

# TOWN OF KIRKWOOD WORK SESSION

February 23, 2021

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

Also Present: Robert McKertich, Attorney  
Kelley Diffendorf, Town Clerk  
John A. Finch Jr., Commissioner of Public Works  
Marchie Diffendorf, Planning Bd. Chairman  
Duane Travis, ZBA Chairman (via Zoom)

**1. Discussion – Resolution appointing Arthur Shafer, Councilperson, for a term from March 2, 2021 to December 31, 2021. (LCG)**

Supervisor Grubham said this will be the first resolution on the agenda at the meeting next week. Art Shafer is here tonight listening. Once we pass that resolution and appoint him, he will be able to vote on what we are discussing here tonight.

**2. Discussion – Resolution ratifying a resolution hiring Athena Smales as Clerk PT, effective February 10, 2021, 10 hours per week at \$16.00 per hour, with a \$.50 per hour increase after 6 months, to work in the Assessor’s Office. (LCG)**

Supervisor Grubham said Athena Smales is working with our Assessor Scott Snyder. She is a Kirkwood resident and we had her start because there is a lot to learn. Scott Snyder is happy with her progress, her training is going well.

**3. Discussion – Resolution ratifying a resolution authorizing the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with Vieira & Associates CPAs, P.C., regarding the Audit of Financial Statement of the Disaster Grants – Public Assistance Program, at a cost not to exceed \$9,000, in accordance with the attached agreement. (LCG)**

Supervisor Grubham said this is an audit we have to complete for the FEMA monies that we’ve received and it has to be done by an outside party. Supervisor Grubham responded to Councilman Diffendorf saying, I believe FEMA does pay for this audit, although I’m not 100% sure.

**4. Discussion – Resolution ratifying a resolution authorizing the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with Vieira & Associates CPAs, P.C., regarding the Town Court audit for the year ending December 31, 2020, at a cost not to exceed \$5,100, in accordance with the attached agreement. (LCG)**

Supervisor Grubham said we do this audit of the Town Courts every year, it is required by the State. The cost has stayed about the same over the past several years.

# TOWN OF KIRKWOOD WORK SESSION

February 23, 2021

**5. Discussion – Public Employee Health Emergency Plan. (LCG)**

Supervisor Grubham said the State passed a law that we had to put together a plan for any future pandemics. It required the Teamsters Union to approve it and they have given their approval. Once the resolution is passed it will be filed in the Town Hall. Supervisor Grubham responded to Councilwoman Legg's question about working from home saying, what I tried to do is similar to what we did when Covid began. We had some people working from home but some people cannot work from home, like the Highway department. I listed the people that would need to be here full time and others that could work from home. It could require changes depending on the severity of another pandemic. Mr. McKertich responded to Councilwoman Legg saying this goes into effect April 1, 2021. Councilwoman Legg said we have time to look it over. Supervisor Grubham said I would like to approve this as soon as we can.

**6. Discussion – Resolution authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Engagement Letter with Johnson, Lauder & Savidge, LLP regarding additional services requested for 2018 flood remediation administration (FEMA & Federal Highway Administration) and the 2011 FEMA DPW claim tasks, in accordance with the attached letter. (LCG)**

Supervisor Grubham said this is for the work they have done on the FEMA projects and Hiner Road for the federal highway.

**7. Discussion – Resolution authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Engagement Letter with Johnson, Lauder & Savidge, LLP, dated January 2, 2021, in accordance with the attached letter. (LCG)**

Supervisor Grubham said this is for the yearly services they provide through Jim Smith, our Budget Officer. It's a refresher on what is done each year.

**8. Discussion – Well #1 Air Stripper. (JAF)**

John Finch said when we were discussing the budget the Board was notified that both air strippers for well #1 and well #3 were in need of repair. I have an estimate from the company (Layne) that built the air strippers. The repair estimate includes, replacing all the packing inside, all the gaskets, and taking the top of the air stripper off and reinstalling them to be sure everything is working properly. The price to do both air strippers is \$177,000. The price to do one air stripper (well #1) is \$99,322 this year. If we only did one we'd have to get another estimate next year and the price could be the same or more. I talked with Jim Smith about where we stand financially in the Water department. Jim Smith had put \$128,750 for repairs for the air strippers for well #1 and well #3. If we decide to do both air strippers we would have to take about \$50,000 out of reserves. That would take the reserves down to \$240,000-\$250,000 range. We would have to go out to bid with it since it's such a large project. I'd like to see us do both air strippers this year while the company is on site, it could save at least \$30,000. John Finch replied to Councilman Diffendorf saying, well #3 can handle more water

