

**TOWN OF ROSENDALE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 13, 2024**

Supervisor Walsh called the meeting to order at 7:00P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance with a moment of silence for Mary J “Josie” Creegan.

PRESENT: Supervisor Jeanne L. Walsh
 Councilman Joseph Havranek
 Councilmember Tim Craven
 Councilmember Carrie Wykoff

EXCUSED: Councilmember Ashley Sweeney

ALSO PRESENT: Ken Hassett; Deputy Supervisor, Jill La Fera; Assistant to Supervisor, Joe La Fera; Building Manager, Judge William P. Pape, Judge Christopher Ragucci, and Denise DeHardt; Court Clerk/Water Sewer Clerk

The Deputy Town Clerk opened the Public Hearing for the Bond increase of \$400,000.00 for Improvements of Facilities to the Wastewater Treatment Plant at 7:05PM.

Speaker – Jason Ballard – Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. Engineer for Wastewater Treatment Plant

Jason started with a little explanation of the increase in cost since submitting the engineering report pre-Covid and understanding the funding was in the form of a grant and loan. Towards the tail end of the design the town received a notice from the Department of Environmental Conservation that it requires disinfection with minimal or no chlorine residual going into the Rondout. The construction company had to kind of switch gears, do a bunch of redesigns to add in UV disinfection. This in turn delayed the project a little bit while they were working on that. This then brought us into COVID, which had its own delays through 2020. There were a lot of increases in costs. The UV was the first big increase cost, and they ended up redesigning the flow and the hydraulic profiles where you can get the water to go through the plant to the outfalls. The bid opened in the Spring of 2021, which with all the delays from COVID, supply chain issues, and contractors’ costs rising, the bid was higher than anticipated. The process then went through the Summer of 2021, Fall of 2021 and the first kind of order of business was the contractor requested a \$75,000 cost increase for materials due to again COVID, supply chain issues, and contractors’ costs rising. Subsurface soil borings were completed on the site locations where the two clarifiers and the UV basin are located. One of the issues is they're punching a 4-inch hole through jet soil, which doesn't mean that same soil is going to be 5,10, or 15 feet from that hole. The first hurdle faced when they started digging was poor soil. They had to overestimate both the clarifiers and the system. Where they must overestimate 2 or 3 feet and 10 to 12 feet deep to get material for a concrete structure to sit on. They had to raise that up with a grainier fill, which was another big-ticket item. From there it was not too bad construction until they got to the aeration tanks. When they dropped one side of the aeration tanks, they realized the floor of the tank was about a foot and a half higher than the as built indicated. During the design we checked the dimensions length and width. Without taking down the tank during that time they stopped and found there was sludge that needed to be drained where they realized the foot and half difference. This required modifications to the aeration equipment and then when they demoed the two existing clarifiers at the end of the tank to extend is where they hit standing block with water. So, that had to be handled before they could bring the floor up. Those are just some of the real big-ticket items which brings us to where they are now. Jason mentioned they are working on finishing up the plant, which is substantially complete. In November they dealt with operational and equipment issues that you couldn't foresee. One of those was the clarifiers and what that does is there's a paddle on the bottom of the tank that pushes the sludge to the middle and there's a shear pin that goes from the gearbox to the shaft. That shear pin did not shear, which caused the actual shaft to shear. They've been down a month or so while we're getting that repaired, they may be up and operational. Some of the sludge in the tank was frozen and hopefully once the weather warms all will be back in operation. Councilmember Havranek asked if the work was completed under warranty from his understanding it was the incorrect shear pin. Jason stated it was and there is still

conversation about the type of shear pin used. Other issues with rags and other objects were put into the system and which ceased the sludge pump and that's getting repaired as well. An idea maybe to do a public service announcement for residents to only flush toilet paper in the toilet. Flushing anything else down the toilet destroys equipment causing a huge headache for everybody and proves to be a costly repair. Even though we grind it up the rags and fibrous items and the pumps are designed to pump up to 3 inches solid and thick sludge the fibrous items can get caught up even on the cutting blades. Councilman Havranek mentioned maintenance gloves were included in that. Jason mentioned yes there were gloves mixed in with the rags and we have fabricated a screen to help sift these things out at no cost.

