

**TOWN OF WALES
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14th, 2021**

The 9th meeting of the Wales Town Board was held on the 14th day of September 2021 at the Wales Center Community Building at 12345 Big Tree Road Wales Center, NY 14169. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Rickey Venditti at 7:05 pm EST.

ROLL CALL: Taken at Public Hearing

Present: Supervisor Rickey Venditti
Councilman Dan Driver
Councilman Donald Butcher
Councilman Gerald Klinck
Councilman Kyle Berry

Town Attorney, and (11) residents whose names are on file.

INVOCATION: led by Councilman Donald Butcher

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: led by Councilman Gerald Klinck

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: MOTION # _____ by Councilman Dan Driver, second by Councilman Donald Butcher, approving the agenda as presented. **CARRIED**

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: MOTION # _____ moved by Councilman Donald Butcher, second by Councilman Dan Driver, approving the minutes of August 10th, 2021, as presented. **CARRIED**

Request to enter Executive Session to discuss new Highway Employee union

contract MOTION#___ By Supervisor Rickey Venditti and second by Councilman Gerald Klinck. Entered at 7:06pm to 7:15pm

COMMENTS: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

1.American Rescue Plan Act, (ARPA) funding

Supervisor Rickey Venditti stated this funding is mostly geared towards expenses to improve sewer and water which we don't have. We did have requests from both fire department to cover expenses lost from covid. The bookkeeper and I attended a seminar with Drescher & Malecki regarding a ARPA funding. The rules and regulars. Have not been finalized. We received already \$153,000.00 and then another \$600. We do have till December 31,2026 to spend these funds.

2.Town Highway Employee's IUOE, Local 17 contract negotiations.

The board did hold executive session earlier to begin the process, the next step is to set-up a meeting with the union representative and highway employees.

NEW BUSINESS:

1.Presentation on advancing Tobacco Free Communities in regard to smoke-free parks and recreational spaces.

Rashawn Smalls from the Tobacco free Coalition of Erie & Niagara County. Mr. Smalls serves as the coalition project manager, he would like the town to ban smoking and vaping in the town park. This agency is funded by the NYS Department of Health's Bureau of Tobacco Control, this would reduce the number of illnesses and deaths attributed to tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke. Aside from creating healthier spaces, he also said tobacco litter is most common found across the world and cigarette butts takes decades to decompose. Tobacco litter is poisonous and puts children, pets and wildlife at risk. Our playgrounds and parks should not be used as an ashtray. The last few years have seen a big increase in e cigarettes and vaping which causes respiratory illness, this is a major health epidemic. Communities that decide to go tobacco free in public spaces like parks, are provided with signs by the coalition. there nearly 300 communities across the state that adopted this policy, with North Tonawanda being the most recent. Supervisor Rickey Venditti, thanked Mr. Smalls and said they would discuss this in the future and would contact him if they decide to proceed.

2.Town of Wales 2022 Tentative Budget

Supervisor Rickey Venditti stated- The bookkeeper is still working on gathering information for the 2022 budget, at this point based on the current CPI and other towns in the area employees

will be seeing a 3% increase their salary. The bookkeeper and I we continue to work on the budget and will be presenting at the September 28th Special Board meeting.

3. Request to set date for Special Board Meeting to present Town of Wales 2022 Tentative Budget on September 28th, 2021.

MOTION # _____ moved by Councilman Donald Butcher, second by Councilman Dan Driver, approving the Special Board Meeting on September 28th at 7pm to present the Town of Wales 2022 Tentative Budget. **CARRIED**

4. Request received from Wales Center Volunteer Fire Co. for ARPA funding to replace COVID damaged equipment.

The Wales Center Fire Department is seeking funds for a piece of equipment that failed earlier than normal, Wally Rachel is a fireman explained this monitor tells the paramedics and the ambulance what is wrong and what's going on, it is used whenever transporting a patient it's a very important piece of equipment they feel went early because of constant wiping down monitor with alcohol. Supervisor Rickey Venditti said that he has contacted Association of towns to try to get an answer but they're not willing to give a definite answer, for the use of the funds. They haven't turned over enough information, I'm not sure if we can approve something like this since no one can gave us a definite answer. The piece of equipment they are seeking cost approximately \$34,400. We have some questions if it's ever been replaced before, don't know if we need quotes. This would be a good use of funds to take care of the residence of town. We can't make a motion right now with not enough information that was provided. We need to get more information regarding the background, additional coverage, or warranty maybe fireman could come to the next meeting. At this time, I think we should discuss it at the special board meeting on the 28th for approval, would be great if someone could come an explain more about this monitor and answer the questions that we have.

5. Request received from South Wales Volunteer Fire Co. for ARPA funding to replace COVID expenditures and losses.

Marty O'Connor from the South Wales has sent us a list of losses for the ARPA funding, which include, chicken barbecue and pancake breakfast. I did ask if other towns are doing this, they are taking a couple years and using it and an average to make sure it's fair, those numbers seem to be working. The South Wales Fire District is 2/3 Aurora and 1/3 South Wales, we would have to negotiate with Aurora for the funding.

6. Application received for Special Use Permit to operate a self-storage facility located at 6421 Olean Road.

MOTION # ____ Supervisor Rickey Venditti, second by Councilman Dan Driver, for the Town Clerk to forward this Special Use Permit at 6421 Olean Road, to all the applicable boards and agencies. **CARRIED**

7. Application received for Open Development Area permit located at 13616 Shang Road.

MOTION # ____ by Supervisor Rickey Venditti, second by Councilman Donald Butcher, for the Town Clerk to forward this Open Development permit at 13616 Schang Road to all the applicable boards and agencies. **CARRIED**

8. Erie County Community Development Block Grants.

The public hearing was held earlier this evening, we had no new idea or suggestions, the town will be requesting the normal support for the Rural Transit Services.

