

LEGAL NOTICES (continued)

Sean Hopkins of Hopkins, Sorgi & McCarthy PLLC and Chris Wood, project engineer from Carmina Wood Morris spoke on behalf of the applicant Brian Young of Young Development Inc. Mr. Hopkins stated the property is currently zoned C-2, the applicant is requesting the Town Board grant a C-2(s) zoning designation for the property located at 1220 Southwestern Boulevard allowing for the construction of 24 multiple family units in 3 buildings. Adjacent to the property is a self storage center and a retail plaza. Green space and parking is included in the plan and it is important to note there has been a change to the storm water management along the frontage of the property. The project was unanimously approved by the Planning Board to go before the Town Board for a special permit and will require site plan approval from the Planning Board upon issuance of the special permit. The project meets the criteria required under §120-23A of the Town Code:

1. The project is consistent with the character of the surrounding area and existing land uses
2. Screening or other protective measures shall be adequate to protect any adjacent properties; there will be intensive landscaping to address the screening requirement
3. Off-street parking areas shall be of adequate size for the particular use and access drives shall be laid out so as to achieve maximum safety. Mr. Hopkins stated the required number of parking spaces is 48 and the current plan allows for 60. The driveway onto Southwestern Boulevard will require a permit from NYSDOT; there will be an access driveway to the adjacent retail plaza, which is also owned by Mr. Young
4. Acknowledge the Planning Board can impose reasonable conditions during the site plan review and approval process

Mr. Hopkins requested the Town Board consider the issuance a Negative SEQR Declaration and grant a special use permit changing the class from C-2 to C-2(s).

Councilman Hanley questioned if there will be a specified parking area during construction for employees due to concerns with mud from the site being tracked on the roads and through neighborhoods. Mr. Young replied there will be a separate construction entrance and a street sweeper will be onsite.

A Carla Lane resident spoke with Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Schieber who summarized their conversation:

- ✓ Identified the land owner and builder for this project as Mr. Brian Young
- ✓ Referenced Mr. Young's apartments on Angle Road and stated he expects the new ones will be maintained in a similar manner
- ✓ Discussed project requirements including drainage and landscaping
- ✓ The need for additional apartments and the location - the town encourages this type of project in this location along Southwestern Boulevard
- ✓ Provided the site plan and survey – the project is approximately 185' away from the residents property
- ✓ Concerns over some existing drainage will continue to be addressed

LEGAL NOTICES (continued)

Mr. Schieber felt the resident was satisfied with the information and comfortable with the project. Supervisor Dickson stated he has also spoken with residents from Carla Lane regarding the existing retention ponds and parking for the RV's and agreed there will be at least a few hundred feet between the residents and the project.

Mr. Hopkins stated because the project will not result in a land disruption greater than one acre per the NYSDEC requirement, a storm water management system will be implemented to comply with district and storm water quality and quantity requirements. The buffer area between the residential neighborhood and RV parking will not be touched and remain at approximately 180'.

Councilman Bauer questioned if the project would be completed by the end of the year. Mr. Hopkins explained after the special use permit is approved, the site plan will be reviewed by the Code Enforcement Office and Town Engineer, with anticipated site plan approval at the June meeting of the Planning Board. The project should reach completion by the end of the year.

The following questions were received from residents:

- ✓ Is land preparation prior to special use permit approval legal – Mr. Hopkins replied Mr. Young already owns this property. Mr. Schieber explained Mr. Young contacted his office before anything was deposited with a request that fill from the ongoing project on East & West Road be placed at his site. An agreement was made between Code Enforcement, Mr. Young and the Town Engineer permitting fill to be placed, noting that if the project was not approved the site would need to be restored to the way it was found.
- ✓ What is the current occupancy in the apartments behind the 7-Eleven – Mr. Hopkins stated the maximum expected occupancy level of the 2 bedroom units would be 48, noting many tend to be occupied by single individuals. Regarding the existing apartments, they have full occupancy with the occasional unit available from time to time. There is adequate demand for these new upscale units. They will be very upscale apartments with 9' ceilings, granite countertops, and excellent finishes, with rent approximately \$1250 - \$1500 per month.
- ✓ Will the project include a dog walking area – Mr. Hopkins explained there is not enough room to include a dog park.

