

Hamburg Town Board Work Session

Catherine A. Rybczynski, Town Clerk

7.12.2021

James Shaw, Supervisor	(Present)
Shawn Connolly, Councilmember	(Present)
Elizabeth Farrell, Councilmember	(Present)
Karen Hoak, Councilmember	(Present)
Michael Petrie, Councilmember	(Present)

ALSO PRESENT: Catherine A. Rybczynski, Town Clerk; Walter Rooth III, Town Attorney; Jennifer Robertson, IT Director; Jennifer Robertson, Director, IT; Cami Jarrell, P.E., Town Engineer; Tom Lardo, Engineering Inspector; Pat Ryan, Director Buildings & Grounds; Samantha Tarczynski, Finance Director; Amanda Lyle, Director of Human Resources; Paul McQuillen, Health & Safety Coordinator

1.

RESOLVED, that the Town Board opens the Work Session at 5:30 P.M.

On a motion of Supervisor Shaw, seconded by Councilwoman Hoak, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	5	Shaw, Connolly, Farrell, Hoak, Petrie
	Noes	0	
	Abstained	0	

The meeting began with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Shaw began the meeting by introducing Mr. Kevin P. Garry from the firm of Troy & Banks: Utility and Telecommunications Consultants to address the Town Board.

Troy & Banks performs forensic audits for municipalities, companies, governmental entities, etc. to identify over charges or other sources of refunds or rebates that may be owed by various companies to their clients. Their fee is derived from a percentage of funds recovered for the municipality. The audit would look back six (6) years (state statute of limitations). Mr. Garry commented that although his firm has worked with surrounding towns and villages that they have yet to work for the Town of Hamburg. As a result he felt that an audit would be a productive and successful endeavor, especially in the area of street lighting (cited that over \$1 million was recovered for the City of Buffalo from street lighting over charges alone). The street lighting component is timely considering the recent

decision of the town to change to LED lighting. Once that conversion is completed the opportunity will be lost.

A conversation between the Town Board and Mr. Garry followed his presentation. Supervisor Shaw asked for details regarding compensation. Mr. Garry stated that they are paid 33% for any refunded or recaptured dollars. Future savings are calculated over a twelve (12) month period and client is then billed 33% of those savings directly resulting from the work of Troy & Banks. All future proceeds go entirely to the town.

Councilwoman Farrell asked if the conversion to LED lighting in the town would affect the proposed effort. Mr. Garry stated that it would not, but that the town needs to move before the lights are converted.

Entire process takes approximately six (6) months unless provider disputes the amount. It then goes to the Public Service Commission and penalties, interest, fees, etc. begin to be added. He also stated that it is his intention to fast track the street light portion of the audit and work with the company chosen for the LED project.

Supervisor Shaw thanked Mr. Garry and stated that a Board decision would be made as soon as possible.

Sarah desJardins was present in lieu of Drew Reilly. Supervisor Shaw asked if she had anything to report. She stated she did not except to mention that Mr. Reilly did not get any feedback on the resolutions he circulated and therefore placed no conditions.

Councilman Petrie spoke with Roger Gibson and stated Mr. Gibson may need a part time temporary employee hired to fill in for a full time permanent employee in need of medical care. Also, all of the vehicles he has have over 130,000 miles on them. Supervisor Shaw stated he is in agreement and would like to address the vehicle issue in budget talks and get the department on a rotation for replacing vehicles.

Tom Lardo, Engineering, stated that the Ford Ranger used by Engineering is the oldest vehicle in the entire Town fleet.

The possibility was addressed of adding one (1) vehicle each now for both Engineering and Code Enforcement and exploring purchasing another two (2) vehicles in the upcoming budget.

2.

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby enter into an Executive Session at 6:00 P.M. to discuss employee related issues such as negotiations, financial position, contracts, time clocks and cameras, and over time issues concerning particular employees.

On a motion of Supervisor Shaw, seconded by Councilman Petrie, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Shaw, Connolly, Farrell, Hoak, Petrie

Noes	0
Abstained	0

3.

RESOLVED, that the Town Board adjourns the Executive Session and resumes their Work Session at 6:45 P.M.

On a motion of Supervisor Shaw, seconded by Councilwoman Farrell, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	5	Shaw, Connolly, Farrell, Hoak, Petrie
	Noes	0	
	Abstained	0	

Upon returning from the Executive Session the Town Board discussed the items on the agenda for the Regular Meeting to follow.

Item #5 – Historic Preservation Board - Amend to remove Laura Hahn (at her request) and replace with John Edison.

Item #6 – Public Forum on Skyway - Councilwoman Farrell stated that the consensus was that the item should be withdrawn as a result of the public having the opportunity to speak at the last item and due to the recently reported pause in the effort to address the skyway.

Item #7 – B&G PAF – Councilman Petrie asked for an explanation of the difference between a Laborer and Special Laborer. Pat Ryan, Director, B&G, responded that a Special Laborer performs more skilled construction work (ie. Painting, dry wall work, etc.).

Item #16 – Highway Budget – this item was refused last meeting. Plenty of other departments sacrificed 10% of their budgets as well. No legal requirement or entitlement that those funds must be appropriated back the the department. Councilwoman Farrell suggested that the item be withdrawn and addressed when the financial picture for the town is clearer.

Item #17 – Computer Work Station and Network Upgrade – Councilman Connolly reminded the Board that they had discussed the item at the previous meeting at length. Jennifer Robertson, It Director, stated that she does not yet have an account number to cover the additional cost due to a small increase. Samantha Tarczynski recommended that A909 Fund Balance account be used. It will need to be amended at the meeting.

Item #18 and #19 Hamburg Business Park – discussed prior to Executive Session.

Item #21 Approval of Urban Engineers for Clock Tower – Supervisor Shaw explained the three options offered and possible funding sources that include options for FEMA or Rescue funds. Climate change induced damage may also be covered. The town share will be 12.5%. Supervisor Shaw suggested the Board may wait two (2) weeks to read the full report and garner more information.

4.

RESOLVED, that the Town Board adjourns the Work Session to open the Regular Town Board Meeting at 7:15 P.M.

On a motion of Supervisor Shaw, seconded by Councilwoman Farrell, the following

resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	5	Shaw, Connolly, Farrell, Hoak, Petrie
	Noes	0	
	Abstained	0	

The Work Session was brought to a close at 7:15 PM.

Open Meetings Law, Public Officers Law, Article 7, §106. Minutes.

Minutes shall be taken at all open meetings of a public body which shall consist of a record or summary of all motions, proposals, resolutions and any other matter formally voted upon and the vote thereon.

These minutes are an unofficial copy unless the original signature of the Town Clerk is affixed below. The original official paper minutes are stored in the Town's vault.

Catherine A. Rybczynski, R.M.C.
Town Clerk