

**Minutes for a Public Hearing held by the Town of Ticonderoga on March 7, 2023,
commencing at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Building Conference Room regarding the Well
Project and letters received by Chilson/Eagle Lake residents**

Present: Mark A. Wright, Supervisor
Dave Woods, Councilman
Joyce Cooper, Councilwoman
Tom Cunningham, Councilman
Matthew Fuller, Town Attorney
Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk

Absent: Tom Thatcher, Councilman

Others: Dennis & Mary Hunsdon, Kathy Curtis, Harry Towne, Candy & Dennis Towne, Brian Hudon, Tim Rowland, Dan & Kathy Blanchette, Jim & Betty Garrison, Annmarie, Paul & Tracy Elethorp, Bob Seissen, Roger Pfund, Bill Grinnell, Busy Palmer, Vic Lavallie, Linda Bhatia Charlene Driemiller, John Driemiller, Bruce Bruce, Sandy McIntyer, Tim Connors, Deanna & John DiPofi, Carl Donovan, Rob Hurlburt, Frank Sheldon, James O'Bryan, Michele Welch, Sandra Yaw, Deb & Jack Mulcahy, Bob Porter, Marge Cross, John Connery, Todd Delair, Officer Genier and Officer Budwick and others.

Supervisor Wright welcomed everyone and opened the Public Hearing with the Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and explained the purpose of the Hearing. The Public Hearing is discussing the Well water letters and the well water project. We have just a few house cleaning details before we get into this. This hearing was requested by a number of residents at the January 31 Public Works meeting. Those were residents that could not attend that meeting and had questions on the letters that the Town sent out. This meeting was advertised to address just the letters that we sent out and it will only address this. We are not discussing Gooseneck, it's past, present and future or any other water issue. It is just for the letters that were sent to residents regarding this private well project. So please limit your questions or comments to this subject. Regarding some of the field work that was done for this project, once again, he wishes to stated that the Town of Ticonderoga is under no legal obligation to provide water in this situation, there is no current municipal water district in existence in this area of the Town. Obviously, we have a moral obligation to look into doing whatever we can to provide the residents with water. It is the right thing to do, this potential private well project seems to be a potential solution to the issue that we have, if it can be funded. The parcel owners would become the owners of the private well or a shared well system, anything that is not a municipal type system under this scenario. We have collected a bunch of data regarding each parcel in this area, for example, which parcels would support a private well, which ones maybe could support a shared well system and we have gathered that data and compiled it. We have a list of everyone's information and those letters were sent to those parcel owners, approximately 104 of them. We have spent a lot of time running up labor hours on this to identify each particular parcel and what they could or could not possibly support. This effort to provide water is a two way effort and always has been. He must say that he is disappointed to see some recent false information on this subject that has been spread by a minority, which has unnecessarily cause a lot of concern with residents for no good reason. As far as the funding goes, he wants to stress that there is no funding currently that has been confirmed for this. As previously reported, the Town was notified that it did receive a 4 million dollar grant from Elise Stefanic for a water distribution system in this area. Right now, we really don't have a lot of information for the

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specifics of that money, we are not sure how or if they can apply to this private well project. We don't know what the specific grant language will state in that particular grant. He has heard that it is a 75/25 match, which is reimbursable, which can create a few challenges for us. We would have to expend monies first and then get reimbursed later. PRIDE has also put themselves out there to help where it can do so. If you believe PRIDE may be able to help you, he would recommend you reach out to them and see if your situation is one that satisfies their ability to help. Unfortunately, the Executive Director of PRIDE could not be here, she had a conflict come up. If you are holding out accepting help from PRIDE because you are waiting for Federal Funding, he would strongly encourage you to reconsider that and examine all of your options. Regarding the letter packages, residents in this area received one of four types of letters depending on how your property was categorized. Either a private well packet, which basically it stated from our survey, that your property would probably support a private well; a common well packet, which obviously gets into your property either could be a sponsor of a shared well or you could benefit from a neighbor who has a shared well; the municipal district well packet, that was where either properties were close to the edge of the district to join or they could benefit from a small municipal district that could be formed as a well project to share among multiple users; the last category was a lake withdrawal packet which addressed the ability to take water from Eagle Lake to be treated by an in home treatment system for use. So, each of those 4 packets had the specific letter, it had a disconnection guide, it had a trifold of information that talked about different wells, decommissioning process, funding, contact information, project information, there was some information there on set back distances, well driller contact information and some information on common and shared wells. Sharing these letters with some of your neighbors could have complicated some issues, especially if the letter you shared is the one regarding a municipal water district. If you are sharing that to someone with whom that really didn't apply, he has seen a few of these cases. We will get started and open the Public Hearing with Greg Swart from AES giving a brief discussion on what the small municipal water district entails and what that means.

Mr. Swart explained that out of the January meeting we talked about a small municipal district and he wants to share more information on what that would involve. It is the east end of Eagle Lake, our archeologist spent the day walking and looking for potential sites for drilling a well and two locations were identified. In order to connect people to this, we will need to put in a smaller diameter pipe, probably a 4" diameter pipe, the current pipe is just too large. The amount of water in that pipe would go stale, for lack of a better word, the water would be in there for approximately 40 days and you typically want water to be used every 3 days, otherwise the chlorinator is used up and it goes stale, so, you really have to put new pipe in. The eliminating factor of connecting people in is how much pipe you are going to run. The location that was picked serves approximately 20 parcels within a distance that is somewhat reasonable to connect in keeping the costs in mind to be reasonable. That estimate for building the wells, going in and piping connections is about 2 million dollars. So, factoring in if the grants can be applied here and the water has been locked down then that would put the user cost somewhat within reason. There were a couple of other questions from that first meeting of can we connect in, people to the west and people to the east and yes, it is possible, but it is the matter of cost shared and how many people actually would want to join. Adding in people on the other end of Eagle Lake is possibly another million dollars for the pipe and probably equal to the other way towards the

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Hall Road. Beyond that, you are starting to run a lot of pipe for just a couple of homes and you could do that but it starts to diminish the return on that cost benefit. The reason why this location and those 20 homes were picked was because they were in a cluster, they are also the parcels that tend to be the smallest and have the most difficulty in drilling a well and even connecting to the lake. This was the logic.