Supervisor Walsh stated all these operational issues were our delays and moving forward about the bond. 5.3 million dollars was our bond approval, and we have a \$620,000.00 grant that when applied to that, with adding the 400,000.00 the town need for this increase, brings the bond to around 4.9 million. The town doesn't have to re-bond just adjust the cost. The town is hoping to only utilize up to 250 thousand of that but have a little extra as a buffer should anything else arise. The idea is to have our final long-term closing April or May and the town wouldn't be able to do that having to bond again, which is a process. For anyone that doesn't understand a short-term loan is when the town first gets the money for the project and then a long term loan when the project is completed.

Questions-

Councilman Havranek asked would the final number be the with the extra increase. Supervisor Walsh responded no the final number will be the actual amount spent on the project.

Denise DeHardt, Water Sewer Clerk, asked if there will be an increase that she will have to update the Water Sewer Bills? Supervisor Walsh stated no because it will come from the tax bills.

Supervisor Walsh mentioned Marty Einemann asked a question at the last Town Board meeting about the cost. She followed up with the Assessors Office and the rate is 0.64971. An average property in that district is \$196,000 and that would be a cost of \$12.73 per year to the district.

Billy Liggan – Planning Board Chair suggested having a post to the residence about what not to flush into the system, as it was costly to make repairs.

Councilman Havranek asked Jason Ballard if we expect the new system to handle those type of items that are commonly flushed down the toilet that shouldn't be. Jason stated the way this plant works is first it goes into a wet well and there is a grinder. So, it goes through the grinder before it goes to the pump. Then we have a manual screen strainer, which will be part of a daily basis for routine maintenance.

The Town Board reviewed a spread sheet Jason Ballard provided for the increase proposal that includes the increase in costs for Barton & Loguidice, which is added to the agenda for tonight.

Councilman Joseph Havranek made a motion that the Town board of the Town of Rosendale to close the Public Hearing at 7:18PM for the Sewer District Bond increase. Seconded by Councilmember Wykoff; ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Resolution 3-2024-#8 – Councilman Havranek made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale, Ulster County, New York, authorized an increase and improvement of the facilities Sewer District Bond by published Order dated February 26, 2024, for a Public Hearing March 13, 2024, on the question of the increase in the maximum estimated cost of said capital project from \$5,300,000.00 to \$5,700,000.00. Upon evidence given at said Public Hearing it is hereby found and determined that it is necessary and in the public interest to increase and improve the facilities of the Sewer District, in the Town of Rosendale, Ulster County, New York. Seconded by Councilmember Wykoff. ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Councilman Havranek made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale authorizes Supervisor Walsh to sign a contract dated March 8th, 2024, for the Barton & Loguidice Contract with the increase for engineering related to the wastewater treatment plant, Construction Administration Services, and Construction Observation Services with an increase of \$48,000 to the Construction Administrative Services and \$9,600 for the Construction Observation Services totaling \$57,600. Seconded by Councilmember Wykoff; ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Public Comments – None

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to approve the February minutes with a correction of Councilmember attendance of Molly Muller to Timothy Craven on the February 14, 2024, minutes. Seconded by Councilman Havranek; ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Councilmember Reports:

Councilman Havranek –

Water/Sewer Departments – The town’s Project Manager did report that they were having issues with clarifier #2 and that was the broken shaft due to the shear pin. That has been fixed under warranty and has been a reoccurring issue with this. He also claims gloves and other items are getting stuck inside the return. The operators keep taking the pump apart and clearing the blockages. The sludge press is back in operation, our water and sewer clerk Denise has furnished a new meter list, calls have been made and appointments are pending. High falls meters contracted Big Josh has begun installations. The Project Manager met with the meter representative from Schmidt's Wholesale last Thursday so they can go over the installation with Big Josh. The Sewer Commission meeting is April 24th at 5:00 PM here at the RMC. Water Department revenue for February 2024 was \$18,960.06 and for Sewer for February 2024 revenue was \$16,685.47.