# TOWN OF KIRKWOOD WORK SESSION

**February 23, 2021**

flow and is taller so it could potentially be more than \$100,000 if we did it next year. Supervisor Grubham said I would suggest that we get them both done to save money. We have the money in the budget and in the reserve fund. It just doesn't seem worth it to push one off for another year and cost us another \$30,000. Councilman Diffendorf agreed as well.

## **9. Discussion – Piping at the Water Treatment Plant. (JAF)**

John Finch said in the budget this year we had set aside money to take out the inline pumps and piping at the Water Treatment Plant that haven't been used since the 70's-80's. We had a couple leaks and last year we put an inline valve in just outside the plant so we could shut the plant down and remove all this. We budgeted this project for \$25,000. I have two estimates, one for \$21,250 and the other for \$22,327, so we are under budget. I'd like to get this done the same time we are repairing the well #1 air stripper since the plant will be shut down and it won't need to be shut down twice. John Finch responded to Councilman Diffendorf saying, we will be taking out a couple inline pumps, taking out a lot of extra pipe in there that is not needed, and fixing a 12 inch valve that isn't closing completely. The other pipe we previously removed was from old sand filters. These inline pumps were put in before we had the air strippers and detention tank. Supervisor Grubham said I'm in favor of this, we approved it in the budget. I think we need to make sure we keep up our infrastructure stuff, preventing something bad from happening, it's worth doing. John Finch replied to Councilman Diffendorf saying we will be going with the W20 estimate of \$21,250.

## **10. Discussion – City Line Booster Station Piping Repairs. (JAF)**

John Finch said we located a leak at the City Line Booster Station last year. We need to do more plumbing inside. There's a pipe that runs through the wall going towards Kirkwood and there is a pit with a flange that is leaking. We want to disconnect the plumbing in the wall before it goes out to that old meter pit. We want to replace the piping and also some 12 inch valves that aren't shutting completely either. We want to take out those valves and put in a reducer with two 6 inch valves. The pumps we installed last year are 6 inch pumps so we don't need those 12 inch valves. The 12 inch valves are much more expensive. We want to refine everything and make sure it works. Once this is all done the City of Binghamton can open their valve again and test the system. We will test it quarterly. There is no meter. I talked to the City and they are going to base it on the pump capacity and head pressure. They will bill us quarterly if we ever have to use it. They won't bill us when we do the test, only in an emergency when we need to use the water. Supervisor Grubham said I'm in favor of this, it's important to have this back up just in case we do ever need it. John Finch said Jones Specialty Service Group had the lower estimate at \$17,015. If there is any excavating that needs to be done we will do it, maybe fill in that old abandoned pit since it's not needed anymore.

# **TOWN OF KIRKWOOD WORK SESSION**

**February 23, 2021**

## **11. Audit of Claims.**

### **Discussion.**

#### **Grates for Roads.**

John Finch replied to Councilman Diffendorf saying, we buy a big piece of grate for replacing damaged or rotted grates, they go along the side of the roads. I like to have it in stock and we cut them to size.

#### **Hydraulic Cylinders for Plows.**

John Finch replied to Councilman Diffendorf saying, two of our JJAG Wings started leaking fluid, both the seals blew out. Those aren't cheap but they work so well and save us so much time.

#### **Truck Glass Windows.**

John Finch replied to Councilman Diffendorf saying, we don't have glass coverage. Truck #32 had a crack in the window and Truck #26 the window was scratched from hauling blacktop and the sand from the roads. When the light shined on it you could hardly see out of it. It was unsafe to drive. Al Glover's truck had the radiator problem. When we had the big snowstorm in December and the snow melted and caused some flooding, he went down to the wells and he didn't realize how deep it was. Ice came through and busted the radiator and grill. Deputy Bill Tozer fixed it instead of sending it out.

#### **Lupo's For Sale.**

Marchie Diffendorf asked if anyone knew what was going on at Lupo's on Route 11, saying there is a for sale sign posted out front. Supervisor Grubham said I don't know, I do see people are still there for now.