

The October 25, 2017 Town of Bethel regular Town Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Daniel Sturm at 7:30 p.m. at the Dr. Duggan Community Center meeting room.

Council Members Present: Vicky Simpson  
Lillian Hendrickson  
Bernie Cohen  
Dawn Ryder

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Monthly Report – September**

September 2017 September Fees	\$ 9,325.
September 2016 September Fees	\$ 4,394.
September 2017 Construction Totals	\$1,787,685.
September 2016 Construction Totals	\$6,102,350.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to receive and file building department monthly report for September 2017. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Bid results for Aeration**

The following is a list of all bidders who responded on October 24, 2017 at 11 a.m. at the Town Clerk’s Office for Aeration Pond #1 Rehabilitation.

<u>Bidders:</u>	<u>Total Bid Price</u>
1. Wittcon, Inc., PO Box 4, Thompson Ridge, NY 10985	\$188,000.
2. TAM Enterprises, Inc., 114 Hartley Road Goshen, NY 10924	\$183,000.
3. Spectraserv, Inc., 75 Jacobus Avenue, Kearny, NJ 07032	\$311,000.
4. Vacri Construction Corporation, One Brick Ave Binghamton, NY 13901	\$211,000.

Mt. Strum said there is enough money in the sewer fund to cover costs. It will be done by the end of the year.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to accept and award TAM Enterprises, Inc., the bid in the amount of \$183,000.00 for Aeration Pond #1 Rehabilitation. Seconded by Mrs. Ryder, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Bid results for Dredging**

The following is a list of all bidders who responded on October 24, 2017 at 11 a.m. at the Town Clerk’s Office for Sewer Plant Pond Dredging

<u>Bidder:</u>	<u>Total Bid Price</u>
1. TAM Enterprises, Inc., 114 Hartley Road, Goshen, NY 10924	\$ 55,834.69
2. Spectraserv, Inc., 75 Jacobus Avenue, Kearny, NJ 07032	\$175,000.00

Motion by Mrs. Ryder to accept and award TAM Enterprises, Inc. the bid in the amount of \$55,834.69 for Sewer Plant Pond Dredging. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Request to attend Nitrogen Removal course**

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to receive and approve request from Chris Graffeo to attend the Nitrogen Removal course in Monticello on October 25, 2017. Seminar cost is \$60 per person. The DEC is expected to grant 6 contact hours toward our Grade 3A recertification requirements. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**One-time pay increment for Jarod Rhyne**

Mr. Sturm stated that Mike Collins was out for two (2) months and the sewer needed three (3) men during the summer months. Chris Graffeo received a one-time bump already. Jarod Rhyne did not receive anything and he deserves a one-time increase of \$850.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to approve a one-time payment of \$850. to Jarod Rhyne, sewer plant employee. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Resolution to contract with Sullivan County for EV Charging Station Grant**

Mr. Sturm stated that the Electric Vehicle Charging Station is good for business. We are becoming a cleaner/greener community. Opportunity of available grant funding. It is good for the environment and it will help us get points in becoming a designated Climate Smart Community. Mr. Sturm was able to purchase the \$20,000 station through Energetics at no cost for the station. Town of Bethel cost: \$3,400 for electrician, \$3,000 in-kind from the Highway plus signage. \$3,500 reimbursed by County grant.

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BETHEL TOWN BOARD TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION, TO ACCEPT GRANT AND EXECUTE CONTRACT WITH THE COUNTY OF SULLIVAN**

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Bethel Town Board hereby authorizes the approval of the Electronic Vehicle Infrastructure Reimbursement Program Contract between the County of Sullivan and the Town of Bethel for grant funding not to exceed \$5,000. toward the installation of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station to be located in the Town Municipal Parking lot at 3586 Route 55, Kauneonga Lake, NY.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Town Supervisor or his designee acting on behalf of the Town, is hereby authorized to execute said agreement with the County and to perform all acts and execute all documents necessary to make the grant application, and to take any necessary steps and execute any necessary documents to accept the grant funds.

Motion by: Mr. Bernie Cohen  
Seconded by: Mrs. Dawn Ryder

Adopted on October 25, 2017 with 5 ayes and 0 nays

**Public Hearing:7:45 p.m. 2018 User Rates Sewer**

Motion by Mrs. Ryder to recess the regular Town of Bethel Town Board meeting and open the public hearing at 7:45 p.m. regarding 2018 sewer user rates. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

No comments.

Motion by Mrs. Simpson to close the public hearing and reopen the Town of Bethel Town Board meeting at 7:50 p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Approve 2018 Sewer User Rates**

The rates proposed for 2018 (which are the same as 2017) are as follows:

Kauneonga Lake Sewer District       \$427.32/per unit annually year-around  
Kauneonga Lake Sewer District       \$339.92 per unit annually Seasonal  
Kauneonga Lake Rt 17B Sewer District extension \$600.72 per unit annually year-around  
Kauneonga Lake Rt 17B Sewer District extension \$513.32 per unit annually seasonal  
And/or further provided in Chapter 257 of the Town of Bethel Code.

