

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
WORK SESSION**

October 31, 2023

Present: Supervisor Lewis Grubham
Councilmember William Diffendorf, Jr.
Councilmember Katie Legg
Councilmember Sandy Wasson
Councilmember Robert Weingartner

Also Present: Robert McKertich, Attorney
Kelley Diffendorf, Town Clerk
John A. Finch Jr., Commissioner of Public Works
Karen Ferguson, Town Historian

- 1. Resolution scheduling a Public Hearing for November 28, 2023 at 6 PM on the Year 2024 Water & Sewer Budget. (LCG)**
- 2. Resolution scheduling a Public Hearing for November 28, 2023 at 6:05 PM on the Year 2024 Fire Contracts. (LCG)**
- 3. Discussion – Resolution Regarding the Audit of Elections, in accordance with the attached resolution. (LCG)**

This is a recommendation for an alternative resolution from the one proposed by the New York Citizens Audit group at the last meeting. This resolution gets the point across to audit elections when needed, but it doesn't list additional facts that the board members could not verify. Councilmember Diffendorf requested something be added to the resolution about keeping the rolls accurate. Councilmember Diffendorf believes the rolls are out of control and suggests that people can vote in more than one district without anyone knowing about it. Mr. McKertich will add an additional paragraph to address the accuracy of the rolls before the resolution is voted on.

- 4. Discussion – Request for Change in Zoning – CRH Properties, LLC – 141, 145, and 149 Colesville Road – From B1 to ID – Use as sale of equipment. (LCG)**

Supervisor Grubham explained this resolution is in regards to sending this request to the Planning Board for their recommendation to the Town Board. The property is on the corner of Colesville Road and Stratmill Road. The property

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across the street is zoned ID (industrial) which makes this an acceptable change. The company applying for the application is called Skyworks and may rent, as well as sell equipment.

5. Discussion – Update to the Building Code and Miscellaneous Fee Schedules. (LCG)

Supervisor Grubham explained that many of the code and miscellaneous fees haven't been updated in several years. After discussing the current fees with Chad Moran, they compiled a list of new rates for the Board to review. Supervisor Grubham would like to approve these new rates at the December meeting and become effective January 1, 2024.

6. Discussion – Update to Article IX – Siting of Wireless Telecommunications Facilities – Section 920 A, C, and D - Fees. (LCG)

These rates haven't been changed in ten to fifteen years, and the telecommunication companies need to pay their fair share to put up these facilities, so the fees need to be increased. This will require a public hearing to change the local law.

7. Discussion – Resolution hiring Charles Ritt as MEO Heavy to work in the Highway Department, effective October 30, 2023, at a rate of pay of \$20.50 per hour. (JAF)

Interviews were held last week.

8. Discussion – Purchasing a 2023 loader from Milton CAT. (JAF)

John Finch explained every three years the Town loader gets traded in as the warranty is about to expire. It generally gets financed over the three years but with rates so high, he would like to purchase the loader this time. MiltonCat has a 2023 model in stock, and after trading in our current loader, the total cost would be \$80,485. This money would come out of equipment reserves.

9. Discussion – Purchasing a mower from the Town of Conklin. (JAF)

John Finch reported that it currently costs approximately \$6,000-\$7,000 a month to rent a reach mower that works. Unfortunately, this year the one that was rented kept breaking down so it was hard to get the work done that was

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needed. Conklin is selling a used 2008 John Deere 16-foot reach mower for \$35,000 and would like the Board's approval to purchase it. This would come out of the Highway equipment line. Councilmember Diffendorf reported he did a visual inspection of tractor and it seemed to be in good shape but was not able to hear or see it run. He has high hopes that it works well because we do need it.

Environmental Stress Score.

Low explained the State Comptroller's Office developed a scoring system for local Governments to assess their community specific attributes as to population, age, poverty levels, property values, employment, etc. The outcomes developed help designate localities as to various stages of more or less stress for comparison, especially when coupled with the related fiscal stress factors. At this time the Town of Kirkwood has not been flagged as showing concern over "fiscal stress" given the related "environmental rating" which is essentially a backdrop over which a Town Board has very little control.

10. Audit of Claims.