



Town of Tusten Town Board Meeting

Recessed Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2023
1:00 PM

Venue: Tusten Town Hall, 210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, New York
Zoom ID #890 1678 4280

Present Supervisor Bernard Johnson
Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger
Councilman Greg Triggs
Councilman Kevin McDonough

Absent Councilman Bruce Gettel

Others Present Crystal Weston, Town Clerk; Leigh Delaney, 3rd Deputy
Town Clerk

1 **OPENING ITEMS**

- 1.1 Call Recessed Meeting to Order**
Supervisor Johnson called the recess meeting to order at 1:00pm

2 **BUSINESS**

2.1 Honey Bee Festival 2023

RESOLUTION # 96-2023

HONEY BEE FESTIVAL

On the motion of the Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger, seconded by Councilman Kevin McDonough, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilman Bruce Gettel)

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approved closure of Main Street for the Honey Bee Festival to be held on Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 11:00am until 5:00pm with the understanding they will secure & provide insurance, contact the ambulance, and state police as well as provide porta potties.

2.2 Little Lake Erie Culvert Project

RESOLUTION # 97-2023

LITTLE LAKE ERIE CULVERT PROJECT APPROVAL OF BUDGET INCREASE

On the motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilman Bruce Gettel)

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the agreement for the Narrowsburg over Little Lake Erie Outlet Supplemental Construction Administration and Observation Services 2 Consultant Agreement in an amount not to exceed \$131,716.79.

2.3 Park Project

RESOLUTION # 97-2023

LITTLE LAKE ERIE CULVERT PROJECT APPROVAL OF BUDGET INCREASE

On the motion of Supervisor Bernard Johnson, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger, the following resolution was,

ADOPTED 4 AYES 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT (Councilman Bruce Gettel)

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby classify the Park Project is a Type II action and not subject to SEQRA, pursuant to Title six of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations, Section 6.17.5 c9

as it is a construction or expansion of a primary or accessory central structure or facility involving less than 4000 square feet of gross area and not involving a change of zoning or a use variance and consistent with local and use controls, but not a radio communication or microwave transmission facility.

Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger: “as a recap. The pavilion is being constructed as part of a grant and has been discussed for seven months. And the grant is from Sullivan 180, and it's a municipal partnership grant to build a pavilion and a mound, a playground lounge at the park. We had a present that we presented, remember board? We presented it in August, just before August 8th, I guess it was. And there was quite a bit of objection from the public. So, we honored those objections and listened and very nicely Jill Fuchter, a member of our community, facilitated a meeting that included well, the committee met first, the committee met the very next day, and the committee said, look, we have to do something. The people are complaining. Let's see what we can do. So, we decided then to have a meeting in which Jill said that she would facilitate. At that meeting, we wanted to represent to all interest groups that use the park. So, we had seniors represented. We had residents who represented residents of the park represented. We had use for youth commission represented, and we had people that lived outside the class of seniors first. So, we had those four groups and Jill walked us through a very nice project and has written a report which I guess will be online at some point in the minutes from this meeting”

- Updated architectural drawing of the pavilion with the dimensions of 24X30 were shared and discussed by the board
- It was noted that the new dimensions would accommodate 6 picnic tables and allow movement between tables and ADA compliant
- Discussed placement of the pavilion on the field and shared a map with pavilion placement highlighted
- Discussed that the area is designated a flood plain and would impact the design of a bathroom, bathrooms are required to remain in compliance with building code
- Concern regarding completing the project with in the timeframe specified in Sullivan 180 Grant

Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger read a statement:

“I would like to make a statement. And I even put it in writing to the town board members dated August 23rd, 2023. I, like you, have read the petitions and the comments from the public with regards to the upgrades to the town park specifically the pavilion. There is a request for a pause. Absolutely not. This board is not obligated to make up for the lack of attention to the proceedings. The Pavilion has been spoken of in the grants report, which is found online for over seven months. It said there's no hints, no hidden anything. The wording was always Sullivan 180 municipal partnership grant for pavilion for the multigenerational park on the flats from February. I have a right here. Right. Let me just say adequate time has been given to comment because the signers of the petition failed to pay attention. That should not equate as a lack of this board's transparency, which I think we have been accused of. I received an email address to only me that asks that deals behind closed doors need to become transparent. I have no idea what kind of deal can be made, and I'm personally insulted by this statement. The board is transparent. It is the public that is behind the closed doors, not the board. The public needs to open their doors, get out and come and listen to their elected officials. I am shocked at the selfish attitude the flats community has expressed. Support has been there in most cases before. Most of those residents have lived there. What do they think the park is for? Why they purchased property in a community that has a park? Maintenance was mentioned and maintenance many negative comments revolve around maintenance and yes, that's an issue we as a board need to make sure this is addressed. A paid individual with responsibility for park and garden maintenance must be hired. The comments that are oppose this expense make no sense. You can have it both ways. How many residents realize how spoiled they've