Highway Department – The Highway Superintendent reports back that he had our sweeper repaired by Joe Johnson equipment in Albany. They have taken care of all the trucks and equipment with the new hot water pressure washer that was approved several months ago and repaired plowed damages from the shoulders of the road. They started sweeping streets on 3/12/24 in Bloomington area and there will be a schedule on their Facebook page if anybody's interested to know when their streets are going to be cleaned next. They're waiting for the States Budget to see the final monies that will be received for their paving and sealing projects. The Building and Grounds have almost completed the bathhouse repairs and installations of the yearly equipment. Building and Grounds started on the Spring cleanup of the town properties. The Highway Department Revenue for February 2024 that was received is \$7,560.15.

Police Department – Chief Scott attended the workshop giving us the annual report and happenings in town. The last Commission meeting was on February 26th. They received 2 letters of support for the Police Officers. One with comments regarding a lost child that was found and the other was a lifesaving medical event where somebody had a difficult time breathing. Police personnel are at a good staffing level. The Police vehicles are all good. The decision for the old 365 vehicle will be kept for town official business once decommissioned by the Police Department removing all the markings and lights. Once that is completed it will be utilized for town official business. The Police received their Life Scan System Grant, which is the fingerprinting system. Training is ongoing as we have one police officer joining Ulster County Dive Team. They are also doing our own in service with the Town of Ulster and City of Kingston. Ongoing throughout this year with Sergeants taking specialized training including Data Master training which is for the DWI system evidence training. Sergeant Quigley attended FBI(Federal Bureau Investigation) Leadership Training Program and Sergeant Lewis will be teaching at the Police Academy. They recently coordinated safety and traffic efforts for a very large funeral in our town, William Moylan Jr., which went well with approximately 4000 people that attended the first day of viewing and 400 people that attended the funeral. The Police gave out one gift card donated by My Town Market for \$25.00 so far in 2024. Town of Rosendale Police Department recognized it’s finest at the Annual Jack Waples Memorial Awards Presentation. This year’s recipients were Officer Patricia Vincent, 2 Lifesaving awards and 1 Meritorious Police Service award, Officer Caelin Fagerstrom, 1 Lifesaving award and 2 Meritorious Police Service award, and Sergeant Brianne Quigley, 1 Lifesaving award. All recipients will be presented tonight with the Certificates. The stats for the Police Department as of as of February 27th, calls were 51 cases, 828 arrests, 5 personal injury, motor vehicle accidents and 20 property damage motor vehicle accidents. The next Commission meeting is Tuesday, March 26th at 3:30 here at the RMC. Police revenue is the lowest of them all for the month of February 2024 in the amount of \$50.

Councilmember Craven –

Town Clerk-

They renewed 15 dog licenses the income was \$5,949.29. \$4.72 was paid to the DEC, \$22.00 for New York State's Animal Population Control and \$22.50 to New York State Department of Health.

RMC-

The grease traps have been cleaned and currently working on renting out the kitchen. The Rondout Valley Growers are moving out of the office they rented. An engineer met with the Highway Department, test holes were dug for working on the solution for the flooding of the gym, a new Food Truck Friday begins March 22nd, and on the agenda is switching out heating motors, working on the heating system, and a service agreement with Lowe's Plumbing.

Councilman Havranek asked about Rondout Valley Growers cancelling their lease. Supervisor Walsh stated when they cancelled their lease and Harrison & Burrowes Bridge Constructors, Inc. is temporarily renting out the office as business operations office while they complete bridge construction in the area. A lease agreement was added to the agenda tonight. Councilmember Wykoff asked about the Food Truck Fridays location. Supervisor Walsh stated this is a new event we are conducting at the Rondout Municipal Center once a month a different Food Truck will be in the lower lot. They will be open to the public for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Court-

Councilmember Craven briefly with Judge Pape and a meeting is set up at 2:00pm tomorrow March 14, 2024, to learn how to do the audit for their office.

Councilmember Wykoff-

Planning Board- The board is set to open the Public Hearing for Camp Menuchah. The Public Hearing notices went out and the newspaper posting was done. New business on the agenda for tomorrow night are two new applications. One is a site plan review for the Muse, which was the former Market Market. The second is a minor subdivision on Route 213. The next meeting is tomorrow night at 7:00 PM here at RMC.

ZBA- At the last ZBA meeting there was a review of a new application and an area variance on Bedford Ave. The board made a motion to set a public hearing for March 19th. They also went through and accepted their organizational items such as the meeting days, etc.. There is a resignation, Mike Camargo who is relocating, which is on the agenda, and we would like to convey a big thank you for his service to the ZBA, a vital volunteer for Street Festival and the farmers market.

