

Special Town Board Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Van Buren, held on July 22, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Van Buren Town Hall, 7575 Van Buren Road, Baldwinsville, New York.

Present:

Ms. Wendy Van Der Water	Councilor
Ms. Darcie Lesniak	Councilor
Mr. Howard Tupper	Councilor
Ms. Patricia Dickman	Councilor
Mr. Ronald Dudzinski	Councilor
Ms. Mary Frances Sabin	Deputy Supervisor
Mr. Claude Sykes	Supervisor

Also present:

Mr. Ken Bush	County Legislator
Mr. Doug Foster	Highway Superintendent
Mr. Greg Maxwell	Comptroller
Mr. James Schazebach	Planning Board Member
Mr. Jamie Bowes	Planning Board Member
Ms. Lynn Precourt	Town Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Approve minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting on July 16, 2019:

160-19-000 MOTION BY Ms. Dickman, seconded by Ms. Lesniak, to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting on July 16, 2019 as published.

Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Tupper – Yes, Ms. Dickman – Yes, Mr. Dudzinski – Yes, Ms. Sabin – Yes, Mr. Sykes – Yes

All Ayes – Motion Carried & Adopted

Presentation by SOCPA on Local Waterfront Revitalization Program in conjunction with the Village of Baldwinsville and Town of Lysander:

Mr. Dan Kwasnowski, from County Planning, was present to address the Board. The Syracuse-Onondaga Planning Agency is writing a grant to the Department of State focusing on Local Waterfront Revitalization. He said the deadline is this Friday and the hope is that it will be supported by both Lysander and Van Buren and the Village of Baldwinsville. He said Town of Lysander and the Village of Baldwinsville have approved the resolution to sign on to the grant at their meetings last week.

Mr. Kwasnowski said the grant is structured in phases. The first phase requires the creation of an advisory board made up of people from all three municipalities. He said this group will be responsible for creating an RFP in order to hire a consultant. The consultant will then help identify areas along the Seneca River for capital improvement projects. Phase 1 funding is \$150,000 with a 25% match for applicant. He said in this case the municipalities would be responsible for \$37,500 and then split that between Lysander and Van Buren. He said all of that money can be in-kind services. He said the time of the volunteers serving on the advisory committee can be counted, along with those of SOCPA, who will assist in the RFP and interviewing process along with project identification. Any hours contributed by the Town Engineer can be counted. Along with hours worked by anyone at the county level involved in helping to use GIS for mapping purposes.

He said once Phase 1 has been completed the advisory committee will identify annual projects for funding. He said they can be done in any order agreed upon by the committee. He said he knows the Village of Baldwinsville has six projects in mind. He said the money can be used for projects directly related to the approved waterway, in this case the Seneca River, or, in some cases can be used for inland projects that incorporate the waterway. Mr. Kwasnowski said it can be used to improve access to a waterway or create a blue line, a digital trail for those kayaking, for instance, to identify historical areas as they come to them while on the water.

Mr. Sykes asked what the timeline is for this funding.

Mr. Kwasnowski said the grant is due this Friday, applicants will hear if they have been selected in December and the advisory committee will likely be ready to interview consultants in the Spring.

Mr. Sykes asked what the role of the advisory committee is and who picks the members.

Mr. Kwasnowski said the three municipalities will pick the members and they can meet privately, publically, hold meeting to get community input, report back to Town Boards, it can be structured in any way the municipalities would like.

Mr. Sykes said he is not sure how much community interest there is for this in Van Buren. He said we have about 800 feet of river frontage and none of it is currently accessible.

Ms. Lesniak asked if it's possible to support this application through Phase 1 and then opt out if the public is not interested.

Mr. Kwasnowski said yes that is a possibility.

Mr. Sykes said the town is under a permanent 2% tax cap and he knows residents in Van Buren expect their rebate check from New York State for not exceeding that cap. He said the town is \$50,000 under the estimated mortgage tax revenue for 2019 and we know we will need to expend funds for cyber security insurance. He said he is not sure now is the time to be adding anything in the budget for 2020 that is not a necessity. He said he would consider this a luxury item since most projects are within the Village of Baldwinsville.

Ms. Sabin asked what the cost of Phase 1 is to the town.

Mr. Kwasnowski said there is no cost, it is all in-kind services.

Ms. Lesniak asked what if the town doesn't have the staff time to meet the in-kind requirement.

Mr. Kwasnowski said SOCPA will find a way to meet it.