been for over 20 years? Volunteers from the Narrowsburg Beautification Group. Again, these volunteers are no cost to taxpayers. The Narrowsburg Beautification Group came to the town several years ago and said they no longer have volunteers to maintain the Veterans Park. Should the town ignore this park and let it become an overgrown mess? Or is it this board's responsibility to have it maintained. What's the difference between paying someone to shovel snow around our municipal properties and maintaining them in the winter and pay someone to maintain our municipal public spaces in warmer weather? It's all maintenance of public spaces. Are those objecting to the expense willing to step up for this job as members of the Beautification Group have done for years? The notion that our youth should go elsewhere that came up too. Fort Delaware was a suggestion owned by Sullivan County is another reflection of a selfish attitude as expressed by the mail ins we have received. Are we as a town not responsible for our youth? A bathroom and serving area, a.k.a. kitchen maybe an overambitious plan at this time, but not to be able to provide a shady place for parents to watch their children lacks a boards basic consideration to our youth and parents alike. I could go on, but at this time I urge this board to go forward with the pavilion and the playground mound as protested today, which includes the voice of those residents that attended the meeting facilitated by Jill earlier this month. So, I am Jane Luchsinger, Deputy Supervisor So that's my comment to the board. I think we should go forward. "

3 PUBLIC COMMENT

Eugene [00:45:50] I just wanted to thank you for the last meeting. It was very constructive and really appreciate the effort. And I thought what you presented today was a very good compromise. I really had hoped that we could move forward with that. At the last meeting Mr. Johnson, you said that the town did not necessarily have to follow the planning and zoning that's in place because it's a municipality. Could we not possibly use that to get around the bathrooms that we don't have to follow planning and zoning?

Supervisor Johnson [00:46:26] No, it only applies to planning and zoning. It doesn't apply to the building. It does not. I wish we could because that would be I would I would do it in an instant.

Eugene [00:46:37] And then I would say, you know, the bathrooms then become an issue for me. After that point. Thank you.

Supervisor Johnson [00:46:45] Thank you. Good thinking. I didn't think of that. Thank you. All right.

Steve [00:46:54] The revised plan and have nothing against it.

Supervisor Johnson [00:46:57] Please step up.

Steve [00:46:59] I like the revised plan. I have nothing against it. I'm just a little disappointed that we can't come up with all of these great minds here as a different way to go about it where the bathrooms wouldn't be required.

Supervisor Johnson [00:47:12] I think that's all, building code that can direct.

Steve [00:47:15] Can't you can't rephrase it as something else.

Supervisor Johnson [00:47:17] It's an Assembly.

Steve [00:47:23] Call it something else. And that wouldn't require a bathroom.

Supervisor Johnson [00:47:26] A Baseball observation area

Steve [00:47:26] Absolutely. You know where everything I mean. It is beautiful and the bathrooms are a big obstacle to the thing.

Supervisor Johnson [00:47:36] And I thought we were going to be able to get away with just porta potties put in. You know, we need porta potties down there anyway.

Steve [00:47:45] So I so what is the actual technicality as to why it requires the bathroom?

Supervisor Johnson [00:47:49] Because it is a building for the purpose of assembly and the building code, as Jim has learned, there's a bathroom required.

Steve [00:47:59] So what makes it an assembly. Because, you have the picnic table there?

Supervisor Johnson [00:48:03] Because it's. Yes,

Steve [00:48:05] What if the picnic tables weren't there.

Supervisor Johnson [00:48:07] I could ask them that. I don't I don't know about that. I don't have that.

Steve [00:48:11] That's what I'm thinking. I mean, maybe there is something you just ordered a structure where they don't have the picnic tables and they don't need the bathrooms. I think the picnic tables is what's making the bathrooms. What? I think this is cute. You know it's a big compromised from what was there before.

Supervisor Johnson [00:48:28] Yeah, they did a good job.

Steve [00:48:29] That's all I wanted to say.

Supervisor Johnson [00:48:29] Thank you Steve.

Supervisor Johnson [00:48:30] And worth mentioning that Steve owns the properties that borders the park.

Citizen I [00:48:35] Yes, yes. Or whatever it was, it was made smaller. Yeah.

Supervisor Johnson [00:48:40] No, any, any the way it was described to me is any assembly, any building for the purpose of assembly. Yes Star.

