

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
WORK SESSION**

January 28, 2025

Present: Supervisor Lewis Grubham
Councilmember William Diffendorf, Jr.
Councilmember Marc Latini
Councilmember Katie Legg
Councilmember Sandy Wasson

Also Present: Robert McKertich, Attorney
Kelley Diffendorf, Town Clerk
Poe Williams, Highway Superintendent
Duane Travis, Zoning Board Chairman
Karen Ferguson, Historian
Al Glover, Water & Sewer Department

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

After an ongoing issue with Iron and Manganese in the town water system causing black buildup or dirty water the Town hired Delaware Engineering to conduct a study on possible solutions to improving the water quality. Bill Brown of Delaware Engineering spoke to the Board about his preliminary findings regarding his evaluation of the Town of Kirkwood's water system. He also provided a report with this information which is on file in the Town Clerk's office for review.

It was noted the water system is well maintained, in compliance with NYSDOH (New York State Department of Health) standards, and the water is safe to drink. Although, Iron and Manganese are present in both active wells they are generally below the maximum contaminant level set by NYSDOH.

Bill Brown discussed the most common ways to get rid of Iron and Manganese such as, installing a large-scale filtration system, adding an additional source capacity at an alternate location, rehabilitating of the wells every eight to ten years, and flushing and regular maintenance. It was noted the filtration system is the ultimate way to remove the Iron and Manganese.

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If the Town decided to go with the filtration system it would be a capital project and apply for funding from different state grant programs. Although generally only 50% of the project is covered by the grant programs. The estimated cost of a filtration system for the Town of Kirkwood is \$10 million.

Councilmember Diffendorf spoke about the Varidox system at Well #3 that was put in to take Iron and Manganese out of the water, but it was never used because the levels weren't high enough in that well, so he questioned if that could help solve this problem. Bill Brown was unfamiliar with the Varidox system so he was going to research the system and find out what its capabilities are. He theorized that it could help the issue but not make it go away.

Supervisor Grubham asked Bill Brown to run the numbers and put together a project score for a potential grant opportunity. Included in the project scoring would not only be the Iron and Manganese issue, but treatment for PFOA/PFOS levels, the valve and hydrant project on Industrial Drive, and the Johnson Road water tank project. Supervisor Grubham noted this can all be talked about at the next work session.

2. Discussion – Kelly Beagell – Tiny Home. (LCG)

No one was present at the meeting to speak on this topic.

3. Discussion – Consolidation of Sewer Districts. (LCG)

With all but two of the sewer district debts paid off Supervisor Grubham suggested consolidating all the other districts into one sewer district. Although this will cost money to complete, overall it will save money on the administrative end because the financial department won't have to keep track of so many different sewer districts. Mr. McKertich recommended applying for state funding to help with the costs. Throughout the process an impact report will be produced to show how it will affect the Town and each user. Councilmember Diffendorf expressed he was in favor of the consolidation but wanted it to be clear that once the districts are consolidated that all customers/residents within the consolidation area will be grouped together and any upcoming fees that may occur will be spread out among the entire new consolidated district. Supervisor Grubham also noted this could be helpful to the smaller districts so they aren't

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burdened with such high fees when something happens in their area. Supervisor Grubham stated this will be looked at again at the end of February when more information is collected.

4. **Discussion – Resolution, on recommendation and approval of the Code Enforcement Officer, pursuant to section 304.3 of the Mobile Home – Trailer Ordinance, authorizing the Town Clerk to issue license for the following mobile home-trailer parks, such licenses will be for the year 2025:
Kirkwood Parksites, LLC, 1794 US Route 11, Kirkwood, NY 13795
Owner: Christina DiPierro**
5. **Discussion – Resolution accepting the Recertification of the Record of Activities for Julie Wyatt, Budget Officer, for the year 2025, in accordance with the attached Recertification. (LCG)**
6. **Discussion – Resolution accepting the Recertification of the Record of Activities for Kelley Diffendorf, Town Clerk, for the term of office of 2025-2028, in accordance with the attached recertification. (LCG)**
7. **Discussion – Resolution accepting the Recertification of the Record of Activities for Kelley Diffendorf, Registrar of Vital Statistics, for the term of office of 2025-2028, in accordance with the attached recertification. (LCG)**
8. **Discussion – A Local Law Amending Article XV, Section 1502.3.A.1 of the Zoning Code Regarding Planning Board Meeting Dates – Schedule a Public Hearing for February 25, 2025 at 6 P.M. (LCG)**

This amendment would change the Planning Board meeting dates to the second Wednesday of each month.

