

Town of Alexandria
Regular Meeting
May 17, 2023
6:00 pm
Alexandria.statdvr.com
Audio/Video

Call the town board meeting to order at 6:00 by Supervisor Sweet.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Councilman Fayette -- Present
Councilman Kring – Present
Councilman Thomas – Present
Councilman Thomson – Present
Supervisor Sweet – Present

PAY BILLS – ABSTRACT #5, April 21 – May 17, 2023, for \$457,601.09

Motion by Supervisor Sweet to pay all bills except Village Water Bills seconded by Councilman Thomas. Discussion on Sewer EDUs on Village water bills. Mayor Jarvis was at the meeting and said it would be taken care of. Councilman Fayette stated the Verizon bill was paid incorrectly last month by \$20. Motion Carried with 4 Yes votes. Councilman Kring abstained and stated he had not had time to review bills.

MINUTES OF April 26, May 3, and May 10

Motion by Councilman Thomas to approve Town Board Meeting minutes from 4/26, 5/3, 5/10 Seconded by Councilman Thompson. Motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

Richard Andre of 47568 Purpura Road, Redwood, NY 13679 spoke about his concern for the proposed short term rental regulations. He owns and maintains his road and others on it have a right of way. The 20 homeowners in his neighborhood are primarily 90% retirees and have moved there for peace and quiet. His concern is that one of his neighbors is going to start doing the short-term rental with their property and since it is a 4 bedroom, they would be authorized 10 people staying there. What would happen if 10 bikers show up on bikers' weekend. He is afraid the proposed regulation protects the Air B&B tenants and not the neighbors / neighborhoods. He does not think they should be in retirement communities where people want peace and quiet. Supervisor Sweet said he would pass Mr. Andre's concerns onto the short-term rental committee.

Dan Peterson read a statement about past audits that have not been completed. Mr. Peterson was allowed to speak for almost 10 minutes without interruption. In summary, he really wants an independent audit to be completed of the Redwood Sewer District. He clearly stated that he is going to appeal the latest court decision of May 5, 2023. He also stated that if the board passes on the \$130,000 of legal expense to the customers of the Redwood sewer district. He and his attorney will go to Albany and see if they can get the state comptroller to come in and do an independent audit of the Redwood Sewer District like they were asked back in 2017. (Dan spoke from 11:15 to 20:56 if watching online.)

1. Reading of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division 4th Judicial District Dept: Daniel Peterson vs Town of Alexandria, Decision rendered and published 05-05-2023. Councilman Thomson asked to read the decision into record. He concluded with 2 sides to every story, NYS Comptroller's Office has been involved with this, 1 New York State Supreme Court Justice, and now 5 Appellate Division Court Justices have all said the same thing. Let the record speak for itself. (Counselman Thomas spoke from 21:30 to 28:15). Copy of decision at end of minutes.

2. **LEGAL AND DEFENSE FEES from Redwood Sewer District lawsuit.** The Board has received 3 opinions 1. From NYS Comptroller's office 2. NYS Association of Towns 3. Municipal Lawyer that states the legal fees that are based or derived from a special district that district must bear

the burden of the expense. The board agreed this is the saddest part of this whole lawsuit. For the last couple of years, the general fund has been paying this expense and now that the lawsuit is coming to an end the district needs to pay these expenses back to the general fund. Councilman Fayette expressed his frustration that after raising rates several years ago the district is finally close to coming out of the red and now it is going to go right back to where it was 6 years ago. Motion by Councilman Thompson to charge the Redwood Sewer District and credit the general fund \$131,506.21 for the legal and accounting costs incurred from the lawsuit. Seconded by Councilman Thomas. Motion passed with 4 yes and Councilman Kring refusing to vote, "Stating I just can't do it to the people of Redwood!" (Discussion took place from 28:23 to 40:39)