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to close the public hearing.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

LEGAL NOTICES (continued)

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Piekarec, to adopt the following resolution approving a special permit for property located at 1220 Southwestern Boulevard:

WHEREAS, Young Development Inc. has submitted an application for a special use permit and C-2(s) zoning classification for a proposed multiple-family dwellings on property located at 1220 Southwestern Boulevard that is currently zoned C-2 pursuant to the Town of West Seneca Zoning Map;

WHEREAS, the requested special use permit was reviewed by the Planning Board during its meeting held on February 13, 2020;

WHEREAS, during its meeting on February 13, 2020 the Planning Board adopted a resolution recommending the Town Board approve the requested special use permit for the proposed multi-family dwelling project;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the West Seneca Town Board hereby find that the proposed multi-family dwelling project satisfied the criteria for the issuance of a special use permit as set forth in §120-23A of the Town of West Seneca Zoning Code ("Zoning Code") and grants a special use permit for the proposed 24 unit multiple dwelling project at 1220 Southwestern Boulevard.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Piekarec, to adopt the following resolution issuing a negative declaration with regard to the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQR") for the proposed project at 1220 Southwestern Boulevard:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of West Seneca, as lead agency acting pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law, has reviewed the Short Environmental Assessment Form ("Short EAF") prepared by the applicant for property located at 1220 Southwestern Boulevard ("Subject Property"), for the construction of a 24 unit multifamily project including but not limited to the three proposed two-story buildings, parking spaces, landscaping, a storm water management system to comply with stringent storm water quality and quantity standards, lighting landscaping and utility lines and connections (collectively the "Project") and reviewed the Short EAF analyzing the potential for the Project to result in any significant adverse environmental impacts utilizing the criteria specified in 6 NYCRR 617.7(c); and

WHEREAS, upon review of the Short EAF and other relevant documentation including the project plans submitted by the applicant in connection with the review of the Project, the Town Board has not identified any potentially significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed of the Subject Property, has determined the preparation of an

LEGAL NOTICES (continued)

Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary and that the issuance of a Negative Declaration is therefore appropriate;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to 6 NYCCR 617.79(a) the Town Board does hereby adopt a Negative Declaration with respect to the Project based on its determination that the Project will not result in any potentially significant adverse environmental impacts.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

2. Proofs of publication and posting of legal notice: "OF A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A HOME OCCUPANCY PERMIT FOR A HOME BASED RETAIL BUSINESS AT 55 SOUTH PIERCE STREET" in the Town of West Seneca.

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Bauer, to open the public hearing.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

The applicant, Patrick Eck stated that at a prior Zoning Board of Appeals meeting he was granted a use variance and is before the Town Board requesting a home occupancy permit to conduct business out of his home. Mr. Eck is attempting to obtain his federal firearms license. The purpose is to obtain weapons and ammunition at a more cost effective rate for the law enforcement community.

Supervisor Dickson questioned how much traffic he anticipates. Mr. Eck stated the transactions will only be with colleagues - police officers and law enforcement, with no more than 1 or 2 customers at his home per week; business will be conducted on an as need basis.

Councilman Piekarec stated it was his understanding is that there will not be a firing range on site.

Mr. Eck confirmed there will not be a firing range, storefront, stock of ammunition or weapons in the house. Mr. Eck further listed how his business meets the criteria from Town Code §120.40 - 18:

- ✓ Will be conducted entirely within the dwelling – an office with a safe is designated
- ✓ Will not change the character or use of the dwelling
- ✓ No more than one person other than members of the immediate family may be employed – just himself and his wife
- ✓ No more than 25% of the floor area of one floor may be used – one bedroom will be designated as the business space
- ✓ No stock-in trade is kept –order as needed only, no extra inventory

LEGAL NOTICES (continued)

- ✓ No storage of displays of materials, goods, supplies or equipment related shall be visible from the outside of any structure – there will be no advertising; will be just a business card handed to other police officers
- ✓ No internal or external alterations to the dwelling – there is already a security system in place
- ✓ Shall not generate noise, vibration, glare, fumes, odors or electrical interference
- ✓ No traffic generated in greater volumes – no more than the amount of family or co-workers that already stop by his house
- ✓ No advertising signs will be used

Supervisor Dickson asked if Mr. Eck had spoken to his neighbors about his application.

Mr. Eck responded that he did as required by the Zoning Board of Appeals procedure. Mr. Eck approached approximately 8 neighbors in each direction from his house and across the street which is the City of Buffalo. The neighbors know that he is a police officer and are comfortable with this request. Town Clerk Kobler noted for the record that the resident at 43 South Pierce Street called her office to state that he has no problem with the application and would like to see it approved.