9. **Discussion – Resolution authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Escrow Agreement for the Stanley Hollow Creek Solar Project, in accordance with the attached resolution. (LCG)**

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After a brief discussion, there were still a few questions regarding the Escrow agreement (property owner reimbursement and Town administration), therefore Mr. McKertich was going to look into them for clarification before the approval of this agreement moved forward. Prior to the discussion it was noted the escrow is available to the property owner for 24 months after the project becomes operable.

10. Discussion – Resolution authorizing the Highway Superintendent to enter into an agreement with the Town Board regarding Expenditure of Highway Moneys, in accordance with the attached agreement. (LCG)

Supervisor Grubham explained that this agreement was produced by the previous Highway Superintendent and Poe Williams would like to make adjustments to the roads listed and revisit the prices as well since there are no dates given as to when the prices were quoted from and the prices of oil and blacktop are constantly changing.

11. Discussion – Resolution authorizing Chad Moran to attend the Southern Tier Home Builders & Remodelers Association training on February 12, 2025, at the Sidney Fire Department, at a cost not to exceed \$35. (LCG)

12. Discussion – Resolution pursuant to Not-For-Profit Corporation Law Section 1402(c)(3) approving the Membership Roster for Five Mile Point Fire Company, with the understanding that the members so approved will be assigned for which they have been qualified, in accordance with the attached roster. (LCG)

13. Discussion – Resolution appointing Michael Reed as Member Zoning Board of Appeals, effective February 5, 2025, for a term to expire December 31, 2027, to fill the unexpired term of Bruce Nemcek. (LCG)

14. Discussion – Resolution appointing Jackie Casciani as Member Board of Assessment Review for a term to expire September 30, 2025, to fill the unexpired term of Todd Grubham. (LCG)

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- 15. Discussion – Resolution appointing Joe Casciani as Member Board of Assessment Review for a term to expire December 30, 2027, to fill the unexpired term of Steve Barkwell. (LCG)**
- 16. Discussion – Resolution authorizing the Supervisor to enter into an Agreement Between the Town of Kirkwood and the Kirkwood Historical Society, in accordance with the attached agreement. (LCG)**
- 17. Discussion – A Local Law Amending the Water Mains Local Law Regarding Penalties for Non-Compliance – Schedule a Public Hearing for February 25, 2025 at 6:03 PM. (LCG)**

Supervisor Grubham explained the Water department is having a hard time installing the new water meters in many homes. The changes in this law will hopefully give people an incentive to let the Town change their meter when they see the tough fines and possible water shut off that will be enforced if they do not cooperate and get a new meter installed.

- 18. Discussion – A Local Law Establishing a Date for Meeting of the Board of Assessment Review – Schedule a Public Hearing for February 25, 2025 at 6:06 PM. (LCG)**

The fourth Wednesday in May (May 28, 2025) will be the new date for the Board of Assessment Review. It usually is the fourth Tuesday in May but since our Assessor has two other towns he needs to attend to that day, Kirkwood is moving their day. Since this is a state law, it can be changed by local law.

- 19. Discussion – Resolution authorizing the Budget Journal Entries, in accordance with the attached Budget Adjustment Sheet. (LCG)**
- 20. Discussion – Resolution approving the Standard Work Day and Report Resolution for Elected Officials for Michael Mucci as Justice of the Peace, in accordance with the attached resolution. (LCG)**

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- 21. Discussion – Resolution designating April 21-23, 2025 as Municipal Cleanup Days in the Town of Kirkwood, materials accepted are bulk items, white goods, scrap metal, wastes from illegal dump site cleanups, and other wastes as may be collected through the special cleanup day effort, with delivery to the Broome County Landfill on April 24, 2025.
(PW)**

- 22. Audit of Claims.**