

## REGULAR MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 17, 2016 at the Village Gym.  
Supervisor Stelmashuck called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Present:** John Dunham, Councilor  
G.R. Horning, Councilor  
Carra Watson, Councilor  
John Horning, Councilor  
Stephen Stelmashuck, Supervisor  
Kelly Reader, Town Clerk

### ALSO PRESENT:

L. J. Harvey, Fire Chief; Craig Petit, Hwy Sup't; Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Rep.; Bob Genant, Town Attorney; Paul Gage, Karen Gage, Doug Jordan, Dale Chapman, Krista Alsworth Bill Alsworth, and Barb Horning.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**February Minutes:** A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor J. Horning to approve the February Minutes as received. Roll taken...motion carried.

However, Councilor J. Horning stated that he disagreed with Hwy Sup't Petit's statement that nothing is written about when Highway Employees can take their vacation. Councilor J. Horning said that in the Union Contract in Article 12, Section B it states all vacations will be taken according to a mutually agreed schedule established by the Hwy Sup't with the Supervisor's approval at least two weeks prior to the start of the vacation.

### SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS:

**Supervisor's Financial Report:** The Supervisor's Financial Report was presented to the Board and filed with the Clerk.

**Revenue Reports:** The Regular and Justice Revenue Reports were presented to the Board and filed with the Clerk.

**April Calendar:** The April Calendar was presented to the Board for the review.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**CARRP REPORT:** Councilor Watson said that the CARRP Committee applied for a grant at the Corner Park to purchase and plant trees. The Town will receive two payments of \$376.00. The second installment will be received after the tree planting is completed. A Resolution has to be adopted in April to receive grant funding. Supervisor Stelmashuck stated he would like to thank Kathy Allardice for applying for the grant. The tree will be planted on National Arbor Day Weekend.

**Emergency Services, Engineering, Public Safety and Water:** Councilor Dunham reported the next Water Meeting will be April 14<sup>th</sup>. The engineer is applying for grants.

**Budgeting and Financial Affairs:** Councilor J. Horning said there is no report at this time.

**Infrastructure & Public Facilities:** Councilor G.R. Horning reported that he took a tour around Town with Hwy Sup't Petit to look at Town Road conditions. Councilor G.R. Horning stated that the roads are in very bad shape. The bridge on Chapman Road is washing out. There are water issues on Smokey Hollow Road.

**General Government and Public Facilities:** Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that at the Tug Hill Conference the Dept. of State will be available to make appointments with municipal efficiencies. Also, Supervisor Stelmashuck will be attending an Annual Finance Conference in Saratoga Springs in May.

The Board authorized Supervisor Stelmashuck to set up an appointment with the Department of State.

## **REPORTS:**

**Legislator's Report:** No Report at this time.

**Highway Sup't Report:** Hwy Sup't Petit gave the Highway Report, Hwy Sup't stated that the Highway Department has been evaluating and inventorying signs, monitoring beaver problems, and repairing plows. Installed brakes on the 2009 and the men did the labor portion of the job to save money.

Hwy Sup't Petit stated that he wanted to earmark CHIPS money toward White Road as it is in very poor condition. Hwy Sup't Petit stated that the cost of road and zoning signs comes out of General Fund.

Hwy Sup't Petit distributed a letter from an Engineer from Cornell's Local Roads Program stating that Oil and Stoning is the best avenue to take when maintaining the roads. Hwy Sup't Petit requested the Board lift the decision of designating \$50,000 to blacktop roads.

He also needs funds to repair or replace culvert pipes and will also be ditching roads. Supervisor Stelmashuck approved training for Hwy Sup't Petit and Deputy Hwy Sup't Alsworth to attend training on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Cooperstown.

**Clerk's Report:** Clerk Reader submitted a written Clerk's Report and Dog License Report for February, 2016.

**Assessor's Report:** Assessor Lopitz submitted a written Assessor's Report.

**CEO/ZEO Report:** CEO/ZEO Bennett submitted a written CEO/ZEO Report.

**DCO Report:** No Report at this time.

**Planning Board Report:** PL Brd Chair Scriber submitted a written Planning Board Report for February. Jen Reeher reviewed the Comprehensive Plan draft with the Planning Board at February's Planning Board Meeting. The Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing prior to the March Planning Board Meeting.

