

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Parish Town Board held May 19th, 2011 at the Village Gym. The meeting was called to order by Councilor Phillips at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Stephen Stelmashuck, Supervisor-arrived at 7:15 p.m.
Doug Jordan, Councilor
John Dunham, Councilor
Mary Lou Guindon, Councilor
Mary Ann Phillips, Councilor
Kelly Reader, Town Clerk

Also Present: L.J. Harvey, Fire Chief; Belden Dawley, Hwy Sup't; Bob Genant, Town Attorney; Maureen Wafer, CEO; Paul Gage, PL Brd Member; Karen Gage, BAR Member; Lynn Wood, Barb Horning, Rich Horning, Dale Chapman, Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Rep. Bill Alsworth, Hwy MEO, Krista Alsworth, Mary Anne Pelkey, and Jack Rucynski.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

April Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Phillips to approve the Minutes of the April Regular Meeting as received. Roll taken...motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS:

Supervisor's Financial Report: Tabled, The Supervisor's Report will be available at the May 26th, workshop.

June Calendar: The June Calendar was presented and reviewed by the Board. There was a correction noted that the Historical Picnic will be held on June 15th at 6:00 p.m. instead of June 8th.

Revenue Reports: The Revenue Reports will be available at the May 26th workshop.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Affairs, Parks, Preservation and Recreation Committee: Councilor Guindon spoke in regards to the next newsletter and possibly getting more participation to provide more information to the community. Discussion was held in regards to offering more recreational opportunities in the community.

Emergency Services and Public Safety Committee: Councilor Dunham spoke in regards to the 911 signs that the Fire Dept. has available for 911 addresses on resident's property. Also, Councilor Dunham stated that he has not heard back from McFee Ambulance Director on finalizing the prorated Ambulance Contract to accommodate the Town's Fiscal Budget to run from January to December. He will contact him to get a prorated contract in place as the 2010-2011 McFee Ambulance Contract will expire in July of 2011.

Financial, Affairs Committee: Councilor Phillips stated that she and Deputy Supervisor Swartz have not been able to coordinate a schedule with the bookkeeper to reconcile the checking accounts. They are scheduled to meet on May 31st to reconcile the checking accounts. The Efficiency Finance Committee meets every Monday on the Village and Town Budgets and the sewer to give recommendations on costs savings.

General Gov't Committee: Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that the auditor is still reviewing the Town's books at this time. Discussion will be held regarding updating the Town's policies.

Infrastructure Policy and Public Facilities Committee: Councilor Jordan stated that the committee will be reviewing the policies for updating.

Task Force: Tabled.

Water Committee: No Reports at this time, no new information.

REPORTS:

Legislator's Report: Tabled.

Hwy Sup't Report: 1A Stones have been brought in for oiling and stoning.

Bank run was traded with the County Hwy Dept. for crushed stones.

Repairs have been completed on the bathroom at the Town Park.

If the weather permits, Key Bank employees will paint the restrooms at the park.

Cemetery repairs have been made at the rural cemeteries. Some fence poles need replacing.

Hwy Sup't Dawley stated that federal training is required on brakes and he would like to send some Hwy Employees to receive training that will certify them on brakes. The course is \$80.00 per person and will certify the employees for 2 years.

It was the consensus of the Board that the brake course costs can be taken out of the Hwy Contractual. Also, they are trying to mow the park between the rain and it's been difficult with all the recent rain.

Crim Road is scheduled for repair after school is out in June as there will be less bus travel.

Councilor Dunham requested that the Highway Dept. clean up behind the building as there is a lot of scrap metal. The scrap metal should be taken to a salvage company and disposed of. Possibly, they will receive monetary compensation for the scrap.

Rental fees to do repairs at the Hwy Department were discussed. Prices will be available at the next meeting.

Clerk's Report: Clerk Reader submitted written reports for the April Town Clerk's Report and Dog Control Report.

Assessor's Report: Assessor Sigourney is sitting with the Tentative Tax Assessment Roll as required by law.

