

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
WORK SESSION**

May 28, 2024

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, Historian

1. Discussion – Delaware Engineering – Water System Evaluation – Dave Ohman. (LCG)

Bill Brown of Delaware Engineering spoke to the Board about meeting with Supervisor Grubham, John Finch, and Al Glover a month ago to try and get an understanding of the water quality issues in Kirkwood. He explained that having two wells close to the river is very common. Those wells have slightly elevated levels of iron and manganese, which is more of an aesthetic issue, not a health issue. The disinfectant/chlorine added to the water has a chemical reaction with the iron and manganese that forms a small particulate and over time it can create dirty water issues. There are ways of addressing the issue such as: operational changes, adjusting PH, sequestering process, additional water sources, or filtering it. The filtration process would be a big operational expense but that would totally remove the iron and manganese. Mr. Brown supplied the Board with a proposal from Delaware Engineering that would assess the current water system and make recommendations for modifications, repairs, or upgrades to the system. The proposal is on file in the Town Clerk's office. All the Board members agreed that this issue needs to be looked in to.

2. Discussion – Handicap picnic tables – Boy Scouts. (KML/LCG)

Andrew Waite, a Susquehanna Valley High School student and aspiring Eagle Scout, spoke to the Board about his Eagle Scout project of constructing handicap picnic tables and placing them at Veterans River Park. He proposed constructing three to four tables, one at each pavilion and possibly one at the new handicap

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accessible playground. The second part of his plan would be to install a small park grill (which he would purchase) by the river and the Veterans memorial, since there is only one grill over there at this time. This project would be at no cost to the Town, all of the funds would be acquired through Andrew's fundraising. Fundraising that is approved by the Boy Scouts. Andrew estimates he would complete this project by the end of summer, with the tables and grill installed. His project does need approval by the Eagle Board.

Elijah Valentine, also a Susquehanna Valley High School student, handed out blueprints to the Board regarding his Eagle Scout project as well. He would also like to construct three to four picnic tables for people with disabilities or that are restricted to wheelchairs and gift the tables to the Town. Elijah noted tables can be set up in any of the town parks, but if there is not a need for them then there is room for projects to be switched around. Therefore, Elijah also suggested a project idea of a stone patio area in a shaded spot by the river at Veterans River Park. He explained this project is not just for him, it is also for the Town and he wants to be sure the Town gets what the Town wants. Elijah joked, that with his fundraising this all will be done for the awesome price of, absolutely free. His project will need approval by the Eagle Board and he hopes to have it complete by the end of summer as well.

Councilmember Diffendorf expressed his appreciation and felt it was a great honor for these two boys to do this for the Town, all the other Board members agreed and thanked the boys. Councilmember Legg suggested the boys let the Town know when they begin their fundraising efforts so the community can get involved also.

3. Discussion – NYCLASS. (LCG)

Supervisor Grubham explained NYCLASS (New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System) is a secure pool the Town can invest money into and make a very nice return that other areas of investment can't do. Most of the Town's money is in money market accounts now which pay 3%-3.5%. NYCLASS investment would pay about 5.2% on our money and is very secure. Money can be put in and taken out within a day if wanted, it doesn't have to be invested for a long period of time.

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Julie Wyatt, Budget Officer, explained that NYCLASS is an investment pool that is audited on an annual basis. The interest is compounded daily instead of looking at an average balance monthly. It will fluctuate just like the money market does at M & T. We can earn more money if we transfer some of the M & T money market funds into the NYCLASS. It would benefit the residents to earn the most that we can. NYCLASS only invests in investments legally permitted under New York General Municipal Law. Supervisor Grubham suggested several different funds that are available and only used at certain times of the year that could be put in NYCLASS to make money and help with the tax situation later on.

- 4. Discussion – 2024 ACHIEVE Agreement. (LCG)**
- 5. Discussion – Resolution ratifying a resolution authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Intermunicipal Agreement with Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition for Federal Phase II MS4 Stormwater Regulation Implementation in Broome and Tioga Counties in accordance with the attached agreement. (LCG)**
- 6. Discussion – Pursuant to section 3A(e) of Local Law No. 2-1979 entitled “A Local Law Regulating the Use of Parks of the Town of Kirkwood”, authorizing the Town Clerk to issue a permit to the Kirkwood Town Fair, Inc., for the use of the entire Kirkwood Veterans River Park on August 11, 2024 without any permit fee to guarantee proper clean up after use. (LCG)**
- 7. Discussion – Adams CATV, Inc. Franchise Agreement – Schedule Public Hearing for June 24, 2024. (LCG)**

Mr. McKertich explained this renews the current franchise agreement with Adams CATV, Inc. which allows them to access the poles and put their cable lines along the public rights of way. The biggest change to the agreement is the franchise fee is set at 5% of the gross revenues, that is the maximum amount of fee that can be charged to Adams for their franchise. Councilmember Diffendorf confirmed this mainly services the West Windsor corridor area.

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8. Discussion – Purchase used vehicle for Dog Control Officer. (LCG)

Supervisor Grubham reported the Dog Control Officer (DCO) is resigning and the Town will be looking to fill that position. He suggested it might be a good idea to start looking for a vehicle that can be used by the DCO, maybe a van.

Councilmember Legg asked if the vehicle would be left at the Town Hall or if the DCO could take the vehicle home. Supervisor Grubham had no issue with the vehicle going home with the DCO for easy access, and obviously not for personal use. Councilmember Diffendorf felt if the vehicle was housed at the Town in a building it would be protected from the weather. When vehicles sit outside, maybe not on blacktop, moisture can affect everything coming up from the ground. It all depends, if we get a DCO that really goes after the job, they may need the vehicle at home. Councilmember Legg stated the dog rescue numbers that are reported are much lower since the new DCO took over. Councilmember Weingartner agreed on protecting the vehicle from weather. He thought a smaller caravan or sprinter might be a good idea. Supervisor Grubham acknowledged the first problem is, to find a new DCO. There is no allowance given to use someone's personal vehicle, it doesn't seem like a good idea.

9. Discussion – Resolution authorizing Alan Glover and Matt Loftus to attend the NY Waterworks Conference on June 13, 2024 in Sidney, NY, at a cost not to exceed \$40 each. (JAF)

10. Audit of Claims.

Pickle Ball Court Lessons. Councilmember Diffendorf questioned if someone was giving pickle ball lessons on the tennis courts at Veterans River Park. It was determined that started last year. Since the person giving lessons is charging a fee, it brought up insurance and liability issues. Councilmember Diffendorf also questioned if the Town wants people to use town facilities to make money. Councilmember Legg mentioned the next session for pickle lessons is to begin on June 4, 2024, so Supervisor Grubham is going to find out more about this.