

The Regular Town Board meeting of the Town of Wheatfield was held October 4, 2021 at 6:45 pm John Cooper from NIMAC gave a presentation on the Niagara Falls Air Base, at 7:00 Tom Harty of Joule Community Power provided information on a NYSEDA program and alternative energy, and at 7:22 p.m. the Regular Town Board Meeting at Wheatfield Town Hall, 2800 Church Road, North Tonawanda, County of Niagara and State of New York to audit bills and to conduct any other business coming before the Town Board.

PRESENT: Supervisor Don MacSwan, Councilman Larry Helwig, Gilbert Doucet, Curt Doktor, Randy Retzlaff, Town Attorney Matthew Brooks, and Town Clerk Kathleen Harrington-McDonell

**PUBLIC INPUT** – none

Town Clerk Kathleen Harrington-McDonell made the following statement on the 2022 Tentative Budget. The 2022 Tentative Budget was filed in the Town Clerk’s office on September 30, 2021 and copies of the 2022 Tentative Budget were placed in each of the Town Board member’s mailbox on September 30, 2022 and is now being formally presented to the Town Board.

Supervisor MacSwan made a statement regarding the 2022 Budget as follows;

Although there are still concerns regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, I am pleased to report that the Town of Wheatfield will be providing the same services that the Town has been providing in the past. However, because our costs of providing these services are increasing, the 2022 Tentative Budget does include a slight property tax increase of \$8.11 from \$522.90 in 2021 to \$531.01 in 2022 for a typical homeowner in the Town of Wheatfield with an assessed valuation of \$125,000 or a market value of around \$235,000. This represents an increase of 1.55% and is due primarily to the increase in garbage pickup and recycling. The cost of garbage pickup and recycling have increased by over \$310,000 since 2019. The total budget appropriations for 2022 have been increased by slightly over \$225,000 and estimated revenues have been increased by slightly over \$370,000. The total tax levy for 2022 is increasing \$54,562 from \$3,856,696 to \$3,911,258 or 1.41% which is substantially less than the statewide property tax cap of 2%.

Moved by Councilman Retzlaff and seconded by Councilman Doucet to accept the minutes of September 13, 2021 as presented.

**This motion was CARRIED: AYES 5 – NAYS 0.**

Moved by Councilman Doktor and seconded by Councilman Helwig to approve the October 4, 2021 bill payment for voucher #20211486 – 20211599 in the amount of \$437,298.69

General Fund	\$121,264.69
Highway	\$ 27,410.94
Water/Sewer	\$ 68,145.18
Refuse	\$199,039.20
Fire	\$ 938.83
Lighting	\$ 2,173.73
Pre-paid	\$ 18,326.12

**This motion was CARRIED: AYES 4 - NAYS 0.**

Moved by Councilman Doktor and seconded by Councilman Doucet to declare the Constable’s 2004 Crown Vic as surplus and to auction on Auctions International. Town Board to accept and approve final sale.

Sell Constable Crown Vic

**This motion was CARRIED: AYES 5 - NAYS 0.**

Moved by Supervisor MacSwan and seconded by Councilman Helwig to refer the preliminary approval of any proposed cul de sacs in the potential Cobblestone Subdivision to the Wheatfield Planning Board as part of its subdivision site plan review due to numerous site plan issues including wetlands and other issue specific to this site that make Town Board preliminary cul de sac review inappropriate for said site.

Cobblestone cul de sac – refer preliminary approval to Planning Board

**This motion was CARRIED: AYES 4 – NAYS 1 Councilman Doktor**

Moved by Councilman Doktor and seconded by Councilman Retzlaff to approve Firearms Discharge Permits for the individuals presented by the Firearms Committee.

Firearms Permit approvals

**This motion was CARRIED: AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSTAIN 1 Councilman Helwig**

Moved by Councilman Doktor and seconded by Supervisor MacSwan to authorize the Town of Wheatfield to issue correspondence to request local, state and federal support by governmental officials to support the Town of Wheatfield’s request to the NYSDOT to include a center turn lane on Niagara Falls Boulevard from Sy Road to Mavis Drive (approx. 2.1 miles) to be added to the State Transportation Plan Five Year Project List.