Motion by Mrs. Ryder to approve the 2018 Sewer User Rates (which are the same as 2017). Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Supervisor's Budget Comments**

Mr. Sturm read the following statement:

The Town of Bethel has some good news, and some challenges for our 2018 budget. Our goals were simple, which were to be under the 1.83 percent tax cap . We have always been under the cap and that will continue under this budget plan.

Lighting district a slight 8% increase over 2017 rates. We have not had any increases in the lighting budget for over 5 years. Our Green committee is looking hard at LED lights to reduce lighting district costs for next year and beyond.

Sewer district no increases in Sewer rents either O&M or debt service. There may be slight increases in the 2019 budget, but not next year. The zero percent interest loan we closed with EFC last year helped by saving about 45,000 a year going forward.

Some challenges: Workers comp went down about 25,000 a year but does not count towards Tax cap. New York State retirement went up slightly about 13,722 a year which counts towards tax cap. Health insurance estimates to go up between 10-11 percent. I used a projection of 10.5 percent over projections plus changes for 2018. Regular Town insurance went up by about 4 percent.

We have a new tentative agreement with our Highway Department and all employees which includes a raise of 3 percent next year, and then a raise of 0 percent for 2019 and 2 percent for 2020. This averages a respectable 1.8 percent for the next 3 years.

Good news: All current expenses in General Fund this year are exceptional, same in Highway Fund which helps budget for next year. Mining our own sand is saving the Town good money this year and even more next year and beyond. We will save over 2,000,000 dollars over the next 20 years for the highway Department by mining our own sand.

Bottom line is no needed cuts in services or programs. We can continue to provide good services, and make improvements like we have done in the last few years. We used grant funds to help fix the Town Pool, made improvements to the Justice Court and Senior Center. And are now building a new salt shed, and are paving the Town transfer station for the first time this year. We also added children's playground equipment and outdoor exercise equipment to help with our commitment to a healthier community. We used Grant funds and our Golden feather winnings to help pay for these improvements. We not exceeded our budgets or went over the tax cap.

I believe this is a good sound fiscal plan and document for 2018. And I thank all employees and the Town Board for their fiscal responsibility and dedication to our tax payers. I look forward to our public input tonight.

Tax Rate will be \$9.31 per thousand for 2018.  
Rate was \$9.19 per thousand for 2017.  
A 1.2 percent increase for 2018 budget.

**Public Hearing 8:00 p.m. 2018 Town Budget**

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to recess the regular Town of Bethel Town Board meeting and enter into public hearing at 8 p.m. regarding the 2018 Town of Bethel Budget. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Susan Brown Otto - I support Cuomo's 2% tax cap. I compliment the Town Board on supporting being under the tax cap. Property taxes still continue to be a concern. Also, medical insurance is still a challenge. Thank you for all your hard work.

Mrs. Ryder - I looked line-by-line at everything.

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to close the public hearing at 8:05 p.m. and reopen the regularly scheduled Town of Bethel Town Board meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Simpson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Approve 2018 Town Budget**

Motion by Mrs. Hendrickson to adopt the 2018 Town of Bethel Budget as submitted. Seconded by Mrs. Ryder, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**CASA Kids Toy Drive**

Mrs. Hendrickson commented on foster kids last year did not receive any toys. Mrs. Ryder made a motion to support the CASA/Foster Kids Toy Christmas Collection and put a collection box in Town Hall by the Town Clerk's Office for anyone to donate toys. Seconded by Mrs. Hendrickson, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

**Monticello Capital Improvement Bond Vote**

Mrs. Simpson encouraged everyone to come out and vote on December 19, 2017 for the Monticello Central School District bond proposition.

**Seven-X Motors**

A lengthy discussion was held on the Seven-X Motors lawsuit article which appeared in the *Sullivan Democrat* on October 20, 2017. Mr. Crumley asked the question of spending tax dollars on a private business for landscaping designer and engineer. Mr. Doherty asked if Seven-X was in compliance. Mrs. Doherty asked if the attorney guided the Town Board on spending the funds. Mr. Sturm responded, any money spent was not for the business owner, it was to help the town board to make a tough decision; we had a problem with Seven-X for over 25 years. The Town Board got together January 2015 and agreed that the neighbors were complaining so much we were going to do something about. We violated Seven-X numerous times over the year and pursued in local court. We authorized going to Supreme Court to get the matter resolved; we met with the neighbors it was their sketch, their plan, their ideas and had it put on paper by our town engineer and presented it to Seven X. Seven-X had to agree. We did not want to put them out of business, this was so they could get their junkyard license. We did not spend one dime on any improvements; we paid for a plan, it was a negotiation; we had Seven-X on one side and we had the neighbors on the other side and the town was in the middle.

**Public Comments**

Bob Barret noted that the public comment period is ending and to pay close attention to Items 7 and 9 of their renewal. December 18, 2017 is the deadline for comments.

**Adjournment**

There being no further items on the agenda, a motion by Mrs. Ryder to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Cohen, put to a vote and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rita J Sheehan, Town Clerk