**Town of Lexington Town Board Meeting**

**October 3, 2023 In Person & Via Zoom**

Supervisor JoEllen Schermerhorn opened the Town Board meeting at 6:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**Present:** Supervisor JoEllen Schermerhorn

Council Members Michael Barcone

Bradley Jenkins William Pushman

Bennett Wine (late)

Town Clerk Charlotte Jaeger

Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea (Zoom)

Superintendent of Highways Kevin Simmons

**Others Present: In Person-**  Nicole Pursell, Catilin Williams, Jim Connolly, & Paul Strotman, & James Rooney **Zoom-** Larry Russ, Bev Dezan, Jen Cawein, Lynn Byrne, Shelly & Mike Ryan from the Mountain Eagle

**RESOLUTION # 72-23**

**Accept September 5, 2023 Town Board Meeting Minutes**

On a motion by Council Member William Pushman seconded by Council Member Michael Barcone the following was,

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

Nays - 0

Absent-1-Wine (late)

Therefore this Town Board accepts the meeting minutes from September 5, 2023 meeting as presented.

**RESOLUTION # 73-23**

**August 2023 Financial Report**

On a motion by Council Member Michael Barcone, seconded by Council Member Bradley Jenkins the following was,

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

Nays – 0

Absent-1-Wine (late)

Therefore this Town Board moves to accept the financial report for the month of August 2023.

**Highway Report**

Superintendent of Highways Kevin Simmons said that he just had a truck serviced and that there is a hole in the oil pan due to rust and it needs to be changed. They are working on snowplow equipment in order to be ready for the winter season. He said that he has a surplus of used tires, a water truck, and the old sweeper. He attended the conference for highway superintendents and they talked about salt reduction by using a brine rather than sand. Supervisor Schermerhorn said that she asked the Greene County Sheriff about digital speed signs. There are complaints about people speeding on county and state roads. She would like to see what the cost would be for the Town to buy them. Council Member Bradley Jenkins wasn’t sure if the Town could put them on County or State roads.

**RESOLUTION # 74-23**

**Highway Superintendent to auction surplus items**

On a motion by Council Member Bradley Jenkins, seconded by Council Member William Pushman the following was,

ADOPTED: Ayes – 4- Barcone, Jenkins, Pushman, Schermerhorn,

Nays – 0

Absent-1 – Wine (late)

Therefore this Town Board moves to have the Highway Superintendent auction the surplus items.

**2024 Budget**

Supervisor Schermerhorn worked on a preliminary budget and it was given to the Town Board members to go over before the budget workshop that was scheduler for October 17th at 6 pm. She spoke to Raymond Ward at real property tax service in Catskill about the ambulance district tax to be on the 2024 tax bills. Supervisor Schermerhorn thanked bookkeeper Michelle Brainard and Town Clerk Charlotte Jaeger for their part in getting the budget ready for the Town Board. The public hearing for the budget will be on November 8th.

**Sexual Harassment**

Supervisor Schermerhorn is working on getting this done for this year. This is a New York State requirement and there will be a NYMIR Training for sexual harassment & discrimination on October 12th at 9 am in the court room at the Municipal building.

**DEP Check**

The Town of Lexington received a $5,000.00 check from DEP for a binder for the sale of the highway garage located on state route 42.

**STR Renewals**

Supervisor Schermerhorn said that the renewal letters have been sent out. Nicole said that the cap is at 62 and the waiting list is at 11 for non-residents and the total number of resident applicants is 17 for a total of 79 which is right around the 10% mark. The total number of inspections to be done is around 15. Renewals need to be received by December 15th.

**Comprehensive Plan Update**

Supervisor Schermerhorn thanked Jen Cawein, Lynn Byrne, and Kim Mcgalliard for their work on the comprehensive plan and said that Nan Stolzenburg is trying to put everything together. Jen said that they are putting together a draft and she was happy with the responses from the people in town. They are hoping to have a draft before the end of the year.