3. **HEARTS FOR YOUTH.** Video 40:39 to 56:21 Cindy Demo Vice President and Secretary for Hearts for Youth and Mary Beth Jarvis, office manager and runs the teens to tweens program, gave a presentation on the program and the activities that it provides and where the money goes that the town gives. Boomer Movers is an exercise program for people over 55. It started a year ago with 10 people and has grown to 60 people. Currently they meet at Riveredge and go to Clayton 2 times a week. They have also started intergenerational programming which means youth and grandparents or parents working together playing games doing arts and crafts. Adult arts and craft class. Children jewelry making classes. The community gardens are going to be replaced with raised beds. Taking time and providing activities to youths in need has really helped some children to come out of their shell and blossom. Since 2021 there has been a 15% increase in the youth participation rate. When the presentation was completed Councilman Thomas asked if other communities were also contributing since children from Clayton, Orleans and Watertown were also participating. Councilman Thomas also explained that questions had been raised to him from the community about the inequity of the can and bottle money donations, because Heart for Youth had been getting up to 60% of that money and they were also the only youth organization that also had a line item in the budget. Good discussion on great things happening in our community.

8. Bolton Avenue Recreation Center status. Video 56:25-1:06:48 Andrew Garlock attended meeting to present board with three documents. He stated in March an initial scoping document was presented to the board then there was a public workshop for community residents to express what they might like to see. After the public workshop the initial scope grew as the public showed interest in larger locker rooms and a second-floor warming room at the end of the building. The renovation to the building is the same as initially discussed, however one change after pictures and further inspection is the siding and roof to be completely removed and replaced with new finishes. Trying to paint and patch to make it look better is not in the best interest of the project long term. The first document presented was the initial scope with some modifications.

The second document is an estimate of probable projects costs. Andrew explained hard costs and soft costs. Hard cost are your constructions costs. There are 3 parts to the construction costs 1. The addition proposed is around 7,600 square feet would be almost 2.7 million dollars. 2. The alterations to the existing building, which include level 1 and level 2 alterations are estimated to cost around 4.367 million dollars. 3. The sitework is for the parking lot to be milled and a topcoat and be re-stripped as part of the project and some sidewalks, and miscellaneous lighting. The estimated hard construction costs of these 3 areas are approximately 7.2 million dollars. Soft costs are furniture, fixtures, equipment, bleachers for \$200,000. Engineering design fees, construction management fees, financial and legal fees for bonding grant writing, contract review, and Builders Risk insurance. No figure was given for these items.

The next phase would be schematic design and verifications of existing conditions, update survey, hazardous material study to see if there's any hazardous materials that need to be abated this budget is not anticipating anything like that. This phase would take the project into design plans exterior elevations and rendering to see what this project looks like. Write a path for Code Compliance. Once we finish schematic design Andrew thinks it would be prudent to

have an estimating firm review the project and estimate it to confirm we're on the right track before moving forward with the project.

Councilman Thomas asked how many locker rooms we are looking at in the design. Andrew answered they are trying to achieve 5. This would be with a combination of bathroom and showers; some would be shared. They are shooting to have the varsity locker rooms have their own bathroom and showers. The others would have shared.

Supervisor Sweet scheduled a meeting with Andrew for May 24 at 2 pm so the board can ask questions after they have had time to review the documents provided.

Engineer Report 1:07:30 – 1:21:02 given by Rob Company.

Health Report: Nothing to report all are healthy.

Route 12 Sewer # 2 Project he talked to bond council since we finished the district formation, we need to finish the bond resolution which they couldn't get it done today. It will be completed by the June meeting. They are also talking with the funding agencies about additional funding. Moving along as fast as possible.

Goose Bay Boat launch. Contractor's work is done. The path from the Upper Parking lot down to the lower lot is complete. Supervisor Sweet expressed concern over the fine stone on the pathway going to stay there when it rains, because on the inside of the path there is a large steep drop off. Brent also inquired about the fences / landscaping on both sides down by the launch. Rob is going to check out the path and come up with a plan for the landscaping and it will need to get three quotes. Discussion on the ramps and what we correctly have could the highway barn install and what might work better. Would need to purchase or build something. Because it is under 20 slips does not need to be ADA compliant. Typically, 30' floaters make the slope manageable year-round.