9. Request to amend Town Board meeting and Workshop schedule to hold Workshops prior to Town Board meetings.

Supervisor Rickey Venditt said we've talked about having workshops prior to the meeting, the workshop would begin at 6:30 and then the board meeting would follow immediately after. I propose we start this at the November 2021 meeting and the only reason for that it's because September and October the budget process and special meetings. We would start in November if

the board is willing to do that or we can then leave things the way they are, if board members want to go that way. I would like to make a motion to start in November, Workshop at 6:30 with the Town Board Meeting immediately following.

MOTION # ___ by Supervisor Rickey Venditti, second by Councilman Donald Butcher, approving that starting in November the Town Board Workshop will start at 6:30pm with the Town Board Meeting immediately following. **CARRIED**

10. Request received from Town Clerk to expend funds to renew the annual maintenance contract for eCode 360 program

MOTION#__ by Councilman Donald Butcher, second by Councilman Kyle Barry approving the annual maintenance contract for Code 360 at the cost of \$1,195.00 **CARRIED**

11. Request to re-appoint Assessment Review Board Chairman.

MOTION#__ by Councilman Donald Butcher, second by Councilman Kyle Barry approving the reappointing Patrick Struzynski as Chairman to the Assessment Review Board for another 4-year term. **CARRIED**

12. Request to re-appoint Assessment Review Board Member.

MOTION#__ by Councilman Donald Butcher, second by Councilman Dan Driver approving James Hausauer to the Assessment Review Board for another 4-year Term. **CARRIED**

COMMUNICATION

Supervisor Rickey Venditti said we've talked about the new cannabis laws, Attorney Ronald Bennett, has made good points if we opt out now of the cannabis law in New York State the program we can opt in at any time but if you do nothing and stay in then you'll never be able to opt out of this law. The process needs to be done before the end of the year, if we choosing to do the local law and the necessary public hearings and local referendum which must be published so it's time consuming and the time limit at least a two-month process in order to meet all requirements. Most of the neighboring towns are opting out a lot of the cannabis Law. We can have Ron Bennett prepare the necessary paperwork and discuss at the September 28th special board meeting.

MOTION#__ by Councilman Donald Butcher, second by Councilman Kyle Barry Cancelling the September Workshop meeting on September 28th as we be having a special board meeting. **CARRIED**

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Building Inspector/CEO - Rec'd & filed

Town Clerk/Tax Collector – Rec'd & filed Highway Dept - Rec'd & filed

Supervisor Rickey Venditti said he received a Request from Mark Gaston, a Wales Planning Board member, for the possibility of funds through a grant. Funding to redoing our comprehensive plan or create a farmland protection plan. Mike Gaston has send some emails to the board for this grant application. As a newly appointed member of the town planning board member, I started to look at the existing comprehensive plan that was created in 2004 and a regional plan that was formed in partnership with Elma, Aurora, Holland & Wales. It's a good guidance and some of the key points are still there. A new plan has been coming out pacifically in regard to an agricultural farmland protection plan. The Town of Wales has rural characteristics, to do additional planning with the agricultural farmland development and planning protection plan. I sent an email to the agricultural protection board coordinator Sarah Grotti from Erie County Development and Planning, she said some money is available, you can apply for a grant. She said as an example, that this is the second year of funding and some towns did submit last year, in particular Concord and Sardinia they have a large solar project between the two towns they are working with them right now. I'm trying to promote talking and looking at some of the issues ahead of time. The only bad thing we are under a time crunch for this application. I was told the town essentially will be eligible for 20,000 to 30,000 range. I've done some digging with some of the planning that is out, there really is two avenues we can take. One this money is really geared toward agricultural farmland protection plan or either

updating your comprehensive plan or a local ordinances. The application is due on Friday, Mark Just needs the Supervisors to sign the application. Supervisor Rickey Venditti said he would sign the application as soon as Mark has completed the application.

REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

South Wales Fire Co: Chicken Bar-B-Q Sept 18th

Wales Center Co Chicken Bar-B-Q Oct 3rd

SECOND INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Newman, Strykersville Rd - Thank you approving the application for the grant. No manner how you slice it, a 17-year-old document is still outdated.

REVIEW AND ACTION OF SUPERVISOR'S MONTHLY REPORT:

MOTION # _____ moved by Councilman Donald Butcher, second by Councilman Dan Driver, approving the Supervisor's monthly report of September 2021 the transfer on page 2.

CARRIED

REVIEW AND ACTION ON TOWN CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT:

MOTION # _____ by Councilman Dan Driver, second by Councilman Donald Butcher, approving the Town Clerk's monthly report for September 2021, as presented.

CARRIED

ACTION ON GENERAL FUND BILLS:

MOTION # _____ by Councilman Donald Butcher, second by Councilman Kyle Barry, approving General Fund bills, abstract # 008, voucher # 289-321 total amount \$39,593.76

CARRIED

ACTION OF HIGHWAY FUND BILLS:

MOTION # _____ by Councilman Kyle Barry, second by Councilman Donald Butcher, approving Highway Fund bills, abstract # 008, voucher # 98-111 total amount \$23,889.33

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business at hand, motion duly made by Supervisor Rickey Venditti and seconded by Councilman Donald Butcher to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm **CARRIED**

IN MEMORY OF: Norman Gawlick and Daniel Savage

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Eaton

Wales Town Clerk