

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Parish Town Board held March 16, 2017 at the Village Gym, Parish, NY. Supervisor Stelmashuck called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Excused: John Horning, Councilor

Also Present: Craig Petit, Hwy Sup't; L.J. Harvey, Fire Chief; Kathy Allardice, CARPP Chair; Doug Jordan, Paul Gage; Planning Brd Members; Karen Gage, Dale Chapman, Jack Rucynski, Barb Horning, Bill Alsworth, Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Rep.; and Bob Genant, Attorney.

February Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Councilor Dunham, seconded by Councilor Watson to approve the February Meeting Minutes as received. Roll taken...motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS:

Supervisor's Financial Report: The Supervisor's Report was reviewed by the Board and filed with the Clerk.

Revenue Reports: The Regular and Justice Reports were reviewed by the Board and filed with Clerk.

April Calendar: The April Calendar was reviewed by the Board and filed with the Clerk.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

CARRP Committee: Kathy Allardice CARRP Chair stated that she has looked into the price to replace picnic tables at Merrill Park-10 picnic tables 10ft with pressure treated lumber for the base will be \$1,035.00 with BOCES constructing them.

A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor G.R. Horning to authorize BOCES to construct 10 picnic tables for Merrill Park for the amount of \$1,035.00 with BOCES constructing them. Roll taken...motion carried.

It was the consensus to the Board to allow the Town to purchase the material or BOCES can bill the Town which ever they choose.

Kathy also reported that they would like to celebrate "Love Your Park Day" the last weekend in April.

Family Fun Day was discussed and the committee hopes to offer Disc Golf and games for the community.

Olde Home Day date is scheduled for August 12th, 2017. This was to coordinate with the Fire Company's Car Show.

Fire Chief Harvey stated unfortunately the Fire Company has decided not to hold the Car Show this year because of lack of participation.

Emergency Services, Engineering, Public Safety, and Water Committee:

Councilor Dunahm stated that he has tried to schedule a Water Meeting twice but because of bad weather and conflicting schedules they were canceled. Councilor Dunham stated that he will try to schedule another Water Meeting as soon as possible.

Councilor Dunham stated that he has spoken to the Town of Albion regarding Water District options. The Grant Writer will be getting Water Surveys out.

Budgeting, Financial Affairs, and Personnel: Councilor J. Horning was excused.

General Gov't and Policy: Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that the maps have been located for Central Park.

The copier in the Clerk's Office should be considered for replacement. The issue will be placed on the Joint Meeting in April.

Infrastructure & Public Facilities: Councilor G.R. Horning stated that he has met with Hwy Sup't Petit and a lot of culvert pipe replacement and cold patching need to be completed this year.

REPORTS:

Legislator's Report: No report at this time.

Hwy Sup't Report: Hwy Sup't Petit gave the Highway Report:

Replacing the Bantam was discussed. The Village of Pulaski has a 1991 Gradeall and will be allowing the Town of Parish to borrow the machine to see if they have an interest in purchasing it. This is a specialty item and not used very much by the Village of Pulaski.

It was the consensus to the Board not to put any more money in the 1979 Bantam and to place it out for bid.

A motion was made by Councilor Dunham, seconded by Councilor Watson to place the 1979 Bantam out for bid. Roll taken...motion carried.

Installation of New Driveways: Currently, the policy is for the resident to purchase the culvert pipe and the Hwy Dept to install the pipe. It was the consensus of the Board to leave the policy as is and to continue as a service to the public.

April Workshop: The April Workshop will be solely devoted to the Saint Mary's Road/Valleygate Drive Issue.

Accidents: Section 1103 NY Vehicle and Traffic Law states that Hwy Dept's are exempt if they are acting in the performance of their job unless they act intentionally in causing the accident.

The 284 Highway Agreement was signed by the Board.

Another 6 weeks of County Snow bills will be turned into the County for reimbursement to the Town.

Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that he would like folks to stop in at the Highway Garage to look at the renovations to the break room and office.

Clerks/ Report: Clerk Reader submitted a Clerk's Report and Dog Control Report for February, 2017.

Assessor's Report: No report at this time.

CEO Report: CEO Bennett submitted a written CEO Report.

DCO Report: No report at this time.

Planning Board Report: No report at this time.

