

Present:

Town Supervisor: Meg Wood

Councilpersons: Richard Gero, Lynn Donaldson and Leanne Welch

Town Clerk: Erica Hedden

Also Present Albert May, Pete Johnson, Dee Bowen, Kathy Riggins, Sue Palisano, Darren Woods, Ethan Tyrell

Supervisor Wood called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. with a salute to the Flag.

Public Participation:

Sue Palisano stated; Highlights are that we are hovering at about 144 members, which is the highest we have ever had. We have been very consistent with having at least over 100 members. Our memberships continue to grow every year. We have been working hard to promote business to business opportunities. Our finances, we continue to be profitable. We ended 2023 with a net profit of \$8,139.00 which was the 5th consecutive year of a profit. Our boat tours continued to be a big success this year and I believe that if we were able to find someone who could help supply us with a boat, that this is a big demand for more tours. Our Labor Day raffle which is the summer raffle, we exceeded our revenue goal of \$1,500 and made \$ 2,065.00. We also exceeded our revenue total for our twilight dance and music. The cost of that event was largely covered by donations, which made it a hugely successful event. We added co-op advertising this year which we have not done before.

Darren Woods stated, we are thinking about succession planning, Sue and I will not be here forever. I just got an email that Saranac Lake is looking for an Executive Director and the starting salary is \$53,000. We are not going to get another person for as little as we are making. We need to be aware that the next people in these positions might not be willing to work for what we make. Sue does such a fabulous job; I would really hate to see the Chamber have to take a step back because we can't get someone as talented as Sue or as dedicated as Sue.

Sue Palisano stated; This year we had four pages in the Adirondack Four Seasons guide, we did an ad in upstate summer, among others. We also received a grant a Generous Acts grant to help us with the building repair costs, we have raised about \$2,200 in donations as well for that. Windows have been ordered. We are replacing all the windows in the building. We have budget projections on page two, I have done them through the 2027 season. We will be starting the 2025 season with \$23,193.00. I am projecting out to 2027 with escalation for revenue as well as expenses. We are really going to keep trying to get grant opportunities and scholarships. We keep expanding, with our music programs and arts program. We are also looking into about half a dozen new grant opportunities, that doesn't mean we will get them but we are continuing to try to get grants.

Ethan Tyrell stated; I think my budget is in good shape, the figure we went over previously are still accurate. I think the golf course is in better shape than it has been in a really long time. I am hoping to buy some chemicals this fall to help keep the grass safe over the winter, that will run approximately \$4,300. I am hoping to budget for some new equipment in 2025 I

would like to budget for \$7,000. The equipment I'd like to see is a roller. The roller can be interchangeably with the mower, so I won't have to mow as often and the roller is much gentler on the grass. Also, a bonus is that I can use the roller in half the time it takes me to mow. The highway was very helpful this year, helped me clean up some brush and do some tree work, I am grateful for their help.

Clerk to the Supervisor Drescher stated; How about your workers, do you see them all returning next year?

Ethan Tyrell stated: I think most will be back, it depends on their college schedule. Another thing that will need attention next year is the stairs and the retaining wall.

Kathy Riggings stated; There a few things I would like to see purchased. To include 5, pull carts, 2 right-handed clubs for men and woman as well as one set of left-handed clubs for men and woman. I think something we need to look into is a gate, near the first T. I can't tell you the number of times I have seen people come in and pay and then go down to the side entrance to pick up a family member.

Pete Johnson stated, one thing I would like to see is the Golf Course Committee reinstated. Have a committee that meets over the winter to work on plans for the spring and summer.

Councilman Gero stated; one thing I want to address is the greens fees this year, what have you seen as the pros and cons of the increase we did in the greens fees this year.

Ethan Tyrell stated; I would say the cons were the bickering at the beginning of the year, but I think after that, things settled down and it helped the golf course increase its revenue. I think the folks that didn't buy a member ship this year, because of the price, might return next year.

Justice Granger stated; Good Afternoon everyone, thank you for taking the time to speak with me. I think everyone on my staff deserves more than a 3% raise, Cliff is an amazing employee, I would really like to see him receive a raise this year for all the hard work he does. He has taken it upon himself to go above and beyond his duties and really focus on safety at the court. Another thing I would like to add to the budget is a part time clerk position, someone to assist me in the difficulties I have had with my disability. I have difficulty writing and doing the tickets can be very difficult for me. I have been paying people to help me with these tasks, I would like the town to make a position for this. I think \$5,000 would cover a part time clerk. Some things I would like to see with this year's budget is more safety updates. I would like to see bullet proof glass film. It is a film that you can apply to the glass that makes it resistant to bullets. We would not need to replace the glass, just add this film to it. I also would like to improve the locks on the doors, they currently have locks of course, but I would like to see some more heavy-duty locks. I would like to see the court computer be implemented with a program called "Dragon" this program allows me to use speech to type, due to my difficulty with typing. That system is no cost to the town, the only thing is we need to make sure that the computer that I have, is capable of handling the software. I believe it is, but I do not have specific confirmation that it is.

Supervisor Wood stated; so, we just need to be prepared that IF the computer is not able to handle this program, we may need to upgrade the computer. I spoke with Maureen last week, she mentioned that she would like to do something

with the lights downstairs, potentially reducing the light slightly to help with headaches. Another thing to consider is to get an air circulator down there, or an air purifier. The court itself has no air flow, and it gets very stagnant. I think it will be the quality of the air down there as well as help our employees.

Justice Granger stated; I had a question, are we hooked into the generator now?

Supervisor Wood stated; no, the generator we have now does not have enough power to take on another section of the building, you would have to have your own generator.

Councilperson Donaldson stated; we need to look into that. Can I ask a question about the assistant position you are asking about; you only have 5 hours a week, do you think that is enough?

Justice Granger stated; this position would concentrate on correspondences. The plan would be on a certain day, I would plan to have them there to concentrate on the items I need done. For example, last week when I had a person in helping me with writing and stamping and we were able to get 150 tickets done in an hour.

Supervisor Wood stated; thank you for your time, Mark.

ADOURN MEETING AT 2:55 PM

INTRODUCED BY: Councilperson Donaldson

SECONDED BY: Councilperson Welch

With no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM, carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted by

Erica Hedden

Town Clerk