

Town of Alexandria Board Meeting
April 20, 2022

Present: Supervisor Brent Sweet, Councilman Gene Kring, Councilman Mike Fayette,
Councilman Shawn Thomas, Councilman Ron Thomson and Town Clerk Jessica Hudon

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the bills: Motion made by Councilman Shawn Thomas to pay all the bills except for the Garlock bill seconded by Councilman Gene Kring. Ayes 5 Nays 0 Motion Passed.

Approval of the minutes: Motion made by Councilman Mike Fayette to approve the meeting minutes for January 19, January 31, February 16, March 16, March 21, March 28 and April 4, 2022 with minor corrections seconded by Councilman Shawn Thomas. Ayes 5 Nays 0 Motion Passed.

Excavator Bid Opening:

Luke Hall- Empire Tractor, Inc.

Model: (Kubota)Kx080-4 Super Series 2 Final Sales Price: \$115,151.21

Vic Natali- Equipment Rentals, Inc.

Model: Doosan Total Bid Price: \$98,042.98

Joe Natali – Tracey Road

Model: Keibelco Total sell Price: \$118,210.00

Bids Tabled - The board will review & award the bid on Monday April 25, 2022 @ 4:00pm.

Engineer Report: 1) Bid advertisement for the boat ramp. 2) Reviewing plans for the carwash on Rte 12 3) Water/Sewer Committee /District Boundaries. 4) Advertise for the sewer project in May.

Status of 80% reimbursement Hwy barn (PESH Violations) Rob Campany stated that he contacted PESH but they informed him to reach out to another department to submit the application.

Water Bills: Councilman Mike Fayette part of the Water/Sewer Committee will answer any questions about the Water Bills that just went out.

Dan Peterson, Redwood, NY: Asked for his letter to be submitted to the official record of the minutes:

Dear town of Alexandria board, I request you read this letter at Wednesday night's meeting and provide a response for the citizens of Redwood. Please enter this letter and your response into the official record on Wednesday night.

I would like to address the recent water and sewer rate increases. I have raised various concerns previously and would like to review a few items for the benefit of the new board members. I am sure you have been briefed on what the previous boards views are. I hope this new board will carefully consider the details I lay out in this letter. Details that are important facts that according to experts cannot be disputed.

The town is currently in a legal dispute with Redwood citizens regarding the towns accounting and inappropriate charges. Allegations that are verified by an expert CPA. The fact that the lower court either did not understand or was confused by information presented does not change the truth or the facts. The Judge is not a financial expert, and that is why the law required an expert. The new board should know that the judge did not ask the expert a single question. It's hard to understand how the Judge could render a decision contradicting the chosen expert without asking the expert a single question or make any attempt to clarify what was reported. Several issues will be raised at the appellate court. The town of Alexandria board can have their own opinions but not their own facts.

The bank records are irrefutable proof. Bank records do not lie. The actual records show \$203K was collected from Redwood water and sewer customers and never deposited or posted to their accounts. I would encourage you to review appendix F of the D&M report. This appendix details every Bank transaction from January 2008 thru February 2017 related to Redwood water

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and sewer. The date and amount of every transaction are listed. The town's records show expenses in the amount of \$2,538,000 were paid in that 9-year period. The bank records show \$2,538,000 had been transferred to the GF from Redwood bank accounts during the same period. Gentleman these bank records prove the GF was reimbursed for all expenses paid during that 9-year period. These records also show that \$203K was collected and not deposited or posted. The expert performed this reconciliation process based on expert CPA Pam Halloran's report detailing Redwood money was deposited into the wrong accounts. Pam Halloran was hired by the town board in December 2018 and her conclusions directly support the court's expert. The court's expert reviewed expenses and revenue back to 1992 to verify there was no accrued deficit that could account for the missing revenues. It's important to point out that the records in 2008 do not show a deficit and the years following do not show the repaying of a deficit with funds collected that were not deposited or posted.

You would certainly need to post the revenue prior to transferring to another account. There are several problems with the town's accounting that were discovered and reported by experts. The previous board has denied those facts and claims that I made them up. Gentleman, I did not fool expert CPAs... I am a mechanic by trade and not a genius. The bank records are what these CPAs believe, what I say is not relevant. Please review these bank records yourself and see if you are not convinced. The CPAs were. You don't need to be a CPA to understand deposits and withdrawals... 2008 financial records show Redwood had significant funds in a capital reserve. The expert went all the way back to 1992 when the district started and tracked the expenses, revenues, and capital reserves. The AUDs and other financial records are available that far back. There is no previous audit that can change what bank records prove.

I ask this current board to simply review the facts presented by expert CPAs and consider if the current and ongoing legal fees are warranted. How much has been wasted arguing so far? Will a panel of five Judges be convinced the bank records and experts are wrong? Mike Lisson was asked to provide verified answers to these questions several months ago, so far, he has not produced those records. Bonadio Group who is currently auditing the year 2019 has not been able to certify the town's financial statements after over one year of review. Do you find that concerning? Dan Peterson is not the problem. The previous Boards refusal to acknowledge the problems and turn over financial records that can be verified and that make sense has led to this mess. The Redwood citizens did not wish this or want this... they were left with no choice. Please pretend you are a citizen and see if you can get an explanation to the bank statements reviewed in appendix F. Redwood has money not posted and the recent rate increases are just insults after injury. No one from Redwood will attend the board meetings or hearings because they have no faith in the Town board.

