

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
WORK SESSION**

November 28, 2023

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

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

Absent: Councilmember Sandy Wasson

1. Introduction – Julie Wyatt – Budget Officer. (LCG)

Supervisor Grubham introduced Julie Wyatt, she will be taking over for Jim Smith when he retires early next year. She has previously worked for the Town of Chenango, and Supervisor Grubham acknowledged how lucky Kirkwood is to have Julie join our finance department. Julie Wyatt gave a brief description of her background, she is excited about the job and noted she felt like the lucky one finding this part-time opportunity.

2. Discussion – A Local Law Amending the Sewer Rents – Scheduling a Public Hearing for December 26, 2023 at 6 PM. (LCG)

\$7.96 to \$8.17 – Inside the District

\$9.35 to \$10.75 – Outside the District

\$161.00 to \$176.00 – Absence of a Metered Water Supply

Councilmember Diffendorf inquired about the sewer situation on High Street, Supervisor Grubham explained that Jim Smith worked out the numbers to make it easier on those people. Those numbers will be available before the public hearing.

3. Discussion – A Resolution of Initial SEQRA Classification and Intent to Declare Lead Agency Status. (LCG)

This is regarding the rezoning of the racetrack site.

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

Councilmember Diffendorf explained that he had several questions regarding the fee changes, also noting two possible misprints on page 2233 of the code book. Councilmember Diffendorf suggested Chad Moran come to a meeting to help explain his part in requiring these fees. Supervisor Grubham explained these changes are not critical and there is time to work on them. A copy of the list of suggested changes is on file in the Town Clerk’s office.

5. Discussion – A Local Law Repealing Section 1705 of Article XVII of the Zoning Local Law of the Town of Kirkwood entitled “Dog Control” and Repealing and Replacing Local Law No. 3 of the Year 1975 of the Town of Kirkwood entitled “A Local Law Relating to the Control, Confining and Leashing of Dogs” – Scheduling a Public Hearing for December 26, 2023 at 6:03 PM. (LCG)

7. Discussion – Dog Fees & Dog Enumeration. (LCG)

Supervisor Grubham explained there are approximately 600 dogs licensed in the Town, which brings in around \$9,500 yearly. But, the Town is paying the Dog Control Officer around \$16,000 yearly plus almost \$9,000 yearly to the County. The Town Clerk thinks there may be just as many unlicensed dogs in the Town as there are licensed dogs. Supervisor Grubham mentioned that dog enumeration has been discussed in the past, and someone would have to be hired to go door to door. Councilmember Diffendorf is in favor of getting a dog enumerator but knows how difficult (nearly impossible) it is to find someone to do that job. If the Town can’t find an enumerator then Councilmember Diffendorf is not in favor of raising the rates, because the people that are paying for this fee increase are already licensing their dogs. There are a lot of dogs not licensed. Councilmember Legg agreed and felt if the rates needed to be raised, maybe by a smaller amount, so we aren’t penalizing the ones that are already doing their do diligence. Other towns are currently comparable to our fees. Councilmember Weingartner suggested college kids may be interested in the job. John Finch did this job as a high school student and remembers counting at least 1,200 total dogs in the Town. Supervisor Grubham explained the people paying for their dog licenses are the ones losing out on the deal, so the conundrum is, do we try or

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not. Councilmember Diffendorf and Supervisor Grubham both agreed the Town should try to recoup some of the money that is being paid out on dogs, it's not fair to the tax payers. Everyone that has a dog has to pay for a license, it's part of the system. Supervisor Grubham is going to investigate a little more on how to handle the situation.

8. Discussion – New Server Quote. (LCG)

The server has had issues lately and needs an update. The money will come out of the computer reserve fund.

9. Discussion – A Local Law Amending Article IX of the Zoning Local Law Regarding Telecommunication Fees – Scheduling a Public Hearing for December 26, 2023 at 6:05 PM. (LCG)

The telecommunication fees are set forth right in the law, in order to amend them, a law needs to be adopted to amend the current fees. Section A is for a brand-new wireless facility, Section C is for a co-location, and Section D is to modify an existing tower. These fees are assessed to the applicant (company putting the tower up), not the property owner. A copy of the suggested fees is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

10. Expenditure of Highway Moneys. (JAF)

John Finch reported the three roads on the Highway Expenditure list were Blakeslee Road, Francis Street, and Corporate Drive. He explained the list was short due to the size of the roads, and the cost of the material. Those three roads will use all the CHIPS money for next year. If there's any extra money, there are other roads in need of repair, John Finch handed out a list to the Board members with these roads and what needs to be done to each. Supervisor Grubham explained that there can be times when material prices go down and more can get done on other roads, which he will continue to monitor.

11. Transfer of Funds.

12. Audit of Claims.