

Town of Alexandria Board Meeting  
February 19, 2020 6:00pm

**Present:** Supervisor Brent Sweet, Councilman Ron Thomson, Councilman John Stine, Councilman Mike Fayette, Councilman Sandra Caputo, Attorney Chris Stone from Slye Law Firm and Town Clerk Jessy Hudon

**Approval of the minutes:** January Minutes approved: Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman John Stine. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Approval to pay bills:** Council discussed Auto glass windshield bill in the amount of \$305 for one of the highway vehicles. Council agreed to decline payment on the Auto glass bill until further information is obtained by the town's insurance company. Motion to pay the bills accept Auto glass Bill was made by Councilman Mike Fayette seconded by Councilman Ron Thomson. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion passed.

**Privilege of the floor:**

Stacey Durand asked the board why the Highway Superintendent is not attending the board meetings. Council didn't have an answer on why Mike Tibbles, Hwy Supt. is not attending the meetings.

Elyssa Saffin, ATV Club. asked the board if they will allow this year the ATV club to use the Mud Lake Trail.

Supervisor Sweet stated that he talked with DEC and a property owner concerned with excessive atv usage. Supervisor Sweet stated the board hired a Grant Writer for Mud Lake Trail to apply for grants for needed repairs and improvements.

Susan Stine directed concerns to the board: Didn't water/sewer operators used to plow for highway when needed? Why are they not being utilized?  
Council stated that it costs the town between \$80,000-\$100,000 to hire a fulltime Highway employee.

Marilyn Cannestra asked the board to see why an arena employee is parking in the churches parking space on Sunday. The Church wrote a note and put it on the windshield of the truck.

Dan Peterson commented on Hwy dept. concerns.

**Ended privilege of the floor:**

**6:20PM: Motion to Open the Public Hearing on the Ordinance No. 1 of 2020 for the Town of Alexandria.** An ordinance amending the Redwood Sewer District Ordinance to eliminate Equivalent Dwelling Unit ("EDU") charges on properties not connected to the Redwood Sewer System. Motion made by Councilman Mike Fayette second by Councilman John Stine. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.

Will Farman: Asked council to describe vacant lots, change of water/sewer district rates and benefit assessment. Councilman Mike Fayette stated the town is looking into changing how district properties are charged. A portion of the bill would be for actual usage, based on property parcel assessment, O&M, and reserve fund.

Town of Alexandria Board Meeting  
February 19, 2020 6:00pm

Council pointed out that there all separated by O&M, Service and Benefit Assessment.

Dan Peterson: Stated that he had sent the board questions earlier in the day and asked the board if they reviewed them. Board stated yes, however several of the question were not pertaining to the public hearing. After several minutes of addressing the board, no questions asked to the board and the discussion ended.

Council asked the floor if anyone else had questions pertaining to the Ordinance No 1.  
No questions from the floor.

7:00pm: *Motion* to Close the Public Hearing. Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman John Stine. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.

***Motion to approve the Ordinance No. 1 of 2020 for the Town of Alexandria. An ordinance amending the Redwood Sewer District Ordinance to eliminate Equivalent Dwelling Unit (“EDU”) charges on properties not connected to the Redwood Sewer System.***

WHEREAS, after a public hearing held on May 30, 2018, the Town Board established EDU rates and classifications for vacant buildable properties located within the Redwood Sewer District; and

WHEREAS, following that public hearing, the Town Board of the Town of Alexandria adopted a change to the Redwood Sewer Ordinance which imposed the following EDU classifications: Laundromat -02 EDUs per machine, Apartment -1 EDU per apartment, Lots (unbuildable) 0 EDUs and Vacant buildable lots - .25 EDU; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Comptroller, in its Report of Examination Number 2019-M-90 in December 2019, made clear that vacant and unconnected parcels in the Town, whether for Water or Sewer District purposes, cannot be charged amounts as a benefit assessment through the use of user fee EDUs, because a user fee “must bear a direct relationship to the cost of providing the service and have a rational underpinning for the charge;” and

WHEREAS, the conclusion of the State Comptroller was that the Town may not bill a quarterly user charge to properties that are not connected to the system; it is hereby

ORDAINED, that the amendment to the Redwood Sewer Ordinance adopted May 30, 2018 imposing an EDU charge on vacant buildable lots in the amount .25 EDU is hereby repealed in its entirety, effective immediately.

Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson second by Councilman John Stine.

Roll Call Vote:	ayes	nays
Supervisor Brent Sweet	x	
Councilman Ron Thomson	x	
Councilman John Stine	x	
Councilman Mike Fayette	x	
Councilman Sandra Caputo	x	

Ayes 5 Nay 0. Motion Passed.

***INTRODUCED: ORDINANCE NO. 2 of 2020 FOR THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA***

An ordinance amending the Carnegie Bay Water District Ordinance to set the capital charge rate at \_\_\_\_\_ and to set the water rate at \$9.11 per 1000 gallons.

Town of Alexandria Board Meeting  
February 19, 2020 6:00pm

*Motion* to introduce Ordinance No 2 and hold a public hearing. Motion made by Councilman Mike Fayette and second by Councilman Sandy Caputo. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.

**INTRODUCED: ORDINANCE NO. 3 of 2020 FOR THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA**

An ordinance amending the Redwood Water District Ordinance to set the water rate at \$5.62 per 1000 gallons.

*Motion* to introduce Ordinance No 3 and hold a public hearing. Motion made by Councilman John Stine and second by Councilman Mike Fayette. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.

**INTRODUCED: ORDINANCE NO. 4 of 2020 FOR THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA**

An ordinance amending the Route 12 Water District Ordinance to set the water rate at \$9.11 per 1000 gallons.

*Motion* to introduce Ordinance No 4 and hold a public hearing. Motion made by Councilman Sandy Caputo and second by Councilman Mike Fayette. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed

**INTRODUCED: ORDINANCE NO. 5 of 2020 FOR THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA**

An ordinance amending the Edgewood Water District Ordinance to set the water rate at \$9.11 per 1000 gallons.

*Motion* to introduce Ordinance No 5 and hold a public hearing. Motion made by Councilman John Stine and second by Councilman Ron Thomson. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed

**INTRUDUCED: ORDINANCE NO. 6 of 2020 FOR THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA**

An ordinance amending the Otter Street Water District Ordinance to set the water rate at \$6.46 per 1000.

*Motion* to introduce Ordinance No 6 and hold a public hearing. Motion made by Councilman Mike Fayette and second by Councilman Ron Thomson. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed

WHEREAS, the Town of Alexandria Water Use Ordinance for the water districts requires that the Town Board schedule a public hearing with all district property owners at least once annually to review the administration, finances and rate structure for the Districts; and

WHEREAS, after a public hearing held on March 18, 2020 at 6:15pm., the Town Board of the Town of Alexandria determined the water rates within the districts should increase to ensure that the water districts maintain pace with expenses for that district for the coming year; it is hereby

ORDAINED, that effective April 1, 2020, the water rate per 1000 gallons for the users of the water districts.

	Current Rates:		Purposed Rates: (per 1000 gallons)
Carnegie Bay:	\$5.50	to	\$9.11
Redwood:	\$3.63	to	\$5.62
Route 12:	\$4.90	to	\$9.11
Edgewood:	\$7.82	to	\$9.11
Otter Street:	\$4.90	to	\$6.46

Town of Alexandria Board Meeting  
February 19, 2020 6:00pm

**INTRODUCED: ORDINANCE NO. 2 of 2020 FOR THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA –**

An ordinance amending the Carnegie Bay Water District Ordinance to set the capital charge rate at \_\_\_\_\_. Discussion to acknowledge capital charge **Charge to be \$20.83 per quarter.**

**Discussion:** Board discussed the wording of CAPITAL CHARGE: The Board decided to change the wording to O & M Rate. Motion to introduce ordinance NO 2 of 2020 with omitting capital charge and replacing with O & M.

*Motion* to set the O&M rate to \$20.83 in the Carnegie Bay Water district. *Motion* made by Councilman Mike Fayette second by Councilman Ron Thomson. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.