Ms. DiPofi asked if the location was by Moran's Store (yes) and the other one was across from Conklin Island as previously stated. (The map was reviewed) She asked who owns the properties, the Town, the State?

Mr. Swart noted that they are privately owned locations. The hydrogeologists are going out tomorrow with the property owners permission to at least give us an idea and a better look to see if it is worth proceeding and actually drilling. That will be the next step moving forward.

Mr. Blanchette asked Mr. Swart if he didn't think that we are doing this a little backwards?

Supervisor Wright stated that we will get in to questions now, if you received a letter or you have a question on this well project you can come to the table, close to the microphone and ask your questions. If your question is not relevant to this, then don't waste our time.

Mrs. Rao believes she got the private well letter, but you are saying there was other information in that packet? She briefly looked at it, but there should have been other information about possible funding and what else did you say?

Supervisor Wright stated that there was disconnection information, well drillers, what a shared well was versus what a private well was, there was a trifold pamphlet.

Mrs. Rao needs to find that (she was instructed to call the Town and another can be sent or picked up). As far as this money that Elisa got us for the wells, there is no definite amount or how to apply?

Supervisor Wright stated that the amount is 4 million, it is 75/25 which means that the burden on the private individual will be 25% of that cost. It is true, but we just don't know the specifics associated with the grant language in that.

Mrs. Rao stated that she was on a website but she is not sure what it was, but it said something about the US and she googled grants for water and put her address in there and it, her address was able to get this funding, but that doesn't necessarily mean that this is the money that Elise got us. (correct) If she remembers right, we have until like 2024 at the very latest to get our wells drilled and going at the very latest, June?

Supervisor Wright agreed that probably in summer or early Fall of 2024, the water department will have to start beginning to disconnect in order to meet the 2025 date.

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Mrs. Rao stated that the logical thing would be this year get going and the funding is still not clear. So, what does that do for the people like her that need something.

Supervisor Wright agrees that it makes if more complicated for you to make a decision as to what to do. We have had these discussions with several residents, are we ready to drill, should we drill, and if I wait too long everyone will be drilling and we will need to wait for a driller, those are the kinds of decisions that we can't make, but we understand the difficulty in making them.

Mrs. Rao agreed, it is like yes, we are giving you money, but we don't know when you are getting that money or when you are getting the money and it actually doesn't even apply to the cost of the private wells.

Supervisor Wright stated that we just aren't sure yet, what it said was it was for the Route 74 Chilson/Eagle Lake region water distribution system. It is pretty general.

Mrs. Rao asked if there is any idea when the government will narrow that down? Or is the government like slow and easy going because you know that is the government.

Supervisor Wright stated that you are not wrong.

Mr. Fuller stated that we got information late last week in an email from Congresswoman Stefanie's office that the program that this money is coming from is EPA administered and it is called a Stag Grant and we are working with the county and once we see exactly what that money can be used for, then we will know. Right now, we are kind of comparing as it changes from year to year and these grants after a 10 year absence of not allocating this money, the last two years it was done and they are still trying to figure out exactly what this money is going to allow this money for and obviously, we are trying to pivot it to use it for whatever we can.

Mrs. Rao stated the logic in her mind would be, hey go get our funding and maybe we can get some reimbursements.

Mr. Fuller continued saying that these grants do NOT reimburse for work already done before the grant. Most grants are, you get the grant award and then they fund after that. They do not necessarily fund for work done before that. To the Supervisor's comment, the idea of when you do it is completely understandable, we are completely at the mercy of that grant.

Mrs. Rao asked when should she be drilling a well?

Supervisor Wright stated that we cannot tell you that.

Mrs. Rao understands, but the logical time of when you are going to start dismantling is in the fall of 2024 (yes) So, she should shoot toward the beginning of 2024? She just want to get all of her, so even if she was to go on whatever site that was to get a grant.....

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Supervisor Wright does not know what it was that she was seeing, but if it was legit, definitely check it out.

Mrs. Rao believes her questions are answered, but you all will definitely let us know if any of that grant money can come towards us, in a letter – that is the best way for her. (Yes)

Mr. Swart wanted to comment that we did not list out well drillers, there is a website that can give you certified well drillers and we provided a link to that in the trifold package. If you find it that is great, or you can contact the town as they have that information to get to you.

Mr. Palmer asked if there is anything going on with Lake George water?

Supervisor Wright stated no.

Mr. Palmer stated we are going to keep it.

Supervisor Wright stated yes, that was incorrect statements in that flyer...

Mr. Palmer continued to say, so we aren't going to lose Lake George water?

Supervisor Wright stated that someday we will, but right now the plan is still running (inaudible crowd reaction) we continue to maintain that plant

Mr. Palmer wants the people to know, if look if we are going to lose this, let's start something now. He doesn't want to get into a conflict like we are with Chilson right now and what those poor people are going through.

Supervisor Wright understands this concern. The first sentence that was in the flyer from the paper is wrong. The Town has never said that it is shutting off Lake George in 2024.

Mr. Palmer stated not 2024, but he believes that there is a date set somewhere.....

Supervisor Wright stated that they have never set up a date to shut off Lake George, we have said that at some point in the future that plant will probably fail, as much as we try to keep it running.

Mr. Palmer stated that things will fail if you don't keep up the maintenance..

Supervisor Wright stated that we do keep up the maintenance...

Mr. Palmer asked what are you going to do with Street Road out here with the water that is hard, it is....

Supervisor Wright interrupted to say we are not going to get into that tonight. We will discuss the letters on the well project...(inaudible)

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Mr. Palmer wants to let you know that if you are going to have anything happen to Lake George water, he wants another meeting and wants the people to know about it.

Supervisor Wright agreed, certainly.

Ms. DiPofi stated that she is not really involved with Lake George but in this packet of information it says that the filtration at the Baldwin Road need to be complete by June of 2020? Was that completed.

Supervisor Wright again noted that this is not the discussion for tonight...(inaudible) he asked for everyone to please be quiet or leave the room.

Ms. DiPofi repeated her question.

Mr. Fuller acknowledged that his had been completed.