Rob is meeting with Mike and Gene at Butterfield Lake tomorrow about the Pavilion and he will talk to him about installing the ramp at Goose Bay. DEC has approved putting the pavilion on steel pipe piles because it is not jurisdictional and build some sort of wall.

Swan Hollow bridge there have been many people involved in discussions ranging from Mike Tibbles wanting to rip it out and replace it with a box culvert. Rob's opinion would be to look at repair as well, because it is going to be a big expense to rip that out. Other considerations are it's an old structure, it's a masonry stone Arch over half of the bridge and I think there's some concern over the historic value of that. Rob thinks it would fall under SHIPPO to rip it out and it may be able to be done but it would be another step in the process if it were to be torn out. Rob admitted that he is not a bridge guy, but he knows some people and could get some informal opinions on how to handle it before we get too far into it.

Redwood Water Tank painting bids are due on May 24 and the Redwood Water Line repair bids are due May 24th as well. Having a hard time on the tank painters.

Jamie Papin asked Rob while in Redwood tomorrow to stop and take a look at the plum where the catch basin is, there is a big hole beside the basin. This is on Rt 37 where it goes under the road.

#4 1:21:07 – 1:22:01 Fire Alarm system at Highway buildings. This was discussed at the last meeting and Gene is going to talk to Mike Tibbles, Highway Superintendent and have he get 3 price quotes for the main building and the building out back and equipment is kept under.

5 1:22:01 – 1:24:03 Brush Pit Regulations. Document has been getting passed around between board members and Supervisor Sweet add if you are NOT A TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA property owner and caught dumping you would be in violation. This is for Town of Alexandria

residents only. Fines for Violations discussed, and it was agreed that all fines would be hefty and raised to be the same. First offense ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS, second offense TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS, third offense FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS. Motion by Councilman Thomas to have Supervisor Sweet send the final copy to Attorney Silver and have it ready to be voted on at next meeting. Seconded by Councilman Kring. No further discussion. Motion carried with all in favor.

6 1:24:05 – 1:30:15 Redwood Water Leak Acct # 368 John Stine – During consumption reports Jamie identified a property that seemed to have a leak. The property owner checked everything inside the home and found no problems. He continued and dug up a portion of the line and found the leak that was between the meter pit and the shut off. The compression fitting that went bad was part of the original installation 17 years ago and was not the preferred type to be used but it worked for 17 years. The homeowner was billed for approximately 20,000 gallons of lost water or \$80. Motion by Ron to take the average for the last year and the difference will be on the Town. Seconded by Shawn. Motion carried with all in favor.

7 1:30:15 – 1:31:08 Highway Department report: Supervisor Sweet had no Report. Councilman Kring reported they were working on the sanders, and they had 1 more to rebuild and then they would be all done. Mud Lake is done it has been seeded and mulched. Going to meet at Butterfield in the morning. Mowing has started.

9 1:31:16 – 1:36:05 Supervisor Sweet stated everyone has a copy of the operating statement and the balance sheets and they have been posted on the town website. Budget Transfers as of 5/17/2023

General A	ACCOUNT	DR	CR
	11101.01.000.01 – Justices PS – HI Buyout	\$ 4,000.00	
	12201.01.000.04 – Supervisor – HI Buyout	\$ 2,000.00	
	12301.01.000.04 – Clerk to Supv – HI Buyout	\$ 5,000.00	
	14901.01.000.04 – DPW --HI Buyout	\$ 2,000.00	
	16204.01.000.67 – Bldgs – RW Sewer	\$ 800.00	
	69894.01.000.24 – Streetscapes	\$ 900.00	
	71801.01.000.00 – Spec Fac – PS	\$ 3,000.00	
	71804.01.000.00 – Spec Fac – CE	\$ 1,000.00	
	71804.01.000.65 – Spec Fac – Plessis FH	\$ 84,000.00	
	81604.01.000.66 – Refuse – Brush Pit	\$ 6,000.00	
	Appropriated Fund Balance		\$ 108,7000.00

To cover expenses due to reclassification of RW Sewer water expense, Streetscapes expense, extra work at Mud Lake & Brush it and approval of \$ to Plessis – Fire House and for board approved increase in HI Buyouts.