Center turn lane NFB Sy Rd.-Mavis Dr.

**This motion was CARRIED: AYES 5 - NAYS 0.**

Moved by Supervisor MacSwan and seconded by Councilman Helwig to approve the Proposal to repair the stucco on the front of the Community and Senior Center for a cost of \$4,950.00. with Painters Plus, which is the lowest responsible quote out of the quotes received. Said project is requested and shall be funded with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received by the Town.

Repair stucco on  
Community Center

**This motion was CARRIED: AYES 5 – NAYS 0.**

Moved by Councilman Retzlaff and seconded by Councilman Doktor to authorize the request of Richard Donner, Water/Sewer Superintendent, to approve and authorize the classification movement of Tim Devantier upwards to an MEO position and Chris Harder upwards to a Water/Wastewater 2 position, as both employees have proven to Superintendent Donner that they should be moved upwards and respectively re-classified.

Devantier and  
Harder moved to  
MEO position

**This motion was CARRIED: AYES 5 - NAYS 0.**

Moved by Councilman Doucet and seconded by Councilman Doktor to schedule a Public Hearing to be held by the Town Board of the Town of Wheatfield on October 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wheatfield Community Center, 2790 Church Road, North Tonawanda, New York, 14120, to provide the general public the opportunity to comment pursuant to Cannabis Law §131, allowing cannabis retail dispensaries or onsite consumption licenses from operating within the Town of Wheatfield as outlined in the NYS Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA). Limited to reduced capacity, Covid restrictions, pre-registration is required by calling the Supervisor's Office or Town Clerk's Office.

Cannabis Public  
Hearing scheduled

**This motion was CARRIED: AYES 5 - NAYS 0.**

Moved by Councilman Helwig and seconded by Councilman Retzlaff;

BE IT RESOLVED,

Court grant

The Board of the Town of Wheatfield authorizes the Wheatfield Town Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2021-22 grant cycle up to \$30,000.00.

**This motion was CARRIED: AYES 5 - NAYS 0.**

Moved by Councilman Retzlaff and seconded by Councilman Doucet;

**WHEREAS**, due to the previous COVID pandemic, there has been some concern as to whether trick-or-treating hours should be sanctioned by the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New York has decided to let trick-or-treating occur. The Town will recommend all participants follow the State and CDC guidelines and take caution in all Halloween associated activities; and

**WHEREAS**, no one in the Town is required to participate. Residents who choose not to participate should turn off their porch light during trick-or-treat hours;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

to set Halloween 2021 trick-or-treat hours on October 31, 2021, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**This motion was CARRIED: AYES 5 - NAYS 0.**

Moved by Councilman Doucet and seconded by Councilman Doktor to authorize the Water and Sewer Department to hire Matthew Siegmann for the position of Water & Wastewater Maintenance Person at a rate of pay and terms pursuant to Job Specifications of the Water/Sewer Department's Water & Wastewater Maintenance Person and pending approval of Human Resources and a Niagara County criminal background check.

Hire Matthew Siegmann  
Water/Sewer

**This motion was CARRIED: AYES 5 - NAYS 0.**

Moved by Councilman Doucet and seconded by Councilman Doktor to update the St. Johnsburg Fire Co. roster as follows: ADD: Dan Ball Firefighter and Levi Siegmann Jr. Firefighter.

**This motion was CARRIED: AYES 5 - NAYS 0.**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Legislator David Godfrey provided an update on County ambulance service, solar farm and solar issues, broadband, Homeland Security and First Responders

October 4, 2021

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Resident Mark Kessler has concerns about the renewable energy/NYSERDA program; would like to be involved with any meeting or committee

Town Clerk reminded residents auto pay option is now available to pay water bills as well as paperless billing

Moved by Supervisor MacSwan and seconded by Councilman Helwig to adjourn at 8:05 pm.  
**This motion was CARRIED: AYES 5 – NAYS 0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Kathleen Harrington-McDonell  
Town Clerk**