

March 17, 2021

The Town Board of the Town of Lyons met for a workshop on Wed. March 17, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the Lyons Town Hall.

Present: Jake Emmel, Supervisor
Jim Brady, Councilman
John Paliotti, Councilman
Joanne Greco, Councilwoman
Ralph D'Amato, Councilman

Absent: Sal Colatarci, Town Clerk

Also Present: Dani Thorn, Dep. Town Clerk, Amy Shaffer, Jim Wedman, Ellen Wayne, Todd Freeman, Richard Bogan, Tony Villani

This workshop was duly noticed by contacting the Times of Wayne newspaper, as well as posting a notice on the Town bulletin board and on the Town's web site.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Emmel introduced Ellen Wayne, the Department of Social Services Commissioner for Wayne County. She spoke to the Board regarding how many people in Wayne County actually use the welfare programs in the Town of Lyons. She also discussed the misconstrued ideas of what the numbers look like, and looking for Board support in helping residents understand the programs provided. By offering affordable stable housing, communities are able to invest in bettering the citizen's quality of life.

Todd Freeman from solarfarms then addressed the Board regarding reduced electric rates now available to municipalities and school districts. He explained that the Town could save up to ten percent on all its bills if it opted into the program. He stated it would just simple paperwork. Solarfarms work with multiple developers to bid against one another to find the best rate for the commercial property.

The Board then discussed a replacement for current Deputy Town Clerk Dani Thorn who is resigning the post effective May 14, 2021. Many position options are available to make the replacement and the Board wanted to weigh all possibilities. Ms. Thorn, who was covering the meeting in the absence of Town Clerk Sal Colatarci described the current duties of the job. She explained that whatever title the Town gives to the position, that person will be responsible for covering the Town Clerk in his or her absence, billing duties, and whether or not the board would continue to have this person cover payroll and HR duties as well. Dani explained the position really does not need to be at full time status, and if they take away the payroll duties it could be bumped back down to 20 hours per week, and a decision should be made of who to hire by April 1st, 2021 for training purposes. The board agreed to begin looking into applicants.

The Board then discussed the purchase of a new camera to be installed at the current brush pile site located at the end of Clyde Road. The current camera is old and not able to record the license plates of vehicles dropping off brush at the pile. There is still the matter of people placing other, non-allowed items, at the location. Tim Moore, the Highway supervisor is currently taking care of the matter.

The Board then discussed an outstanding bill received from the NYS Power Authority totaling \$19,7879.57. Former Town Supervisor Brian Manktelow had signed a contract, approved by the Board, allowing the Power Authority to replace all the street lights with LED bulbs. Following his departure from the position, NYSEG submitted a proposal to replace the bulbs at a price tens of thousands of dollars less than the Power Authority proposal. However, engineering cost already begun by the Authority is still the responsibility of the Town. Attorney Anthony Villani asked when the bill had originally been submitted to the Town for payment, to which, Deputy Clerk Dani Thorn replied, May of 2020. Councilmen Jim Brady motioned to pay the bill in full at the March 2021 Town Board Meeting. Joanne Greco seconded the motion. Vote:

Councilman Brady voting aye
Councilwoman Greco voting aye
Supervisor Emmel voting aye
Councilman D'Amato voting aye
Councilman Paliotti voting aye

On the topic of Town Clerk, the Board briefly discussed setting the salary for the position, as there will be a newly elected person taking over the job. Councilman, Jim Brady discussed the averages of all the other clerks within Wayne County, coming to an average of roughly \$41,000.00. Discussion was tabled to be talked about again during the March 2021 board meeting.

The Board discussed a recent house fire at 123 Broad Street. The Town Code Enforcement Officer, Richard Bogan, has deemed the house unsafe and it should be torn down. Taxes have not been paid on the property for a number of years and the County has put the property on roll section. Mr. Bogan has sent letters to the addresses he has on file of the property, with no return receipt. An estimate for demolition was quoted from Bronze Enterprises for roughly \$45,000.00. Richard Bogan will also get a quote from Lancaster Excavating. Councilman, Ralph D'Amato made a motion to allow Mr. Bogan to move forward with the demolition process. Councilman, Jim Brady seconded the motion. Vote:

Councilman D'Amato voting aye
Councilman Brady voting aye
Supervisor Emmel voting aye
Councilwoman Greco voting aye
Councilman Paliotti voting aye

The Board then reviewed a request from Dr. D'Amico to waive a surcharge fee filed against him for unauthorized demolition of a structure and unauthorized construction fee. Dr. D'Amico met with Supervisor Emmel in an effort to rectify the matter and gave Mr. Emmel \$50.00 for the two permits however, Town code calls for the surcharges of \$200.00 to be paid. The Town Board determined Dr. D'Amico will still have to pay his bill.

Tabled from the last regular Town Board meeting was the matter of allowing the purchase or lease of a power lift gurney for use in one of the ambulances. Purchase price is \$31,936.05. The unit could be leased for 36 months at a total cost of \$839.92 a month, or \$514.66 for 60 months. Councilman Brady asked if Director of Ambulance Operations John Wiltsie had reported back as to the legal terms of the lease. Jim Brady looked at the lease as well, and approved it. Councilwoman, Joanne Greco made a motion to approve the lease agreement. Jim Brady, seconded the motion. Vote:

Councilwoman Greco voting aye
Councilman Brady voting aye
Councilman Paliotti voting aye
Councilman D'Amato voting aye
Supervisor Emmel voting aye

The Board then discussed the bids received for the 2021 season mowing bids for both Town properties and for the Elmwood and Rural cemeteries. The following bids were received for Town property:

Dave's Lawn Service: \$20,500.00
Blades and Spades: \$23,250.00
Pollot's Lawn Service: \$18,125.00
Simpson Lawn Service: \$18,000.00

The following bids were received for the Elmwood and Rural Cemeteries:

Dave's Lawn Service: \$50,000.00
Blades and Spades: \$49,115.00
Pollot's Lawn Service: \$46,995.00
Simpson Lawn Service: \$45,000.00

Board decision was made to revisit the bids and make a final decision at the March 31,2021 Town board meeting.

As it was tabled at the last regular Board meeting on Feb. 24, 2021 the Board further discussed a recommendation that the Town of Lyons go through a town-wide assessment update to take effect in 2022. The assessor explained at the last meeting that the Town Board would have to pass a resolution allowing the process to begin around July 1 of this year. The Board decided that although an update is needed, as our equalization rate has fallen to about 78 percent, this is not the best time for this to occur. The Board believes many people are suffering from the economic effects of the covid pandemic. Supervisor Emmel will let the Town Assessor know of its decision.

As there was no further business, the workshop was adjourned at 6:00p.m.

Dani Thorn

Deputy Town Clerk