

Hamburg Town Board Work Session

Catherine A. Rybczynski, Town Clerk

9.27.2021

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

ALSO PRESENT: Catherine A. Rybczynski, Town Clerk; Walter Rooth III, Town Attorney; Jennifer Robertson, IT Director; Tom Lardo, Engineering Inspector; Pat Ryan, Director Buildings & Grounds; Samantha Tarczynski, Finance Director; Paul McQuillen, Health & Safety Coordinator; Chuck Naughton, HR Consultant; Martin C. Denecke, Director, Rec., Youth, and Senior Services

1.

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

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

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Shaw, Connolly, Farrell, Petrie
	Noes	0	
	Absent	1	Hoak

Supervisor Shaw opened the work session with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Shaw stated that along with the agenda being reviewed that the board would also entertain a presentation by Mark Byrne from Vanner Benefits, LLC regarding the renewal of the Health Insurance for the town.

Mr. Byrne stated that the plans will either hold flat or have a decrease. He then reviewed the renewal proposal.

Commercial will hold at the same level after some negotiating with BCBS.

Blue Flex was new this year and some “growing pains” occurred. The cost will either hold or decrease.

Retirees – 250 members (including spouses) in Medicare Advantage. Cost will drop over 5%.

Dental – The decision to go self-funded paid off during the COVID pandemic and had a surplus of \$55K. So far this year the plan is showing a \$28K surplus.

Mr. Byrne also explained that some additional “minor” enhancements will be added to the plan, such as an increase in dental allowance, chiropractic package, and increased eye coverage.

Following the presentation from Mr. Byrne the Supervisor kicked off a discussion regarding the 2022 budget.

Supervisor Shaw informed the Board that he would be meeting with Enterprise Rental to explore the cost of renting vehicles vs. purchasing them in order to help get rid of the older cars in the fleet with replacements, but at a lower cost.

Also, Supervisor Shaw reported that the town would see increases in mortgage taxes, sales tax, PILOT money, and the town has the Recovery funds from the federal government.

The Town Board next turned their attention to the agenda for the Town Board meeting that evening.

18 Mile Creek (Items 6&7) – The proposal is to update the code after working with Planning, Engineering, Town Planner, etc. Councilman Connolly stated that they were almost ready to move on the item.

A resident of the town who lives on South Creek road spoke out against the change. Engineering pointed out that the law would limit access for newly built homes to the creek. If the up flow is too difficult to overcome the only resort is to direct the outflow to the creek. Cami Jarrell stated that if the flow were able to get to the street that the pipe it would enter empties into the creek. In other words, the waste water will get to the creek one way or another. A resident of South Creek commented that she did not want to see any additional housing around the area. Councilman Petrie stated that the proposed law made him uncomfortable because he feels it will infringe upon property rights. Councilman Connolly replied that the law sought to find a “happy medium” between property rights and conservation of the creek. Councilwoman Farrell asked if revisions would be made to the proposed changes. Councilman Connolly replied that he is open to suggestions and that he would like to hear from the builder. The CEO of Artisan Builders, Paul Wodzinski, stated that he felt that the residents living along 18 Mile Creek should be informed of the possible changes to the law. He continued to say that during the Planning Board meeting the board told him that they could ask for the 60 ft. on the books now or they could ask for 100 ft., 200 ft., or any number they wanted. Councilman Connolly stated that the item could be tabled and that he would take the changes suggested by Engineering and go over the law with Councilman Petrie. Councilwoman Farrell expressed concerns and stated that she would like to hear from Engineering, Planning and Code Enforcement. Councilman Petrie asked that all residents along the creek be informed. Item #7 may also be tabled.

Item #8 – No Standing Signs – Sheldon Road: Sheldon is half in Orchard Park and half in Hamburg. Windom Elementary buses have been blocking an entire lane of the street as well as blocking driveways. The “No Standing” will replace “No Parking” signs currently there. The resolution needs to be amended to change the fourth (4th) Whereas clause to change “No Standing This Side” to “No Standing Here to Corner.”

Item #11 – “Pop-up” signs will be used during home Bills games and events at Highmark Stadium to deter fans and visitors from parking in residential areas.

Item #17 – Confidential Assistant Hire (PT Temp) – Insalco – Supervisor Shaw explained that this hire is only for the purpose of assisting his office for the remainder of his term. He continued that she is willing to put in extra time for no additional pay. In the interest of

full-disclosure Supervisor Shaw informed the Board that Ms. Insalco is his step-daughter.

Paul McQuillen, Traffic Safety Director, asked if any news has come forward regarding funds for the intersection at Clark and McKinley. Councilwoman Farrell stated that \$750K has been allocated by the county due to the efforts of Erie County Legislator John Gilmour.

2.

RESOLVED, that the Town Board enters into Executive Session at 6:15 P.M.

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

ADOPTED	Ayes	4	Shaw, Connolly, Farrell, Petrie
	Noes	0	
	Absent	1	Hoak

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