Mr. Bruce asked if the Eagle Lake people decided to go with this project that was stated by the engineer that it would be estimated at 2 million dollars for these 20 homes, that leaves 85 other dwellings for half of that money. If the grant is 75/25 and we are able to use it, will it be equal or will it just go to these few houses on Eagle Lake or will it go to the residents that live on Chilson Hill and in the mid-section also.

Supervisor Wright stated that the idea, and we haven't finalized anything, but the idea was to use the money until it is gone. He doesn't know if we will set a certain portion of that money for each user and then the remaining portion will be on a first come, first serve basis on when they drill a well. That really hasn't been discussed yet.

Mr. Fuller would like you to also remember that there are two different pots of money. The Town was awarded a grant package and loan package through EFC for the water project and that money is still on the table, but that specifically has to be used for a district solution. Again, we are waiting to see what the Feds are allowing the Town to do with Congresswoman Stefanic's grant, that will possibly dictate that we go back to EFC and say, to your point, for those 20 users, we need to use as much of the EFC grant as we can, plus 'x' dollars of the Elise Stefanic grant and then have a loan for 30 years that is affordable. So, the Town Board is still keeping all of those options on the table....

Mr. Bruce stated that there is a possibility that they can take half of that grant and the 85 other homes could be left out?

Supervisor Wright stated that it is not the plan to leave anyone out. All the people that are affected with this 4 million dollar (inaudible) as the attorney said, there was also an earlier grant which was specifically for a project for pushing water up Chilson Hill and it was very specific to that project alone and we do not know if we can make this 4 million work for the wells and also use this other grant money.

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Councilman Woods asked if the 20 houses were proposed for the municipal well? (Yes) So, this would not affect the other 85 people, but the rest of the grant would go for those other 85 people. (Yes)

Mr. Bruce explained what he was saying, that project has been identified for the 2 million dollar grant already, if they just do those 20. Not pushing it east or west, just those 20, so that seems like that is an awful big chunk which leaves 85 other dwellings that are on that line. Is it the intent of the Town to make this as equal as possible. (Yes, agreed)

Mrs. Mulcahy inquired, if her letter states that her property has been suited a well, access to Eagle Lake or a common well to be part of a water district, does that mean that she is not part of the 20 that may or may not be hooked up to this municipal.

Supervisor Wright believes the only letter that said that was the one for the municipal users. All the phrasings were different except for that one particular phrasing that was sent to everyone who had the capability of a municipal well.

Mrs. Mulcahy again asked if her property was not part of the...

Mr. Swart stated that you are in the municipal project, or your property may be able to go to the lake or you could drill a well. Anyone in the group of 20 or some combination of that decides to go to the municipal well option then there is that option or if that option doesn't go through then it is looking at either a well or the lake. He didn't break up the categories in the letter, but in that group there is a combination of options.

Mr. Lavallie noted that regarding what this gentleman just said, those are federal monies, paid for by federal taxpayers of everybody in the Town of Ticonderoga that pays federal taxes. The point there is that there should be equal distribution not only on Chilson but those monies are left over and you had better figure out some way to equally distribute that to every federal tax payer that pays taxes in Ticonderoga that are land owners here.

Supervisor Wright started to say that this is not what (interrupted) ..

Mr. Lavallie stated that you can't take a federal grant that is paid for by federal tax payers, you can't do that, and use those monies specifically up on Chilson. They are federal taxpayers, he is sure they are, but there has to be equal distribution. You can lower our tax levy down here, you can do whatever you want....

Supervisor Wright stated that you cannot do whatever you want...(interrupted)..

Mr. Lavallie continued that you had better figure out how to make it equal for all the federal tax payers in this Town.

Supervisor Wright stated that your comment is noted.

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Ms. DiPofi asked with this municipal district, and she can tell you that she is one of those that received the letter, in it was the attachment for the cost and there was no attachment. Nobody even knows what the cost is going to be.

Supervisor Wright explained that we don't know what the individual costs will be, but we know roughly what the project cost will be, which is what Mr. Swart was talking about.

Ms. DiPofi thought that this meeting was to discuss what this gentleman was supposed to come up with, what it entails, what the cost was, because this still has to get approved by the NYS Comptroller's Office and she can tell you, the cost of that project divided by 20 property owners which 20 property owners because the list you gave us had 28 parcels on the list, and there was one other individual that said they should have been on the list after speaking to you, but they weren't on the list. There is a lot of confusion going on, but that cost of that project is not going to get approved by the comptroller's office, so what is the plan for the Town.

Supervisor Wright stated that he has no information that says it won't get approved. First of all, we need to know how many people are interested in this project..

Ms. DiPofi continued saying, based on what the parcels are, she can tell you that half the people want to know what the cost is prior to making a decision.

Supervisor Wright noted, as he has spoken to several people who have asked that specific question, he has told them that he can't tell them what the individual cost will be until we know how many people are interested in a small municipal district and if they don't send the information back to us, it is impossible for us to calculate the total number of people that are interested.

Ms. DiPofi asked why isn't calculated on if 15 people connect, if 20 connect. It can't be that much work to add 5 more people on it. Do it at what the capacity is for the wells and the number of properties with the flow rate that you are supposed to have for each home. We go through this every month, every two weeks, every other month and we are still in the same spot, we don't know how much it is going to cost. We want you to make a decision.

Supervisor Wright stated that every week and every month, he still doesn't get information back from the users when we have requested if they are interested in a municipal district. It is a two way street.

Ms. DiPofi stated well, she still hasn't gotten her letter that was mailed regular mail.

Supervisor Wright asked if she had spoken to the water department?

Ms. DiPofi stated she has not, she does not know who to speak to because we get no communication. Her parents got their letter....

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Supervisor Wright asked if she was aware of the phone number for the water department (answer was no) what about the Town Clerk (yes, she speaks to Tonya all the time) she can easily transfer you to the water clerk, the number is on our web page.

Mr. Blanchette stated that he did not get a letter either. There are quite a few of us that did not get a letter, from what he understands.

Supervisor Wright stated that the letters were mailed, where they went to after they went to the Post Office he cannot say, but if you did not get a letter and you have heard others say that they have gotten a letter, contact the Town.