Town Attorney Hawthorne advised the Town Board and applicant that should the Home Occupancy Permit be approved it will be for one year; it will then be incumbent upon the applicant to request the Town Board to renew each year.

Chief Denz stated he has no issues with this. Chief Denz knows of several of these businesses operating in town, including civilian owned, and has no problems with them. He fully approves this.

A member of the public questioned who will have access to the home office. Mr. Eck replied only he and his wife have access to the office; they are the only people that know the security code and have keys to the house.

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Piekarec, to close the public hearing.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to grant a home occupancy permit for property located at 55 South Pierce Street for a home based retail business.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COMMUNICATIONS

No comments were received.

NEW BUSINESS

9-A COMMUNICATIONS

1. Supervisor Dickson re Discussion and decision on insurance proposals Motion by Councilman Bauer, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to accept the proposal from USI dated April 9, 2020 in the amount of \$375,883.00 and authorize the Supervisor to execute the necessary documents to enter into an agreement for insurance coverage for the Town of West Seneca.

On the question, Supervisor Dickson stated there are two brokers to choose from, Tompkins Insurance Agencies representing NYMIR - New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal, a nonprofit, at \$380,000 and USI representing Trident Insurance, our current insurance carrier, at \$375,883.

Supervisor Dickson stated both offer a cost savings to the town and is in favor of Tompkins Insurance for the following reasons:

- ✓ Less expensive and includes coverage for the drone and radios – which currently cost the town an additional \$2,000 and \$10,000 respectively; saving the town an additional \$12,000
- ✓ Offers better coverage, two examples: vehicles are insured at replacement value, whereas USI will only pay current value; second, greater cyber coverage – USI offers a lower level of cyber coverage
- ✓ NYMIR is nonprofit/reciprocal coverage, they currently insure 900 municipalities in New York State, and is endorsed by the New York Association of Towns

Councilman Piekarec stated he also prefers Tompkins Insurance:

- ✓ Includes drone coverage
- ✓ They offer deeper coverage
- ✓ Well respected, used by over 900 municipalities
- ✓ Savings of \$12,000 for the radios and drone coverage

Councilman Bauer stated concerns about reciprocal agreements:

- ✓ The company is a nonprofit and members are liable for losses - in 2009, his company had a reciprocal agreement with a trust for workers compensation insurance; they had some heavy claims and went bankrupt. It ended up costing three times the annual payment to get out of the agreement

9-A COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

- ✓ Coverage with NYMIR comes with a higher risk: participants would be responsible to provide cash infusions should their bond ratings go down or they experience heavy claims, especially with COVID -19
- ✓ Prefers to stay with USI to avoid additional risk/burden to the town, especially when it's only a few thousand dollars difference in policy costs

Councilman Hanley stated he shares the comments of Councilman Bauer and further commented:

- ✓ Some of the 920 municipalities covered by NYMIR do not have umbrella coverage – if one of them took a judgment against them and they did not have the insurance to cover them, NYMIR- not being in a trust, could come back and assess the town at 10 times the current policy rate - this would be \$3.8 million.
- ✓ NYMIR has \$75 million in reserves while USI has \$2 billion in reserves.
- ✓ Tompkins changed their bid proposal three different times and each one was consistently higher than USI's single proposal

Supervisor Dickson questioned if a town does not have enough insurance NYMIR would still have to pay out and has not heard of this. Councilman Hanley stated that's the reason for a reciprocal. Some municipalities take a risk by taking their regular insurance but if they took a large judgment and they didn't have the insurance these reciprocal agreements come back on other members. They have the ability to reassess, not that they would, any of the insured up to three years prior.

Councilman Piekarec stated 900 plus municipalities in New York are using Tompkins, there is no history of them doing that, there's no reason to fear monger.

Councilman Hanley stated when he asked Tompkins if they could guarantee not to come back on an assessment they could not; they responded they do not know where COVID-19 will take them and there will probably be lawsuits.

Councilman Piekarec stated there will always be lawsuits; NYMIR is reputable, used all over the state, and are a better value.

Councilman Cantafio thanked both companies for their bids and they choose to insure differently:

- ✓ NYMIR has a higher limit for certain things, USI has umbrella coverage of \$50 million over everything
- ✓ Disagrees that NYMIR offers better coverage and is less in cost
- ✓ Glad this went out to bid as this is saving the town approximately \$20,000 from what was budgeted
- ✓ USI's single bid was consistently lower than the ones received by Tompkins and their coverage is just as good

9-A COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

Supervisor Dickson stated Tompkins is \$5,000 more but saves the town \$12,000.