The board forced us to hire attorneys when the facts should be very clear. What will you do? Roll the dice in court or try to find your own answers? What will you say if the citizens prevail in court? Will you wish you had taken things more seriously and looked deeper? If Mike Lisson can't produce verifications that reconcile to the actual bank records how does the town expect to prevail? If Mike Lisson can prove to us where this money is why hasn't he done so? I have added the email chain with Mike Lisson who has failed to prove the expert wrong with any credible documents that are verified by bank records or original source documents. Financial statements are not proof of anything. They are created documents that can be manipulated and inaccurate. I am willing to sit down and explain everything to the new members if you desire. I will bring the bank records even. I hope you will make your own decisions and not simply parrot what previous members state. I hope you find it concerning what the expert stated, and how the Redwood citizens feel when the previous board basically called me a liar and now the expert a liar... Who is willing to provide Redwood citizens with an answer to appendix F? Can anyone explain it to you so you can understand? **Best, Dan Peterson**

Tina Bartlett Bearup & David Bearup: Owners of multi-family properties in the township: Asked why her water bill has gone up so high, why people were not notified and nowhere on the letter stated there would be an increase. Mrs. Bearup asked questions and the board responded. Questions consisted of how is Redwood Water Reserve fund calculated, how is Redwood O&M amount calculated and what is the money being used for and why was this substantial increase not disclosed in the mailings and why the rates are being increased so much in a short period of time. Supervisor Brent Sweet stated that over the years the rates were not raised and the revenues are supposed to be reviewed yearly and that didn't happen. Mrs. Bearup stated for the record

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their tax preparer stated that their taxes are among the highest. Supervisor Brent Sweet asked Mrs. & Mrs. Bearup if they would like to meet with the Water/Sewer committee to help you understand what the Town is doing and why. The Bearup's and the Board discussed the letter that was sent out to the districts and how it could have been improved.

Randy Truesdell: Otter Street bill– Was the operation and maintenance charge always there? Supervisor Brent Sweet stated that the bill shows the break down and labeled now of what is being charged.

Mr. Truesdell also asked about the wheeling charge, he asked, does that create any money for Otter Street? Councilman Mike Fayette stated yes. What can that be used for? Councilman Fayette stated 25% goes into the Reserve Fund.

Zoning report- done

Clean up town properties enforcement: There are a lot of properties in the town that look awful and people are starting to take notice. The zoning department needs to know what properties and where these properties are. The Attorney is reviewing the junk and zoning ordinances and get back to the board so that when the town sites those properties something can be done. Court is aware of the situation and if they do not come to the hearing or do not respond by certified mail, the judges need the ability to fine those owners.

Bolton Ave area recreation center summer rates:

Town Youth Program (No Charge - Credit for it)

Non town affiliated Association Users (\$75.00 per hour)

Town Based Users (\$25.00 per hour)

Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson to charge *Town Based Users \$25.00 per hour* and the *Non town affiliated Association Users \$75.00 per hour* seconded by Councilman Shawn Thomas. Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.

Water, Sewer, Arena, DPW, Youth & Highway report – done

Abandoned Town Roads: Procedure to abandoned Town Road. Highway Supt. will give the board the roads that are within the abandonment criteria.

Correction on the water: Supervisor Sweet at a previous meeting stated that the Town Clerk who at the time did Water and Sewer made an error when submitting Rte. 12 information into the billing program on a particular residents as 1 edu and was billing in error for years. Supervisor Brent Sweet apologized for saying that and found the records showed the original paperwork from the engineer specified said residents was documented as 1 edu and not an error in billing.

Plessis playground: New playground discussion. Board will go to the playground to review what is needed.

Alex Bay Improvement Association: Motion made by Councilman Gene Kring to take \$5000 out of the Village line item to help Alex Bay Improv. Assoc. seconded by Councilman Shawn Thomas.

Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed. The Town will volunteer to water the flowers when needed.

Cemetery Plots for Sale: Letter will be going out to people who reserved plots at the Highland Cemetery right now are 8 plots and Point Vivian 25 plots. Robert Busler will going to survey the plots starting June 15 through the end of June. Buyers will look at their potential plots and if satisfied they will pay for the plot and receive deed.

March Financials are completed: Review on town's website.

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Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson to approve the Budget Transfers seconded by Councilman Mike Fayette. Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.

Village Court documents transferred to Town Court under lock and key: Supervisor Brent Sweet Thanked the Village for helping bring the court boxes up to the Town.

Streetscape Project: Major changes are going on. Rock work is completed, sidewalks in front of village have been completed.

Leash Law: Work in progress

Liquor License –Motion made by Ron Thomson to waive the 30 days for a liquor license for a new application located on Route 37 in the Village of Redwood seconded by Councilman Gene Kring. Ayes 5 Nays 0 Motion Passed.

The town board will continue the board meeting at 4:00pm on April 25, 2022.

Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson to go into executive session to discuss personnel seconded by Councilman Mike Fayette. Ayes 5 Nays 0 Motion Passed.

9:55pm came out of Executive – Motion to continue meeting until Monday April 25, 2022 @ 4:00pm