Ms. DiPofi asked how people are supposed to know to contact the Town of something of this importance if they are not getting a letter.

Supervisor Wright stated that you all talk, you've talked about this amongst yourselves, he doesn't think there are any of you that don't know that there was a letter sent out. You all talk to one another...

Ms. DiPofi agreed, we do talk, but this is on the Town Board, (inaudible) not on the residents.

Supervisor Wright stated that we sent the letters out and if you are talking to a neighbor and they say well I did not get a letter then why don't you just call the Town. There is some responsibility on your end here.

Mr. DiPofi asked why they weren't sent certified?

Supervisor Wright stated that then your daughter would have said you spent too much money sending them out certified.

Ms. DiPofi stated, "Well Excuse me, but I am his daughter and I can tell you right now, I would rather have them spend the \$700.00 out of the \$80,000.00 you gave to them, to do their little table top exercise and send out those letters".

Supervisor Wright stated, duly noted, he disagrees with you, (inaudible)

Ms. DiPofi stated that we still don't have the information based on those letters because we don't have the attachment that was supposed to be on the letter.

Supervisor Wright stated if you just let us know what you need, we will get it to you (inaudible)

Councilman Woods asked if there are people just ignoring them or are there just some that haven't gotten them or they are not sending them back.

Ms. DiPofi stated that some have not gotten them, some are not responding, some want to know that this is, we specifically requested this meeting in January, we asked for it and we were going

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to come down and Greg said yes, he can yep, I can put this together, he was going to do it based on a number of people, based on the maximum capacity, based on flow rates and here we are how many weeks later and we still don't know or have that information. She (inaudible)...

Councilman Cunningham noted that Greg did say that the 20 well program was this amount for the 2 million dollars.

Ms. DiPofi stated that he was going to go back, he was going to look ...(inaudible)

Councilman Cunningham stated that we cannot give you a hard and fast number unless you do a MPR and do

Ms. DiPofi asked what that 2 million dollars entails, it is just 2 million dollars...

Mr. Swart can give a little more detail.. the 2 million dollars is to drill a well on a property, to build a small building that included the chlorination and small pressure tanks and then the majority of the cost would be the piping to run down the road and to also connect into the houses. The estimate at this point and trying to be a bit conservative as there are a lot of unknowns here obviously, that is a very difficult road to build on and whether or not how we install pipe can greatly increase the prices because of the road and how narrow it is, but to answer the question, there are a lot of assumptions on the grant, so this will be an assumption that we can apply one of these grants here, but if 20 connect you are around \$1050.00 a year. Every person who joins shaves \$50 a year off and every person that doesn't will increase \$50 per year, per household and this would be a 40 year zero interest loan.

Ms. DiPofi stated that this is just for the installation and what about operation and maintenance, you will still get a quarterly bill on top of that thousand dollars?

Mr. Swart included the approximate of \$300 a year to cover the O&M cost. That is probably the most variable item here because we have to figure out exactly what that cost will be.

Ms. DiPofi reiterated that it is actually the \$750 plus the \$300, (yes).

Mr. Elethorp asked if that was based on 20 houses? (Yes) You are going to drill two wells in an area, water runs down hill as far as he knows. Gooseneck runs downhill, gravity brings it down. Why pump the water uphill, from Street Road you would pump up hill, three quarters of the way up Chilson to gravity feed back down. Doesn't make sense why wouldn't you put two or three wells on top to feed Eagle Lake and Chilson. How many wells are on Street Road (2) you pump them up to the top into the reservoir by the Fish & Game Club..

Supervisor Wright does not understand where we are going with this, that is not the system that we are discussion tonight?

Mrs. Curtis asked what night will that be discussed?

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Supervisor Wright stated that we can discuss that in a separate session, but this Public Hearing is only to discuss the private well, shared well system.

Mrs. Elethorp mentioned that it was said that they were eligible to have a private well. Where are we supposed to put that by our house. We have nowhere, someone needs to come tell us where they expect us to put it because we have a septic, we have a small area, we have a septic, we have a leech field, where are we supposed to go, it can't go below the leech field.

Supervisor Wright explained that when you contact your drilling contractor, they will inform you as to what the best spot is for the well.

Mrs. Elethorp right, but if we contact our own contractor in time to put a well in, because nobody seems to be worried about the people on that side of Chilson, we don't get reimbursed if a well is being drilled. You just got through saying that if we spend money and then this grant goes through, we don't get that money. So how is it beneficial to the other side of Chilson, what do we do?

Mr. Blanchette asked if it wouldn't make sense to have water delivered to people that aren't on the lake first, because there are options on Eagle Lake for people to have water?

Supervisor Wright stated that we haven't set any priority as to how or which wells we drill first, that is not something that we have gotten to. We just don't know if the money is going to be usable to that project. All we have done right now is identify those parcels, what their capabilities are in terms of wells, or shared wells or lake draw and then it is up to the well driller and the homeowner to decide when to drill and where that would go, set backs from leech fields, set backs from the lake. That will fall upon the homeowner.

Mrs. Elethorp wants to know if it is understood where they are coming from? The money that we are going to be putting out of pocket and we are not going to get it back, (it is understood) we have to find out where it is going, we have to find out if it is even accessible to have a well there, but then we are spending all that money out of pocket to find out that maybe we can't and we will not get reimbursed for it.

Supervisor Wright does understand

Mrs. Elethorp went further to state that Ticonderoga is a working community and it is a low economic area, we all struggle, doesn't matter what your paycheck is, everybody in the North Country struggles, there are Town's you know in Chilson (inaudible) because we are going to be putting money out of pocket to find out that we either can't get a well or putting money out of pocket to find out that we are not getting a dollar back.

Supervisor Wright understands that...

Mrs. Elethorp asks, what do we do?

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Mr. Blanchette stated that you have anywhere between 8 and 10 that absolutely cannot drill a well, we know that. (we do not actually know that) His neighbor, he is just one family that has worked for the Town and lived up on the hill for 40 years and he has been told that if he can't drill a well, he has to sell his house and move out....(told by who) Dave Woods....

Councilman Woods stated you are a liar.....

Mr. Blanchette stated that he has it recorded, he has that conversation recorded.