Councilman Cantafio respectfully disagreed and stated it is not a \$12,000 savings; assumptions are being made as to the savings by putting other things in and taking away. NYMIR came in a few times and was still higher; when the bids are placed side by side USI is lower. The policy allows for the town to make changes.

Supervisor Dickson disagreed and reiterated that the town pays \$10,000 for radios and \$2,000 additional for drone coverage.

Councilman Cantafio stated it was beneficial to have the insurance put out to bid and it will save the town money.

Councilman Piekarec stated USI was also given the opportunity to revise their bid for a second and third time and chose not to.

Ayes: (3) Councilman Bauer
Councilman Cantafio
Councilman Hanley

Noes: (2) Supervisor Dickson
Councilman Piekarec

Motion Carried

2. Town Attorney re Spot
Coffee lease addendum

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to adopt the following resolution and authorize the Supervisor to execute the lease addendum with Spot Coffee:

WHEREAS the Town of West Seneca and Spot Coffee previously entered into a Lease Agreement, dated April 8, 2018, for the lease of a Café and Community Room located in the Town of West Seneca Community Center and Library together with the right to use 150 square feet of dry goods storage and customer use of public seating areas (as set forth in the Lease Agreement); and

WHEREAS on or about March 20, 2020, the Town of West Seneca Community Center and Library was closed due to COVID-19 and mandates issued by the New York State Governor, resulting in the Tenant not having access to the leased premises to operate the Café; and

WHEREAS both the Town of West Seneca and Spot Coffee desire to amend the terms of the Lease Agreement in consideration of circumstances described above, and the Town Board of West Seneca has determined it is not against the interest of its residents

9-A COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town Board of the Town of West Seneca authorizes the Supervisor to execute the Lease Addendum between the Town of West Seneca and Spot Coffee.

On the question, Councilman Cantafio asked if there was any way to support the business during this time. Supervisor Dickson stated he is not aware of any way.

Councilman Piekarec stated he is voting against this; the town should not turn down revenue at this time and it unfairly favors one business over others in town. Supervisor Dickson stated he believes most other coffee shops are open and can at least do drive thru; whereas, Spot Coffee has no ability for any revenue.

Ayes: (4) Supervisor Dickson
Councilman Bauer
Councilman Cantafio
Councilman Hanley

Noes: (1) Councilman Piekarec

Motion Carried

3. Town Attorney re CDBG agreement with Erie County
- Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Bauer, to adopt the following resolution authorizing the Supervisor to execute the CDBG Subrecipient Agreement with Erie County, noting this Agreement provides grant funding for the paving and milling of Duerstein Street, Edson Street, and Kirkwood Drive:

WHEREAS the County of Erie has applied for and received funds from the United States Government under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (HCD Act), Public Law 93-383; and

WHEREAS the County of Erie wishes to engage the Town of West Seneca (the Subrecipient) to assist the County of Erie in utilizing the funds identified above for the specific project of milling and paving Duerstein Street, Edson Street, and Kirkwood Drive in the Town of West Seneca; and

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of West Seneca has determined it is in the best interest of the residents to enter this Agreement with Erie County for the milling and paving of said roads; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town Board of the Town of West Seneca authorizes the Supervisor to execute the Community Development Block Grant Subrecipient Agreement with Erie County.

9-A COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

On the question, Supervisor Dickson asked Town Attorney Hawthorne to explain this resolution.

Town Attorney Hawthorne explained Erie County received grant funding from the United States government and is now passing a portion on to the Town of West Seneca as a sub-recipient. This is a formality of the process and does not cost the tax payers any money.

Supervisor Dickson asked Highway Superintendent Brian Adams to explain the selection process.

Highway Superintendent Adams stated Erie County will designate certain areas that are eligible for funding for the following year. Duerstein Street, Edson Street, and Kirkwood Drive are located in the area and are in dire need of repairs. Mr. Adams also noted that West Seneca is selected often because the town is able to provide so much labor and the money goes further.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

4. Highway Sup't. re Retirement of Thomas Amoia as Buildings & Grounds Laborer

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to accept the retirement of Thomas Amoia as Laborer in the Buildings & Grounds Department effective April 17, 2020 and authorize the Supervisor to complete and sign the necessary paperwork for Erie County.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

5. Chief Denz re Purchase of Police Drone – Unmanned Aviation Vehicle

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Piekarec, to approve the purchase of one (1) R4 ROLLER compact Model Unmanned Aviation Vehicle from Robot & Vision, Inc., 666 Baldwin Court, Birmingham, MI 48009, for a total cost of \$14,700 noting the US Department of Homeland Security approved this purchase through an HIS-SLOT funding program and will reimburse the town the total amount of purchase cost upon delivery of the Aviation system; funds are available and can be earmarked through the police budgetary line 01312000.50419.