**Discussion:** Corrective Action Plan – Asked Attorney to write a letter to State Comptrollers by March 13, 2020.

**Discussion: Town needs Accounting firms quotes.** Several accounting firms will be notified quotes have to be into the town by March 17 by 4pm. All quotes will be reviewed and discussed at the town board meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Discussion on Grants:** The town has asked Bernier, Carr & Associates to find possible grants for the Recreation center on route 12. BCA has found five possible grants that the town can apply for. *Motion* for BCA to start applying for the grants for the town's recreation center. *Motion* made by Councilman Mike Fayette second by Councilman Sandra Caputo. Discussion on the 50% match between grants and how federal grants work with the match. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.

**Town checks (two signatures):** Motion to allow Councilwomen Sandra Caputo to sign town checks. *Motion* was made by Councilman John Stine second by Councilman Mike Fayette. 4 ayes 1 abstain (Caputo) 0 nays. Motion Passed.

Ice rink: Schedule changes as the rink prepares for closing.

**Hire Full Time Employee:** Motion to hire Ben Cole full-time at a rate of \$14.50 (laborer). *Motion* made by Councilman Ron Thomson second by Councilman John Stine. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.

**Discussion Drug/Alcohol testing:** Council discussed testing for all employees that have an accident on the job, along with reasonable suspicion training.

**Non-Union Employee Health benefit contribution to increase to 12%.** Motion to increase health benefit contribution from 10% to 12%. *Motion* made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman John Stine. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.

**Regular Board Meeting Changes:** The regular scheduled board meeting will now be every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday starting April 2020. Meeting will be held on April 22, 2020. *Motion* was made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman John Stine to change the regular scheduled meeting to every fourth Wednesday of every month. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.

**Sewer Operator License:** Council discussed Jamie Papin completing his sewer operator's license. *Motion* was made by Councilman Sandra Caputo seconded by Councilman Ron Thomson to have Jamie Papin finish his sewers certification. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.

Town of Alexandria Board Meeting  
February 19, 2020 6:00pm

**Discussion on Highway Projects:** Town projects for 2020(roads, bridge, culverts etc.) Council would like to have a copy of price estimates on all projects. Further discussions on projects will be held during budget workshops.

**Highway Barn Cameras:** Council discussed highway barn cameras and why they were not turned on. The cameras are important to have in case of an emergency or theft. The council was told the cameras interfered with the radios at the barn. Council asked the question to STAT Communications and Citizens telephone if that could cause interference with the truck radios and both stated that they work on a different frequency. *Motion* was made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman Sandra Caputo to have the cameras serviced by STAT and TURNED BACK ON. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.

**Camera across from Highway barn on Pole:** Highway Superintend purchased a camera out of his own personal money to view down Rt. 192. Council made a motion for the Supervisor to ask the Highway Superintend why the camera on the pole is so important. *Motion* made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilwomen Sandra Caputo. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.

**Tug Hill Commission government classes:** Council discussed town employees to attend the classes including zoning and planning boards. *Motion* made by Councilman Mike Fayette seconded by Councilman John Stine. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.

**Board made a motion** to have Councilman Mike Fayette look further into parcels that Redwood Sewer District's imposition of a user charge for vacant properties which do not actually receive sewer services. List of parcels with the criteria from above – update at March board meeting. *Motion* made by Councilman Ron Thomson second by Councilman Mike Fayette. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.

**Mud Lake Grant Writer:** Judy Cornick will update the board at the May board meeting.

**Town of Orleans and Town of Alexandria billing joint sewer district customers:** Orleans and Town already discussed payment.

**Night Lights on outside flag poles:** *Motion* was made by Councilman John Stine seconded by Councilman Mike Fayette to install night lights on both flag poles outside. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.

**Discussion on an Ambulance District:** Council discussed the town establishing an ambulance district. Discussion included titles such as consolidated health, ambulance tax and the overall pros and cons for the taxpayers.

**Meeting continuation to February 20, 2020 at 1:00pm.** *Motion* made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by John Stine. 5 ayes 0 nays. Motion Passed.