Councilman Woods stated, just a minute, he talked to him at Walmart (inaudible) he talked to him, he said he offered to go up there with his backhoe, free of charge and dig a hole in his bank so that he can get a well in there....(inaudible) and he said to hell with it, he was going to sell it. Don't tell me that I told him he had to move, he offered to go up there and do it for free....you are talking right through your teeth, just like you have been.... (inaudible)

Supervisor Wright stated if you have proof of that then you bring us names and bring direct factual information, not hearsay..

Mr. Blanchette continued so if people can't drill a well, what are they going to do....

Supervisor Wright asked what would you want us to do? (inaudible)

Officer Budwick brought the meeting back to order – he stated that nobody wants to infringe on anybody's rights to be heard, but we have to maintain a level of décor, please. Thank you.

Supervisor Wright stated that we do not have a municipal district there, we are trying to find a method using the funds that we believe we might have to get people water. If there is not a potential well on a property, we will look to see if there can be a shared well, if that is not the case, then we will look at a municipal system.

Mr. Blanchette asked what if someone can't share or doesn't want to share...

Supervisor Wright asked why don't we wait to see what that actually pans out to be....

Mr. Blanchette stated that it is pretty much common sense that this is going to happen, he can see pretty clear into the future what is going to happen if someone can't drill a well and their neighbor won't let them join on. What are they going to do, if there is one person that can't get water we stay on Gooseneck, and he knows you don't want to hear that....

Supervisor Wright stated that we are not staying on Gooseneck....

Councilman Woods held up the conversation to ask Jim Garrison if he did not tell him in Walmart that he would come there and dig that for free?

Mr. Garrison stated no,

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Councilman Woods stated, yes, he did.

Mr. Garrison stated that you said you would come up, but you didn't say no free.

Councilman Woods stated, yes, he did, he said he would come

Mr. Garrison stated that he didn't want to talk to him, he's a liar anyway...

Mr. Porter asked if we know what the water quality would be of the wells if we drilled there?
We could be in the same situation as Street Road, with the hard water and all of that.

Supervisor Wright stated that there are people that do have existing wells up there, he does not know what the quality of that water is.

Mr. O'Bryan stated that his water is soft, not like the Street Road water.

Supervisor Wright stated that he does not know what aquifer or whatever that is tapping into or if they all will be the same, he does not know.

Mr. Delair asked of the people that live on the Old Chilson Road below the Chilson Town line, how does this affect them? He sees a few people here that live on the Old Chilson Road, but he lives below the old Chilson Town line. How does this affect him.

Supervisor Wright believes he wasn't listed as having a capability of a private well, for some people who are right on the current water district line, one option is the possibility of extending that district and adding them on. He is not sure where that property is, but he knows some of the properties in the immediate area just outside the district had potential of just being added to the current municipal district.

Mr. Swart explained that one of the goals at this stage is trying to find a multi project approach because the one common system of pumping up hill didn't work the way we wanted was too expensive, so we are trying to approach this from a multi project approach. A municipal system up here, for those folks on the Old Chilson Road on the higher end it will probably would be the best solution to drill a private well, your down closer to the existing system and we did not identify it specifically for you, but there is a potential of extending the existing district, but it is probably limited to the first 5 or 6 parcels that are out there. Anything farther than that, you are having to pump and the costs would get too prohibitive. We are trying to approach this from a multi system approach. More than likely, not everybody is going to have the same system.

Mr. Delair again noted that his house has always been on the Ticonderoga side, and he doesn't understand why this is and there are other people here that are still in and always have been in the Town of Ticonderoga. He doesn't understand why this problem is affecting us in such a financial burden. We are Ticonderoga residents. (inaudible) What does this do to our property values. (not known) well if you can't get water, you can't sell a house.

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Supervisor Wright understands this, but you are not currently in a district, so we are doing what we can to blend you into that district and get you water or get you a well.

Mrs. Gijanto got really paranoid when this started going on a couple of years ago when we were having the meetings at the fire department. The original papers were talking about two or three grand a year, so that is when her wheels started turning, the way the world is and COVID, she did say to herself that it would be great if they just drilled their own well, knowing that we live on Chilson and the stone rust and everything. She decided and got somebody to come up and the way everything is situation at our house we had to drill 50' away and because of the snow melt that we get our pipes stick up high so people can see them. Anyway, we drilled and we drilled and there was red stuff that kept shooting up and shooting up and shooting up all over the trees, all over our pool, all over our house, all over the cars, it was absolutely horrible, so out of our retirement that was left for her from her grandfather twenty years ago, she took out the whole thing, fifteen grand almost and put it down the line. That is all you do, you are literally gambling, you put fifteen thousand dollars on the line and we sat there, looking out the window and the guy kept testing and testing and the guys goes that is fifteen thousand, that is seventeen thousand, we are at eighteen thousand and he kept going, she didn't tell him she had no money. So, he kept going and going and going and finally, 330 feet we did hit water, but it had to be all casing all the way down, so at that time, she got locked in three years ago at fifty dollars a foot. That was then, he's at one hundred and twenty dollars a foot now and watch this, we told him we didn't have the money and he felt so bad that he let us charge and watch this now, not only are we charging the payment to him because he was sweetheart and knew of our predicament and the water is pure red and we can't use it. Tonya will testify that she comes down and still pays her water bill because they can't use the water because we have no money to spend another five, seven, eight, ten grand on getting the filters and all that kind of stuff to take all the stuff out of it. So, our water, when we turn it on, it is red. We are in a huge dilemma, but she still pays for the water and we have water and we are out \$22,500.00 and you just don't know, you just keep dumping and dumping. You literally have to go to the bank and take out \$50,000.00 to try to drill a well, so you can sit there and just watch and watch, you can't go to a drill guy and go, ok you going to do my well and he says ok it will cost \$14,000.00 because they don't know that. So you have to have an ungodly amount of money on you, we didn't know, it is a gamble if you are going to hit or not. When you do hit like we did, she knows Mike Porter had to go down 500' and his is all red, but that time he did put the filtration on and he says he goes through 2 filters a month. We are tapped out, so we are in trouble, but she keeps paying the Town for our water from Chilson. That is her story if that helps anybody here that wants to try to drill, you are taking a big gamble, but you are gambling on what they are going to do too.