On the question, Councilman Hanley asked Police Chief Denz to add the new drone to the insurance policy.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

9-A COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

6. Recreation Supervisor re
Summer employment
appointments

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to appoint Rachel Funk as Part-time Recreation Attendant at the returning rate of \$13.00 per hour and correct previously appointed Part-time Lifeguard Emily Penn's rate of pay to the returning rate of \$13.00 per hour effective May 1, 2020; and further change their status from part-time to part-time seasonal effective June 1, 2020 through September 1, 2020; noting the hires are contingent upon the following: background check, drug test, proof of a physical, obtaining required certifications no later than June 1, 2020, and attending all mandatory orientations and training classes and authorize the Supervisor to complete and sign the necessary paperwork for Erie County.

Ayes: All Noes: None Motion Carried

7. Supervisor Dickson re
Retirement of Michael
Meegan

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to accept the retirement of Michael T. Meegan as Working Crew Chief in the Buildings & Grounds Department effective May 2, 2020 and authorize the Supervisor to complete and sign the necessary paperwork for Erie County.

Ayes: All Noes: None Motion Carried

9-B REPORTS

- Jeffrey Schieber, Code Enforcement Officer, building & plumbing reports for March 2020

9-C APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to approve the vouchers submitted for audit, chargeable to the respective funds as follows: General Fund - \$126,862.66; Highway Fund - \$53,664.35; Capital Fund - \$16,917.25; Sewer Fund - \$65,247.21; Electric Lighting - \$4,560.00 (vouchers 11359 - 11858)

Ayes: All Noes: None Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS

9-D TABLED ITEMS

7. Councilman Hanley re Board Meeting Correspondence Procedure Motion by Councilman Hanley, seconded by Supervisor Dickson to adopt the following resolution regarding meeting correspondence:

WHEREAS, the Town Board is duly elected to represent all residents of the Town of West Seneca and,

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk is duly elected to perform several duties for the Town of West Seneca, including serving as Secretary to the Town Board; and,

WHEREAS, the meeting of the Town Board on March 30, 2020, was held virtually in accordance with Executive Order 202.1; and,

WHEREAS, due to the public not being able to speak at the meeting, correspondence for the agenda items of said meeting was requested and received by the Supervisors office; and,

WHEREAS, all members of the public deserve equal opportunity to have their voices heard; and,

WHEREAS, a Town Board may adopt procedural rules which would authorize the Supervisor to retain the original correspondence received, and file copies of such with the Town Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE be it resolved that the Town Board hereby adopts the procedure that correspondences the Town Board requests from the public relative to an agenda item pending at a meeting of the Town Board, be received by the Town Clerk's Office; and,

BE IT FURTHER resolved, that such correspondences of the public received by a member of the Town Board regarding a pending agenda item before the Town Board be submitted to the Town Clerk as Secretary to the Town Board prior to the occurrence of the next Town Board meeting; and,

BE IT FURTHER resolved, that the Town Clerk shall distribute such correspondence in a timely manner respectful to Town Board members prior to the occurrence of the next Town Board meeting.

On the question, Supervisor Dickson stated he supports the resolution with the understanding that communications that are not meant for public disclosure are not required to be disclosed.

OLD BUSINESS (continued)

Councilman Piekarec also supports the resolution and mentioned the last Town Board meeting held in 2019 and the absence of any public comments – that this should prevent that from occurring in the future.

Councilman Cantafio commended the Town Board for working so hard on including public comments in the meetings and does not see the same level of commitment by other communities at this time. Councilman Cantafio believes the public recognizes that the Town Board is figuring things out and improving the process.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

Town Clerk Kobler read comments from a resident with the following points:

- ✓ No opportunity to question responses given by Town Board members during virtual meetings
- ✓ Questions and comments should be part of the written record
- ✓ Statements made should be read in their entirety to maintain accuracy
- ✓ Thanked the Board for their efforts

Supervisor Dickson stated they are improving on the process and would be in favor of allowing residents to join the video conference. The town has a reputation for encouraging feedback from its residents.

