

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
WORK SESSION**

August 3, 2021

Present: Supervisor Lewis Grubham
Councilman Robert Weingartner
Councilwoman Katie Legg
Councilman William Diffendorf, Jr.
Councilman Arthur Shafer

Also Present: Robert McKertich, Attorney
Kelley Diffendorf, Town Clerk
John A. Finch Jr., Commissioner of Public Works
Marchie Diffendorf, Planning Board Chairman
Jim Smith, Budget Officer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Done prior to the Public Hearing

1. Discussion – Town Historian – Karen Ferguson. (KML/RFW)

Supervisor Grubham said our current Town Historian is leaving at the end of the month. Councilwoman Legg and Councilman Weingartner interviewed Karen Ferguson for the position. Councilwoman Legg said after our interview with Karen Ferguson we decided she would be a great fit for our Town. We would like the Boards approval to hire her as our new Town Historian. Karen Ferguson answered Councilwoman Legg by explaining she moved to Kirkwood in 2014 and then describing some of her previous places of employment and how they related to being the Town Historian. **Resolution.**

2. Discussion – Agreement with Broome County Land Bank Corporation regarding 179 Main Street and donation of \$3,000. (LCG)

Supervisor Grubham said this is regarding the Broome County Land Bank Corporation tearing down the house at 179 Main Street along with a donation of \$3,000 to help that situation. I met with them Monday and they think it will be taken down sometime in September. After it is down they will invoice us for \$3,000 and we will take care of it then. **Resolution.**

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- 3. Discussion – Salt Barn – Resolution rejecting all Sealed Bids received for the Concrete Foundation for the Salt Barn project and authorizing re-advertising for Sealed Bids, returnable to the Town Clerk’s Office on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 12 noon, to be publicly opened and read at that time. (LCG)**

Supervisor Grubham said I’m proposing that we reject the bids we received for the Salt Barn foundation. There was an error in the drawings. In the original design the wall was set at 10 foot high rather than the 8 foot we wanted. It requires a redesign and Griffiths Engineering gave us a price of \$2,000, which is good. Originally we paid \$3,800. We’ll save around \$25,000 when it goes back out to bid with the correct wall height. The bids will come in by the end of the month and hopefully we can get it started before the weather goes bad. **Resolution.**

- 4. Discussion – Amending Sewer Rents Local Law – Schedule a Public Hearing for September 7, 2021 at 6 PM. (LCG)**

Supervisor Grubham asked Mr. McKertich to explain the local law amending sewer rents. Mr. McKertich said this is amending two sections of the sewer rents local law regarding the stack allowance for TCMF and Frito-Lay. There’s an allowance in the local law to account for a difference between the amount of water that they use versus the amount of water that goes into the sewer system due to the evaporation and production process. This law would eliminate that allowance and they would be billed as any other user would be billed. Supervisor Grubham responded to Councilman Shafer saying their rate stays the same but they won’t be getting a percentage off for the allowance. They will end up paying more in the end because the allowance will be eliminated.

- 5. Discussion – Resolution hiring Aidan Ellsworth as Laborer to work in the Water & Sewer Department effective August 4, 2021 until September 30, 2021 at a rate of pay of \$12.82 per hour. (JAF)**

John Finch said we had one applicant for the part-time laborer for the Water and Sewer department. We’d like to hire Aidan Ellsworth effective tomorrow. **Resolution.**

- 6. Audit of Claims.**

John Finch responded to Councilman Diffendorf regarding the drainage work on Woodhill Court saying it was on the shoulder of the road. It was near the first building

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on the left, we had standing water on the road. We had been asked in 2017 to do work up there, but we had John Mastronardi complete an engineer design and had contractors look at it and it was going to cost about \$20,000. Over the course of the last few years it has gotten worse and deteriorated the blacktop causing holes. We had to do something, so we did it ourselves and created our own drain system down to the next catch basin. It's working very well. We were not on private property.