



Minutes

Town of Cairo

Wednesday March 16th, 2021

Town Board Meeting @ 7:00 pm

Location: Town Hall Meeting Room

The Town Board of the Town of Cairo met for a Town Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 16th, 2022, at the Town Hall, Main Street, Cairo, New York.

Supervisor Watts called the meeting to order @ 7:07PM and asked the attendees to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendance: Supervisor Watts, Council Member Bogins, Council Member Cords, Council Member Powers.

Absent: Council Member Flaherty

Approval of the Minutes:

February 16th, 2022:

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Council Member Bogins.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Bogins – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

New Business:

1. Joe Myers
 - No Report
2. Unsafe Building Funds
 - Supervisor Watts would like to move the unsafe building money to the Buildings, Parks and Grounds account. This will help with maintenance on buildings, one being the Town Hall for Heating and A/C filtration system.
3. Drainage in the Park
 - Supervisor Watts and Highway Supervisor Art Evans met with the County about addressing the Drainage in the park. Highway will assist with putting some catch basins in and moving some piping around so the county can come in and pave the Town Park. The Town will be paying to have the walking path done and made wider.
4. Recycling

- The county is willing to bring the recycling back to the park. The Town can hire somebody to look over it and it can be open about 3 days a week. Making a part time person supervise or make a part time employee into a full time to assist with supervising.
- Powers has concerns about what happened last time with junk that was not allowed and mixing of different recycled products where the Town got charged more money due to this. Doesn't want the same thing to happen get charged again. The Town shouldn't have to pay more money to take care of the recycling center for it to be open 3 days a week due to the fact that some residents want it back open. There are other places that people can take their trash and recycling, transfer stations in the area.
- Powers states that the initial vote to close the recycling was unanimous, would like the resolution for proof. Supervisor Watts states that he offered to pay for the charge last time would be willing to pay out of pocket if it happens again.
- Art Evans states that there a lot of couches that are starting to appear again due to the moratorium for tenants that has expired and property owners are allowed to evict tenants.
- Watts states that some residents have called saying that there was more trash on the side of the road after the closing of the recycling center.

5. Insurance for Town Park Use

- According to the Towns insurance, groups that use the Town Park have to have insurance for their events. The board is looking into this to see what options there are so that residents or other groups do not have to do this. This may require more insurance for the Town.
- Supposedly if you request to use the Town Park you are to have insurance but if a group just walks in there and has no insurance, it's okay.
- Multiple groups; 5K, festivals, Memorial Day parade, etc. would need insurance. Board is waiting on a response back from the insurance company to see what can be done.

6. Public Hearing – Cannabis

- Supervisor Watts would like to hold another public hearing on this topic in April. Council Member Powers had heard according to the Governor's Office that the first 300 permits for this would be issued to drug dealers that have been incarcerated. Powers states that this decision should not be put on 5 people's shoulders and it needs to go to referendum, to every person in this town who can vote, about 6,700 residents should have the say, put it on the ballot in November.
- Scott Yates (Officer Yates) says to wait until the State comes out with definite regulations. Catskill and Coxsackie have signed on but neither have any idea what the state regulations are. Once you opt in you cannot opt out, but you can always opt in down the road. There are no 'rules' right now, how many stores can you have, what can be sold, what can't be sold, etc. Regulations and penalties for DWAI drugs are broad and all over the place. Says the Town should have a public hearing but should have it after the State releases more information on what is allowed.
What's the overall economic impact? The Town would get about 3% of the sales; have to expect increase of traffic, accidents, theft, etc. whatever traffic, population that comes with a dispensary. Sales would have to offset possible costs, you might need another officer for traffic control and accidents. Every state that has legalized this has a 40% increase in traffic accidents and about 20% increase of fatalities. Some people might just stop in Town on the way up the mountain grab some snacks and be on their way, no real profit for the Town overall. Selling without a license right now is a \$250 fine which is not much.
- Emmy Cross states that whether some people want it and other don't there still must be a voice of reason to hold back on it and get all the information necessary then come back to it, instead

of opting in and not being able to back out. Stores like this might not be allowed near daycares, schools, etc. where exactly you could even put it if say it was on Main Street. What profit would the Town really be making, people might stop at the liquor store after stopping at a dispensary or even McDonalds, but maybe not making a huge increase in profits. Might lose those profits if you now have to hire more police for traffic control.

