

REGULAR PARISH TOWN BOARD/ZOOM MEETING

Minutes of the Regular Parish Town Board Meeting held October 15, 2020 at 2938 E. Main E. Street, Parish, NY in the Village Gym. The Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Phillips at 6:30 pm.

PRESENT:

Doug Jordan, Councilor
John Dunham, Councilor
G.R. Horning,, Councilor
Gary Wood, Councilor
Mary Ann Phillips, Supervisor
Kelly Reader, Town Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Bernys, CEO; Robin Eaton-Novak, Deputy Supervisor; Craig Petit, Hwy Sup't; Kevin Dwyer, Tax Collector; and Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Rep.

PRESENT BY ZOOM: Bob Genant, Town Attorney; Gary Wood, Councilor; Carrie Tuttle, DANC; and Randy Pellis, Oswego County Weeklies.

Water District 1. Discussion: Carrie Tuttle explained that a Resolution needs to be made by the Parish Town Board to schedule a Public Hearing regarding the increase in the maximum amount proposed to be expended and to adjust the EDU count for the Village/Town of Parish Water District 1 Project.

Discussion was held to possibly hold the Public Hearing on November 19th, 2020 or hold a Special Meeting. The engineers and attorneys need to be present to address questions and concerns from the public. A determination needs to be made where the Public Hearing will be held. The Fire Department is not available due to COVID restrictions.

Supervisor Phillips will contact the school district to see if it would be possible to hold the Public Hearing there.

The adoption of the Resolution was tabled until a confirmation can be made on an exact place and date to hold the Public Hearing.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Transfers/Budget Modifications: A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Horning to approve the Budget Transfers/Modifications as presented. Roll taken...

Councilor Horning, Councilor Jordan, Councilor Dunham, Councilor Wood, Supervisor Phillips-Aye (5) Nay (0). motion carried.

General Fund:

GF- A Fund: A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Horning to approve claims to the General Fund A Account, those being claims #208-#229 for a total warrant of \$10,216,62. Roll taken...Councilor Horning, Councilor Jordan, Councilor Dunham, Councilor Wood, and Supervisor Phillips-Aye (5) Nay (0). motion carried

GF-B Fund: A motion was made by Councilor Horning, seconded by Councilor Dunham to approve claims to the General Fund B Account, those being claims #230-#231 for a total warrant of \$57.12. Roll taken...

Councilor Dunham, Councilor Jordan, Councilor Horning, Councilor Wood, and Supervisor Phillips.- Aye (5) Nay (0).motion carried..

H Fund: A motion was made by Councilor Dunham, seconded by Councilor Horning to approve the claims to the H Fund, those being claims #232-#233 for a total warrant of \$1,093.08. Roll taken... Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Wood, and Supervisor Phillips-Aye (4), Councilor Jordan-Nay (1) motion carried.

Highway Fund:

DA Fund: A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Dunham to approve the claims to the DA Fund, those being claims #186-#196 for a total warrant of \$25,245.55. Roll taken... Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Jordan, Councilor Wood, and Supervisor Phillips.- Aye (5) Nay (0) motion carried.

DB Fund: A motion was made by Councilor Horning, seconded by Councilor Dunham to approve the claims to the DB Fund, those being claims #-197-#203 for a total warrant of \$28,938.06. Roll taken... Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Jordan, Councilor Wood, and Supervisor Phillips-Aye (5) Nay (0) motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution for a JCAP Grant: A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Dunham to pass a Resolution authorizing the Parish Town Court to apply for a JCAP Grant for the 2020-21 grant cycle up to \$30,000.00. Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Jordan, Councilor Horning, Councilor Wood, and Supervisor Phillips-Aye (5) Nay (0) motion carried.

Zoning Law Amendment: A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Wood to set a workshop to review revisions on the proposed Zoning Law Amendments on December 3rd, 2020 at 2938 E. Main Street, Parish NY in the Village Gym contingent on the availability of the attendance of Matt Johnson from Tug Hill. Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Jordan, Councilor Wood, and Supervisor Phillips-Aye (5) Nay (0) motion carried.