RW Sewer			
	81201.09.000.04 – SS – PS – HI Buyout	\$ 1,000.00	
	81204.09.000.00 – SS—CE		\$ 1,000.00

To cover the board approved increase in HI Buyout.

RT 12 Water			
	90508.22.000.00 – Unemployment Ins.	\$ 26.00	
	83104.22.000.00 – Admin – CE		\$ 26.00

To cover expenses within its own fund.

CB Water			
	83404.19.000.00 – Trans & Dist – CE	\$ 4.00	
	83104.19.000.00 – Admin – CE		\$ 4.00

RW Water			
	83401.21.000.04 – T&D – PS – HI Buyout	\$ 1,000.00	

83402.21.000.00 – T&D – EQ		\$ 1,000.00
81104.21.000.00 – Admin – CE	\$ 16.00	
83104.21.000.00 – Admin – CE		\$ 16.00

To cover the board approved HI Buyout and to cover expenses within its own fund. A Journal entry will be made at year end to distribute the HI Buyout to the other water districts.

Motion by Councilman Thomas Seconded by Councilman Kring brief discussion by Health Insurance Buy out and were these the final ones for the year. Motion Carried all in favor.

10 Redwood Welcome signs: All 3 signs are up, and installation was done by the Redwood Historical Society. Supervisor Sweet told the story of how the signs got initiated by a request from Thurman Hazelton about 2 years ago. He went to the historical society for input and the town paid for the signs and they look great.

11 Goose Bay -- Supervisor Sweet had received a phone call that 4 wheelers have been using the new path already. Rob stated let's put some blocks there so they can't. It is possible to take some of the big boulders / rocks that were moved from Mud Lake to fix this problem. Supervisor Sweet and Rob Company will investigate this.

12 Water & Sewer Report. Councilman Fayette talked about commercial rate for selling water to commercially distribute for swimming pools. The committee is thinking about setting that rate at \$20 / \$1,000. Ordinance will need to be amended. They are going to discuss it further and bring it back to the board next month.

13 Children and Youth. Councilman Thomas reported thing are slowing down. School is still using the arena, and everything is going smoothly down there.

Clerk Report – Turned over \$597.83 to the Supervisor for April Clerk Report.

I attended the NYS Town Clerks Association Conference in Syracuse. I received my notary license from the New York Department of State, and my stamp came in last week. We are now able to offer the community a notary available whenever the Town Clerk's office is open. Jefferson County Fire & building Code Inspector was here yesterday and found this building in good order. Jamie also took them to the ice arena, and they have a fire extinguisher that is due for inspection.

16 Parcels on Otter Street still have not paid their Capital Assessment. How do you want me to handle this. Clerk Caputo recommended to send out a reminder 1 June and if they don't pay be the next water billing place the full amount onto the water bill so If they don't pay it will get relieved this year. Motion by Councilman Thomas to send out reminder and 1 June and if they don't pay by end of the month add it onto their water bill. Seconded by Councilman Fayette. Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion by Councilman Thomas to go into Executive session to discuss litigation at 7:46 pm Seconded by Councilman Kring. Motion passed all in favor.

Motion by Councilman Kring to come out of executive session. Seconded by Councilman Fayette. Motion passed all in favor.

Motion by Councilman Thompson to adjourn meeting until May 24, 2023, Seconded by Councilman Thomas. Motion carried all in favor.