

Town of Alexandria Board Meeting
January 29, 2019 @ 6:00pm

Present Supervisor Brent Sweet, Councilman Ron Thomson, Councilman John Stine, Councilman Mike Fayette, Attorney Slye, Town Clerk Jessie Hudon

Approval of the minutes. Motion made by Supervisor Brent Sweet seconded by Councilman John Stine. All were in favor. Ayes 4 Nay 0 . Motion passed.

Approval of the bills. Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman John Stine. Discussion: Councilman Mike Fayette questioned the Hwy Bandsaw purchase, asked if three quotes were obtained before purchase. Ayes 4 Nay 0. Motion passed.

Privilege of the floor:

Randy Truesdell, Alexandria Bay. Would like to talk further on #25 on the agenda list. Supervisor Sweet stated yes.

Marilyn Cannastra, Alexandria Bay. Stated that the town should have a policy to always get three quotes. Marilyn also stated that Jay Gascon and Jamie Papin always do what is asked of them.

Ended privilege on the floor.

Resignation from Councilman Jim VanCour: The board accepted J. VanCour resignation letter to resign from the board as of 01/08/2020. Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman John Stine. Ayes 4 Nay 0. Motion Passed.

Fill vacant board Seat: The board accepted Sandra Caputo's letter on intent for the vacant board seat. Motion to appoint Sandra Caputo to the Town of Alexandria Board. Term will be held until December 31, 2020. A special election will be held in November of 2020 for elected position. Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman John Stine. Ayes 4 Nay 0. Motion Passed.

Sandra Caputo was sworn in to the board at 6:25pm. She took her seat with the board immediately following her Oath of Office.

Appointments for the year 2020:

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Motion to accept the 2020 appointments. Motion made by Councilman Mike Fayette seconded by Councilman John Stine. Ayes 5 Nay 0. Motion Passed.

Resolution to replace grinder pumps in the Redwood Sewer District. The Town of Alexandria hereby finds that it is in the best interest of the Town and it will promote efficiency and economy, ease of operations, and maintenance, if the equipment named in this resolution be adopted as the standard equipment to be purchased as part of the Redwood Sewer District Improvement project. Motion made by Councilman Mike Fayette seconded by Councilman John Stine.

Roll Call Vote:	Ayes	Nay	
Supervisor Brent Sweet	x		
Councilman Ron Thomson	x		
Councilman John Stine	x		
Councilman Mike Fayette	x		
Councilwomen Sandra Caputo	x		Ayes 5 Nay 0. Motion Passed.

Resolution to accept the SEQR Part 1, 2, 3: (Grinder Pumps)

Part 1: Project Information:
Part 2: Impact Assessment
Part 3: Determination of Significance

Motion to accept the short form SEQR Part 1,2,3 by Councilman Mike Fayette seconded by John Stine. Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.

Notice of Intent to Declare Lead Agency – Goose Bay Boat Launch

Resolution to improve the Goose Bay Boat Launch - Recommended that the Town of Alexandria be designated Lead Agency.

Motion to accept Lead Agency – Goose Bay Boat Launch (Redi Project). Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman John Stine.

Roll Call Vote:	Ayes	Nay	
Supervisor Brent Sweet	x		
Councilman Ron Thomson	x		
Councilman John Stine	x		
Councilman Mike Fayette	x		
Councilwomen Sandra Caputo	x		Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.

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(SAM) State and Municipal Facilities Program: Improvement to the Redwood sewer District Infrastructure: Project 19215

Motion to sign the Sam Grant in the amount of \$125,000, to improve Redwood Sewer Infrastructure. Motion made by Councilman John Stine seconded by Councilman Mike Fayette. Ayes 5 Nay 0. Motion Passed.

Update on Ron Randall and vacant land: The town will be surveying the land.

Update Point Vivian and Highland Cemeteries: The town is surveying the cemeteries.

Update: NYS Comptrollers examination has been completed. Report can be found on the towns website.

GIS Web Based hosting agreement with DANC – Five year hosting agreement:

Motion to accept the agreement with DANC. Motion made by Councilman John Stine seconded by Councilman Mike Fayette.

Roll Call Vote:	Ayes	Nay
Supervisor Brent Sweet	x	
Councilman Ron Thomson	x	
Councilman John Stine	x	
Councilman Mike Fayette	x	
Councilwomen Sandra Caputo	x	
		Ayes 5 Nay 0. Motion Passed.

Alexandria Fire Department: is asking the town for \$7500 up an above the already \$7500 they have already received for the year 2020. \$7500 will be given to help the fire depart. with ambulance calls and different areas needed within the Fire Department. Motion to allow the town to give \$7500 towards the fire dept. Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman Mike Fayette. Ayes 5 Nay 0. Motion Passed.

2020 Snow and Ice Agreement: Motion to accept the 2020 Snow and Ice Agreement. Motion was made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by John Stine. Ayes 4 Nay 1(Councilman Mike Fayette opposed). Motion Passed.

Update: LWRP was approved by New York State.

Save the River –Grant application endorsement. Asked the town to endorse them for the Grant and asked for the towns help with providing a pickup truck to discard trash as needed. Motion made by Councilman Mike Fayette seconded by Councilwomen Sandra Caputo to endorse Save the River. Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.

The town are looking for quotes for a new accounting firm. Ferguson & Ferguson will not be renewing in 2020.