Star Hesse [00:48:56] First, I'd like to thank the board for changing its direction from just We just need a smaller building to actually considering what the residents have been saying about the government itself or any building that goes down in the flats and basically would considerably change what these people have gone into that area for. It's like saying you're going to put a Dollar General in the middle of the flats and it's just not something that would be conducive to the ambiance that they've come to want and expect. I. I think that that's the main thing that I want to say about this, that it seemed for a long time that the board was not listening to people. And instead of saying, well, we're going to discuss the question of whether or not we have a pavilion. It was only, well, no, no, we're going to have that pavilion, it just won't listen to what you wanted to do and tweak it here and there. That's not being selfish Jane, that's being something that you're trying to preserve a way of life that you come to expect. And I don't think anybody should be called selfish for that. I object to the placement of a pavilion of any size located in a residential community known as the Narrowsburg Flats, especially as the residents of that community have made it clear that this would severely disrupt and adversely affect the quality of life and destroy the environment in which they have chosen to make their homes. As representatives of the residents of Tusten and the Town of Narrowsburg. The Town Council were elected to represent and ensure that the will of the majority of the people of your constituents is your first priority in governing actions that you take. At the August eighth town meeting, a large part of the residents in attendance made it quite clear that they did not want a pavilion or any other kind of disruptive construction that would interfere with their way of life and the town's way of life. We all use the Park. So, it's uncertain if there's an environmental impact study that would be necessary. Ben didn't seem to think that there was, but.

Supervisor Johnson [00:51:35] No town council said that it was not required that.

Star Hesse [00:51:39] Someone, someone decided.

Supervisor Johnson [00:51:42] An attorney, a municipal attorney, not someone

Star Hesse [00:51:45] Fine. Well, also, what about the existing zoning rules and regulations that might have some say on whether or not this building can be used in the way that they proposed, you proposed? Equally unclear is under what authorizations the town board went ahead to impose and implement this construction without clear approval of the project by town and its residents until and unless all the above objections have been presented and approved by town residents. I don't think any further action should be taken on building a pavilion or anything else in town. I'd also like to just add and make a point of what Greg said about the \$20,000 grant and how this was a lot of money, which it is, and it could probably help reduce your taxes or whatever. I just want to ask. \$20,000 to build towards a pavilion or any building. What about the impact of the money that once you got this thing started and you still have no idea of even a ballpark figure of how much you were intending to put into this, how much is that going to impact people's taxes and what they have to pay? And the last thing is I already mentioned it, but I'll say it again. I really don't think it's helpful to hurl accusations at people I don't like that you Gregg or Jane received these. Things that made it seem like this was some sort of nefarious plot on your part or the board's part. But it's also unfair to hurl invectives at people, that they're selfish because they don't want something rammed down their throat because somebody got a \$20,000 grant and (Confusion as several people speak at once).

Michael Farrell [00:54:05] Hello, sports fan. I will um. Kevin was actually spot-on when he made the most important point here where a town of 1500 residents, not all of them full time. And our expectations really should be grounded in what is the reality of how many people are actually here. As we've seen today, if we go forward with this project or any of these other projects, they ultimately just become a money suck. They are money pits, as we saw today, just with the bathroom aspect coming up and all of the other considerations. Now we're talking about hiring somebody to get it to a Parks and Recreation department. We're moving down a road which is only going to push the tax rates higher and higher. Frankly, you got a bargain. I got to tell you, in terms of what you pay that's real bargain. So, again, know grand illusions lead to grand delusions. And I think we have to be realistic. The second issue here, we've talked about maintenance, garbage, all the other things that will have to be done. The biggest issue which has not been addressed here is what happens after hours when you create an openair haven for the drug dealers on the other end of nefarious characters of the night. We don't have a police force. We don't have a way to monitor it. (Several voices) now, please don't pretend that that's not going to feed the drug central. And as always, I thank you for your time.

Citizen II [00:55:46] I want to thank the board for all they do. And as someone who lives on the flats, I was the one that gathered. We have 53 signatures and it was against the original design. The big one, we thought, forget all the same training and most of us would be okay with some kind of pavilion, gazebo, shade. It's not that we're against doing something for the park. I just want to make that clear. We don't want a bathroom. The second point I want to make is that it was brought to my attention that that park has been there for 50 years. So, people that have moved to the area, that was never a park. I mean, it was what it was. So, someone who said Dollar General is like, wow. And now we're kind of wanting to put a Dollar General down there and everybody say, well, you shouldn't have bought property there. If there was going to be. A Dollar General, well, people didn't know. Okay, So and so at the other point I just want to say is that, (take a breath). So, we're setting a precedent. And each board member should ask, if you live down there, would you want this in your backyard? It's okay to call us selfish, that we're protesting, that we're upset. Okay, But it's not in your backyard. Thank you.

Supervisor Johnson [00:57:04] Can I respond to that?