Fire Chief's Report: Fire Chief Harvey gave the Fire Report for February, 2017. Also, Fire Chief Harvey stated that DEC has a Burn BAN on from 3/16/2017-5/14/2017.

Tug Hill Circuit Rider Report: Paul Baxter Tug Hill Rep. gave the following report: The Oneida Lake Association is sponsoring a discussion on lake-centric nuisance Canada goose population on Saturday, March 25 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm at PV Moore High School. This session is free and open to the public.

Paul attended the CNY Regional Economic Development Council Meeting last week. They are getting ready for the next round of CFA (Consolidation Funding Application) application. Paul stated that this is not a bad time to start thinking about potential grant applications before the next round is formally announced.

Paul spoke to Paul Miller of the Fish Creek Atlantic Salmon Club to speak on possibly re-introducing Salmon to the Little Salmon River. Mr. Miller will be attending the Joint/Village Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 13th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Paul was able to aid Hwy Sup't Petit with some computer issues. Also, Paul aided the Assessor with some computer issues and aided him with some recommendations for the purchase of a new computer.

Paul thanked the Parish Fire Company for allowing the Fiscal Oversight Workshop to be held at the Fire Station. Paul stated that it was well attended and thanked those who participated.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Letter from Richard Wunder Elks Club-A meeting is scheduled on 3/20/2017 at 10:00am at the Amboy Town Hall to discuss the future of the former Girl Scout Camp.

Phone call from Dan O'Connor

E-mail from Dept. of State

Letter and Book from Oswego County Bicentennial Committee.

E-mail from Assoc. of Towns

Rabies Clinic Schedule from the County Health Dept.

OLD BUSINESS:

Consolidate Tax Collector and Clerk Positions Discussions: Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that if the Board decided to abolish the position of the Tax Collector it has to be done at least 150 days prior to the next election in November according to section 36 of Town Law.

Councilor G.R. Horning stated that the decision should be left up to the people not up to 5 Board Members.

Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that under section 36 of Town Law it has to be done by Board Resolution and there is no provision in the law to put it out for public referendum. This has been researched and double checked.

Councilor G.R. Horning stated that two qualified people expressed interest in the position. Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that the Tax Collector appointed her deputy which was her choice. The deputy serves in the absence of the elected position.

Supervisor Stelmashuck stated in 15 out of 22 towns in the county, the Tax Collector and Town Clerk's positions are consolidated. Supervisor Stelmashuck stated the following advantages for the consolidation.

It would save on spending money on extra equipment costs, retirement and mandated payroll withholding requirements. The consolidation would offer more hours for tax collection to the public. The current acting Tax Collector and Clerk already have experience in collecting taxes because they aided the Tax Collector in the past.

Councilor Watson stated that in her view the last couple of elected Tax Collectors had to have a lot of aid to perform their duties as Tax Collector. Yet they continued to run for the positions and were re-elected.

Councilor Watson stated that a few times when she was in the clerk's office during the Tax Collection Period the clerks were aiding in the Tax Collection Process.

Councilor G.R. Horning stated he did not care how much money it saved he felt the public should have a say in the decision.

The question was asked if the position was abolished and consolidated with the Clerk's could it ever be separated.

Supervisor Stelmashuck according to research it could be by public referendum.

Discussion was held regarding having an elected position be eliminated and turned into an appointed position.

Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that the Town Clerk's position is an elected position and the public votes on the position. If they are not happy with the candidate they can vote them out.

Discussion was held by the Board and the consensus was not to vote on the consolidation at this time.

Letter to Mark Sortman: Regarding tenants plugging into the Town's Electrical Box. Also, trash not being properly disposed of.

Letter to Johnson Newspaper: Formerly, Oswego County Weeklies: A letter was sent as authorized by the Board stating that the Town will no longer use them as an Official Newspaper due to policy and price changes implemented by the new owner. The Vice President of Marketing left a message on the Supervisor's answering machine in regards to response to the letter. It was the consensus of the Board to let it stand as is.

Letter to Oswego County Snowmobile Clubs: Supervisor Stelmashuck stated as directed by the Board, a letter was sent to Oswego County Snowmobile Club's informing them that the Town was never notified that Sparhawk Road was going to be designated as an alternate route for a detour for snowmobile travel. The detour was designated due to National Grid working along the main trails. The Snowmobile President, Buzz VanSanford stated that the county stated that they would notify the town which never occurred.

