

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
WORK SESSION**

May 25, 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

- 1. Resolution pursuant to Section 3A(e) of Local Law No. 2-1976 entitled “A Local Law Regulating the Use of Parks of the Town of Kirkwood”, authorizing the Town Clerk to issue a permit to Kirkwood Town Fair, Inc., for the use of the entire Kirkwood Veterans River Park on August 8, 2021 without any permit fee to guarantee proper clean up after each use. (LCG)**

Supervisor Grubham said the Kirkwood Town Fair Committee wants to use Veterans River Park on Sunday, August 8th. It is not going to be the full fair like usual. It’s just going to be one day. Roger Studer is going to have his car show there and some of the different organizations around will be participating as well. We need a resolution allowing that to happen without any permit fee and we’ll take care of the cleanup.

Resolution.

- 2. 2021 ACHIEVE Agreement. (LCG)**

Supervisor Grubham stated the ACHIEVE agreement is a yearly thing we do. We give them \$1,375 for a summer camp session.

Resolution.

- 3. Discussion – Hiner Road. (LCG)**

Supervisor Grubham said we turned down the Hiner Road project some time ago. Recently I received a call from Ron Lake who is now working for the City of Binghamton in their engineering department. Ron Lake questioned me about if Kirkwood was still involved in the project and I told him we turned it down and

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didn't want to be involved. He made some references that the City of Binghamton might buy out their people on their side of the road. There are three properties in the City of Binghamton that people are living on. Then Ron Lake said, maybe we would turn that over to the Town of Kirkwood. I immediately said no, we are not going to take that road over. I just wanted to bring everyone up to date. The City of Binghamton is obviously thinking about doing something but I don't know for sure what it is. This project apparently isn't over with yet.

Supervisor Grubham responded to Councilman Shafer saying, we plow Hiner Road but we don't maintain it. John Finch said we have a contract with the City of Binghamton that we plow it and they maintain it in the summer. It's 50/50 with them. John Finch replied to Councilman Shafer saying we don't do any construction on Hiner Road. Supervisor Grubham said on one side of the road we have tax payers of our own on it. The edge of the road is owned by the City. And on the other side they have three homes that pay taxes to the City. We weren't in favor of doing anything with this project when discussed last year. Supervisor Grubham reminded everyone that there was really bad flooding up there and the residents couldn't get in and out. We eventually found a way for the residents to go on someone's private property to get in and out.

4. Resolution ratifying a resolution authorizing the Supervisor to sign an agreement with Jones Specialty Services Group for the Air Stripping System Rehabilitation at a cost not to exceed \$174,000.00, in accordance with the attached agreement. (LCG)

After Supervisor Grubham read item #4 from the agenda, John Finch responded to Councilman Diffendorf saying we feel they are qualified. We had a meeting with them which included myself, John Mastronardi, Supervisor Grubham, and Al Glover. We expressed our desire to have them complete it as quickly as possible. Well #1 is more crucial because once that is up and running it can run 24-7. Well #3 has to run at night. We asked them to work on Well #3 first to figure out any bugs if they have any, because this is their first time doing it. They have someone that will be coming in to help them and oversee the project if they feel they need assistance. By the time they finish the first one they should be well versed on how to take them apart and put them together quickly. Councilman Diffendorf asked if

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they are going to stand behind their work after it's completed. Supervisor Grubham said I don't know how that contract reads but I assume they do. I was comfortable after talking to them that they would be fine with it. Councilman Diffendorf said as long as they can do the work. John Finch responded to Councilwoman Legg saying they have not done one of these before, the other company that submitted a bid was \$25,000 more. Councilwoman Legg said hopefully five years down the road we're not spending \$25,000. Councilman Shafer said Jones has been around a long time. Supervisor Grubham said they will be fine.

Resolution.

5. Resolution ratifying a resolution appointing Todd Grubham as Member Board of Assessment Review for a term to expire September 30, 2025.

Supervisor Grubham said we were within one day of not being able to do the Board of Assessment Review because we didn't have a third person. I talked Todd Grubham into it and he had to take a class in order to do it. Chances are he won't want to keep doing it but it got us through this year. Supervisor Grubham responded to Councilwoman Legg saying no one signed up to do it. I even called 10-12 other people and no one wants to do it. If we didn't have a third person and someone came in here and asked for their taxes to be lowered you would have to give it to them. It was crucial.

Resolution.

6. Discussion – Resolution authorizing advertising for Sealed Bids for the Concrete Foundation for the Salt Barn, with bids returnable to the Town Clerk's Office on June 24, 2021 at 12 noon, and to be publicly opened and read at that time. (LCG)

Supervisor Grubham said we have the soil engineering designs done so now they can finish up the concrete design and send it out to bid. I'm anxious to get it going because it will probably take them a good month and a half to do the concrete work.

Resolution.

7. Audit of Claims.

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Discussion.

Gravel from River.

Councilman Shafer asked John Finch if he was looking into getting gravel out of the river. John Finch said I was looking at it a couple years ago when it was really dry. At the outflow of the creek right here there is a huge island of gravel and we were trying to figure out how to get in there because you can't touch the water. It's a big thing with DEC, if any part of your machine touches the water you can't go any further. John Finch responded to Councilman Shafer saying I believe Gorick is doing it for Conklin when it's really dry and they can get in there from a bank. This area is tricky, we'd have to have some land clearing done. Supervisor Grubham said you are going down the road where you are spending so much money getting to it that you could go buy the gravel cheaper rather than doing this. Councilman Diffendorf said Gorick took the scraper right under the bridge to get that gravel out of the creek down in the river. Councilman Shafer said Gorick is doing that job in Conklin for the gravel, he's not getting paid. John Finch said I thought about proposing that to Gorick as well. Councilman Shafer said there's other areas that need it done as well, my property has a big issue. I think if you use the fish liking cool water you can get permits for that. If you talk to DEC you just need to emphasize that we are helping the fish.

Sewer Pipe Scoping.

John Finch responded to Councilman Diffendorf saying I haven't got the sewer pipe scoping report yet from Al Glover. I know there were a lot of issues on Court Street by the Truck Stop and Mirabito. There's a lot of bellies in the system in the lines. We are going to have to address those issues. The only way to do that is to dig up the line about 15 feet deep. It's right off the edge of the shoulder of the road. We had to dig the water line up at the TA several years ago and that was really deep. That is going to be pretty costly to do that. Supervisor Grubham said I'm hoping when we get the report back we can use some of the stimulus money to take care of some things like this. John Finch said unfortunately it's not just cracks, the belly is the issue. I know there is a real bad one where the Super 8 used to be which needs to be addressed, especially if Gorick does develop that.

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Stimulus Money.

Supervisor Grubham said we are trying to produce some numbers on a lot of things. When we actually find out how much money we are getting we can go from there. It's really still up in the air, I was on a Zoom meeting Thursday, and there are still a lot of questions. We have a lot of time because you don't have to spend the money until 2026. Eventually we will put together a list of projects and as a group and we'll sit down and decide what can we do and which ones we think are the most important.

8. Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned to go into an Attorney/Client Session at 6:20 PM.