Supervisor Johnson [00:57:06] No

Supervisor Johnson [00:57:08] Yes. Cass

Cass Collins [00:57:13] I realize I'm taking a chance in losing some votes and some really.

[00:57:20] You ... Here. I don't. Think.

Cass Collins [00:57:21] I don't know. But it is in my backyard. Probably closer than it is to Patty's, but it doesn't. I'm not going to parse that. I want a pavilion. I want a shade structure in the park. I want to be able to go there with my granddaughter and enjoy as she gets on her feet and starts running around. You know, I have a house and most of us have houses. And you could think of our

houses as money pits because we keep putting money into them and we keep improving our homes and our properties to make them more livable and more comfortable. I we put a lot of money into our home here in Narrowsburg and continue to have to keep up with it. You know, as we get older and older and more people, we still have to do it. Somebody has to do it. I think that that's a function of government to keep up with the property and keep up with. I'm thrilled with the changes. A lot of the changes that have gone on in Narrowsburg since we bought our home in 1999, it's a much more vibrant community and I don't see this pavilion as drawing people from outside. I've been looking around all the different communities lately with an eye towards this Callicoon and has one of their hardly suburban. I went to the Canal Park Festival in Hawley. They have a beautiful pavilion. I took pictures of it. It's gorgeous. I mean, it's way beyond anything we're talking about of as far as I know, from talking to the people there, they don't have a big drug dealing problem. Okay, I see. I think we're worrying about the traffic and I agree. Airbnbs are a much bigger draw for traffic than people who are going to use a relatively small pavilion that just gives them some shade while they watch the kids flats. So thank you for all of you for what you're doing is so hard, hard, job and I think. Unintelligible....

Supervisor Johnson [00:59:59] More from the floor before I go to the Zoom. Yes, sir.

Citizen III [01:00:01] I want to say thank you to Jane you've done a lot of work on it. I know how disappointed you are, but I also know how much work has been in this town over the years. So sorry to hear the disappointment in your voice. I'm also sorry to say that I signed a petition that was based on a design for, I love this thing. And so, it comes to mind for me is that I'm sorry about the bathrooms to but everybody needs shade. I understand. I used to bring them out of that park. We had to leave in 5 minutes in July. So, everybody loves shade. But nobody likes shade. So, I'm not throwing any shade.

Supervisor Johnson [01:00:38] I think it's.

Supervisor Johnson [01:00:40] Best word play of the meeting.

Citizen IV [01:00:42] To have. And I, thanks everybody else for, you know, speaking your mind and for everybody that did not catastrophize things. But I don't think that parents do it. Thank you.

Citizen V [01:01:03] Thank you for your work. I know it's been a very large waste and there's many, many issues that you've had to address. First, I feel personally and as a member of the flats, insulted by being called selfish. I have given a lot of time and energy to the town and I really think that's horrible to say. Also, we need shade. Yes, it's. I saw thought the 20 feet by, whatever it was. Now it's going to be 30 feet. We can't do anything about the bathrooms. But the flats got together, made a neighborhood watch maybe four or five years ago because of drug activity in the park. There were syringes, etc., also at the very end. I think bathrooms are going to be a haven for drug dealing and use. But again, apparently, we're that's going to be shut down our throats depending on the size of the pavilion and not by you guys. By law that we have agreed to. This project, however, has is based on a survey from the year 2016. There are so many more new residents of the flats who did not have an opportunity to take that survey. And although we have owned property down there since 1996, we were not yet receiving mail up here in 2016. I really think after seven years a new survey is incumbent upon the board to provide. Let me see. And I really don't think people from Beaver Brook are going to come to come to the park. Yes, I don't believe that. I think those with youth will that maybe young children. But I don't. I just don't see that happening. And so that's all. Thank you.

Citizen VI [01:03:18] I have to say that I am for the pavilion. I like the idea of the bathrooms. I don't live on the flats. I own property on the flats. I live out near Beaverbrook. My kids have used this park. It is a park. It's been a park. It's always been a park. There used to be two little league teams that use this field. Unfortunately, that hasn't been used. But I think once we got rid of the garden now if we have a pavilion, a place for shade, that there will hopefully be enough children to use this park again as a little league field. There was no issue with parking when we used to go to the games. I use the flats all the time for walking. I like the idea of the bathrooms. If you have put yourself as someone with children, you will go down to the park with two little kids. You can't drag chairs and the kids. How are you going to go back to the car and get your chairs while the kids are running around? It's just not feasible. Put yourself as a mother or father with a couple of little kids and how they are going to be able to get the shade if there's a bathroom