CEO REPORT: CEO Wafer reported that she had been attending training. CEO Wafer also submitted a written CEO Report.

Planning Board Chair: The Planning Board Minutes were received by the Planning Board. PL Brd Member Gage stated that they are finalizing updating the Village Zoning and Subdivision Laws. They should be ready for the Village Board to review.

Councilor Phillips stated that she would like to request that any e-mails regarding the Planning Board should be sent prior to the afternoon of the Board Meeting. Councilor Phillips asked if he could pass the request along to Planning Board Chair Scriber.

Tug Hill Circuit Rider Report: Paul Baxter stated that he is in the process of updating the Village and Town's Websites.

Also, there is an update on the Town's Website on the Joint Study of the future of Parish Elementary. Also, there will be a sign up on the website to participate in the study.

Paul Baxter thanked Supervisor Stelmashuck for attending the Salmon River Cog Meeting held on May 5th in Camden.

The next Tug Hill Commission's Meeting will be in the Town of Amboy from 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. There is a tour scheduled at 3:00 p.m. Paul stated that he had an opportunity in assisting reconnecting the internet connection during the Meeting Room Reconstruction Project.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Notes from Parish Elementary Adaptive Reuse Plan Meeting from May 2nd, 2011.

OLD BUSINESS:

Audit by Comptroller's: Supervisor Stelmashuck reported that the Auditor is still continuing the Town Audit. When that audit is complete, a written report will be submitted to the town of their findings.

New Visions: No update at this time. CNY Wireless will be present at the workshop on May 26th, 2011. There may be another option for high speed internet.

Union Contract: Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that he has not received the contract back from the teamsters yet with the correction. Reviewing the Procurement Policy and Investment Policy was discussed.

Reviewing Town Official's Books was discussed as directed by the Comptroller's Office.

It was also discussed that appointed positions were supposed to submit vouchers for payments instead of getting paid by payroll check.
More discussion will be held at upcoming workshops.

Councilor Phillips asked Supervisor Stelmashuck if he had sent a letter to the CEO and the Assessor requesting their office hours.
CEO Wafer stated that her hours are Monday-Thursday, 1pm-5pm unless she is attending training.

Councilor Phillips discussed the Federal Tax that is still being charged on the phone bills. The Clerk stated that Broadview requires a Federal Tax ID Form before they will remove the Federal Tax on the phone bills. The Auditors did not know how to apply for a Federal Form when asked. It was suggested to contact Basile's CPA firm to see how to apply for exemption from Federal Taxes.

Councilor Jordan suggested to get copies of contractual amounts to department heads so they can keep track of expenses.
Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that he would try and get that information to the department heads quarterly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Workshop Reminder: May 26th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Dean Smith: Allure Visual Ensemble Request: Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that he would leave the request on the agenda one more month.

Applications for Firework's from East Coast Resorts: A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Jordan to allow East Coast Resorts to hold a Fireworks Display on July 3rd, 2011 beginning at 9:00 p.m. pending Fire Company approval. Roll taken...motion carried.

Consolidation Tax Collector and Clerk's Position: Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that he had spoken to the current Tax Collector and she is not planning to seek re-election. The State is encouraging consolidation and he would like the Board to consider consolidating the Town Clerk's and Tax Collector's Positions as 15 towns out of 22 towns in Oswego County have consolidated the positions.

Town Attorney Genant stated that the process is done by Board Resolution and it is not subject to a mandatory or permissive referendum. The decision for consolidation needs to be made 150 days prior to election on November 8th, 2011. The last day for consolidation is June 11th, 2011.

Discussion: Councilor Jordan stated that he feels that position should remain as it is as an elected position.

Councilor Dunham stated that he was in favor of consolidation and he feels that consolidation is the way to go.

Councilor Guindon stated that she is for consolidation and efficiency.

