

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on February 12, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Tyler at 7:00 p.m.

Members present on a roll call were:

Councilperson Page
Councilperson Kirkby
Councilperson Morrison
Supervisor Tyler
Excused: Councilperson Viens

Others Present:

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk
Dennie Westover, DPW Superintendent
Sam Sherman, Bridget Brown, Jason Fountain

RESOLUTION #35 MINUTES JANUARY 22, 2019

On a motion by Councilperson Morrison, seconded by Councilperson Kirkby, and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Page, Kirkby, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2019 regular meeting as received.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Sam Sherman addressed the board and asked them to review his October 2018 water bill. He provided a spreadsheet of past bills and noted that the third quarter of 2018, following the installation of a new meter, showed much higher usage. He stated that no leaks were found and no excess was used as the town was under a water conservation order at the time. Supervisor Tyler stated that this is the first instance where an issue has been reported after a bill has been paid. Dennie Westover said that meter malfunctions usually result in a lower read than they should; they are unaware of any issues with the new meters. Following Councilperson Page's suggestion, the board agreed to keep an eye on future meter readings and decide whether or not to credit Mr. Sherman's account at a later date.

COMMITTEE REPORT

YOUTH COMMISSION – Councilperson Morrison stated that last weekend's Biddy Basketball tournament was very successful.

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NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #36
APPROVAL OF BILLS

On a motion by Councilperson Morrison, seconded by Councilperson Page, and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Page, Kirkby, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize payment of bills on Abstract 3 in the amount of \$32,137.58 for Vouchers 64-98.

RESOLUTION #37
WADHAMS SEWER PROJECT RFP

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Kirkby, and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Page, Kirkby, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to go out to RFP for the Wadhams Sewer District Improvement Project.

RESOLUTION #38
WADHAMS SEWER PROJECT DETERMINATION

On a motion by Councilperson Kirkby, seconded by Councilperson Morrison, and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Page, Kirkby, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

WHEREAS, the Town of Westport owns and operates a Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Hamlet of Wadhams under NYS DEC SPDES Permit Order on Consent for effluent disinfection compliance; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westport proposes upgrades to the existing Wastewater Treatment Facility, including installation of UV disinfection, sand bed rehabilitation, piping modifications, pump station upgrades, and additional site improvements to achieve effluent disinfection requirements; and

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WHEREAS, the Town of Westport has received a NYS Office of Community Renewal Community Development Block Grant to upgrade and replace the Wastewater Treatment Plant infrastructure that serves the Hamlet of Wadhams; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westport will retain Engineering Services through RFP process of an engineering firm duly licensed in the State of New York to develop final design and construction documents; and

WHEREAS, the Town is required to comply with the New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Act – 6NYCRR Part 617.5(c)(2)(29); and

WHEREAS, the proposed project has approval from the New York State Historic Preservation Office and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project has approval from the New York State Adirondack Park Agency, the New York State Department of Conservation Natural Heritage Program, and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project improves existing infrastructure at the site of the current Wastewater Treatment Facility on Town-owned property where no critical habitats exist; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that proposed project activities shall have no impact on ecologically or historically sensitive areas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Westport has determined the Wadhams Sewer District Improvement Project to be a Type II Action under SEQR pursuant to Section 617.5 (c)(2)(29); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Westport has herein determined that the proposed action to upgrade the Wadhams Wastewater Treatment Facility to achieve effluent disinfection compliance is otherwise precluded from additional environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) Environmental Conservation Law Article 8.

PARK ATTENDANT POSITION – Supervisor Tyler met with Jim Monty to discuss an opportunity that allows retired New York State employees to receive additional retirement income after they retire from a second employer using the same state retirement system. Supervisor Tyler recommended creating two Park Attendant positions as placeholders for this opportunity.

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RESOLUTION #39
PARK ATTENDANT POSITIONS

On a motion by Councilperson Morrison, seconded by Councilperson Page, and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Page, Kirkby, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to create two Park Attendant labor positions.

MONTHLY REPORTS – The supervisor is in receipt of the Town Clerk’s and Town Justice’s January reports.

HOISINGTON BROOK REPORT – Supervisor Tyler received a report of fish caught in Hoisington Brook during the spring of 2018 and a request for permission to trap again in 2019.

RESOLUTION #40
HOISINGTON BROOK TRAPPING

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Kirkby, and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Page, Kirkby, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office to trap Hoisington Brook in 2019.

SUPERVISOR’S COMMENTS – Jasmine Horn would like to paint a mural under the bridge. Supervisor Tyler received a request to collect dead wood from the spring lot, but due to past issues he will deny the request. An internal audit will be scheduled with the Town Court.

SUGARBUSH DISCUSSION – Jason Fountain of Moon Lite Maple Farms is interested in using a portion of the town’s forestland to produce syrup. He and Bridget Brown provided copies of a draft lease agreement (based on UVM’s standard contract). They spoke about tubing options and the need for a structure to house a generator and other equipment. Jason stated that he isn’t looking to start until next year. Supervisor Tyler said they will need to look at how tapping may effect carbon credits and timber cuts. He will get the foresters involved and continue the discussion.

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RESOLUTION #41
ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Kirkby, with a unanimous second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk