

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Kirkland, held at the Town of Kirkland Municipal Building, 3699 State Route 12-B, Clinton, Oneida County, New York on May 29, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Supervisor Robert J. Meelan

Councilman Garry F. Colarusso

Councilman Richard J. Maxam

Councilwoman Melanie L. O’Neil

Absent:

Councilwoman Donna E. Yando

Supervisor Meelan called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and asked those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

RESOLUTION #42

Upon motion by Councilman Maxam, seconded by Councilwoman O’Neil, the following resolution was ADOPTED:

RESOLVED, that the Kirkland Town Board approve the minutes of May 13, 2024 as printed.

Roll Call Vote:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Supervisor Robert J. Meelan	Aye
Councilman Garry F. Colarusso	Aye
Councilwoman Donna E. Yando	Absent
Councilman Richard J. Maxam	Aye
Councilwoman Melanie L. O’Neil	Aye

RESOLUTION #43

Upon motion by Councilman Colarusso, seconded by Councilman Maxam, the following resolution was ADOPTED:

RESOLVED, that the Budget Director is hereby authorized to make the following Budget Amendment to the 2024 Budget to Purchase and Install a new Generator at the Highway Garage which also serves the Municipal Building at a maximum cost of \$50,000.

INCREASE: Account DA 5130.2 Highway Equipment \$50,000

INCREASE: Account DA 599 Appropriated Fund \$50,000

Dated: May 29, 2024

Roll Call Vote:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Supervisor Robert J. Meelan	Aye
Councilman Garry F. Colarusso	Aye
Councilwoman Donna E. Yando	Absent
Councilman Richard J. Maxam	Aye
Councilwoman Melanie L. O'Neil	Aye

RESOLUTION #44

Upon motion by Councilwoman O'Neil, seconded by Councilman Colarusso, the following resolution was ADOPTED:

RESOLVED, that the Kirkland Town Board approve the bid for a new generator at the cost of \$31,500.

Roll Call Vote:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Supervisor Robert J. Meelan	Aye
Councilman Garry F. Colarusso	Aye
Councilwoman Donna E. Yando	Absent
Councilman Richard J. Maxam	Aye
Councilwoman Melanie L. O'Neil	Aye

AUDIT BILLS

RESOLUTION #45

Upon motion by Councilman Maxam, seconded by Councilwoman O'Neil, the following resolution was ADOPTED:

RESOLVED, that the Kirkland Town Board review and approve the bills as audited: The totals were:

A -	41,815.73
B -	6,262.51
DA -	4,998.08
DB -	40,376.92
SS1 -	12,613.98
SS4 -	28.32
SL1-	626.98
SL2-	216.08
SL3-	119.89
SL4-	645.72

Roll Call Vote:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Supervisor Robert J. Meelan	Aye
Councilman Garry F. Colarusso	Aye
Councilwoman Donna E. Yando	Absent
Councilman Richard J. Maxam	Aye
Councilwoman Melanie L. O’Neil	Aye

Supervisor Meelan stated that a letter had been sent to the residents in the proposed sidewalk district areas and that the Town has always done projects by creating special use districts. The Supervisor then gave the floor to Chip Bassett.

Chip Bassett, President of Kirkland Trails, said the Town has always been very supportive, but the Trails Board is concerned about how the Town is handling the DRI Sidewalk proposed sidewalk project. Mr. Bassett sees 3 areas of sidewalks:

1. Elm St. - going from the Cider Mill to Norton Ave. (his priority)
2. Franklin Ave. – going from Prospect St. to Rt. 12B
3. Kirkland Ave. to McBride to join existing sidewalk on Taylor

Mr. Bassett stated the Town has introduced sidewalk districts and that 80% of the residents would have to approve the district and that any cost above the DRI would be apportioned to the residents. He stated that the sidewalk is not on the residents’ property, it is on the right of way and the Town has no reason to get approval from the residents. The sidewalks were the 2nd most popular DRI project. He feels that Elm St. borders the school and the students should have a safe route to school and that sidewalks are not just for the residents they are for the community, Elm St. is a popular place for people to walk and run.

Councilman Colarusso stated that what Mr. Bassett said bears a lot of truth, that when River Street Planning & Development came through and itemized the requests, sidewalks were a top project. All projects were peoples opinions as to what they want. It is NYS that controls the purse strings. All the other projects received the amounts they had asked for, of the 11 chosen, the sidewalk project was the only one that the

amount was cut in half. Councilman Colarusso also spoke with Officer in Charge Occhipinti and prior Chief Dan English about accidents in the Elm/Norton area, Chief English told him that in all his time there was only 1 accident, involving property damage and that was DWI related. Councilman Colarusso said it seems that this is fixing a problem that doesn't exist.

It was also brought up that Clark Mills would like sidewalks, people want to get to the Post Office.

Supervisor Meelan said that you cannot put sidewalks over gas lines and/or water lines.

Chad Davis said that the Town does benefit if housing values go up and that sidewalks are an additional benefit. People are looking for flat spots to walk especially those with health concerns, sidewalks are flat and easier to walk on.

Jim Bramley spoke and said he backs all that Mr. Bassett said, sidewalks are not for the benefit of the homeowner but for the public. He spoke about the people from Clinton Manor who need a safe place to travel in their wheelchairs.

Sandy Scofield lived on Williams St. and saw the benefits of sidewalks; socializing, walking, dog walking and also for people with walkers and wheelchairs, she now lives in Pheasant Run and she states she cannot walk anywhere, she always has to drive.

Councilman Maxam stated that he often walks or runs "the loop" on Elm, he said that Norton in the winter is bad and you have to hop into people's yards so as not to get hit. He doesn't know all the financial end of this. He does understand that it will affect those with smaller yards and the effect it will have on parking in their driveways.

Councilwoman O'Neil said that she is not against sidewalks and walks all the time.

Supervisor Meelan stated that Franklin Ave. has been widened for wheelchairs.

Dr. Kevin Mathews, a primary care physician, stated the CDC has basic activity guidelines, says should be getting 30 minutes of moderate activity 5 days a week, only 5% of people do this, with sidewalks maybe more people would walk.

Councilwoman O'Neil thanked everyone for coming and expressing their opinions, she had to leave at 6pm for a prior engagement.

Chip Bassett addressed the proposed district residents, he told them the sidewalk is not on your property, it is on the Town right of way, it is 25 ft. from the center of the road, he sees Elm St. as a priority because of the school and trying to provide a safe route, he feels it is a benefit to the entire community and you have to think about what is best for the community.

An Elm St. resident asked which side of Elm St. the sidewalk will be on, Mr. Bassett said he didn't know, the engineering must be done.

Another resident said it is a right of way, not Town owned. He doesn't want to shovel and if he had wanted a house with a sidewalk he would have bought a house with a sidewalk 40 years ago.

The Village of Clinton Mayor said that yes, the consultants did walk the properties.

Laura Lomanto Bailey asked about the Hale buses and the 50 ton wreckers that Clinton Collision will be driving over the sidewalks.

An Elm St. resident said that she will not let her daughter ride her bike to the Rise Performing Arts.

Another Elm St. resident is in favor however she said her husband has reservations as to how close to their home the sidewalk would be.

Supervisor Meelan said that he is advocating for the taxpayers and is not going to take someones property away. The project has not even been engineered yet.

The Mayor said that the DRI funds will be used for the engineering and the survey. Landscaping will be part of the proposal.

Someone asked about how much property will this effect, the answer was approximately 10 feet in from the edge of the road.

Supervisor Meelan said the Board will make a decision if this should be a district and will proceed from there.

Someone asked why this was not on the agenda, Supervisor Meelan said the 6:00pm portion was supposed to be just for the homeowners directly affected by the project to inform them and answer any questions they may have.

The start of most projects will potentially be in 2025.

Supervisor Meelan said that the results of the Kellogg Street speed study has been received and the speed will be lowered from 55 mph to 45 mph, when the official order has been received the Town may then install the new speed signs.

There being no further business to come before the Town Board, upon motion by Councilman Colarusso, seconded by Councilman Maxam, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Donna B. Maxam, Town Clerk