

**TOWN OF DELHI
BOARD MEETING
June 10, 2024
6:00PM**

Supervisor Boukai called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Those present:

Councilmember's: Margaret Baldwin, Matt Krzyston, Christina Viafore, Josh Morgan
Highway Superintendent Daren Evans

Town Justice Mat Burkert

Residents: Kim Cairns, Jim Smart, Cindie Smart, Elizabeth DeFalco – The Reporter

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Boukai.

Privilege of the Floor:

N/A

Approval of April 8, 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes:

Councilmember Baldwin stated in the minutes, under "Personnel" she questioned what was meant by "the cleaner contributed with what he does..." the clerk stated it meant he helped them to understand the work he did. She also stated under "Abstracts" Councilmember Morgan was not at the last board meeting (the clerk had it as he seconded the motion to approve the abstract), the clerk will go back and see who did second the motion and correct the minutes to reflect such. With the correction of the abstract name Councilmember Krzyston made the motion to accept the minutes as amended. Councilmember Baldwin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Supervisor Boukai presented the board with the RS 2417-A Standard Workday Resolution. She requested a motion to approve the retirement report which included employees whom are in the retirement program, she gave a brief explanation explaining it and stated there may be another necessary. A motion was made by Councilmember Viafore to accept the RS 2417, with Councilmember Baldwin seconding. Motion carried.

New Business:

Supervisor Boukai introduced Nick Carbone who is the Watershed Affairs Coordinator for the Delaware County Planning Department. Mr. Carbone handed out a map and information regarding the NYCDEP land acquisition program. He discussed with the board that the program which began in 1997 and stated that prior to 1997 NYCDEP owned 34,452 acres near reservoirs, NYSDEP owned an additional 202,000 acres in the West of Hudson watershed. He further stated ownership and control has now risen from 24% to nearly 40% today. He went on to say in Delhi the NYCDEP can no longer solicit property. Although owners can solicit them.

The NYCDEP owns roughly 190,000 acres of watershed land. This does not include land protected by the State and other entities. Prior to their contract ending, which will be 2025, they can still acquire 56,000 acres. It should be noted that any land purchased by DEP has an easement on it from DEC to keep it forever wild. The town of Delhi is comprised of 40,646 acres the DEP owns 8,406.8 acres. DEP pays taxes on easements and properties they own. That can't be negotiated for 20 years. Every parcel that has been bought

has DEC easements on it which basically means the property is “forever wild” and cannot be developed. Watershed Affairs is currently working on changing that. Carbone stressed that acquisition doesn’t always mean protection, there needs to be a stewardship component. Carbone then said people’s arguments are this is not the same as what was initiated in the program previously.

Councilmember Krzyston asked why does the Catskill Center of Conservation and Development serve as an intermediary, Carbone said he wasn’t sure why they were chosen for that purpose. Krzyston then asked if the properties purchased in the past were actually affecting water qualities or were they just purchasing what they could. Carbone said the intent was to prevent future issues and stated the Mason Document which was developed by the National Academy of Sciences that said the DEP should be moving away from land acquisition and focusing more on repairing areas. He further stated if it is truly about water quality and not control then the programs that have been presented by the communities would be more effective. Krzyston then asked other than land acquisition what interventions are there. Carbone said septic replacement programs which have been implemented by the Catskill Watershed Corporation; any landowners that have a year-round residence that have a failed system can get reimbursed 100% if they are a seasonal residence they get 60%. Krzyston then asked is there a cap on acreage on what they can buy, Carbone said through the Environmental Impact Statement the acreage was somewhere around 157,000 acres. They have used a portion of that and he believed there is about 56,000 acres left that still fits within that guideline. Krzyston then questioned “fair market value” Carbone stated it has happened. The concerning thing is property values are much less here and it makes it more engaging to purchase here.

Councilmember Baldwin said she remembers early back in the 2000’s Wayne Marshfield among others being very concerned about do we really realize how much land they controlled. Carbone added we are fighting to keep as much of the land in the hands of the local people as we can. The support from the Delaware County Board of Supervisors has been great, he stated. Carbone then stated the original intent of the MOA was to protect New York Cities water while not impacting growth in communities.

