

**Town of Delaware Town Board**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**April 10, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Delaware, Sullivan County, New York, was held at the Town Hall, in Hortonville, New York, in said Town, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024, at 6:00 o'clock p.m., prevailing time.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor DuBois, and there were

**PRESENT:** Scott M. DuBois, Supervisor  
Cindy Herbert, Councilperson  
Christopher Hermann, Councilperson  
Alfred Steppich, Councilperson  
Ian Blumenthal, Councilperson

Also present: Tess McBeath, Town Clerk; Kristofer Scullion, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer; Kenneth C. Klein, Town Attorney; William Brown, Delaware Engineering; Cat Scott, District 5 Legislator

**PUBLIC HEARING:** At 5:55 p.m. the Public Hearing on Local Law #1-2024, amending Article II of Chapter 193 of the Code of the Town of Delaware with regard to tax exemptions for persons over 65 years of age opened on motion of Councilperson Hermann, seconded by Councilperson Blumenthal. There being no public comment Councilperson Hermann made motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilperson Blumenthal and carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the March 13, 2024 meeting were approved on motion of Councilperson Herbert, seconded by Councilperson Steppich and carried unanimously.

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:** Scott spoke to Bill Eschenberg, they were cleaning out trees and branches from the wind, then we had snow; they were busy.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR/CEO:** Kristofer Scullion reported that the Planning Board meeting last month was by candlelight due the wind storm. New custom homes seem to be dropping off as far as permits go, although he has a lot of little permits. Mr. Scullion has been going after people to clean up; he's been contacting owners. Bnos Rochel has taken out a permit for a \$250,000 renovation on one of the buildings. They had the asbestos inspection; did a demo of another building. Mr. Scullion stated that typically they went for a special use permit now, but they're not ready for this month either. Attorney Ken Klein is concerned about timing, it's usually a date in June that they typically open and arrive.

**TOWN CLERK:** (1) Taxes. Collections totaled \$4,918,509.85. \$790,525.13 is going back to the Treasurer as unpaid. (2) March receipts totaled \$3,613 with \$3,609 turned over to the Supervisor. Building Inspector receipts totaled \$3,565.

**UDC REPORT:** Harold Roeder (1) provided a written report to the Board, along with the hydrologic conditions report. All of the reservoirs are at 100% or more. (2) Mr. Roeder provided a flyer about the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Roebling Aqueducts, which will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. (3) Mr. Roeder is looking into ensuring that Mary Curtis' oral history tapes which she recorded years ago are conserved and made available for both the present and the future. Councilperson Herbert stated that Mr. Roeder was getting Mary's old recordings from when she worked at the NPS. Her niece was also doing recordings of local history with Mary, they plan to make them available through our local library.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Mr. Brown provided an update on the water project. He's asking the Board to move ahead with the bid to replace the water lines and build a new wellhouse with a generator. Now they're working through the regulatory stuff; they met with the County Dept. of Public Works, State Dept. of Transportation, the railroad, and NYS Dept. of Health as well.

They got the hydrogeologist's water quality results back for the two wells. Everything looked good there, it's going to NYS Dept. of Health and the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) now; we need to get their approval. Mr. Brown mentioned that DRBC will have costs associated with their review.

The plan is to start construction late Spring early Summer; going through bulk of Summer and into Fall. Approximately 7,000 feet of waterline will be replaced, along with the water tank in Delvue. One of the big pieces is the new wellhouse by the Youth Center.

Mr. Brown would like to give a generous timeframe for bidding. Whatever contractor gets the work will have a number of subcontractors. Building work, concrete and the water lines; some are open cut, some are under the State DOT road where directional drilling is required. He'd like to give them 3-4 weeks. Mr. Brown requested a special board meeting in May to give a four-week timeframe for bidding.

With concurrence from the Board, Mr. Brown will set a contractor meeting on May 1 at 10:00 a.m. Town Board meeting is May 8. Bid opening is set for May 15 at 2:00 p.m. with the Clerk and Mr. Brown present. He suggested we set a special meeting on May 20 or 21 to award the bid.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:** Supervisor DuBois stated we have our clean up on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Everyone can bring their bulky waste. He mentioned restaurant week and encouraged people to take advantage of the lower meal prices. He spoke of the eclipse and how amazing it was. Supervisor DuBois reported that the Supervisor's Association drafted a letter to Governor Hochel opposing the building density proposal.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**COUNCIL COMMENT:** Councilperson Hermann reported that a bid was awarded for the interstate bridge, it's a four year project.