Tax Cap Override Public Hearing, 2021 Budget Public Hearing, and a Special Meeting for the consideration of Local Law #2 overriding the Tax Cap Levy for the 2021 Town of Parish Budget and adoption of amendment of the 20201 Budget:

A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Dunham to pass a resolution to set a Public Hearing to consider overriding the Tax Cap Levy for the 2021 Town of Parish Budget on November 5th, 2020 at 2938 E Main Street in the Village Gym and by Zoom beginning at 6:00 pm. Immediately following, a Public Hearing will be held to hear all comments regarding amending or adopting the 2021 Preliminary Budget as the Town of Parish adopted Budget for 2021. Immediately following, a Special Meeting will be held for consideration of passing Local Law #2 2020 overriding the Tax Cap Levy for the 2021 Budget and to amend or adopt the 2021 Preliminary Budget as the Town of Parish 2021 Final Budget. Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Jordan, Councilor Wood, and Supervisor Phillips-Aye (5) Nay (0) motion carried.

Councilor Jordan requested to bring up some additional items that were not on the agenda under Old Business.

Supervisor Phillips requested that Councilor Jordan wait until she got through the agenda.

Councilor Jordan expressed that the items fall under Old Business and those issues should be discussed under Old Business.

It was the consensus of Town Board that if the items fell under Old Business, then they should be discussed under Old Business.

Councilor Jordan wanted to discuss the re-appointment of Jack Rucynski to the Assessment Board of review. The Board was waiting for information on the expired term for clarification and that information had been received

Supervisor Phillips disagreed and expressed that it should be discussed in Executive Session under personnel.

Councilor Wood asked how the process for two signatures on all checks was going?

The Supervisor expressed that she had not had time to do what was needed to be done as she has been busy with her job duties.

Councilor Wood responded that it was not up to the Supervisor as it is in effect. The Board voted to require countersignatures. Councilor Wood reviewed the process that allows the Town Clerk to countersign all checks.

A heated discussion took place on the process. Councilor Wood informed the Board that counter signatures on all checks is highly recommended by the Comptroller's Office as it protects everyone. Councilor Wood also informed the Board that some of the agencies and other municipalities that he spoke to were surprised that we were not already doing it.

Some of the Board Members gave Supervisor Phillips until November 1st, 2020 to make provisions for the process of dual signatures on all checks.

If the deadline is not met, it was suggested that the Board could begin proceedings to file an Article 78 against the Supervisor.

Another item under Old Business items that some of the Board Members wanted to discuss was hiring an auditor to audit all Town Official's books. There were two auditing firms that were discussed.

Supervisor Phillips needs to contact them and will have more information at the Budget Workshop on 10/22/2020.

Councilor Wood expressed that if the Board moved forward with passing a Local Law to create the position of a Comptroller an audit would help that person start with a clean slate.

Resolution to pass a Local Law to establish the position of a Comptroller for the Town of Parish:

A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Jordan to pass a resolution to adopt a Local Law to appoint a Comptroller for the Town of Parish subject to a mandatory referendum.

Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Jordan, Councilor Wood,-Aye (3) Councilor Horning and Supervisor Phillips-Nay (2) motion carried.

Attorney Genant will review the process for the Local Law for the a Comptroller and get the necessary paperwork together.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Phillips submitted a monthly Supervisor's Report as of 9/30/2020 for the Board to review. Supervisor Phillips informed the Board that the report she had given them in the past was not a report that she was required to provide to them. If the Board has additional questions on the report they could stop up at her office.

Discussion was held regarding Department Head Reports. It was the consensus of the Board if the Officials were present to give their reports that it's fine. If they are not present, they can just submit a written report.

REPORTS:

Hwy Report: Hwy Sup't Petit reported that the Hwy Department had done a lot of road work this year and they are getting ready for the winter months. The Hwy Department will be going on Winter Hours beginning November 9th, 2020 to coincide with the payroll cycle.