Mr. Blanchette stated that we will let our lawyer know that.

Mr. O'Bryan asked if it is known about the filtration process, you build this small filtration plant if you do drill at the east end of Eagle Lake like you said, what type of filtration will you use.

Mr. Swart stated sodium hypochlorite.

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Mr. Hunsdon asked if you would do away with the Fire Hydrant up there.

Supervisor Wright stated that we are not going to discuss fire protection, but that is a discussion that we need to have. Right now the disconnection is a disconnection of water as a drinking source not as fire protection, but we will need to look into the maintenance of that in the future.

Mr. Towne wondered when you stated the 4 million, is there going to be some way to more of what Bruce Bruce was speaking to about an equitable distribution so if you get into a small water system in Eagle Lake and you wind up costing 3 million instead of the 2 million. If it was 2 million that was allocated out of the 4 million dollar grant that would leave \$20,000.00 for 100 houses for drilling money. He just wants to be sure that there would be an equitable distribution if in fact one does come to fruition.

Supervisor Wright agreed that this is the goal.

Mr. Towne just doesn't want to get disenfranchised because a project that may have started before everyone else could drill their (inaudible)

Supervisor Wright understands, the idea was always to have been an equal and fair distribution of any monies that we get.

Mr. Connery asked if we can schedule a meeting to discuss Lake George and that issue.

Supervisor Wright is not sure what we will be discussing?

Mr. Connery added what kind of agreement you have with the state, how much water for how long, how it is going to interact with Street Road water, these types of issues.

Supervisor Wright agreed we could, we could have a special meeting or you could come and discuss your questions at the public works meeting where the Water/Wastewater Superintendent will be to answer your questions as to the status of the plant is and what the future replacement programs are, what maintenance we have done on it, what life expectancy is. We can discuss all of that if you want to come to the Public Works meeting, that is open if you want to come in and ask questions. If that is not an accommodating schedule, we can certainly set something up, but he would need to know what kind of questions that you have so we can have the right people in the room to answer those.

Mr. Connery ? - asked if we continue to use the Street Road water and thousands of people and thousands of homes have to get water softeners and all that gets regenerated a week, how is that going to affect the water treatment plant with all that regenerated water...

Supervisor Wright noted that we have had discussions on that and it is something that we can discuss at the Public Works meeting.

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Mr. Bruce noted that basically we have about 15 months to make a decision whether we, some of us that can afford to drill a well, but what he is worried about is a few of his neighbors that cannot afford to drill a well. He would like to make a suggestion that we have some kind of meeting for the 105 tax payers of Chilson and Eagle Lake area, now until we have some kind of resolution on what this grant is going to be. He is sure there are some old people that are worried that in a year, they are not going to have any water at all and they will not have the means and probably not the credit in order to drill a well or hook up. He knows in the beginning of this, you said that you are under no obligation, well he knows some people that live in Chilson, including his house that has been on that line ever since the line was put through and he will tell you 20 years ago, when he bought that house, he wouldn't have bought it if it didn't have Town water, so he has an investment everybody that has lived there for a long time has an investment and you are kind of asking us to gamble right now, to put a well in, not knowing if we are going to be.... He does feel it is your responsibility as stewards of this Town to really try to get us more information soon. We are going to come into 2024, and we are all going to hold back, \$20,000.00 is a lot of money and for some people it is not possible.

Councilman Woods stated that Mrs. Gijanto's story opened a lot of eyes.

Supervisor Wright totally understands, this project is as he said, is a potential solution to get people water. The alternative is, when Gooseneck gets shut off, there is nothing and we are making every effort that we can to beat the bushes for money and to come up with a viable plan to get people water.

Councilman Woods asked if the entire line would need to be excavated to put the new lines in? Could you use the old line for a sleeve?

Mr. Swart would love to use the old line for a sleeve, but if you want to maintain it for fire in the future you can't use it. That would be the best way to install it.

Mr. Palmer asked what is the problem with not going back to Gooseneck?

Supervisor Wright stated that is not a discussion for tonight. (inaudible) He has made it very clear that this Public Hearing is only regarding the letters residents received and the well project.

Mr. Palmer believes that going back to Gooseneck would eliminate a lot of problems.

Supervisor Wright stated we are not going back to Gooseneck. (inaudible conversations)

Ms. DiPofi has a question about the grant money, there is 4 million ere marked from Stefanic and Greg said from EFC there is money, and then there is match money 75/25...

Supervisor Wright explained that the 75/25 was the match amount for the 4 million dollars..

Ms. DiPofi asked who is paying 75 and who is paying 25?

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Supervisor Wright stated that 75 would be from the grant and 25 from whoever is footing the bill for the well.

Ms. DiPofi asked how much the Town is supplying for this?

Supervisor Wright stated that this is federal money, it is not Town money. You can't use taxpayer money for a non-municipal district. We have had discussions on how that 25 percent is being paid for. We don't have enough information to really address this yet in terms of how that would work.

Mrs. Elethorp stated that there is no ETA for that funding? (Correct) But there is a deadline for us?

Supervisor Wright again stated yes, and noted that there is a deadline for the Town as well.

Ms. DiPofi asked since there is no obligation from the Town, is there any money left over from the contract users that have been paying quarterly? Have you been putting money aside that you could put into the pot to help with the cost of this project.

Supervisor Wright stated that this has been asked before, there has been no account set up to take that money Any money that is not spent by the municipality in a fiscal year falls into a fund balance.

Ms. DiPofi asked then there isn't a reserve account, she asked that and she did not hear back. For all the maintenance and repairs from all these contract users.

Supervisor Wright stated that for that specific issue there is no reserve account...as he stated any money that is not spent during the fiscal year falls into fund balance.

Ms. DiPofi is asking specifically about money taken in from the contract users, if you don't use it for any improvements or maintenance, what do you do with that surplus money.

Supervisor Wright stated that there is no left over money, that \$96.00 hasn't been able to pay for everything associated with O&M.

Ms. DiPofi stated her last question is, where on the website can she find the annual Financial Reports, your most independent audit reports and your fiscal performance plan? She couldn't find it on the website.