Committee Reports:

Highway/Machinery: (Councilmember’s Baldwin & Morgan) Written report from Superintendent Evans provided to councilmembers. Evans thanked the board for allowing him to attend the training in Ithaca. He discussed proposed changes to the CHIPS program where the preventative maintenance activities (oil and stoning) will be going back to similar to what it had been. It’s a huge step forward from what we were looking at earlier this year. He then stated road work is continuing along with ditch cleaning; Dick Mason and Hamden Hill are pretty well set for re-paving although we do not have a date yet scheduled, probably will be late sometime in July. Evans discussed equipment and stated we have been on a two-year program in replacing. He discussed the trucks that need replacing and will be discussing further with his committee and will have more information for July’s meeting. Supervisor Boukai asked for the roads that are now potentially on the five-year plan vs a ten-year plan what roads were specifically supposed to be done this year. Evans stated yes, the ones we are continuing to do; Thompson Cross Road, Federal Hill #1 &2 and Tom Hoag were all set to be oiled and stoned to keep up with the five-year plan. With COVID things were set back, we budgeted to do them this year as they are still in good condition at this point. From now on out we will continue with preventative maintenance instead of letting them get to a bad point.

Councilmember Krzyston questioned what payments were still owed on the newest equipment; Evans stated one more payment in January 2025 for the last two trucks. It will take some work to look into financing one or two more trucks and a loader.

Motion to accept Evans report was made by Councilmember Viafore and seconded by Councilmember Morgan. Motion carried.

Personnel: (Councilmember's Viafore & Baldwin): Councilmember Viafore stated they did not get a chance to meet in May, but she did get a chance to look into video conferencing. There are rules about it having to be extraordinary circumstances in order to video conference; so there's lots of rules which were passed in May of 2022. Within those guidelines it says it will be revisited in July of 2024, so they will wait to see what those revisions are before we come up with a plan. The state has rules on quorum, access to the public and many other rules.

The cleaner has signed his job description, and it has been given to the bookkeeper for his personnel file.

Justice Burkert stated the 2023-2024 JCAP grant has been closed. For next year they are looking for ideas to put in for; he discussed the copiers the court has and their wish for a color copier. He is anticipating putting in for two and the supplies that they are using. He stated it needs to be predominantly for court use. He asked the board if they could think of anything that would benefit the court to please contact him. He discussed the town intern and that she will be working with the court on days that they hold court.

Recreation/Health/Youth: (Councilmember's Krzyston & Supervisor Boukai): Councilmember Krzyston stated we are doing an art and crafts program at the pool this year and wished to do an executive session to appoint the person. The dates have been set already for the events, there will be at least four Saturdays; July 13th, July 20th, August 3rd and August 10th the time will be 1:00 to 2:30 and if possible, we may try to do more. The intern has also been assigned to that. He further stated a grant has been received from the Delhi Community Fund which has donated \$1,000 towards the arts and crafts program (supplies and personnel) and another \$1,000 towards the pool upgrades we asked for (shade sails that hang to provide shade and the outdoor shower for people to rinse off before getting in the pool) towards the lounge chairs and sunscreen.

Krzyston also noted that they have power washed the concession stand building to get it ready for painting.

Supervisor Boukai requested a motion to accept the \$2,000 donation from the Delhi Community Fund. Councilmember Viafore made the motion to accept the donation with Councilmember Baldwin seconding. Motion carried.

Supervisor Boukai announced they had received the chemical delivery today; they will be having an orientation for the new lifeguards next Wednesday. John and Dusty will be meeting with them and go over the Emergency Plan with them as well. They will learn how to test chemicals and learn how to set up and breakdown the pool for the opening and closing. She will be meeting with head lifeguard Randall on Friday to go over scheduling with her so we can get the calendar set up for hopefully the entire season. She stated John got an announcement board for the pool which just needs to be installed.

Boukai then announced she had spoken with Chris Bodo, DCO and he and the intern will be working on holding a pet safety class mainly geared towards ten years and younger children. General animal safety and how to approach a dog. Bodo has spoken with the state on guidance on how to hold the class they will get the class done in the summer.