Workshop will be held on February 5, 2020 @ 5:00pm to discuss the Bonnie Castle Rink. Bernier & Carr update on grant progress.

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Youth Coordinator position: Stacy Durand and Marilyn Cannestra (youth board) gave recommendations to the town board for applications hiring a youth coordinator. Motion to hire Cassidy Daily for the youth coordinator position was made by Councilman Mike Fayette seconded by Councilman John Stine. Ayes 5 Nays 0. Motion Passed.

Discussion on (EDU) billing in accordance to ordinance: Supervisor Brent Sweet and Councilman Mike Fayette explained EDU rates and following the ordinances the town developed. State Comptrollers report of examination recommended the town board to follow all ordinances and if changes are needed to start the process.

Highway: Purchase yearly department shirts and jackets: Motion to allow the highway department to purchase safety shirts and jackets for the department yearly. According to the union contract. Motion made by Councilman Mike Fayette seconded by Councilman John Stine. Ayes 5 Nay 0. Motion Passed.

Highway work truck needed: The town board discussed purchasing a new highway truck for the winter. The board rejected buying a new truck. They will look into trucks already owned by the town to help the highway dept.

Dos Streetscape grant update, village agreement for funding: Village has agreed to provide the funding on their half.

Pricing for siding on town office building: The town will get quotes and discuss at future meetings.

Introduced: 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 to hold a public hearing on Feb 19, 2020 for ORDINANCE NO. 1 OF 2020 FOR THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA. Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman Mike Fayette.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes Nay

Supervisor Brent Sweet x

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Councilman Ron Thomson	x		
Councilman John Stine	x		
Councilman Mike Fayette	x		
Councilwomen Sandra Caputo	x	Ayes 5 Nay 0.	Motion Passed.

Public Hearing is scheduled for February 19th, 2020 at 6:15pm.

Authorizing refund to David Carse, as Trustee of the Round Island Trust in the amount of \$216.80 and striking of billing to account number 79 for services from October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 in the amount of \$40.51.

WHEREAS, David Carse, as Trustee of the Round Island Trust, has commenced a Special Proceeding against the Town Board of the Town of Alexandria seeking to annul that portion of the Town of Alexandria Redwood Sewer District Ordinance which imposed EDU rates for vacant property located within the District; and

WHEREAS, the State Comptroller has recently issued an audit report reflecting that the Redwood Sewer District's imposition of a user charge for vacant properties which do not actually receive sewer services is improper; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is engaged in settlement discussions which will result in a refund of all amounts previously paid pursuant to the improper billings and further will involve a repeal of that portion of the Redwood Sewer Ordinance which imposed EDU charges upon vacant buildable property; and

WHEREAS, the Town will be undertaking a Sewer District-wide reimbursement of improperly charged funds upon correction of deficiencies noted by the State Comptroller,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Alexandria, New York that the Town Bookkeeper is hereby directed to issue a refund check in the amount of a total of \$216.80 to David Carse as Trustee of the Round Island Trust at the address shown on the billings for account number 79 for vacant land located at Fourth Street; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Town Bookkeeper shall strike from the billing records of the Town a certain billing reflecting payment due by February 7, 2020 under account number 79 in the amount of \$40.51 and that the account in the name of David Carse as Trustee of the Round Island Trust, under account number 79, shall be removed from the billing rolls effective immediately.

Motion to authorize a refund to David Carse, as Trustee of the Round Island Trust in the amount of \$216.80 and striking of billing to account number 79 for services from October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 in the amount of \$40.51. Motion was made by Councilman Mike Fayette seconded by Councilman John Stine.

Roll Call Vote:	Ayes	Nay	
Supervisor Brent Sweet	x		
Councilman Ron Thomson	x		
Councilman John Stine	x		
Councilman Mike Fayette	x		
Councilwomen Sandra Caputo	x	Ayes 5 Nay 0.	Motion Passed.

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Grant Writer for Mud Lake Trail: Motion to hire Judy Cornick as a grant writer for the Mud Lake Trail. Motion made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilman John Stine. Ayes 5 Nay 0. Motion Passed.

Discussion: Prepare ordinance amendments for 5 water rates and Carnegie Bay capital rate changes. Discuss further at the February meeting.

Discussion: Orleans pay the town for billing in the joint Orleans, Clayton and Rte 12 sewer district for costs of personnel and supplies. Future discussions needed.

Criminal Justice reform discussion with town judges: Further discussion needed.

Bendle water/sewer late fee taken off. Board agreed to take late charge off do to deputy clerk error.

Nimey wrote a letter for forgiveness on their leak. Town board denied forgiveness.

Budget Transfers

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Motion to approve Budget Transfers was made by Councilman Mike Fayette seconded by Councilman John Stine. Ayes 5 Nay 0. Motion Passed.

Cans & Bottles: The board decided to change the way the % of money is broken down. The board reviewed the amount of kids in each program and decided to give to each program 10% and for Hearts for youth give 60% because they have a large volume of kids. Motion to give percentages was made by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded by Councilwoman Sandra Caputo. Ayes 5 Nay 0. Motion Passed.

STAR certification: Question if Jamie Papin should re certify his STAR certificate for the arena. The board determined that he did not need the re certification and will not attend the class.

The board adjourned the meeting at 9:45pm. Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman John Stine seconded by Councilman Mike Fayette. Ayes 5 Nay 0. Motion Passed.