Assessor's Report: Assessor Lesnau

CEO Report: CEO Bernys

Justice Report: Justice Dayger

Town Clerk's Report: Clerk Reader

DCO Report: DCO Spriggs

Tug Hill Report: Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Rep. reported that he did not have too much to report as he has been busy with municipalities with their budget process including Parish. The Tug Hill Office is still working with 50% capacity. The Tug Hill Conference for 2021 has been postponed, not canceled in hopes that the COVID situation improves. There are some training opportunities being offered via webinars and by Zoom. Some training is being offered in person using COVID guidelines and prior registration is required to allow limited attendance. Councilor Wood asked if Paul had anymore information on the Little Salmon River. Paul responded not at this time, but they still are tracking information.

Fire Chief's Report: Fire Chief Harvey had 3 months of Reports and informed the Board that he had not been in attendance due to his work schedule.

Supervisor Phillips informed the Board that she was taking a long recess and she was done with the meeting at 7:40 pm..

Councilor Wood expressed that this was the second time the Supervisor has walked out on something important.

Deputy Supervisor Eaton-Novak took over running the meeting due to the Supervisor's unexpected absence.

BAR APPOINTMENT:

A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Jordan to re-appoint Jack Rucynski to the BAR effective October 1st, 2020. Roll taken...

Councilor Dunham, Councilor Jordan, Councilor Wood-Aye (3) Councilor Horning-Nay (1)

Supervisor Phillips-Absent

motion carried.

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENT:

A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Wood to re-appoint Bill Scriber to the Planning Board term to expire on 12/31/2020 and new term to begin 1/1/2021. Roll taken...

Councilor Dunham, Councilor Jordan, Councilor Wood, and Councilor Horning.-Aye (4) Nay-((0)

Supervisor Phillips-Absent
motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Tug Hill Times: 9/25/2020 & 10/9/2020

PL Brd Minutes & Agenda: 8/28/2020

CiTi BOCES Spotlight

AOT-In Session Volume 7

Minutes: Public Hearing-9/10/17, September Regular Meeting Minutes-9/17/2020 and Special Meeting Minutes-1-/7/2020.

The Clerk asked the Village Treasurer, Kevin Dwyer if he signs checks for the Village the same time as the Mayor. Kevin responded that he does not because their schedules don't always coincide. They sign them within a 24 hour time frame and it does not create an issue. The Village's process for two signatures was a recommendations from the Comptroller's Office when they were conducting an assist visit within the past 8 years.

Councilor Wood stated that he would like the people to know, this movement by the Board for Counter Signatures and for a Comptroller is not to throw monkey wrenches into any gears and not to tick off the Supervisor so she walks out. Councilor Wood stated that he is not accusing anyone of not being able to do their job. He is thinking this would benefit the Town and allow the Board to act on their responsibilities. It is stated in the Comptroller's Report that the Board should be more involved with the Town;'s Fiscal Responsibilities. These are a couple of items that Councilor Wood has been checking on with other Towns and he thinks is a good stepping stone. In reality a good Comptroller will help the Supervisor. The people would vote and decide if they want the position of a comptroller or not. The only difference between a Bookkeeper and a Comptroller is that a Bookkeeper is hired and fired by the Supervisor and works solely for the Supervisor. The Comptroller works for the Board and the people and is appointed by the Board. Councilor Wood said he is not making any accusations, but a Comptroller will not be afraid or intimidated to let the Fiscal Financial Officer know when something is not a good idea. The Board did not fire the Bookkeeper. It was her choice and she quit on the Supervisor.

It's Councilor's Wood's hope that the Board gets a grip on finances and become more involved. Councilor Wood is not comfortable with writing off \$100,000.00 of taxpayers money. Councilor Wood explained that if an individual was able to write off \$100,000.00 of debt without any repercussion then their credit score would go up. That is a comparison with the score from the Comptroller Office that was to reduced 13%..

Councilor Wood just wanted to explain that maybe a Comptroller can help and it may benefit the Town and help the Supervisor..

A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Dunham to adjourn at 7:53. Roll taken...motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Reader
Parish Town Clerk