

Regular Town Board Meeting  
August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 6:00pm

The Town of Gouverneur Regular Town Board Meeting was held on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:00pm at the Town of Gouverneur Office Building, 1227 USH 11 Gouverneur, NY 13642. Meeting was held in person by board members and public participation by teleconference.

Roll call attendance by Supervisor Spilman

Dave Spilman  
Eldon Conklin  
Jaimee McQuade  
Curran Wade  
Jay Bowhall  
Marion Bowhall  
Diane Kelley

Attendees by teleconference

Ronald McDougall  
Rachel Hunter

1. Meeting called to order by Supervisor Spilman at 6:00pm  
Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.
2. Approval of minutes-  
Councilman Conklin notes one correction to be made for the July minutes- we use Dekalb's roller for paving not Hermon's.  
Motion to adopt minutes with above correction- Eldon Conklin 2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Jaimee McQuade  
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
3. Public Participation- none.
4. Old Business
  - a. Community center- FREE food giveaway on Thursday July August 6<sup>th</sup>, approximately 350 meals were given to people. Started at 9:15am was gone by 10am.
  - b. None
  - c. Complete Streets- no new update
  - d. Local Law #3 –  
Motion to adopt Local Law #3 Jaimee McQuade 2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Curran Wade  
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried, local law adopted.
  - e. Any other old business:
    - i. Spilman spoke with Chambers (County highway superintendent) to check with the speed reduction process on Little Bow Rd And Van Buren Rd, Chambers said the people that do those things with the state have been furloughed until October.
    - ii. Eminent Domain proceedings- August 28<sup>th</sup> is our court date. We have 4 properties on the West Side, and 1 on the East Side we are seeking to act eminent domain on.

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West side properties are held by 2 owners and East side is a abandoned property held by a bank in California.

5. None

6. Highway Superintendent

a. Report supplied

b. Authorize Salt purchase

Price this year is \$75/ton delivered. We get our Sand from Cooke's.

Motion to authorize Ed Cardinal, to purchase 650 tons of salt by Jay Bowhall

2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Jaimee McQuade

Ayes: 5            Nays: 0

Councilman Conklin suggests we consider backing off on the amount of salt we use. He approximates maybe ~600 tons would suffice. States he's been reading articles and thinking about the environmental effects all the salt will be forcing on the environment in a couple of years, prime example are our water line corrosion on the East Side, right off of Route 11.

Daily Road is finished with paving, shoulder work to commence in the next couple of weeks.

Weight limit signs arrived to the building today, August 11, should be installed tomorrow.

7. DCO Report

a. Report supplied, two dogs in custody this month.

8. Code Enforcement

a. Report supplied

b. Housing grant- there are 7 grants completed at this time. Working on signing with the next round.

9. New Business

a. Justice Reports- first court to be held September 6<sup>th</sup>.

135 new cases in the month of August and \$7,505.00

b. Supervisor Communication

i. East Side Water – 349,425 gallons ADF 11,272

West Side Water – 1,095,541 gallons ADF 36,518

ii. LL#2- filed with the state

iii. Dane Road- couple concerned with 2 items of the road, requests some work to be done on the road in, Spilman states that we could put some gravel down on the road, it does need some. Secondly, stop signs on each end Dane Road on the Little Bow Road. Not much discussion.

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c. Purchase offer of 47 E Main Street, Gouverneur.

The offer is \$22,000 cash offer. Spilman asks board to consider counter offering with \$30,000. There is much discussion of how much is owed to the town, and what happens to the money that is received from the sale. Most of it returns to the State due to changes in microenterprise fund rules.

Motion to accept \$22,000.00 for 47 E Main Street: Curran Wade

2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Jay Bowhall

Ayes: 5            Nay: 0

d. Quarantine States:

Conklin states we need to have a policy that if some leaves the state to a state that the Governor has deemed a "Quarantine state" willingly that they need to quarantine when they get back. Suggests that they need to use their vacation or sick time to do so.

Councilperson McQuade that she agrees that we need to follow the rules and cannot have people coming and going and then going to work.