**NY Forward**

Supervisor Schermerhorn read and explained what the NY Forward grant is all about. This grant focuses on revitalization of smaller towns and villages. Lexington is part of the capitol district region and there are 3 awards per region. The Town was approached by a grant writer and the grant writer was able to produce an application by talking to Nan Stolzenburg and by getting information from the revitalization study that was done in 2018 as well as information that is found on the town website. Jim Monahan contacted the Town Supervisor and set up an appointment to talk and Supervisor Schermerhorn asked Council Member Jenkins to be at that meeting. The meeting ended up being 3 hours long. The hotel, old post office, and the barn by the sewer district are listed in the grant. The town would hire someone to facilitate the grant if it is awarded at no cost to tax payers since the money would come from the grant. Lynn asked where the grant writer is from and who was paying them. Supervisor Schermerhorn did not know who was paying the grant writer but the town is not paying for the grant writer. Supervisor Schermerhorn was asked for a letter of support and she agreed as long as the Town Board was in favor of it. Council Member Barcone read the letter of support from Supervisor Schermerhorn. Bennett said that the hotel has a lot of potential. There were letters of support from Warren Hart and Jen Cawein. The grant is not for non-profit organizations. Supervisor Schermerhorn is happy that Van Dusens has opened and given the town hope for more revitalization. Council Member Barcone said that it would be nice to see something grow and thrive in the hamlet of Lexington since for most of his life these buildings have been abandoned. Supervisor Schermerhorn said that the grant is awarded by the Department of State.

**RESOLUTION # 75-23**

**Letter of Support for NY Forward Grant**

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

ADOPTED: Ayes – 5 – Barcone, Jenkins, Pushman, Schermerhorn, & Wine

Nays – 0

Therefore this town board is in support of the letter signed by Supervisor Schermerhorn.

**Health Officer Report**

Supervisor Schermerhorn said that Liza could not attend the meeting but sent an email. The

Covid numbers areon the rise and flu season is approaching and vaccines are recommended. October is breast cancer awareness month. There are some test kits and masks available here at the municipal building.

**CEO Report**

The Town Board members had reports to peruse at their leisure. There was 1certificate of occupancy or compliance issued, 4 C of O searches, and 5 permits issued in the month of September.

**RESOLUTION # 75-23**

**Audit Committee Report**

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

the following was,

ADOPTED: Ayes – 5 – Barcone, Jenkins, Pushman, Schermerhorn, & Wine

Nays - 0

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

**Highway Fund** No. 143 Through No. 155 = $ 24,280.17

**General Fund** No. 239 Through No. 263 = $ 34,713.80

**Lighting District** No. 10 Through No. 10 = $ 315.81

**Sewer District** No. 47 Through No. 51 = $ 1,890.62

**Public Be Heard**

James found it surprising that the Town didn’t know who was paying for the grant writer. Supervisor Schermerhorn said that Alan Weiss made the connection to the grant writer but her biggest concern was that the Town was not paying for it. She will find out who is paying for the grant writer. James is worried about undo influence for a person rather than what’s best for the town. Council Member Barcone said that there was a grant put forward in the Town of Shandaken that did not need board approval. Caitlin wanted to know where was the ongoing conversation about the revitalization of the hamlet of Lexington. She is a full time resident and business owner and would like to be on a committee regarding the revitalization of the hamlet of Lexington and she was concerned that the grant was written by someone not from Lexington. Bennett said that one of the reasons we are redoing the comprehensive plan is so that the Town would be in a much better position to apply for grants. Bob said that there are professional grant writers to help you get the grant. Supervisor Schermerhorn said that there is a copy of the application for anyone that would like to come in to see it. She thought the application was well done and did a good job describing Lexington. Council member Barcone said that he was not keen on how this came about and the short time frame. He thinks this Town is at a stage of growth and believes the path forward needs to have a committee for the hamlets and he thinks there should be a chamber of commerce. He wants to make sure that there are a lot of voices heard.

**Close the Town Board Meeting and Open Executive Session – No Formal Action Will Be Taken**

On a motion by Council Member Michael Barcone, seconded by Council Member William Pushman and with all in favor the Town Board left the regular meeting and went into executive session at 7:09 pm.

**Close Executive Session and Open Town Board Meeting**

On a motion by Council Member Bennett Wine, seconded by Council Member William Pushman the executive session closed and the Board returned to the regular meeting at 7:25 pm.

**Adjourn**

On a motion by Council Member Bradley Jenkins, seconded by Council Member Michael Barcone and with no more business and none opposed the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

**Calendar of Events**

Last Farmer’s Market Oct. 14 10am-1pm

Official Dedication of Bonnie’s Trails Oct. 14 2pm at the trail if rain at the community hall

Budget Workshop Oct. 17th 6pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlotte Jaeger, Town Clerk