Special Meeting: A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Phillips to hold a Special Meeting on June 9th, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. and put the decision to the Board for consolidation of the Town Clerk's and the Tax Collector's positions. Also, any other such business to be brought before the Board will be discussed. Roll taken...Councilor Jordan-Nay...motion carried.

Efficiency Committee Report: Councilor Phillips stated that she would like the Board to consider adopting an ordinance or local law to allow the veterans to receive the maximum amount of exemption on their taxes.

Also, the committee discussed the two elected positions that receive medical insurance from the Town, the Hwy Sup't and the Town Clerk. It was discussed to only offer insurance to the officials and not to pay for family benefits. She would like to change the policy prior to election to give the candidates the option if they are still interested in running for the position without family insurance benefits.

Also, it was suggested that the Board consider adopting an attendance requirement for Board Members. A Board Member would be required to attend a certain amount of meetings unless a legal excuse was given or they can be removed from the office by the Board.

Discussion was held regarding the legality of an attendance policy pertaining to elected officials.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Dale Chapman stated that there are candidates interested in running for various positions and he does not feel that positions should be consolidated.

Referendums were discussed. Attorney Genant explained that if an issue or decision is not subject to a referendum, it can not be placed on a ballot as it is considered an unauthorized use of town funds.

Councilor Phillips stated that she would like a second booth at the election using paper ballots to obtain the public's opinion.

Attorney Genant stated that the vote would not be binding as election laws give ground rules and the laws are structured to ensure fairness.

Mary Anne Pelkey stated that in small towns she believes that the public should have a voice in decisions. She also believes that the clerk is too busy to take on extra responsibility. She also does not believe that one person should have too much power.

Karen Gage feels that consolidation does not save money and she doesn't agree with taking votes away.

Jack Rucynski stated that as a matter of courtesy that he would stand to address the Board. Mr. Rucynski spoke in regards to Military Exemptions. Mr. Rucynski stated that the Tax Roll is not complete until July 1st and he does not feel that it is too late to implement the increased percentage on Veteran Exemptions to apply for school taxes in 2011.

Mr. Rucynski stated that the people that served their county deserve the town's consideration in increasing the Veteran's Exemption percentage allowance.

Paul Gage stated that the Planning Board was downsized because it was said that it was difficult to find people to fill the seats on the Planning Board and this is not the case with the Tax Collector's position. The Elected Assessor's position was abolished taking the people's right to vote taken away. There are people interested in running for the position.

Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that he did not want to get into politics. It's not about political parties' candidates.

The consolidated position would still be an elected position.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

General Fund: A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Jordan to approve the claims to the General Fund, those being claims #176-#216 for a total warrant of \$12,633.85. Roll taken...Councilor Phillips questioned claims #178-#182, #183 to Broadview Networks for Federal Tax still being charged on the phone bills. The Clerk explained that clarification has to be received on Federal ID # for submission to Broadview before they will remove the charges. The auditors were not certain and Attorney Genant stated that was not a tax attorney so he did not know. The clerk was directed to contact Frank Basile, CPA to request information on information

regarding Federal Tax Exemptions. Roll taken...Councilor Phillips opposed claims #178-#182, #183, motion carried.

Highway Fund: A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Dunham to approve the claims to the Highway Fund, those being claims #84-#117 for a total warrant of \$16,353.37. Councilor Phillips stated that there was not a signature on #84 and she questioned the range of prices on employees work shoes purchased from the same vendor.

The approval of shoes purchased is in the Union Contract with no price cap. Councilor Phillips stated that she felt that the employees should still use common sense when making purchases. Roll taken... motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Dunham to take a 5 minute recess at 8:45 p.m. and to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Roll taken...motion carried. The Town Clerk and Attorney Genant were invited to attend.

A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Dunham to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. roll taken...motion carried.

Supervisor Stelmashuck directed the Clerk to document that Councilor Phillips left the meeting at 8:50 p.m. prior to adjournment without requesting to be excused.

A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Guindon to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. Roll taken...motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Reader
Parish Town Clerk