- Monica Kenny-Keff states that licenses aren't supposed to come out earliest 2023, so there is time to decide. The first 300 are allegedly going to drug dealers and licenses after that people will not get preference because of the inequities of the incarcerated. Says that there are only a certain amount of people that can come here monthly for this. Agrees that this subject should be voted on by the whole Town and put on a ballot. Also have informational sessions along with public hearings throughout the year.
- Marc Gorelick says that preference is not a decision. Part of it is for small businesses because the state does not want a large business to come in and open multiple shops around the area. This may give some priorities to veterans.
- Powers mentions that federally marijuana is still illegal.

7. Monica Kenny-Keff

- John VanDenburgh and Ed Brandt were appointed to the Town of Cairo Board of Ethics by the previous Board, with only Jason Watts abstaining, in November 2020. Monica Kenny-Keff was appointed unanimously by the previous Board, including Jason Watts, Tim Powers, and Mary Jo Cords, in 2021. Len Asaro was appointed unanimously, including Jason Watts, Tim Powers, and Mary Jo Cords, in August 2021.

Sine our respective appointments, we have all received one (1) written complaint, and several individuals have made many inquiries. To date, only the one (1) written complaint has been determined to need further investigation. That written complaint has been forwarded to a state authority to avoid any appearance of impropriety of the Board of Ethics.

Additionally, since our respective appointments, we have had Town employee and community members spread falsehoods about us personally, we have been harassed in ways, and we have receiver nothing but trouble for volunteering our time to attempt to help this Town. We now understand why Greene County does not make public who the members of the Greene County Board of Ethics are.

Because of this, coupled with some of the recent decision some on the Town Board have made on different topics, we believe there will be no support for the work of the Board of Ethics by the majority of the Town of Cairo Board. Also, we do not feel that any recommendations made or investigation concluded will be given any respect by the majority of this Board or those who were perpetrating the harassing behavior towards the members.

Therefore, the four (4) of us are all tendering our immediate resignation as volunteer member of the Town of Cairo Board of Ethics. We highly suggest that, if this current Board even plans to continue with a Board of Ethics, those who are appointed should remain anonymous to avoid further harassment.

Sincerely, John VanDenburgh, Ed Brandt, Monica Kenny-Keff, Leonard Asaro.

8. Ambulance Building

- Powers and Cords had went to the DOJ to discuss more information with the Engineers on the new building on 32. They met with Reay Mahler to get an idea of what he is looking for in the building. Reay made some phone calls to the county about funding for the building and spoke to Shaun Grogen and there is money to assist us in making it the new ambulance building. Watts mentions that he also reached out to Delgado's and Tague's offices about what is out

there for us to apply for. Barton & Logiudice are putting some money towards this projects for the Town as well.

Cords is also working on a small grant for additional costs for asbestos, lab fees, furnishings and other items as well, about a \$48,000 dollars grant will be awarded in June and needs to be used by December. Also the county said they would help out with the kitchen since it will be used by the department of aging; bringing the new kitchen up to the right specifications.

Resolution No. 2022-088 “Movement of Funds from Highway Savings to Polly’s Rock”

Offered by Council Member Cords and seconded by Council Member Powers.

WHEREAS, funds for the years of 2017 and 2018 were moved from Highway Savings (DA213) to Polly’s rock (DA213). However, the funds targeted for Polly’s rock were not transferred during 2019, 2020 and 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Cairo Town Board does hereby authorize the required adjustment for the fiscal years of 2019, 2020 and 2021 in the amount of \$21,860.00 per year for a total of \$65,580.00 from the Highway Savings Fund (DA2019) to the Polly’s Rock Fund (DA213)

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Bogins – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Supervisor Watts mentions that this projects might not starts for a year or so but it will get done.

