July 13, 2022

The regular meeting of the Ellington Town Board was held on July 13, 2022 at 7:00pm at the Ellington Town Hall 813 West Main St, Ellington, NY.

Present: Karen G. Bifaro, Supervisor

 Barbara Beightol, Councilwoman

 Kevin Colburn, Councilman

 David Brainard, Councilman

 William Green, Highway Superintendent

 Jennifer Eaker, Dog Control Officer

 Eileen Powers, C.H.R.I.C.

 Robert Rhinehart, Chairman of the Ellington Fire District

 Steve Rexford, Ellington Fire Chief

 Kate Conti, Town Clerk/ Recording Secretary

Supervisor opened Public Hearing #1 at 7:10p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Eileen Powers from C.H.R.I.C was present to inform the public that the Town of Ellington’s 2019 Community Renewal Grant in the amount of $499,000 will be completed this year, one unit is complete and the other two are underway. Eileen presented the Board and the public with a financial breakdown and the demographics report that will be attached to these minutes. There was no comment from the public.

Motion made by Beightol, seconded by Brainard to close this portion of Public Hearing #1 at 7:15.

Supervisor opened Public Hearing #2 at 7:16.

Eileen Powers from C.H.R.I.C. was present at the public hearing to let the Town know about the availability of approximately $10 million in funding through the New York State Office of Community Renewal Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). She stated that

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this funding could be used for a variety of purposes that **provide** (1) decent and hazard-free affordable **housing**, (2) access to safe **drinking water**, (3) proper **disposal of household wastewater**, (4) **access to community-needed services** in local facilities, (5) foster **microenterprise activities** and economic opportunities through the support of projects that create and/or retain permanent employment opportunities that principally benefit low-and moderate-income persons. She also stated that activities funded under the CDBG Program must meet the National Objectives of (1) benefit low-and moderate- income persons, (2) aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight or (3) meet community development needs having a particular urgency. She explained who was eligible to apply, how much was available to specific communities and what the process was and answered questions from the Board and members of the public. Motion made by Beightol, seconded by Colburn to apply for Community Development Block Grant funding through New York State Homes and Community Renewal under the 2022 Unified Funding Round. VOTE: Colburn-aye, Brainard- aye, Beightol- aye, Bifaro-aye, carried.

Motion made by Beightol, seconded by Brainard to close this portion of Public Hearing #2 at 7:30.

**Public Participation**

Jennifer Eaker town Dog Control Officer was present to inform the Town Council that the Chautauqua County SPCA holding center is no longer taking dogs, due to overpopulation. This creates a problem for the town due to the number of stray dogs that have been dropped off in the town recently. The state is suggesting that the towns build holding Kennels to hold the dogs for a longer period of time. As of this time the DCO and the Town Council has no real solution to this problem.

Steve Rexford and Rob Rhinehart were present to inform the Town

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Council that the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department is being forced by the State to bill residents for EMS services, this went into effect July 8,2022.

**Highway Superintendent Report**

The paving project on Wolcott Road has been completed, the shoulders still need to be put on. The milling project on 83 has been completed, we received 89 loads of millings.

The crew has been skid paving in Cherry Creek, Gerry, and Charlotte. Oil and stone projects are underway. The heavy rock project on 28 Creek Road is complete, and we will be working with the county again to complete project on Harris Hollow Road. The new Ford F-550 is done, a sander for this truck will be ordered soon. Barren signs will be doing the lettering.

Motion made by Beightol, second by Colburn to accept the Highway Superintendent report.

VOTE: Colburn-aye, Brainard- aye, Beightol- aye, Bifaro-aye, carried.

**Unfinished Business**

Work in the drainage district was discussed, Councilman Colburn has contacted Rice Excavating.

Bids for the electric in the park and town hall were reviewed again and discussed.

Motion made by Beightol, seconded by Colburn to accept the bid by Beck Electric to complete the electric projects at the Town Park and the Town Hall.