there. How do you use a bathroom? Me walking on the flat sometimes on my door that I knock on to use their bathroom. It would be great to have the bathroom at night. Yes. You'll have to lock the bathroom. I understand everyone's concern, but this is something for all of the residents. I understand that the flats feel that they will be affected the most. I don't think your traffic is going to be a problem. This is for all the residents of the town of Tusten and beyond. Beech Lake also shows those people that my grandchildren live in beach like they commonly use on challenge challenges. I pay taxes just like they do, so they shouldn't be allowed to come and play baseball on the field and I didn't say that it is just we're not building for that sort of thing. so, I do, like I said, like this whole idea and like what Ben was saying before to use Fort Delaware. if your kids are playing on the flats, you're not going to go to a pavilion at the Fort. It just makes a lot of sense to have this and hopefully we can compromise and come through with a plan that will be satisfactory to all the residents.

Supervisor Johnson [01:05:59] More comment from the floor? Yes

Citizen V [01:06:05] Just real quick, I want to take you back to what Steven was saying earlier. The municipal lawyer, the municipal attorney that you had addressed before mentioned earlier about the variance. And he advised that you don't have to SEQRA, for SEQRA. Okay. How about that same municipal attorney? I don't know if we retain him or he's just going to use it. So, there's a way. Because attorneys do this, they crack the code on how this will not be a structure for assembly. They know how to do it. That needs to be brought up. How do we get around this? This is not the being considered and an assembly. Do we move benches? Do we make the six inches high and we plant a tree here? How do they do that? There's. There's a way. And they'll be able to say that so that this doesn't have to include a bathroom. We can go with the extra porta potty and it'll be a done deal. Then there's a way to do that. And the lawyers know how. They know how to. They know how to figure it out within the law and they know how. And there's a way so that can be addressed. I have one other point, and I'm going to leave it alone because I think it's been beaten to death. Thank you.

Supervisor Johnson [01:07:31] Yes.

citizen VI [01:07:31] I just have a question going forward, since it seems there's going to be more discussion. Is there any way that the public will be informed? I understand we have to be better at what's on the page for the town. But is there any way that we will be informed of when those meetings are and hopefully open to the public?

Supervisor Johnson [01:07:54] All of our meetings are open to the public. They're all. On the calendar.

Supervisor Johnson [01:07:58] On the calendar. And every first Tuesday we have a work session that's not on Zoom. It's a work session that we have that's open to the public. So, they'll get information. They can they will get canceled more than a board meeting and our board meetings on the second Tuesday.

CitizenVII [01:08:13] Yes, I know. I know when the big board meetings are. And my last point is, in terms of traffic, I do think it's something to take in consideration being days or whatever, because since the since the pizza place the Launderette. Thank you. Is open. There's really only one lane of traffic coming back and forth and I living on the flats among that road a lot and it's it can be an issue. I mean people are parked along the side of the road all the time, so increase it for something else. I think the traffic should be taken into consideration and maybe you need a new survey. Thank you.

Supervisor Johnson [01:08:52] Others form the floor

Eugene [01:09:02] I would just like to share. If you don't live on the flats, you might not be aware of this, but over the years there has been a degradation in the quality of life. And what I mean by that is Mr. Johnson rightly mentions a very big increase in Airbnbs. So often. At times there are parties, there are fireworks and all sorts of times that we didn't experience before. So, we have this going on. We also have the unregulated and without proper exhaust, four wheelers riding along the railroad tracks. And this happens quite often. We have that same situation on the Cortese Road in Pennsylvania, which you wouldn't think would It would be much of an influence but in fact, with the river and those vehicles also not having proper exhaust, you have that going on. And then you also have the campgrounds at the end of Delaware Drive where people just up and leave fires there on more than two occasions I have gone down there to put out fires. And then we've got a very odd thing that goes on. My cameras pick it up, starting anywhere

from 530 in the morning till. 1:00 at night is just cars that just drive around. They're not from here. They're not visiting anybody. They just they just ambling. So, one accepts all these things. You know, places change, these things creep in. and I think. That that goes to some of the fear of the initial proposal of this big structure that, you know, that might be seen as the, you know, needle that breaks the camel's back. And I think. not having that perspective in the flats that, you know, you don't live there, you say, well, why are these. People all riled up? It's just, you know, a couple of events. The cars would be in and out. But, you know, you don't realize these other impacts that have crept in over the years. And it's a reality. And, you know, I don't think the board can do anything about any of those issues, you know, because we don't have the constabulary that can take care of the four wheelers. And we're certainly not going to regulate the four wheelers in Pennsylvania. But it's just a creep. And I thought it would be worth it to mention, because you might not have that perspective, you'd say all these old people where they only worried about just a few cars. But it's the whole picture that has changed over the years. Thank you, here

Supervisor Johnson [01:11:48] Anybody on Zoom.