Ms. Dickman said even though we are three separate municipalities, if asked, most people say they are from Baldwinsville. She said this does seem to be a general benefit even if most of the projects are within the Village of Baldwinsville.

Mr. Kwasnowski said the grant money can be used for other projects besides capital improvements. For instance, enhancing the ability of people to find and access waterways either through physical signage or digital information. He said that can give a community a big advantage.

Mr. Kwasnowski said he understands the tax cap limits the towns are up against and that this is an expense to the town but it should lead to growth of the community.

Ms. Dickman asked what is the downside of participation.

Mr. Kwasnowski said the town would need active participants and planning between the three municipalities can sometimes be tough.

Ms. Sabin said there are no up front cost for Phase 1 and the town can opt out after that.

Ms. Lesniak said she sees the worth in an investment like this to the Village of Baldwinsville but it is hard for the town to get in on it since little benefit to Van Buren.

Mr. Maxwell cautioned the board that they are committing to a portion of \$150,000 grant and have no idea what it will be used for. The in-kind match is \$37,500. He said this money has to be accounted for in the budget and it will cause an increase in taxes for 2020.

Mr. Maxwell asked who will be charged with keeping track of the time of participants and employees for the in-kind services match and at what hourly rates.

Ms. Dickman asked what the make up of the advisory committees are in other towns that participate.

Mr. Kwasnowski said Town, Planning, Zoning Board members and community members.

Mr. Sykes said the town's interests are very different from the Village of Baldwinsville.

Mr. Kwasnowski said the more you can do in terms of blue trails, historical spots whether physical or virtual for visitors will benefit everyone.

Ms. Sabin asked if this can be delayed until next year rather than try to meet the deadline of this Friday.

Mr. Kwasnowski said yes, if you do not want to participate this year you can do it next year. He said the town may be able to added in after or could participate under CNYRPD or Oswego County LWRP. He said he could not guarantee that his office would be able to write a grant proposal in the future.

Mr. Sykes said the town didn't have enough staffing to get the hazard mitigation program done and needed SOCPA to help. He said Van Buren's ability to do in-kind work for employees will be very little. He said he understands since the Village is in the towns of Lysander and Van Buren that there was a discussion that the towns should provide the in-kind services so that the Village doesn't get charged twice for it. He said that increases the town's portion since it is not being split three ways.

Mr. Sykes asked who else in Onondaga County is applying for grant money from this source.

Mr. Kwasnowski said the county is applying through the Central New York Regional planning and Development Board.

Ms. Dickman asked how many applicants are there statewide.

Mr. Kwasnowski said he doesn't know, there are three from Onondaga County. This grant is specifically to hire a consultant who will help identify projects for funding.

Mr. Sykes said this a reimbursement grant, meaning the towns have to pay and then get the money back from New York State. He said depending on the department you can be waiting for a long time to get reimbursed.

Mr. Kwasnowski said the money through this grant source is a quick reimbursement.

Mr. Sykes said Van Buren will only have to contribute if the project is in Van Buren or the Village of Baldwinsville. If the project is in Lysander then they have to pay all the in-kind services.

Mr. Kwasnowski said that is correct.

Ms. Van Der Water asked how much time is allotted to complete the projects once funded.

Mr. Kwasnowski said the consultant will help to get them completed within a year.

Ms. Sabin asked how many projects can be requested for funding each year.

Mr. Kwasnowski said one.

Ms. Sabin said if the municipalities take turns with their projects we would submit one for Van Buren every three years.

Mr. Sykes thanked Mr. Kwasnowski for the presentation and answering all their questions.

Determination if town will be participating in Local Waterfront Revitalization Program:

161-19-057 MOTION BY Ms. Van Der Water, seconded by Ms. Dickman, to approve the following resolution:

AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOR GRANT FUNDING TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF A
GREATER BALDWINSVILLE LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PLAN (LWRP)

WHEREAS, the Town of Van Buren supports the grant application made to the New York State Department of State for the development of a *Greater Baldwinsville Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan* (LWRP); and

WHEREAS, New York State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program facilitates the creation of locally prepared, land and water use plan and implementation strategy for a community's natural, public, working, or developed waterfront. In partnership with the Department of State, a

municipality develops community consensus regarding the future of its waterfront and implements the plan to make the most of its waterfront; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Van Buren includes over 15 miles of waterfront along the Seneca River and Cross Lake, part of the eligible New York State Barge Canal System, and desires to foster increased public access and recreation opportunities, natural and scenic resource protection, and revitalization of communities along its waterways; and