Supervisor Wright stated that is probably not on the website, you would probably need to FOIL it.

Ms. DiPofi stated no, because according to the Law it says if you have a website, it should be on there. Maybe she missed it. Can she check with Tonya on it.

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Supervisor Wright stated that you can certainly check with her and if it is something that can be put up, we'll put it up.

Unidentified person – how many properties are you looking at up over Chilson?

Supervisor Wright stated roughly 104, 105, some have dropped off from the line during this process.

Mr. Blanchette asked if there is a possibility, if there is no Gooseneck; that these wells can get paid for. You have 104, 105 users, divided by 4 million and not paying AES, to waste any more money on them, why don't we get a check written for each individual for the amount of money, divided by that amount which would be around \$35-\$40 thousand to let us drill our own water or find our own water source.

Supervisor Wright explained that this is not how grants work, we don't write checks and distribute them. That is not how a grant works.

Mrs. Gijanto stated that you still don't know if it would cost that much either, hers was from three years ago, he said he won't touch anyone around here after what happened with hers.

Mrs. Elethorp asked if you can drill a well out on Eagle Lake, why can't you drill a well for the other residents on the opposite side of Chilson? You are asking us each individually to drill, why couldn't you do some wells and let us line off from that?

Supervisor Wright stated that each property was looked at as to the capability to drill a well and those that are unable to drill a well either due to set backs or the size of the parcel would either be shared or this small municipal well.

Mr. Towne believes that the big problem with the existing infrastructure is that it is not suitable for such a low flow rate as we would need, a 14" pipe would still flow 250-300 thousand gallons a day, an average house is 300 gallons a day, 400 gallons tops, so the flow rate would be so low that it would freeze solid under the road where it used to. It is just too big a pipe for just us, it was fine when it fed the whole Town, but if it just feeds a small amount of houses, that infrastructure is too big and not suitable.

Mr. Lavallie first would like to thank you for letting this gentleman over here who doesn't live on Chilson Hill speak. As he looks around this room here, there are a fair percentage of guys here, like Bobby Porter, probably the majority of them sitting in this room, like himself; that came to this meeting, he thought on the notice you were going to have a hearing; it didn't say that if we didn't have a well on Chilson that we wouldn't be invited to speak. There are a lot of people that came. He is talking about the people, the other problem we have in addition to this thing that he has discussed with the tax payers here, you look at a guy like Bobby Porter, he owns a lot of property in the Town of Ticonderoga. He is a major taxpayer; he should be able to walk into a meeting like this and speak for a few minutes.

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Supervisor Wright stated that he did speak, everyone is allowed to speak on this certain subject.

Mr. LaVallie stated that you said we could only speak about well problems, (inaudible)

Supervisor Wright reminded him that this is the subject of this public hearing, legally.

Mr. Lavallie asked if he can speak about something else.

Councilman Woods stated that he is welcome to come to the Town Board meeting and talk.

Mr. Lavallie stated that the problem with the Town Board meeting is this, you guys start your meeting at 6:00 and senior citizens like himself have to sit there until that Town Board meeting is closed. Then you let us speak, most people get up and leave, they have no opportunity to hear what he has to say or a group of us that want to address that water issue have to say. So, he is not going to say that you do that just to control the narrative of that situation that you don't want to talk about, or that is under your guidance at this point. So, he might suggest that at the beginning of each meeting, that you allow maybe 20 – 30 minutes to let the public speak their peace, they can talk into that camera up there, so people can come back that are watching your meeting, knowing what we want to talk about and the recording secretary is there if they want to go back and read those minutes of the meeting, they can. He does think that that would be a great thing, that would open up our lines of communication and it would give the people in the Town of Ticonderoga an opportunity to speak to their neighbors out there on that camera, to give us the opportunity to express our views, let us have our freedom of speech, it would be a great convenience for the people of this Town of Ticonderoga for you to do something like that. This is the peoples house, the voice of the people should be here to be heard here, not at the end of your two to three hour board meeting.

Supervisor Wright understands that and the Town Board meeting is conducted by and for the business for the Town. The Town doesn't even have to have a public comment period during the Town Board meeting,

Mr. Lavallie stated that that it would be a violation of our Freedom of (inaudible) to control the narrative.....

Supervisor Wright interrupted saying if you would like to speak by yourself and listen to yourself all night, he can go home, but if you would like to let him talk, he can do that as well. As he was saying, a public board meeting is to conduct the board's business, there is no necessary section of a public comment period. The ability to allow a public comment is by the approval of the board. We do have a public comment period..

Mr. Lavallie stated for 40 years now, each supervisor has his own way of doing it.. Looking at Billy Grinnell back here, every meeting Billy Grinnell let the people speak up front, anybody that wanted to comment about anything.....so, he is in favor of getting the Town Board and the supervisor that gives us the opportunity to, you are telling us right now that you are not in favor of doing this....

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Supervisor Wright stated that this is not what he has said, he said (inaudible... public speaking amongst themselves....) it is unfortunate.....(inaudible) the primary goal of the meeting is to get the Town's business completed and then listen to the Town's input, there are other ways for you to provide your input. We are open every day, you can come in to talk to him, you can always come in to speak with the Town Clerk, you can go to the water/sewer clerk if you have a water/sewer issue. These offices are open all the time.

Mr. Sheldon has a statement to make, his understanding here now is, so, in order to tell everybody that we have retained a lawyer about this, we have to wait for a board meeting to tell them.

Supervisor Wright stated that you can say whatever you want...

Mr. Sheldon stated that we have retained a lawyer (inaudible) it is a high power lawyer out of Albany. Our goal is to get the Gooseneck back and Lake George....

Ms. DiPofi stated that someone on the zoom meeting that has contacted her and says their audio is on mute, can they speak? They want to ask when are we getting more information?

Supervisor Wright stated that they can speak? Anyone online can certainly ask a question. We will let people know when we have more information.

Mr. Swart started to speak...

Mrs. Curtis said that this gentleman has important information, shouldn't he be on a microphone so everyone can hear him. She is right here and he sounds like he is mumbling. Can't you fix him up with a microphone.