Resolution No. 2022-089 “Budget Amendments”

Offered by Supervisor Watts and seconded by Council Member Cords.

WHEREAS, budget amendments should be properly authorized and documented in the minutes; therefore be it;

RESOLVED, the Town Board does hereby authorize the movement of funds from A3620.4 Safety Inspection Contractual (Unsafe Building Project) to A1620.203 Building Improvements – Ambulance.

FROM: Safety Inspection Contractual A3620.4 \$60,000

TO: Building Improvements – Ambulance A1620.203 \$60,000

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Bogins – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Public Comments:

- Emmy Cross asks if there are any grants coming out to apply for more homeowners for repairs?
Not at this moment.
Also how is the Town proceeding moving forward disbursing out the money that was awarded from the HUD Grant?
That is on the wait of the contractors. Small part will be disbursed first.
Emmy stated that she made sure she gave enough information on what was wrong with her home to meet the guidelines, but could have given more info on what was wrong but decided not to. Just disappointed at the board, she could understand if the money went to another homeowner instead of a non-for-profit.
- Monica asks if anyone from the board has seen what the CDF had put in the Daily Mail the next day, after this was awarded. They had said it was reimbursement for what they had already done, which does not follow the guideline for getting the grant.
Supervisor Watts has questioned that and has not heard anything back yet.
Monica says she feels bad for Emmy because she deserved more than what she got. The only one of the 3 that actual was a low income homeowner/resident not for low income housing.

States that yes the CDF requested money, \$21,000 to be exact and the board went ahead, excluding Powers and gave \$50,000 to the CDF and the earning interest was split between the other 2 applicants.

This grant has guidelines, its 50% grant, 40% mortgage and 10% up front. Waiting to see when CDF is filing their mortgage. The other applicant which is Chris Keff's company would be willing to give that money to Emmy since his business really doesn't need it and can find another way. If this is not reconsidered or looked into, Chris's company would like his grant to be awarded to the only resident applicant, Emmy Cross.

- Art Evans would like to know how the Town can reconcile the amount that was given.
- Monica tells Cords to check with Tal about the requirements for this grant because it says that it is not allowed to be used for any improvements that are not needed as of the date of the inspection. Cannot apply to any work that has already been done; this falls outside the grant guidelines. The project with the grant cannot even be started unless it is signed off on by an inspector and a rehabilitation specialist signing off on the work, approving the contractor, the amount and the work that would be done.
- Monica states that the work the CDF was going to do has already been done. Watts states that they have a year to do whatever works needs to be done, but Delaware Engineering has to go look at it and if they don't spend the money in the proper way by then, it gets taken back.

But the work has already been done; there again outside the grant requirements.

Monica no problem with what Delaware Engineering decided for CDF, which was \$21,000, because this means they found things that are inside the grant requirements, but anything over that amount has already been done and is now public knowledge on the Daily Mail and once again outside the requirements.

- Cords understanding is that the CDF had bills that exceed this amount. Also that the CDF was waiting to pay for additional renovations but couldn't wait to pay the vendors.
- The board discusses among themselves about the CDF, what needed to be done and how this was awarded to them in 2019. Powers says that back then they still did not meet the requirements. This resolution was then rescinded the year after.
- Explains to the public what was awarded in 2019 and why \$50,000 was finally was awarded to the CDF this year. The grant came out almost 20-30 years ago and this is why there was so much interest.
- Cords said there were applicants in the past, but many didn't fall into the guidelines so it was never awarded. Also the last rehabilitation specialist sat on it longer and people had forgotten about it.
- Delaware Engineering the new Rehabilitation Specialists, made their recommendations and Town Board did not follow. This was allowed and accepted according to Delaware Engineering and Tal and a resolution was made.

Adjourn Town Board Meeting @ 8:13PM

Offered by Council Member Bogins and seconded by Council Member Powers.

Supervisor Watts – Aye, Council Member Bogins – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Flaherty – Absent, Council Member Powers – Aye. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Kayla L. McAlister
Town Clerk