**Fire Chief's Report:** Fire Chief Harvey gave the Fire Chief's Report for February, 2016. The DEC has mandated a statewide Burn Ban from 3/16/2016 to 5/14/2016. The first offense is a \$500.00 fine. The Fire Company is hosting a Defensive Driving Course on June 18<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 am to 3:30 p.m. Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that he attended a nice pancake breakfast and brought former Amboy Supervisor Piseski.

**Tug Hill Circuit Rider's Report:** Paul Baxter met with Hwy Sup't Petit and discussed Windows 7 and Windows 10. Microsoft is insisting aggressively for users to move to Windows 10. Paul said there is a way around it. The Local Government Conference is coming up on 3/31/2016 at JCC in Watertown. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, A Fiscal Oversight Workshop was held and Laird Petrie gave the presentation. Paul distributed handouts for the Board. The Town's Website has been updated.

## **CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**

Invitation from Parish Library on 4/6/2016.

FEMA conjunction with the DEC will host a webinar on Flood Plain Mapping needs.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Fish Ladders versus Dams on the Little Salmon River:** The ladders would possibly provide an opportunity to bring salmon to the Little Salmon River. Atlantic Salmon use to come in the 1800's but are now extinct in the area. 6 to 7 species of salmon were stocked by the DEC. The preferred way would be to remove 2 dams out of Mexico and 1 in Parish. It was the consensus of the Board to try and schedule a meeting with the Parish Town and Village Boards and the Town and Village of Mexico. This meeting

would give the municipalities an opportunity to see if there is an interest in the two municipalities working together to explore the option of removing dams to rejuvenate water ways. This could bring tourism to the area. There are grants available to remove dams.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

Doug Jordan asked about the \$50,000.00 earmarked for blacktopping versus oil and stoning. He asked why things are being discussed at workshops rather than at meetings. Supervisor Stelmashuck responded that this topic will take considerable time to discuss. Doug Jordan stated that the public cannot comment at workshops. Supervisor Stelmashuck stated he didn't know why the public could not speak as long as the public addresses the Board and not each other. Also, the Board was asked about hiring a 4<sup>th</sup> Highway Employee as stated in the Union Contract.. Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that will also be discussed at the workshop scheduled for the workshop next Thursday. Highway Superintendent Petit stated that \$50,000 will black top ½ mile and \$50,000 would oil and stone almost 4 miles of road. Highway Superintendent Petit stated he felt he has been handcuffed by the Board. He also stated he wanted to know which roads they wanted turned back to dirt roads. Why are they making a decision that the Highway Superintendent should be making. He stated that he has a form to be turned into the county by April 4<sup>th</sup> for road projects and he doesn't know what materials he should have trucked in due to the Board's indecisiveness.

Bill Alsworth stated that the Board should respect Highway Superintendent Petit and give him an opportunity to prove himself. The Board should not handcuff him and just allow him to do his job. Bill asked if the union could come to the workshop. Supervisor Stelmashuck said that they could.

Karen Gage stated that the previous Highway Superintendent was fully staffed. Karen stated that she feels that some decisions are being made based on personality.

Dale Chapman asked why Legislator Holst couldn't attend some meetings. Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that he has asked him to attend or to send a report.

Doug Jordan suggested that Legislator Holst be invited to a Joint Meeting.

Dale Chapman stated that people were experiencing problems with land lines through New Visions. They were having difficulty when they tried to go back to land lines.

Paul Gage said that he felt that they were shady from the start.

It was suggested for the Town Board to request a meeting with New Visions. Councilor J. Horning stated that he asked and New Visions declined as Mr. Branca stated that New Visions were present at Olde Home Days to answer question. Concerns were expressed regarding the Dog Control not attending the Board Meetings and turning in reports.

Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that he was going to send a letter.

**MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

**GENERAL FUND:** A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Dunham to approve the claims to the General Fund, those being claims #52 to #79 for a total warrant of \$357,775.23. Roll taken...motion carried.

**HIGHWAY FUND:** A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor J. Horning to approve the claims to the Highway Fund, those being claims #43 to #72 for a total warrant of \$75,270.68. Roll taken...motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor G.R. Horning to take a 3 minute recess and enter into Executive Session at 7:55 pm to discuss Real Property and Personnel. Clerk Reader and Attorney Genant were invited to attend. Roll taken...motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Dunham to adjourn from Executive Session to the Regular Meeting at 7:58 pm. Roll taken...motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor J. Horning to adjourn at 8:19 pm. Roll taken...motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly I. Reader,  
Parish Town Clerk