Boukai stated New York State has announced a specific grant for capital improvements on pools. They announced a separate component which is specifically towards lifeguards and lifeguard retention. The county will have to apply for the grant. Boukai reached out to Tina and was directed to Shelly in Planning, who just reached out to all town supervisors. Public works will be applying on behalf of all the municipalities for the \$25,000 that will go towards retention (paying more an hour to keep lifeguards), end of season bonuses or sign on bonuses, anything to attract lifeguards to stay and continue to lifeguard. She noted this is a completely separate grant from the one she and Krzyston are working on. Boukai said it is really positive that the county is doing this on our behalf.

Councilmember Viafore announced she had posted on the website all the summer events (tennis, volleyball etc.) Boukai added she and Mayor Gearhart have discussed making a joint summer recreation committee so that everyone is working together.

Boukai announced we have 73 people signed up for swim lessons. 38 in Session I and 26 in Session II and 9 in Session III so far. We have six adults signed up for water aerobics. With it being still two weeks out those are good numbers. Councilmember Baldwin asked what communities were participating, Boukai stated Meredith is as is Hamden. Baldwin then questioned if the handicap chair was working, Boukai stated they had not had the opportunity to install it yet. They discussed the servicing of the heater at the pool.

Boukai requested a motion to hire Cameron McConnell as lifeguard 1 at the rate of \$15.50 per hour. Councilmember Viafore made the motion to hire McConnell as requested with Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Economic Development/Shared Services: (Councilmember Morgan & Viafore): Councilmember Viafore stated they have not met.

Councilmember Baldwin stated that Supervisor Boukai was unable to attend Delhi Community Connection Forum, she had asked her to attend on her behalf. The meeting was chaired by Delhi Mayor Gearhart at village hall. It was a collaboration of SUNY, the community, Delaware Academy and Delaware Opportunities. She thanked Boukai for letting her attend. Boukai stated she still had three weeks to go on the grant writing course. Baldwin said there was a lot of energy at the meeting, and it was good to see them all come together.

Buildings/Codes: (Councilmember Morgan & Krzyston): Councilmember Morgan stated there were four building permits issued, 13 inspections/meetings, five in-office conferences, two site visits, two plan reviews, seven c/o letters, one violation and the code officer drove 136 miles.

Councilmember Morgan stated he had looked at the ceiling in the assessor's office, at one time it was a cathedral ceiling, and the tiles are supported by suspension wire, the rafters are 2x4 and they should never have weight on them as they are only in place to hold the wires for the drop ceiling. There is nothing to be alarmed about, it is basically aesthetic. He also noted he will be working on the court chamber door.

IT: (Councilmember Viafore & Krzyston): Councilmember Viafore stated there are now 250 NIXLE subscribers. A computer was donated but we are trying to see if it warrants getting updated, ISD will let us know. We are still looking for a computer for John.

CODES Monthly Report: s

A motion was made by Councilmember Viafore to accept the code's report for May 2024. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Justice Court Report:

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldwin to accept the May 2024 Justice Court Reports. Councilmember Viafore seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk's Monthly Report:

A motion was made by Councilmember Baldwin to accept the May 2024 report, seconded by Councilmember Viafore. Motion carried.

Supervisor's Financial Report:

Supervisor Boukai emailed the reports to the council. She announced we are all caught up with the fire department for past PILOT payments. Councilmember Baldwin complimented the reports saying she liked how it now reads. Boukai stated they did another big renewal of CD's.

Supervisor's County Report:

Supervisor Boukai stated she has an email out to the county asking what is occurring at the monument as she is not clear as to what is happening. The next county meeting will be held at the end of the month. Councilmember Baldwin thanked Boukai for all she did. Boukai thanked the council and the clerk and her deputy for helping her.

Abstracts:

Councilmember Viafore made the motion to approve Abstract #006 – 2024 accounts A – DB Voucher No. 00173 – 00251 equaling \$110,034.13. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Executive Session:

Councilmember Viafore made the motion at 7:20pm to go into executive session for Personnel Matters-Employment History of a Particular Individual, Councilmember Viafore seconded. Motion carried. Supervisor Boukai requested Justice Burkert to remain.

A motion to exit the executive session was made by Councilmember Viafore at 8:05pm with Councilmember Morgan seconding. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

The board went directly into regular session at 8:05pm. A motion was made by Councilmember Viafore to hire Lynn Dennis for the arts and crafts program at \$300 for the season. Councilmember Krzyston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilmember Viafore made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm, Councilmember Krzyston seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elsa Schmitz, Town Clerk Town of Delhi