VOTE: Colburn-aye, Brainard- aye, Beightol- aye, Bifaro-aye, carried.

Motion made by Brainard seconded by Colburn to table discussion on commercial Solar Energy Systems until the entire board is present.

VOTE: Colburn-aye, Brainard- aye, Beightol- aye, Bifaro-aye, carried.

The Break Away Hoops for the town park have been donated to the town and will be installed by Councilman Brainard.

Sidewalks were also discussed a walk around town will be done to assess the needs for repairs to the sidewalks.

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**New Business**

The Town Picnic Association submitted a permit to use the Town Park and Ballfield for Town Picnic August 4th through the 7th.

Motion made by Beightol, seconded by Colburn to allow the Ellington Town Picnic Association to use the town properties for the Town Picnic.

VOTE: Colburn-aye, Brainard- aye, Beightol- aye, Bifaro-aye, carried.

After the passing of town attorney William Duncanson, the town supervisor has made contact with a few attorneys and has only received a response from Dana Lundberg. Attorney Lundberg has been

highly recommended by other towns that use his services. The board discussed hiring Attorney Lundberg to represent the town.

Motion made by Colburn, seconded by Bifaro to start the process to hire Dana Lundberg as the Town Attorney.

VOTE: Colburn-aye, Brainard- aye, Beightol- aye, Bifaro-aye, carried.

The large tree by the ballfield has fallen down and will be cleaned up.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Brainard, seconded by Colburn to accept the Minutes of May 11th as submitted.

VOTE: Colburn-aye, Brainard- aye, Beightol- aye, Bifaro-aye, carried.

Motion made by Beightol, seconded by Brainard to accept the minutes of June 8th as submitted.

VOTE: Colburn-aye, Brainard- aye, Beightol- aye, Bifaro-aye, carried.

**Budget modifications**

Motion made by Brainard, seconded by Colburn to accept the Budget modifications as submitted by Bahgat & Laurito-Bahgat.

**Audit and Payment of Claims**

At this time the town board reviewed the bills.

General Fund Claim Nos: #158-#181 $41326.91

Highway Fund Claim Nos: #98- #108 $16674.39

Trust & Agency #13-14 $3,569.79

**Abstract NO 8 Total $61,571.09**

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Motion made by Beightol, seconded by Colburn to pay the bills as submitted.

VOTE: Colburn-aye, Brainard- aye, Beightol- aye, Bifaro-aye, carried.

**Monthly Reports**

Motion made by Beightol, seconded by Colburn to accept the Town Clerk Monthly report.

Vote: Colburn-aye, Brainard- aye, Beightol-aye, Bifaro-aye, carried.

Motion made by Brainard, seconded by Beightol to accept the DCO report.

Vote: Colburn-aye, Brainard-aye, Beightol-aye, Bifaro-aye, carried.

Motion made by Beightol, seconded by Brainard to accept the Justice Court report.

Vote: Colburn-aye, Brainard-aye, Beightol-aye, Bifaro-aye, carried.

Motion made by Beightol, seconded by Brainard to accept the Building Code Officers report.

Vote: Colburn-aye, Brainard-aye, Beightol-aye, Bifaro-aye, carried.

Motion made by Beightol seconded by Brainard to accept the Financial Report as submitted by Bahgat & Laurito-Bahgat.

Vote: Colburn-aye, Brainard-aye, Beightol-aye, Bifaro-aye, carried.

**Committee Reports**

The library has requested $65 for their summer reading program, there is $100 left in the Budget for Youth Programing.

Motion made by Beightol, seconded by Brainard to give the library $65 for their summer reading program from account A7310.4.

Vote: Colburn-aye, Brainard-aye, Beightol-aye, Bifaro-aye, carried.

\*With no other business to come before the Town Board, a motion was made by Colburn to adjourn at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate A. Conti

Town Clerk /Recording Secretary