**Town of Lexington Town Board Meeting**

**July 5, 2023 In Person & Via Zoom**

Supervisor JoEllen Schermerhorn opened the meeting at 6:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. There was a moment of silence in memory of Arthur Maxwell.

**Present:** Supervisor JoEllen Schermerhorn

Council Members Bradley Jenkins

William Pushman

Bennett Wine (zoom)

Superintendent of Highways Kevin Simmons

Town Clerk Charlotte Jaeger

Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea (zoom)

**Absent:** Council Member Michael Barcone

**Others Present:** Gretchen Walker, Moira Taylor, John Enochty, Larry Russ, Bob Goff, & **Zoom:** Lynn Byrne, & Mike Ryan from the Mountain Eagle

Supervisor Schermerhorn started by saying that the Public Hearing had to be canceled last minute because there were a few things that the Town needs to do, one of which is to have a fair housing law in place. There will be a public hearing on August 1, 2023 for the Fair Housing Law.

There were letters sent out regarding unsafe buildings. One building is the old parsonage in the hamlet of West Kill and it has been suggested that the Town of Lexington take the property over. Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea said that there are several steps that can be taken. 1. They can be treated just like other unsafe buildings by sending a violation letter to see if the owner intends to fix it up or tear it down. 2. A title search can be done to see who the actual owner is and the other thing is to make an offer for them to transfer the property to the Town and the Town could rehab it and put it back on the market. Bennett wanted to know why cant we do a title search and not rehab it but just sell it to someone to rehab it. Bennett asked the Town Attorney how much it might cost for the title search and Tal said probably three to four thousand dollars. Bennett asked about reaching out to some real estate agents. Supervisor Schermerhorn said that it would probably cost forty thousand dollars to take a building down. Bennett thinks it is best to put it back for housing. Bill thinks that is a good idea even if someone takes the building down and puts up a new one.

**RESOLUTION # 51-23**

**Find Out Value of the Property 160.10-1-20**

On a motion by Council Member Bennett Wine, seconded by Council Member William Pushman the following was,

ADOPTED: Ayes – 4 – Jenkins, Pushman, Schermerhorn, & Wine

Nays - 0

Absent-1 – Barcone

Therefore this Town Board moves to talk to Real Estate agents to find out the value of the property and then go from there to do a title search.

**RESOLUTION # 52-23**

**Surplus Property off from Fuller Road to Go Out for Bid**

On a motion by Council Member Bennett Wine seconded by Council Member William Pushman the following was,

ADOPTED: Ayes – 4 – Jenkins, Pushman, Shcermerhorn, & Wine

Nays - 0

Absent-1 – Barcone

Therefore this Town Board declares the small piece of property off from Fuller Road as surplus and wishes to put it out to bid to be sold. The surrounding land owners will be notified by mail as well as an ad in the newspaper.

**DEP Contract to Purchase Highway Building on Route 42**

Supervisor Schermerhorn said that she signed the contract after she had Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea look at it. The building will not be demolished until the Town of Lexington turns over the title. The Town will be looking to build a new highway garage by the salt shed. Hopefully there will be some grant money to help with the cost of the new building. We will be looking for some architects.

**RESOLUTION # 53-23**

**ARPA Funds from Greene County Expended**

**WHEREAS,** the Town of Lexington installed a permanent helicopter landing zone, and

**WHEREAS,** the Town of Lexington created a gravel walking path which includes a paved parking area, and

**WHEREAS,** the Town spent the funding given by the Greene County Legislature, and

**WHEREAS,** The Town of Lexington had KCK Paving, LLC complete these projects for $102,660.00

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Town of Lexington paid KCK Paving, LLC $102,260 with check number 6399 when the work was completed of which $100,00.00 was from Greene County.

Resolution offered by Council Member Bradley Jenkins, seconded by Council Member William Pushman

ADOPTED: Ayes – 4 – Jenkins, Pushman, Schermerhorn, & Wine

Nays - 0

Absent-1 – Barcone

**Lexington Hotel Update**

Supervisor Schermerhorn wanted it known that someone had put a deposit down on the hotel. He has been doing some research to get ideas for the property. Will & Caitlyn have purchased the store property.

**RESOLUTION # 54-23**

**Free Power Washing of the Playground**

On a motion by Council Member Bradley Jenkins, seconded by Supervisor JoEllen Schermerhon the following was,

ADOPTED: Ayes -- 4 – Jenkins, Pushman, Schermerhorn, & Wine

Nays - 0

Absent -1 – Barcone

Therefore this Town Board moves to have Matt Grossman who is fully insured power wash the play ground at no cost to the Town.

**RESOLUTION #55-23**

**Audit Committee Report**

On a motion by Council Member Bennett Wine, seconded by Council Member Bradley Jenkins the following was,

ADOPTED: Ayes – 4 - Jenkins, Pushman, Schermerhorn, & Wine

Nays - 0

Absent-1 - Barcone

Therefore this Town Board moves to approve the paying of the following expenditures.

**Highway Fund** No. 94 Through No. 105 = $176,562.31

**General Fund** No.164 Through No. 192 = $ 54,638.27

**Lighting District** No. 7 Through No. 7 = $ 297.60

**Sewer District** No. 29 Through No. 33 = $ 1,355.16

**Public Be Heard**

Bob G. wanted to know if the air bnbs are assessed commercially. The Supervisor said that they are taxed as residential and the Assessor has to go by the regulations set by the State. Bob A. said that the house next door to his is an air bnb and that he had some issues with them. Supervisor Schermerhorn said that a violation letter was sent out and that a property manager needs to be on site within 30 minutes when there is a problem. He is not happy with the amount of traffic created and how fast they travel. Bradley said that he heard that business has gone down for air bnbs. Lynn wanted to let everyone know that the Farmer’s Market will be by Van Dusens’ store on July 22nd because the car show is at the Municipal Building.

**Close Meeting and Open Executive Session**

**Contractual – No Action will be taken**

On a motion by Council Member Bradley Jenkins, seconded by Council Member William Pushman and with all in favor the regular Town Board meeting was closed and the executive session started at 6:51 pm.

**Close the Executive Session and Open Regular Meeting**

On a motion by Council Member Bennett Wine, seconded by Council Member William Pushman and with all in favor the executive session closed and the regular meeting opened at 7:45 pm.

**Adjourn**

On a motion by Supervisor Schermerhorn and with none opposed the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

**Town of Lexington Calendar of Events**

Farmers Market 07/08/2023 10 am – 1 pm

Farmer’s Market by Van Dusens’ 07/22/2023 10 am - 1pm

Bluegrass & Potluck 07/08/2023 3 pm – 6 pm

Thunder in the Mountains Car Show 07/2 2/2023 9 am - 3 pm

Town Board Monthly Meeting 08/01/2023 6 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlotte Jaeger, Town Clerk