Town Clerk Crystal Weston [01:11:49] I have a few, I have Peter DeAngeles

Peter DeAngelis [01:11:54] Yeah. Hi. Peter DeAngelis from County Route 25. We are not residents of the flat, but it was brought up at the meeting that there was a petition and from what I understand, over 100 signatures were signed on that petition. The people in the flats claim to the claim that they are the majority, you not the majority, you are the minority. We are the majority. We have over 100 signatures from parents and grandparents and we demand that this be built. You live near town property. You knew it was town property where you purchased your property and anything could be developed on that. So that's all I want to say. The parents of Tusten. Who want this demand it be built. Thank you.

[01:12:42] Unintelligible

Citizen VIII [01:12:46] All right. So, I agree with everything that Peter said. The fact of the matter is that there's been a lot of discussion of people down in the flats or residents saying, I don't want this in my backyard. Well, I didn't want a solar farm in my backyard, but I got it. But you purchased a property by a park that is a town park, like somebody said. It's always been a town park. It is a town park. We should make it more enjoyable for the entire town. Just because you live next to it does not mean it is your backyard. It is the town's park. There's also talk about, you know, traffic and it's going to increase traffic. Well, again, to echo or to play off of what Ben said with respect to the Airbnbs, there's an Airbnb down the road from me and there's a minimum 5 to 10 cars at any given day coming up and down the road when before I would only see maybe one per day. There's another Airbnb down on 97 that has 15, 20 to 30 cars at any given time there. So, you know, I don't think that there's going to be that much of an increased traffic. Again, you purchased a property across the street from a public park. That's like telling somebody in Manhattan, well, you know what? You shouldn't have purchased the property across the street. You know, they live across the street from Central Park and they're complaining that there is traffic. You purchased it across the street from Central Park. You purchased the property where you purchased it, the whole town. The parents in the community want this for the children. They want it for the elderly also, who can enjoy this park? I have been down there with my kids and had to leave after 5, 10 minutes. It gets too hot. And with respect to the bathrooms, of course, nobody down in the flats wants the bathrooms because they go into their home to go to the bathroom. What you want, resident You want visitors down on Main Street. You want people to come and patronize the businesses on Main Street. Well, guess what? If you had a bathroom down in the flats, which I've heard multiple times, brought up at multiple different meetings, that there is no bathroom, there is no public facility. If you had one there, perhaps you would have more visitors, more families coming to the neighborhood. Perhaps you would have more people spending money on Main Street and make it more of a community for everybody. And if there's an issue with law enforcement, the sheriffs do. There's the sheriff's department and there's the state police. The town can reach out to them. With respect to traffic, I don't know that Bethel Woods has had State Police over there when there's concerts. Perhaps we can arrange something similar down if there's a function or something going on down by the flats when the pavilion is built. That's all that I have to say as far as a parent. As a as far as I go, as a parent, I want this built. And, you know, the residents of the flats need to remember this is not a gated community where they live. It is a town park if they want a gated community. There are plenty of them over on the Pennsylvania side. Go there.

Town Clerk Crystal Weston [01:16:15] Carol?

