannot enter into an agreement with NYC with their requirements. Councilmember Cairns seconded the motion. The board requested a roll call as follows on the motion by Baldwin:

	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Councilmember Krzyston		<u>X</u>
Councilmember Cairns	<u>X</u>	
Town Supervisor Tuthill	<u>X</u>	
Councilmember Baldwin	<u>X</u>	
Councilmember Viafore		<u>X</u>

Motion carries.

Councilmember Baldwin discussed the advertising of bids for a mower for the pool, playground, town hall and highway garage. Baldwin will work with the clerk for specs. Advertising for two weeks; per motion made by Supervisor Tuthill and seconded by Councilmember Krzyston. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding quotes from Delhi Telephone and ISD for upgrades. Councilmember Viafore will contact both companies to discuss quotes and put something together. Discussion on the request from the Town Clerk/Registrar for two fire proof file cabinets and the request from the Assessors for a new computer system and one fire proof file cabinet. The moneys for upgrades with ISD and Delhi Telephone were roughly \$20,000 and the fire proof files and computer system were at roughly \$18,000. Motion to approve the purchase of the three fire proof file cabinets and Assessor computer system was made by Councilmember Baldwin and seconded by Councilmember Cairns with the moneys coming from the ARPA funds. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldwin to take the remaining ARPA funds for Phase II of the playground. Councilmember Cairns seconded. Motion carried.

Councilmember Cairns made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00pm, Councilmember Krzyston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elsa Schmitz*

Elsa Schmitz, Town Clerk, Town of Delhi