

Town of Norfolk
Norfolk Town Board Meeting
November 9, 2023

The Norfolk Town Board held its Monthly Meeting on Thursday, November 9, 2023 6:00pm at the Norfolk Town Hall.

Present: Supervisor Charles Pernice, Councilman Donald Purvis, Councilwoman Jean Gang, Councilman Paul Paige

Not Present: Deputy Supervisor Bump

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Pernice called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2024 TENTATIVE BUDGET CHANGE

There was discussion about the proposed new electronic sign for memorial park regarding cost, operation and location.

- Decision to adjust the 2024 Town Budget to add up to an additional \$45,000 for a new electronic sign was approved with a motion by Councilwoman Gang and Councilman Paige. Vote was as follows:

Councilwoman Gang	Aye
Councilman Purvis	Aye
Councilman Paige	Aye
Supervisor Pernice	No

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 2024 Town Budget Work Session held 10/11/2023 were reviewed and approved as submitted with a motion by Councilwoman Gang and Councilman Purvis. All in Favor – Carried

The minutes of the 10/12/2023 Monthly Town Board Meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted with a motion by Councilman Purvis and Councilman Paige. All in Favor – Carried

The minutes of the 10/12/2023 Public Hearing to Override the Tax Cap were reviewed and approved as submitted with a motion by Councilman Purvis and Supervisor Pernice. All in Favor - Carried

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Proposed Solar Power Project on Remington Avenue – A representative from the company that is interested in building a solar farm off Remington Avenue gave a presentation on what they are proposing. The board confirmed that they would be willing to consider the required zoning district change to allow the project to be done upon satisfactory review and approvals by Code Enforcement, Planning Board and County if required.

REPORTS

*Monthly Police Report: The monthly report of OIC Jose Colon was reviewed and approved as submitted with a motion by Councilwoman Gang and Supervisor Pernice. All in Favor – Carried

*Monthly Code Enforcement Report: The monthly report of CEO Leonard Halpern was reviewed and approved as submitted with a motion by Councilman Purvis and Councilwoman Gang. All in Favor – Carried

*Monthly Code Enforcement Report: The monthly report of CEO Tim Wunder was reviewed and approved as submitted with a motion by Councilman Purvis and Councilwoman Gang. All in Favor – Carried

*Monthly Town Clerk Report: The monthly report of Town Clerk Jill Molnar was reviewed and approved as submitted with a motion Councilwoman Gang and Supervisor Pernice. All in Favor – Carried

*Monthly Dog Control Officer Report: The monthly report of Dog Control Officer Maurice LaRock was reviewed and approved with a motion by Councilman Purvis and Councilwoman Gang. All in Favor – Carried

*Monthly Court Report: The monthly report of the Norfolk Justice Court was reviewed and approved as submitted with a motion by Supervisor Pernice and Councilwoman Gang. All in Favor – Carried

- Supervisor Pernice requested that the court report include the number of active cases. There was discussion. Town Justice Stevenson said he would work with him to get the information.

*Verbal Highway Report from Highway Superintendent Peter Darabon:

- Sand pile is up 4,000 cubic yards. 3,750 cubic yards put up last year.
- Hauled sand for Madrid and Waddington
- Put in new water service (tap) for Northern Roots Salon (4 N. Main St)
- Austin and Bradley received their Class D water licenses.
- Trucks have been serviced and harnessed.
- The furnace has been installed at the old sewer plant.
- Truck 17 is back in Watertown with leaking transmission & all dashboard warning lights lit up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Decision to go into executive session regarding matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person was approved with a motion by Councilman Purvis and Councilman Paige. All in Favor – Carried
No Action Taken

ACTION ITEMS

*2024 Norfolk Town Budget was reviewed and approved with changes with a motion by Councilwoman Gang and Councilman Purvis. All in Favor – Carried

*Resolution #17-2023 Final Unpaid Water / Unpaid Sewer / Unpaid Other Releives were reviewed and approved with a motion by Councilwoman Gang and Councilman Paige. All in Favor - Carried

*Speed Reduction Request CR 40. Decision to support the effort to get the speed reduced on a portion of CR 40 was approved with a motion by Supervisor Pernice and Councilwoman Gang. All in Favor - Carried

*Town Clerk's Office Holiday Schedule was approved with a motion by Councilman Purvis and Supervisor Pernice. All in Favor - Carried

*All agreed to hold the 2023 Year End Meeting on December 28, 2023 @ 10 AM at the Norfolk Town Hall.

*Decision to use fund balance to pay off the current truck loan was approved with a motion by Supervisor Pernice and Councilman Purvis. All in Favor - Carried

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Gang - none

Councilman Purvis - none

Councilman Paige - none

APPROVAL OF BILLS

*The November Abstract of Vouchers in the amount of \$184,669.40 along with additional vouchers from:

- Cornerstone \$14,547.00 (new boiler at library)
- CST Group \$1,974.00
- Merriman's \$1,232.43
- Doyle Builders \$16,278.00 (final bills for sewer plant work)

were reviewed and approved for payment with a motion by Councilwoman Gang and Councilman Paige. All in Favor – Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Norfolk Town Justice Derek Stevenson noted that West Main Street was and still is a mess from the County re-paving work done earlier this summer. Asked when the county highway department was coming back to finish cleaning up the gravel off the sides of W Main St. County Legislator John Burke noted that he'd spoken with County Highway Superintendent Don Chambers, who indicated they are working (but struggling) to finish up current jobs. There was additional discussion regarding residents' displeasure with the quality of the job. Justice Stevenson wrapped up the discussion by asking that the Town Board exert whatever influence they have to get the county to clean up W Main St before it turns into a bigger mess with winter weather on the way.

County Legislator John Burke also noted the following:

- There is (and is expected to continue to be) a shortage of truck drivers in the area. The new hydrogen plant is expected to place even more pressure on the truck driver shortage.
- Proposed 2024 County Budget includes (among other things) 1) 1.2M increase for additional corrections officers and nurses at the county jail, 2) \$700,000 increase for Office of the Aging (demand for "meals on wheels" program has doubled).
- It is the lowest tax rate in 39 years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS *(continued)*

Norfolk Town Justice George Grubee asked if the town has an emergency plan for the town. We do not. There was discussion and agreement that a committee should be formed to get one developed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm with a motion by Supervisor Pernice and Councilman Paige. All in Favor – Carried

Supervisor – Charles Pernice
Deputy Supervisor – Richard Bump
Councilman – Donald Purvis
Councilwoman – Jean Gang
Councilman – Paul Paige

Dated: November 14, 2023

Jill M. Molnar – Norfolk Town Clerk