Carol [01:16:21] Hi, Carol. I have lived in Beaver Brook my entire life. A lot of people probably don't realize that. Gosh, almost 25. More than 25 years ago, I started the Tusten Playground Committee and I asked parents to join me in raising funds for a big toys structure to put on the park grounds and to remove the dangerous equipment that had been there. I met with a lot of resistance from the board at that time. Thank God for Carl Goldstein then that he can talk some sense into them, citing that there was no liability more, that they had more liability with their current situation. We raised a handful of us, Dawn Curreri in the audience there. She was one of the big supporters of that and gave a lot of help, as did her husband, Joe. There was like literally a handful of us. It took us about four years. We raised \$25,000 to put that structure, and eventually it was washed away by one of our floods in recent years and we rebuilt with insurance funds. The point I'm making is that we as parents raised \$25,000 for the structure. That was for the kids, that was for the community. I live in Beaverbrook. I wouldn't have done that. I want to put in four years' worth of work. Had. I not wanted to use the playground. My kids grew up using that playground. We used to drive to Beach Lake to meet with other parents so that they could play at a safe playground until we built ours. The town has not. The township itself has not put a dime of equipment into the park. As far as for the children and as a community overall, I know we have some of the multi-generational stuff for the older people and whatnot. Yes. But as far as the kids go, we haven't put a dime into that. There's been not one piece of equipment added on. The. We need this. We need a bathroom. A if you put in Porter Johns there for one people, one person, a parent goes to the bathroom. It's okay. If the kid goes, then they can have the parent standing at the door. But as a parent goes, hen what do you do with your little ones? Leave them out for somebody to grab. And that's not an unrealistic statement in Roseburg. I know everybody thinks it's safe. We have had instances where children have almost been grabbed here. So, we. We need this. It is not. It is a public space. It's always been a public space. We've had we used to have a youth center down the tap at that location when I was growing up. My siblings took. They used it. I didn't really get to use it much as I wasn't old enough by the time, they took it down. It was just getting decrepit and whatnot and that's why it was removed. But I agree with the sentiments that. People are saying that the. If you don't want to park and you don't want people to come to the park. Then you shouldn't have bought your house next to a public park. And I don't say that to be mean, but you. That's a fact. Like the last lady just stated, if you if you bought a place across from Central Park, this is the same thing on a smaller scale. On a much smaller scale. And I have been to my husband and I frequent parks throughout the nation and Canada. And I'm talking we go to parks on Lake Ontario. The city is the portrait. It's over 10,000 people. The city of Mississauga is 700,000 people. The park was literally across the street from his apartment. We went there every day for years. There's. There's no crime. Either lock the bathrooms or put lights up. There's far more drug dealing at the end of Delaware Drive, and I know that personally. I've gone down there and picked up hypodermic needles. On several occasions. If it's dark, if it's not time that, yeah, things might happen, but the rest of us pay taxes. And I resent the fact that. People don't want to put money into our youth. They don't want to put money into us as a community. People miss the old days of, hey, you know, gosh, now, remember when everybody didn't have cell phones and all that? People used to get together and talk and have fun. This can help facilitate that. And Sullivan County being one of the unhealthiest counties in the state. I think this is a wonderful service to give to the community at large, and I have a lot more to say, but thank you. Please support the park.

Town Clerk Crystal Weston [01:21:43] The only other comment is regarding the comments being made by implication mentioned for Delaware as a viable option for the Pavilion party was specifically related to impressively specific ask for and support for formal scheduled programing. It was not intended to share their desire to provide shade for informal socializing and. But I don't see any other hands raised. And so, you do have to say something.

4 CLOSING ITEMS

Board Comment

Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger [01:22:20] Yeah. Okay. And so I was pretty angry and mad. I was pretty angry. And then wrote this when I was angry. And after listening to how the residents of the flats, some of the very outspoken ones, have changed their minds. I owe you an apology for calling you selfish, and I hope you'll accept that apology. I think it was I was reacting to that. I hope this can be corrected, that you have more faith in this work and that we are transparent and that we don't try to hide anything. And hopefully you will. You don't have to come to the meeting. You can check online and see what happens because the multigenerational park for this was mentioned for so many months already. But I think I'm apologizing publicly, and I'm sorry that so many of the others are not here, but hopefully you'll pass my apology on.

Councilman Triggs [01:23:26] So they'll read it in the notes.

Councilman Triggs [01:23:30] May I say a couple.

Supervisor Johnson [01:23:30] Her tooth is feeling better

Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger [01:23:35] I'm not finished. But I don't know how we're going to go forward. Go ahead

Councilman Triggs [01:23:40] Star just to address something you said in my comments about the money and the formula I used was just to give a ratio or an understanding of the impact it was. It was not. It was not in the taken as far as it may have been heard. I also, two things. This is town land and this is a town park, but it's a residential park. And I think that is an important distinction when you're going for comparisons. Obviously, the woman who compared it to Central Park gave context to that. But sometimes when we look at what other communities are doing for a park, I think we need to compare residential park to residential park, business district, park to a business district park. It gives context that I think is important when forming your arguments. And then the last thing I just wanted to say, and it kind of goes a little bit to what you were saying, Jane, in your letter is. Yes, but actually, the to the report, there have been charges that I am probably hearing harder than they were made. About what we as a community are willing to do for our youth. And I just want to point out that we have significantly increased our budget for youth programming in the two years that I've been on the board and recently, as of this fiscal year, also got a storage container for the supplies related to the excellent youth programming that Tusten Youth is doing. So I feel that some of as those some of these arguments are being made in a vacuum without context. So I just wanted to make sure that people here, I don't think we have been stingy towards the budgets that involve you and that impact the budget.

Councilman McDonough [01:25:41] I just want to do. Something that you that you hear over and over again. And it's somewhat pursuant to what Carol was saying. If this exact project emerged after a residential after a group raised the money for it and did it from the ground up, it would have a whole different perspective from the way I hear the word this is being imposed on us. This is being shoved down our throats, all of those things. If the exact same project came about the way Carol came about with her playgrounds, then it's just a different perspective. I just think sometimes, you know, we got to do this to get the grant we got. Sometimes people resent that sort of a top-down approach as opposed to a bottom-up approach. And I think if more people had sort of skin in the game with this, it would be more positive. There's no further.

Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger [01:26:46] Comment. So, I really don't know what we're supposed to do with this.

Supervisor Johnson [01:26:49] Well, I think Anthony and Steve gave a good suggestion. I mean, let me talk to Ken. Maybe there is a way. I'm... What I'm hearing is. We've got. We've got agreement. The disagreement is about, you know, if our attorney can say you can do it this way, then that's a start. He didn't say that when I talked to him, But I. What does it hurt to ask? We've got stuff that we need to discuss by the next meeting.

Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger [01:27:23] Well, what are we doing about the bid process?

Supervisor Johnson [01:27:26] The bid process. We can't do anything until we have a full board to take away. And that's I mean, we just that's something that we couldn't get around.

Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger [01:27:38] Omm. We don't have a full board, but it. Doesn't sound ...

Supervisor Johnson [01:27:40] Well if we voted right now it would be two, two, so that we wouldn't be we would have to vote without the bid.

Town Clerk Crystal Weston [01:27:48] Can I ask a question just to help Jane. Just because I like how you're able sometimes to moving things forward and not forward can the board make a decision, by yes or no, and say, they are willing to do they find out what Yeah, we can go without a bathroom, but we want it to put it out to bids. But because your timeline, can the board decide what we are agreement that we would do this pavilion can go out for bids for the pavilion as long as we don't have a bathroom so if day later today you find out we don't need a bathroom you could possibly have those bids received by the next meeting. Just to give you a timeline, just as a thought, as a possibility.

Town Clerk Crystal Weston [01:28:27] Now.

Supervisor Johnson [01:28:28] The problem with that is if we need a bathroom.

Town Clerk Crystal Weston [01:28:32] Then you can reject the bids, right? Yes. Or you can always say, I mean, you.

Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger [01:28:41] I actually, didn't hear one person disagree and maybe I missed it. Anyway, I'm just so fuzzy. But it sounds like it's been a complete reversal and so why do want to let that go. I think that we should try things.

Supervisor Johnson [01:29:00] I think we need to get Kevin and Greg on that page because that would be you're going to need one or both in order to put it out to bid contingent on a bathroom.

Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger [01:29:11] The contention is the bathrooms. So, what can we move, Say? If we're in agreement for a pavilion, we can start with that. And then if that's the case, as Crystal is suggesting. So, we can say that we will go to bid. And unless the attorney advises the bathroom must be... I don't know.

Town Clerk Crystal Weston [01:29:37] if we need a bathroom and we don't go to bid. But this way then we can get your bathroom and (unintelligible).

Councilman McDonough [01:29:46] I'm still a no.

Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger [01:29:49] You're absolutely no.

Councilman McDonough [01:29:50] Yeah, I am a no.

Supervisor Johnson [01:29:54] Right. No pressure. You owe me five dollars for asking you first.

Councilman Triggs [01:30:02] Yeah. Well, number one, going out to bid doesn't mean we're accepting bids.

Supervisor Johnson [01:30:07] The first thing to remember is if a bathroom is needed and we do not put a bathroom up. If we put off that, we will not get a sticker of occupancy. So, you would not want to accept a bid on something that you're not going to get a sticker of occupancy.

Deputy Supervisor Luchsinger [01:30:27] Well, let me just wait a second. The bid would have been a separate Bid no matter what. There are two separate buildings.

Supervisor Johnson [01:30:35] Right. But. If it comes back that we absolutely need a bathroom. And like Steve said, you know, you're not going to be able to get around that. And we would have rejected the bids.

Several voices [01:30:54] Yes, then it can go out to bid.

Councilman Triggs [01:30:56] I haven't had time to ponder during that discussion. I do think it's important to get Bruce here. With such a contentious situation. And I would I would rather recess get those answers. We should

Councilman Triggs [01:31:11] Recess (unintelligible)

Councilman Triggs [01:31:13] Would get those answers and move forward before our next meeting. Then vote for something that doesn't feel completely clear to me.

Councilman McDonough [01:31:25] You want to the table; the pavilion asks the chair. Laughter.

Supervisor Johnson [01:31:33] We can recess. I can find some more information and then.

Councilman Triggs [01:31:38] I'll happily meet again to discuss that. Once we get that answer, be sure you want it. Because my concerns about the bathroom are many and that there is the maintenance of it. There is the security of, there is the placement of it, and there is the budget for how much that would cost.

Meeting reminder

- Town Board Workshop is Tuesday September 5, 2023 at 6:30 PM
- Regular Town Board Meeting is Tuesday September 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Adjournment

With no further business to be had, the meeting recessed at to August 25rd 2023 at 10:00am on motion of Councilman McDonough, seconded by Councilman Triggs All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Crystal Weston, Town Clerk