The Town received complaints from residents on Sparhawk Road regarding snowmobiles causing property damage.

Supervisor Stelmashuck met with Buzz VanSanford, Oswego County Snowmobile President and he stated that he would make sure that the Town is aware of any route or detour changes in the future.

Resolution to Formally Adopt the Town/Village Codes-Intermunicipal Agreement:

A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Dunham to formally authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement and all fees collected from the CEO will be turned into the Town directly. Roll taken...motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Advertise for 2017 Dog Enumerator to begin May 1st and completed by Sept 1, 2017:

A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor G.R. Horning to advertise for a Dog Enumerator at the rate of \$10.00 per hr, \$1.00 per dog counted and no mileage to begin May 1st and end September 1st, 2017. Roll taken...motion carried.

Supervisor to Attend 2017 Finance Conference: A motion was made by Councilor Dunham, seconded by Councilor Watson to authorize Supervisor Stelmashuck to attend the 2017 Finance Conference in Saratoga Springs. Roll taken...motion carried.

Joint Meeting and Topic for April 13th, 2017: A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck to designate the Joint Meeting on April 13th, 2017 to discuss the possibility of reintroducing salmon to the Little Salmon River and to formally invite the Mexico Town and Village Boards to the Joint Meeting. Roll taken...motion carried.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Jack Rucynski asked why the Resolution to abolish the Town's Tax Collector's Position and consolidate it with the Clerk's position was not voted on.

Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that was the consensus of the Board not to bring it to a vote.

Mr. Rucynski stated he did not understand why it was not brought to a formal vote.

Doug Jordan asked if the Board was going to address the Code Enforcement Officer's lack of hours and attendance at Planning Board Meetings.

Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that topic will be discussed in Executive Session under personnel.

Karen Gage stated that it seems that there is a different set of rules if the Board abolished the Tax Collector's Position and then chose to go back and reinstate the position; it would be subject to a vote.

However, that is not the case of an Appointed Assessor.

Karen Gage stated that she would like to formally request that the Board to consider the order of agenda when allowing the public to speak. Specifically prior to the items that are going to be discussed by the Board to allow the public to express their concerns. Karen also suggested to give the public two opportunities during the meeting to speak.

Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that it is a courtesy for the Board to allow the public to speak. Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that the Members of the Board were voted in to

make decisions for the Town. They do take comments from the public in consideration when making decisions, but the Board represents all the residents.

Karen stated she did not feel that Supervisor Stelmashuck's response was a good answer regarding giving the public an opportunity to speak.

Paul Gage stated that people cannot always make Board Meetings.

Bill Alsworth asked Supervisor Stelmashuck if he felt that the majority of the public were represented by not voting on the Tax Collector Resolution.

Supervisor Stelmashuck responded that he was ready to vote on the Resolution and did not feel that he was representing the majority of the people by not voting.

Dale Chapman asked if the Town contacted other towns to see if they had any information regarding Dog Enumerators or possibly combining services.

Councilor Dunham stated that Volney has a good DCO and they stay on top of things.

Dale Chapman also stated that the school hosts chat sessions and you can speak to the School Superintendent about different issues.

Also, you can pay your school taxes at the school if you choose to but most people are not aware of this option.

Supervisor Stelmashuck stated that there is an option where your Tax Collector can be appointed receiver of taxes and collect all taxes.

Bill Alsworth asked once BOCES build the picnic tables can they dispose of the old ones.

Supervisor Stelmashuck responded absolutely.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

GENERAL FUND: A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Dunham to approve the bills to the General Fund, those being claims #62-#89 for a total warrant of \$121,994.37. Roll taken...motion carried.

HIGHWAY FUND: A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor G.R. Horning to approve claims #53-#82 for a total warrant of \$102,623.93. Roll taken...motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Dunham to take a 3 minute recess at 8:15 pm and then enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and potential litigation. Roll taken...motion carried.

Attorney Genant and Clerk Reader were invited to attend.

A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Dunham to adjourn from Executive Session to the Regular Meeting at 8:45 p.m. Roll taken...motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Stelmashuck, seconded by Councilor Dunham to adjourn at 8:47 pm. Roll taken...motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Reader
Town Clerk