Food Pantry – The Food Pantry is doing well, but as always, they're looking for volunteers, especially those with SUV's or bigger trucks, to help with transportation of items.

Transfer Station - The fee revenue for the month of February was \$5,102.25 and the permit revenue was \$1,110.00. At the Transfer Station, George Glass and Councilmember Wykoff walked around the old dog holding portion, which is a trailer on a concrete slab. The trailer itself is coming up off the concrete slab and there is concern it could lead to someone getting hurt, as well as the destruction of all the fencing that's there. Supervisor Walsh mentioned a work order submitted to take care of it.

Association of Towns – Councilmember Wykoff personally wanted to thank the Supervisor, the town, and Jill for all their hard work getting the plans together for the Association of Towns. She was able to attend the following classes. What town officials need to know about posting on social media, managing stress in public service, the duties of code enforcement, solar storage and land use communicating and understanding financial reports. The breakfast was with both Chuck Schumer and Letitia James. Also, She attended the benefits of the New York Planning Federation membership and we have renewed our membership. Very intriguing was the John R Lewis New York State Voting Rights Act and learned a lot from the conference and thank you for allowing me to attend.

Supervisor Walsh reporting for Councilmember Sweeney –

Councilwoman Ashley Sweeney's report –

Youth Department is running a Spring Youth Program on Saturdays, March 16th, March 30th, and April 6th from 12:15. to 2:15 at the Rondout Municipal Center, call the Youth Center to sign up. A Youth Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 23rd at the Rosendale Community Center Pavilion and hunt begins at 2. The Youth Center will be offering Spring Break Full Day Programming, call the Youth Center for more details.

Recreation Department- Game night was very successful, they are working on planning another one in the beginning of April, possibly April 12th. Kristina Carr, our Chairwoman of the Recreation Commission, reports that the cooking series are going great. The second annual Rosendale Plant and Seed Swap is slated for Sunday, April 7th at the Recreation Center.

Elder Assistance Committee – They are looking into implementing the Yellow Dot Program in the Town of Rosendale. This would be for elderly people who are homebound. A yellow dot would be put on the door to notify emergency personnel that they have medication in their refrigerators, and there'll be more information on that to come. Jill LaFera inputted that the Yellow Dot Program is for anybody of any age who really has the need. It is supported by the Sherriff's office and initially was put in place to have in vehicles as well, should someone have a medical emergency while driving.

Supervisor Walsh read the financial report.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale accept the resignation of Michael Camargo from the ZBA effective 2/21/2024. Seconded by Councilmember Wykoff; ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale to hire Sydnie Dreher as Court Clerk for 30 hours per week at \$18.00 per hour effective 3/13/2024. Seconded by Councilmember Craven; ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Sydnie Dreher was introduced by both Judge Pape, Judge Ragucci, and Denise DeHardt; Court Clerk/Water Sewer Clerk. Judge Pape mentioned that she has already shown enthusiasm attending without pay a court hearing with Judge Ragucci to observe and assist, and she's been training with Denise. Supervisor Walsh stated it was good to hear of her being enthusiastic about coming to work for the Town of Rosendale and welcomed Sydnie to the town.

Supervisor Walsh reiterated the Pride of Rosendale Awards that were handed out on Friday, March 8, 2024, at the annual awards ceremony, in addition to what the Police Department hands out, we mirror those awards for the officers that have done something special throughout the year. Sergeant Quigly performing life saving measures during medical emergency on July 11th, 2023, from Meritorious Police Service, Officer Caelin Fagerstrom for performing life saving measures during the medical emergency in July 11th, 2023, for Meritorious on February 10th, 2023. First on July 11th, 2023, and Officer Patricia Vincent for performing life saving measures during a medical emergency on February 4th, 2023, after performing life saving measures during a medical emergency on October 7th, 2023, for Meritorious Police service. And She just want to say again how important our Police Department is to not only fight crime, dealing with unpleasantness throughout the day when they're on duty. But they are usually the first ones on the scene for any kind of medical emergency and they have repeatedly shown their worth by the life-saving measures they've given. And many of our residents and visitors have had their lives saved by our Police Officers, so again the town wanted to recognize that and that's why they received the Pride of Rosendale Award.