A letter from Paul Wolf, New York Coalition for Open Government, formerly known as the Buffalo-Niagara Coalition for Open Government, is calling on local government officials to keep the public informed and engaged during this emergency time in the following ways:

- ✓ Posting meeting agenda and meeting documents online
- ✓ Meetings should be live streamed and recordings posted online
- ✓ Public comments should be solicited during meetings
- ✓ Timely posting of meeting minutes, ideally within two weeks
- ✓ Consider attaching emails from the public to the meeting meetings

Town Clerk Kobler responded she appreciates Mr. Wolf's input about including emails with the minutes and did reach out to him twice to discuss further and did not receive a response back. Because of the controversial situation where a number of emails were ignored by the Town Board, the New York State Committee on Open Government, an organization created by the New York State Legislature upon ratification of the Freedom of Information Law and Open Meetings Law, was contacted and consulted on emails in minutes. The New York State Committee on Open Government is the only body recognized by New York State to grant advisory opinions on these two laws to municipalities. The Assistant Director advised the Town

ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC (continued)

Clerk not to include the emails as an attachment to the minutes due to the fact that not every email was presented and several of those presented portrayed an inaccurate representation of the residents' point of view.

A resident had the following questions/comments regarding the April 13, 2020 meeting:

- ✓ What is the truth about the current state of the budget - Councilman Hanley stated \$121,975 was taken out of the appropriate Fund Balance to close out 2019. Councilman Piekarec stated that if savings were used to close the 2019 budget, then that doesn't mean it was balanced. Supervisor Dickson agreed that planning to take from savings means you planned an unbalanced budget and even the unexpected revenue of \$2 million dollars was not enough to cover the deficit.
- ✓ COVID-19 has created uncertainty about receiving money from the usual places, be mindful of the budget, and money comes from the same place – the people would like to see a freeze on increased raises until the town is on solid financial ground as most of the residents in town are laid off or on Social Security, where will the money come from - Councilman Hanley responded that previous years are reviewed in order to make their best guess as to how much money will be received from the state and agreed with the resident that it could be a lot less due to COVID-19. Supervisor Dickson also stated that figures on the deficit in January were a best guess based on the information that was given at the time. There are enormous uncertainties right now. The Erie County Comptroller gave the town an extremely broad range of possible losses of sales tax revenue for this year. Supervisor Dickson was on separate video conferences with both Congressman Reed from the Southern Tier and Congressman Higgins; both are incredibly supportive of federal aid for municipalities, which could change the equation. Supervisor Dickson stated his motto is "Plan for the worst and hope for the best" and is currently looking at ways to save money including limiting overtime, negotiating contracts, and not hiring part-time employees for the summer if programs cannot be held.

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Chief Daniel Denz

- Increase of call volume by 36% from this time last year, numerous domestic violence cases
- The Governor's updates indicate an easing of restrictions could begin on May 1st or May 15th
- Several officers have come in contact with COVID-19; they have been tested and no one has tested positive
- Several events have been cancelled including Community Days, anticipates more to follow

Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Schieber

- Office is open and staffed in the mornings to take phone calls, process permits, and keep projects going as much as is allowed

Councilman Bauer

- Thanked the department heads for being very diligent and flexible in taking care of their employees and the residents; they have all been very accessible to the Town Board

Highway Superintendent Brian Adams

- Thanked the Town Board and department heads
- Yard waste pick up is underway, started April 20th
- Update for the E-waste recycling events: June 20, 2020 from 9:00 am – noon at 4041 Southwestern Boulevard - ECC South Campus and September 19, 2020 from 9:00 am – noon at 1200 East & West Road

Councilman Piekarec

- Received complaints about people trespassing on others property, please be aware of where you are when outside
- Please support local nurseries and garden centers in West Seneca

Councilman Hanley

- Thanked Michael Meegan and Thomas Amoia and wished them well in their retirement

Councilman Cantafio

- Thanked all town employees and department heads and commended the department heads for being proactive and keeping their staff safe
- Thanked Erie County Legislator Joe Lorigo, County Executive Poloncarz, Congressmen Reed and Higgins, and Governor Cuomo for signing onto a bipartisan letter to Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Schumer to ask for states to obtain federal funding for municipalities
- Encouraged residents to support local businesses

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 P.M.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried



AMY M. KOBLER, TOWN CLERK