Councilperson Steppich attended the Partnership breakfast; it's all great, good, the economy is booming and The Kartrite is really nice. He mentioned that no one addresses the agricultural aspect with the building and warehouses on prime farmland. Councilman Steppich said we're going to import more and more food, and as we import more food we're importing more chemicals in the food.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION: ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW #1-2024 – AMENDING ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 193 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF DELAWARE WITH REGARD TO TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PERSONS OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE:**

The following resolution was introduced by Councilperson Hermann, who moved its adoption, and seconded by Councilperson Herbert, to wit:

**SECTION I**

**Amendment of Article II of Chapter 193 of the Code of the Town of Delaware**

Article II of Chapter 193 of the Code of the Town of Delaware is hereby amended as follows:

§193-7 of the Code of the Town of Delaware his hereby amended to read as follows:

“193-7. Exemption Granted.

Real property owned by one or more persons, each of whom is 65 years of age or over, or real property owned by husband and wife or by siblings, one of whom is 65 years of age or over, shall be exempt from Town taxes to the following extent:

Annual Income	Percentage Assessed Valuation Exempt From Taxation
\$31,600.00 or less	50%
Over \$31,600.00 but not more than \$32,600.00	45%
\$32,600.01 but not more than \$33,600.00	40%
\$33,600.01 but not more than \$34,600.00	35%
\$34,600.01 but not more than \$35,500.00	30%
\$35,500.01 but not more than \$36,400.00	25%
\$36,400.01 but not more than \$37,300.00	20%
\$37,300.01 but not more than \$38,200.00	15%
\$38,200.01 but not more than \$39,100.00	10%
\$39,100.01 but not more than \$40,000.00	5%”

**SECTION II**

§193-8 of the Code of the Town of Delaware is hereby repealed and reserved for future use.

**SECTION III**

If any clause, sentence, phrase, paragraph or any part of this local law shall for any reason be adjusted finally by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not effect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation and effect to the clause, sentence, phrase, paragraph or any part thereof, directly involved in the controversy or action in which such judgment shall have been rendered. It is hereby stated to be the legislative intent that the remainder of this local law would have been adopted had any such provisions not been included.

#### SECTION IV

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, resulting as follows:

Supervisor Scott M. DuBois voting aye;  
Councilperson Christopher Hermann voting aye;  
Councilperson Cindy Herbert voting aye;  
Councilperson Alfred Steppich voting aye; and  
Councilperson Ian Blumenthal voting aye.

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

#### RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE CALLICOON WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

Moved by: Councilperson Herbert  
Seconded: Councilperson Steppich

RESOLVED, that Delaware Engineering is authorized to bid the Callicoon water improvement project with bid opening set for May 15, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Resolution carried.

#### RESOLUTION: AWARD HAULER FOR HAMLET OF CALLICOON TRASH REMOVAL. Only one quote was received:

Thompson Sanitation            \$2,940.00  
PO Box 494  
Rock Hill, NY 12775

On motion of Councilperson Hermann, seconded by Councilperson Herbert, the quote is awarded to Thompson Sanitation. Hamlet of Callicoon trash will be removed from Memorial Day until after Dickens on the Delaware in December. Resolution passed unanimously.

#### RESOLUTION: AWARD HAULER FOR DATES FOR TOWN CLEAN-UP: Only one quote was received:

Thompson Sanitation            \$325.00 per pull  
PO Box 494  
Rock Hill, NY 12775

On motion of Councilperson Hermann, seconded by Councilperson Steppich, it was resolved that the hauler for the Town Clean-up will be Thompson Sanitation. Resolution carried unanimously.

#### RESOLUTION: PAYMENT OF BILLS: April 2024 bills/vouchers were reviewed and approved for payment on motion of Councilperson Steppich, seconded by Councilperson Hermann, and carried:

Callicoon Light	\$	770.91
Callicoon Sewer		14,112.94
General Fund		156,550.58
Highway Dept.		64,207.49
Kohlertown Light		147.58
Water District		4,807.85
Water Imp. Capital		19,850.87

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, on motion of Councilperson Steppich, seconded by Councilperson Hermann and all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tess McBeath, RMC  
Town Clerk