Spilman hands out a directive that was given in the paychecks a week ago, stating the Governor's quarantine orders in each employee's paycheck.

Discussion of an employee who will be going to pick up children in a quarantine state but wouldn't be there for more than 24 hours, however the children are coming from a state that quarantine state that they must quarantine. He is not to work today, or yesterday.

McQuade- I do think it's our duty to protect.

Bowhall- Yeah, I don't think they should be working.

McQuade- yeah I know I'm taking all the steps, its just our duty.

Spilman- We are covered by public health and whatever they determine we have to live by, but if they go by choice and they come back then they have to abide by the states guidelines. We can't break those roles. Scary times. Questions if we need an amendment to the employee handbook specifically for this time? States that this flyer in all checks pretty much sums it up. And they were all notified in their paychecks, so I don't know if we need to do anymore than that.

Bowhall- an executive order will over ride any amendment we make in the handbook

Conklin- Follow the state guidelines, I don't know if we need to pass something that states they have to use their sick or vacation time if they need to quarantine.

Bowhall- They are advised not to travel.

McQuade- yeah, yeah.

Spilman- if they're at work and they come down with it then we are required to pay them by executive order, but if they chose to go on vacation to then we aren't required to do that.

Spilman states "Well we'll just leave it as everyone's been notified in their paychecks. So we'll leave it at that, and both individuals we're talking about are well aware of this."

Conklin "They've been given plenty of forewarning"

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Discussion ends, board in agreement that executive orders are to be followed in regard to Quarantine States.

- e. Tower Grant Agreement- Feasibility Study- We've been awarded the grant if the USDA doesn't remove all the funding from this area as an affect of COVID. It is a \$10,000 feasibility grant and our share is \$2,500.00. We spoke last summer with the Village about doing a Joint Application, splitting the \$2,500.00 and making it affordable for both of us. McDougall joins call says we will split it. Our share will be \$1,250.00 Spilman requests for approval to sign grant agreement forms, explains that his fears of lack of fire protection on the west side of town if there is something wrong with villages water supply.

Conklin wonders how long the feasibility study is good for. There is no way the water district can afford anymore debt load, for 10 years until we get the first loan paid off. Conklin wonders if we'd have to do another study in 10 years from now.

Motion to authorize spilman to sign agreement: Jaimee McQuade

2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Curran Wade

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

- f. Water pay applications for the construction project:

East side- \$182, 873.10

West side- \$161,342.55

Motion to authorize payment of the applications: Eldon Conklin

2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Jay Bowhall

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Conklin clarifies that this comes out of BAN that we had to borrow money upfront to pay this. Clerk Bowhall and Spilman will sign for on Thursday.

- g. Any new business:

- i. Spilman- water project update. Visits sites twice a day, states joy for most of the project- states on only thing that had to be addressed and was immediately- young individuals jumping in to 6 feet trenches- fixed with having to get a ladder.

Starting on the West Side- September 1<sup>st</sup>. On schedule or ahead.

5 Water breaks last week.

Liberty Gas went out door to door on July 15<sup>th</sup>, they are doing the math now to see if it would be economical for them to expand here.

- ii. Eldon Conklin states we need to start working on budgeting. It is highway negotiation year. Must be to Clerk by September 30<sup>th</sup> and Diane needs it a few days before that.
- iii. McQuade questions what we can do for the community regarding the rec center and the programs there due to COVID. Would like to do come up with something to help working parents on the three days their kids are off of school due to Gouverneur's split alphabet approach to the school year.

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10. Public Participation:

Ron McDougall- COVID test in SLC total is 261 cases. Given about 31,000 in the county.

In regard to the work rules, executive order will supersede any policy we make.

Sports, no formal sports until 9/21 at least and McDougall expects a postponement.

11. Motion to pay the bills

Motion made to authorize bookkeeper to pay the bills: Jay Bowhall

2<sup>nd</sup> motion- Curran Wade

Ayes: 5            Nays: 0

Motion to adjourn meeting: Eldon Conklin            2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Curran Wade

Ayes: 5            Nays: 0

Meeting closed. 7:10pm