

TOWN OF BINGHAMTON
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
January 2, 2018

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MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN BOARD HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018, 5:00 P.M., TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN HALL, 279 PARK AVENUE, BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Whitesell at 5:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

T. Whitesell, Supervisor	Present	N. Yezzi, Councilperson	Present
N. Cline, Deputy Supervisor	Present	E. Rounds, Councilperson	Present
V. Xlander, Councilperson	Present		

OTHERS PRESENT:

V. Conklin, Town Clerk	N. Pappas, Building Administrator
A. Pope, Town Attorney	M. Karp, The Wagner Companies
M. Donahue, Highway Superintendent	3 Guests

OATH OF OFFICE - VICKIE CONKLIN

Supervisor Whitesell administered the Oath of Office to Town Clerk Vickie Conklin.

2018 RE-ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTION

Councilperson Cline made the motion to approve the 2018 Re-Organizational Resolution and the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Yezzi. After discussion, Councilpersons Cline and Yezzi agreed to amend their motion to include the removal in Section 26, Appointments of Officials and Employees, and Section 28, Schedule of Salaries, the position of Assistant Water/Sewer Billing Clerk & Records Clerk. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

(2018 Re-Organizational Resolution appended Hereto)

APPROVAL OF AUDITED CLAIMS:

Councilperson Xlander made the motion to approve the following claims as audited:

<u>2017</u>		
Lighting	Claim No. 1122	\$ 771.66
Sewer	Claim No. 1123	\$ 195.00
Water	Claim No. 1124-1126	\$ 760.72
Highway Fund	Claim No. 1127-1144	\$ 13,448.58
General Fund	Claim No. 1145-1153	\$ 2,194.10
<u>2018</u>		
Drainage	Claim No. 1	\$ 657.96

Sewer	Claim No. 2-3	\$ 11,972.89
Water	Claim No. 4-5	\$ 10,177.09
Highway Fund	Claim No. 6-11	\$ 42,840.78
General Fund	Claim No. 12-19	\$ 86,963.53

The motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Rounds. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Martin Luther King Day – The Town of Binghamton municipal buildings will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2018 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning Board – The next regularly scheduled quarterly meeting will be held on January 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals – There was nothing to report.

Youth Commission – The December meeting was postponed, and rescheduled for this evening at 7:00 p.m.

Code Enforcement – There was nothing to report.

Highway – The Highway Department repaired water breaks on Larchmont Road and Felters Road. FEMA will apply \$36,423.93 toward the cost of the March 2017 snow storm.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT:

Broome County Association of Towns and Villages – The Broome County Association of Towns and Villages will hold a monthly meeting in January to elect new officers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

TOB Hance Road Property - Logging Revenue – Highway Superintendent Donahue introduced Mathew Karp from The Wagner Companies. Mr. Karp explained to the Town Board that The Wagner Companies prefer to work one on one with a customer rather than going through a middleman. Mr. Karp provided the Board with a map of the proposed logging site on Hance Road. There will be roughly 20 acres to log out of the 29 acres. There is a mix of species, Oak, Maple and Ash. There is minimal exposure with the Emerald Ash Core. The access to the site is good as there is already a driveway and hard pan to work from. The property drops off Hance Road, so a lot of the material will have to be moved up hill, which is a little bit more work, but doable. Once there is a go ahead from the Town, the first step will be to lay a foundation by marking out the boundary lines. Most of the property lines are easy to locate, but the western boundary will need to be located. The next step is marking the timber to be cut. An aggressive

harvest would cultivate more money, but there would be no future harvests of the property. A buffer strip could be left along the road with a more aggressive harvest. A conservative harvest would be the higher risk trees, i.e., trees that show die back, leaving the healthier trees for a future harvest. The estimate of \$20,000 is based upon a conservative harvest. The Wagner Companies hires subcontractors for the logging itself, overseeing the subcontractors. The subcontractors do carry workers' compensation and liability insurance. The tops of the trees are trimmed down and left in the woods. The money and firewood is mostly in the labor, not the plumage of the wood. Mr. Wagner stated that the Red Oak market is currently strong, and recommended harvesting within a few months. Town Attorney Pope explained that the Town can hire somebody for professional services, and is not bound by any kind of bidding or RFPs; or the Town can gather information and put together an RFP, which said RFP would go out to companies such as The Wagner Companies, and their competitors. Town Attorney Pope will reach out to Coughlin & Gerhart, who represents municipalities that have had property logged in the past. The Town will reach out to the Town of Sanford to see how they have handled logging in the past. Supervisor Whitesell stated that at some point in time the Town will hold an informational meeting to inform the neighboring residents of the intent to log the property on Hance Road.

USDA – Request for Town of Binghamton's Language Action Plan – Update – There was nothing to report.

Thoma Development – Grant Program – Update – The Town received a letter from Homes and Community Renewal stating that the Town did not receive any funding in this cycle. Supervisor Whitesell is waiting for a phone call from Richard Cunningham to discuss the request of an exit interview. Funds are in the 2018 budget to apply for grant funding through Thoma Development in 2018.

City of Binghamton – 985 Gillen Dr. Townhouse Development Project – Update – There was nothing to report.

2018 Citizen of the Year – Update – The Citizen of the Year has been selected. The presentation will be held on January 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Board regular meeting. Councilperson Rounds made the motion to change the Town Board regular meeting on January 16, 2018 from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Xlander. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

TOB Open Positions – Update – Councilperson Cline made the motion to appoint Melissa Chapman as Code Clerk, Community Center Coordinator/Custodian and Town Hall Custodian, and the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Xlander. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Highway Department - Authorization to Bid for Purchase of Heavy Duty Dump Truck – The bid opening for the purchase of a heavy duty dump truck will be held on January 16, 2018 at 12:01 p.m.

There was no further unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cold War Veteran's Exemption – Option to Extend – Supervisor Whitesell received a letter from Assessor McDonald regarding the Cold War Veteran's Exemption, Option to Extend. The letter states that New York State recently passed legislation that allowed municipalities to remove the 10 year expiration by local option. The letter also states that Broome County has adopted such a resolution, and, therefore, for County tax purposes the Cold War Veterans' Exemption does not expire. The Town can adopt a similar resolution and eliminate the 10 year expiration, or it can do nothing, and the 10 year expiration would remain in place for Town property tax purposes. Councilperson Xlander made the motion to set a public hearing to consider input on the cold War Veteran's Exemption, namely to either exclude an expiration date or to re-establish another 10 year exemption period. The public hearing will be held at Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, New York on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:01 p.m., and the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Cline. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

Ayes: Round, Yezzi, Cline, Xlander, Whitesell Absent: None

Nays: None

(Resolution Appended)

SV Mock Trial Team – Permission to Use Town Hall – Councilperson Xlander made the motion to give the SV Mock Trial Team permission to use the Town Hall on January 14, 2018, January 21, 2018, February 4, 2018, February 11, 2018 and February 25, 2018, and the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Yezzi. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

There was no further new business.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilperson Rounds made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Yezzi. There being no further discussion, all those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

The next meeting of the Town of Binghamton Town Board will be a regular Town Board meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., at the Town of Binghamton Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, NY.

Respectfully submitted,



Vickie A. Conklin
Town Clerk