WHEREAS, a joint funding application has been prepared for submission from the Town of Lysander on behalf of the Town of Van Buren, Town of Lysander and Village of Baldwinsville, to encompass a coordinated plan for the land and water area of the three jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the required local match will be met by a commitment of staff time between the municipalities and Onondaga County to equal 25% of the total cost of the project; no direct cash match is required for the project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if New York State Department of State awards the above mentioned grant, the Village of Baldwinsville agrees to participate and support the preparation of a Greater Baldwinsville Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan project in partnership with the Towns of Lysander and Van Buren, Onondaga County and the New York State Department of State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if New York State Department of State awards the above mentioned grant, the Town of Van Buren agrees to participate and support the preparation of a Greater Baldwinsville Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan project in partnership with the Town of Lysander, Village of Baldwinsville, Onondaga County and the New York State Department of State.

WHEREAS, the Town of Van Buren supports the grant application made to the New York State Department of State for the development of a *Greater Baldwinsville Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan* (LWRP); and

WHEREAS, New York State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program facilitates the creation of locally prepared, land and water use plan and implementation strategy for a community's natural, public, working, or developed waterfront. In partnership with the Department of State, a municipality develops community consensus regarding the future of its waterfront and implements the plan to make the most of its waterfront; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Van Buren includes over 15 miles of waterfront along the Seneca River and Cross Lake, part of the eligible New York State Barge Canal System, and desires to foster increased public access and recreation opportunities, natural and scenic resource protection, and revitalization of communities along its waterways; and

WHEREAS, a joint funding application has been prepared for submission from the Town of Lysander on behalf of the Town of Van Buren, Town of Lysander and Village of Baldwinsville, to encompass a coordinated plan for the land and water area of the three jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the required local match will be met by a commitment of staff time between the municipalities and Onondaga County to equal 25% of the total cost of the project; no direct cash match is required for the project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if New York State Department of State awards the above mentioned grant, the Village of Baldwinsville agrees to participate and support the preparation of a Greater Baldwinsville Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan project in partnership with the Towns of Lysander and Van Buren, Onondaga County and the New York State Department of State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if New York State Department of State awards the above mentioned grant, the Town of Van Buren agrees to participate and support the preparation of a Greater Baldwinsville Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan project in partnership with the Town of Lysander, Village of Baldwinsville, Onondaga County and the New York State Department of State.

Ms. Sabin said she is concerned about how the town would budgeted for this year to year.

Ms. Lesniak said there would be nothing to budget for unless town has a project.

Mr. Maxwell said it is hard to commit to a hiring a consultant with a four day deadline with no identifiable projects in Van Buren and no idea whether the public is interested.

Roll Call Votes: Ms. Van Der Water – Yes, Ms. Lesniak – No, Mr. Tupper – No, Ms. Dickman – Yes, Mr. Dudzinski – No, Ms. Sabin – No, Mr. Sykes – No

Motion Defeated

Resolution to waive conflict of interest for Costello, Conney & Fearon relative to dual representation:

Mr. Sykes said the owner of Jammer’s Restaurant wants to landscape and maintain the bank next to the parking lot that belongs to the town for aesthetics and will allow the town to use power from their outdoor stage for our salt storage shed.

162-19-034 MOTION BY The Town Board recognizes that our Town law firm, Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC also represents Mr. James Ranalli, the owner of property adjacent to the Town’s new highway garage and waives any conflict of interest concerns and expressly approves the dual representation of both parties with respect to the negotiation and execution of a license agreement with respect to the use of a portion of Town property at the Town’s new highway garage.

Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Tupper – Yes, Ms. Dickman – Yes, Mr. Dudzinski – Yes, Ms. Sabin – Yes, Mr. Sykes – Yes

All Ayes – Motion Carried & Adopted

Councilor Committee Reports and Comments: None

Special Town Board Meeting July 22, 2019

Highway Superintendent Comments: None

Supervisor Comments: None

Engineer Comments: None

Attorney Comments: None

Citizens Comments: None

163-19-000 MOTION BY Ms. Dickman, seconded by Ms. Lesniak, to adjourn to the next Regular Town Board Meeting on August 6, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Ms. Lesniak – Yes, Mr. Tupper – Yes, Ms. Dickman – Yes, Mr. Dudzinski – Yes, Ms. Sabin – Yes, Mr. Sykes – Yes

All Ayes – Motion Carried & Adopted

Meeting closed 7:31 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Precourt
Town Clerk

Dated: 7/24/19