Site Plan Review – Wild Earth- Jessie Lotrecchiano – Public Programs Director/Omari Washington – Executive Director

Jessie Lotrecchiano presented the one-day camp event for April 13, 2024, and an overnight in May 4 & 5, 2024 at Stone Mountain Farm. All needed documents are in order except for approval from Ulster County Health Department who is scheduled to complete an onsite inspection for March 21, 2024. The Executive Director Omari brought up the second event which is 20 days of camp program, but this event has more details to attend to and this was not placed onto the Town Board Agenda. Deputy Town Clerk Christine Harrison mentioned that Ms. Bell, from the Ulster County Health Department will keep in contact with us after they complete their site inspection to see if it can be approved for both events. Ms. Bell also wanted to remind our office that the site in question will need to keep in mind that if they host camping events with 5 or more sites more than 60 hours in any calendar year, they would be required to have a campground permit and that is a lot more complicated to get then a day camp permit.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale approve the April and May Day Camp Event at Stone Mountain Farm contingent on approval from the Ulster County Health Department site inspection and the fee of \$150.00 is paid to the Town Clerk's office before the event. Seconded by Councilman Havranek; ROLL VOTE 3 Yes, Councilmember Wykoff-Recuse.

Site Plan Review – Billy Liggan – Street Festival

The Town Board reviewed the original plans for the Street Festival with some minor changes. Billy stated they are doing more community involvement, discussed the bridge work planned for Keator Avenue, location of their construction vehicle parking and contacts for the project completion, reviewed different parking locations, upgrading the letter that is given to residents of Main Street, James Street, Center and Snyder, they have new help with IT work, signage for detours and the Chief asked when changes are made in the updated event plan to highlight them. Supervisor Walsh mentioned as it gets closer to the event and updates are completed it will move forward, but for now this can be tabled for a later Town Board meeting.

Resolution 3-2024 #9 – Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale authorizes the Supervisor to sign the agreement with Technical Building Services, Inc. of 12E Commerce Drive Ballston Spa upgrade the 3-way valve and electric one adding to the JACE system at the Rondout Municipal Center. Seconded by Councilmember Craven; ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Resolution 3-2024 #10 – Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale authorizes the Supervisor to sign the agreement with Technical Building Services, Inc. of 12E Commerce Drive Ballston Spa to add two pumps for the upgrading of the JACE system that were not in the original contract at the Rondout Municipal Center. Seconded by Councilmember Craven; ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Resolution 3-2024 #11 – Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale authorizes the Supervisor to sign the one-year agreement with Lowe Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. Seconded by Councilmember Craven; ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Resolution 3-2024 #12 – Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale to meet local housing needs authorizes the Supervisor to adopt six commitments as part of joining the Ulster County Housing Smart Communities Initiative. Seconded by Councilmember Wykoff, ROLL VOTE 3 Yes, 1 No Councilman Havranek

Resolution 3-2024 #13 – Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale authorizes the Supervisor to sign a new ground lease agreement with Spectrum Northeast, LLC with a 2% increase in rent to pay High Falls Water District \$2,000 per month. Seconded by Councilman Havranek; ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Supervisor Walsh made a motion that the Town Board of the Town of Rosendale audit the vouchers. Seconded by Councilman Havranek: ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

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| GEN FUND | ABSTRACT 3 | VOUCHERS 146 - 158 | \$ 12,276.96 |
| HIGHWAY FUND | ABSTRACT 3 | VOUCHERS 44 - 45 | \$ 6,426.98 |
| WATER FUND | ABSTRACT 3 | VOUCHERS 31 - 37 | \$ 7,869.44 |
| SEWER FUND | ABSTRACT 3 | VOUCHERS 30 - 37 | \$ 6,234.25 |
| RMC FUND | ABSTRACT 3 | VOUCHERS 24 - 43 | \$ 22,705.30 |
| SPEC. LIGHT FUND | ABSTRACT 3 | VOUCHERS 3 | \$ 705.45 |

Supervisor Walsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50PM. Seconded by Councilmember Wykoff; ROLL VOTE 4 Yes.

Respectfully Submitted by

Christine Harrison
Deputy Town Clerk