Mr. Swart (came to the front of the room) the next step for the well drilling, the hydrogeologist is coming out tomorrow to do their site inspections, which are basically ground penetrating radar. There is no disturbance to the ground, but we have permission from the property owners to do that, even with the snowpack. Then we will provide a report back to us and based on a recommendation if it is worth pursuing drilling. At that point, a purchase agreement or agreements with the landowners with ensue to potentially drill the well. That part is fairly expensive to do, drilling a well is really expensive at this point, so, we will have to make a decision whether we will go after that district when we know what the report says. That is the last piece of the equation that he has.

Ms. DiPofi noted that in a couple of weeks you will have a more firmed up answer based on where the potential well is, what the cost of the property is.

Mr. Swart is not sure about the cost of the property is. He would imagine having the hydrogeologist's report back at least the preliminary back by the water/sewer committee, so he should be able to report at that time if not sooner.

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Ms. DiPofi asked in March then (yes), so the 20 residents should be going to that water/sewer meeting?

Supervisor Wright stated that it would depend on the questions that they have or what they want to

Ms. DiPofi interrupted and stated that he is saying that he should have the information back by then.

Mr. Swart answered that this is his hope, when he finds out after tomorrow, he will let the Supervisor know if we can do it then or if we will need a different meeting. He will know a little better tomorrow.

Ms. DiPofi asked if this will be publicized on the website, that the information is a little bit more shored up so we have a better answer on the cost for that district.

Mr. Swart stated that he won't have a different cost estimate by then, the only thing that we will have is whether or not it makes sense to go forward with drilling a well in the area. It could possibly come back that both those sites aren't what we are expecting and it doesn't make sense to move forward. He does not anticipate that, but it is a possibility, or he will say, yes, site 1 is better than site 2, updated costs are not going to change at this point.

Councilman Cunningham commented on the question of cost, we won't be able to determine that until 1: we find out where the well is going to be, 2: how many people of the 20 want to participate, if only 10 or 15 want to participate that will be a different story than if all 20 or maybe 22 will participate.

Mr. Fuller stated that you are going to come to a point where you are going to need to form a district just to spend that money (inaudible)

Ms. DiPofi asked when are we going to have a more shored up cost based on 15 people, 20 people they can't make a decision until they have a cost.

Supervisor Wright stated that this information was stated tonight.

Mrs. Mulcahy reiterated that it will \$1050.00 including the \$300 O&M, plus the individual cost of meters.

Councilman Cunningham agreed that this is the preliminary estimate at this point, we haven't done an MPR, we haven't done details on lines or anything. You have to be prepared while taking numbers like that for granted, we are in the very early stages at this point.

Mr. Swart agreed that meters will need to be factored in, but we haven't figured out costs of that. From the engineers standpoint, he will not be able to refine the costs anymore until we drill a

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well. The bigger open item is the grants and if they are going to allow or what they are going to allow. That will affect the costs more, we are making the assumption that we are going to be able to use one of those grants, but if that falls through that will change the metrics. In terms of the decision making, that estimate is a good estimate.

Ms. DiPofi questioned that we have to do another MPR?

Supervisor Wright agreed for this district.

Ms. DiPofi asked what happened to the MPR from Barton and Loguidice, was that because it included all the users. (yes) so now you are going to pay for another MPR.

Supervisor Wright stated that this is a legal requirement.

Mr. Towne asked where, with the exploratory work that you are doing right now, he assumes that is not being done for gratis, so where is that billed, are you just kind of sitting on that until the 2 million dollars comes through?

Councilman Cunningham stated, like everything else that has been paid for to date to get to this point on Chilson and Eagle Lake, is coming out of the entire tax base of Ticonderoga. The early Barton & Loguidice MPR all the engineering that has been done to date, everything that has been done has been paid for by the residents of Ticonderoga.

Mrs. Mulcahy asked if the test wells that the hydrogeologist may do, the cost is coming..

Councilman Cunningham stated that we will have to form a district.

Mrs. Mulcahy stated that we will have to pay for a test well, plus a municipal well hook up. On Elise Stefanic's letter it said the Town of Ticonderoga water project? Recipient Town of Ticonderoga has requested 4 million dollars, the purpose of this money is to be used to remove Gooseneck an unfiltered, contaminated water source as the main water source for 95 households and replace it with a new water distribution and source system. That is the 4 million, that was requested, has she offered? Can we go back to the well, so to speak, and ask for...

Supervisor Wright stated that the ere mark was confirmed, that money was awarded. We are past the application stage.

Mr. Fuller added that you have to keep in mind, that was applied for when the MPR and the district was still on the table. What the Town is going to seek to do is pivot that money to accomplish this task now because that is not affordable. You all made it clear that it was not affordable and the Town Board agreed with you and rightfully so. So, both with the EFC money, that could be used for a district, and some of the Stefanic ere marked money, that can be used. The Town will have to be creative to find a way to do this. Always keep in mind that this is never 100%, 75/25 is the highest he has ever seen. Even the well project down here wasn't 75% and that is why we have a 30 year bond. He is sitting here listening to these numbers and there

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are a lot of assumptions built into those numbers that until we actually get to the funding, you don't know. Just in the last couple of years, the state adopted legislation to allow the useful life of some of these improvements to be calculated at 40 years and not 30 years and that allowed the projects of some municipalities to be bonded for 40 years. That is the difference between the 30 and 40 years is coming up, but there are hardship tests, it is not just automatic. You just don't automatically get 40 years.

Mrs. Mulcahy asked how long Gooseneck has lasted 40 years (laughs from the audience – answering 100 years or longer).

Mrs. Cross has a quick suggestion for wherever it goes, if there are going to be any more meetings on either of the water issues, she would suggest holding it in a bigger room. When she got here, she was stuck out there and she couldn't hear. So, she doesn't know what she missed in the beginning, she could only pick it up and make her decisions on how she feels once she was able to come in and sit down. She does not feel this venue is big enough, we couldn't hear this man at all (Mr. Swart) when she was standing out there. We should be able to hear if we come to a meeting, just a suggestion.

Supervisor Wright appreciates that suggestion.

No further public comment.

Supervisor Wright invited those to come up after the hearing to ask more specific questions about their specific properties.

Public Hearing closed at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk