

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
4/15/2021

Minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting held April 15th, 2021 at 2938 E. Main Street, Parish, NY in the Village Gym and via Zoom. The Regular April Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Phillips at 6:32 pm.

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

Also Present: Craig Petit, Hwy Supt; Jim Bernys, CEO; Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Rep.; Robin Eaton-Novak, Deputy Supervisor; and Jackie Murphy, Village Trustee;
Residents: Jeff Dickinson, Lenny West, John Horning, George Horning, and Scott Reid.

Present Via Zoom: Carol Dwyer, Diane Spaziani, Pl Brd Member; Paul Gage, Pl Brd Member; Shenvalee Lee, Eleanor Kinney, Robert Prockup, and Bob Genant, Town Attorney.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

If anyone would like the desire to speak on any subject listed on the agenda, they may do so and will be allowed 3 minutes.

No Comments.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

HIGHWAY REPORT:

Hwy Sup't Petit gave the Highway Report. Currently, there are low interest loans available at 1.6%. The type of grant that is needed to make repairs needed at the Hwy Dept. Garage would not be beneficial at this time according to the grant writer.

The grant for the snowplow is still being processed.

Hwy Sup't Petit stated that as of April 1st, 2021 John Hamilton is the Hwy Deputy.

Hwy Sup't Petit is concentrating on Summer Road Projects. He would like to get the canceled checks back in July in order to get the CHIPS payments reimbursed in September for 2021.

Equipment Purchase: Hwy Sup't Petit would like to purchase a piece of equipment with Shared Services for the Town of Orwell. The money has been budgeted in the equipment line. The piece of equipment would be shared, the total cost is \$18,000.00 for a Hotbox for cold patch or blacktop. The total cost of \$18,000 will be split between the Town of Parish and the Town of Orwell paying \$9,000 each. A contract will be drawn up between each municipality on maintenance costs, storage insurance, and other factors regarding the purchase.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Dunham to purchase a Hot Box with the Town of Orwell paying \$9,000 each. Authorizing the Town Attorney to draw up a contract for the piece of equipment with the Town of Orwell's Attorney.

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

Hwy Bldg Repairs: The Highway Building needs a roof as it has been patched for the last 3 years and it leaks. It is a rubber roof and it was put on in the 80's. Floor drains have disintegrated along with the columns. The boiler is old and keeps breaking and needing repair. No major money has been put into the highway garage in many years. Building and Truck grants are two different grants. Currently, there are grants available for new buildings, but the Town has no property to put a new building on.

Discussion: Discussion was held in regards to borrowing \$200,000 at 1.6% for 15 years to make necessary repairs to the Highway Garage. Discussion was held in regards to paying back the loan early without penalty. The payment would be around \$15,000.00 per year plus interest.

HWY Bldg Repair: A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Dunham to apply for a loan with Green Bank for \$200,000 at 1.6% for Highway Department repairs pending legal advice approval from the Town Attorney and the condition that the loan could be paid off early with no penalty. Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Wood, Councilor Jordan, and Supervisor Phillips,- Aye (4) Councilor Horning-Nay (1). motion carried.

Merrill Park: Hwy Sup't Petit reported that the electricity has been turned on at Merrill Park. He plans on opening the park by May 1st, 2021. Discussion was held regarding COVID guidelines. Posting COVID guidelines were discussed.

Highway Sup't Petit wanted it stated that for the record in the Minutes that the \$145,000 RAN payment plus \$3,768.96 interest that is on the abstract for the DB Fund is for payment of a debt that no one could find in the past administration's records.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Councilor Horning , seconded by Councilor Wood to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 7:06 pm. Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Wood, Councilor Jordan, and Supervisor Phillips-Aye (5) Nay (0). motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Wood to adjourn from Executive Session at 7:26 pm. Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Wood, Councilor Jordan, and Supervisor Phillips. Aye (5) Nay (0) motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

The Supervisor's Report through March 31st, 2021 was presented by the Supervisor.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

General Fund A Account: A motion was made by Councilor Horning, seconded by Supervisor Phillips to approve claims for the General Fund A Account, those being claims #82-#100 for at total warrant of \$20,687.31.

Discussion was held regarding the amount to the be paid to the cemetery and how was that amount determined.

Supervisor Phillips explained that there is a formula used on a percentage of the total assessed value to determine the amount. She did not have the information with her.

Discussion was held that documentation should be attached to the voucher to show how it was determined. Supervisor Phillips will get the information to the Board.

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

Capital Project Water Fund H Account: A motion was made by Councilor Horning, seconded by Councilor Wood to approve the claims to the Capital Project Fund H Account, those being claims #101-#102 for a total warrant of \$330.25.

Discussion was held regarding claim #102 for DANC for the amount of \$250.75. Supervisor Phillips explained that DANC compiled all the bills for Water District 1 to determine what amount will be billed to those that live in Water District 1.

Councilor Jordan asked why the bookkeeper could not add the totals? Supervisor Phillips responded that the Board hired DANC to do a job and that's what they did.

Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Wood, and Supervisor Phillips-Aye (4) Councilor Jordan-Nay (1). motion carried.

Highway Fund DA Account: A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Jordan to approve the claims to Highway Fund DA Account, those being claims #61-#86 for a total warrant of \$19,017.81. Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Wood, Councilor Jordan, and Supervisor Phillips-Aye (5) Nay-(0). motion carried.

Highway Fund DB Account: A motion was made by Councilor Horning, seconded by Councilor Dunham to approve the claims to Highway Fund DB Account, those being claims #87-#88 for a total warrant of \$149,180.17.

Supervisor Phillips noted that Hwy Sup't Petit would like it mentioned that this was payment for debt that was incurred prior to this administration and no one could find where it came from.

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

REPORTS:

Highway Report: Addressed.

Assessor's Report: Tabled.

CEO's Report: CEO Bernys

Justice Report: Justice Dayger

Clerk's Report: Clerk Reader- Councilor Jordan asked Clerk Reader if the Deputy Clerk had a chance to go over to the bank to get her name on the accounts as requested.

The Clerk responded that she had. Councilor Jordan also asked how the dual signature check signing was going. The Clerk responded that she thought it was going fine, however she did not feel comfortable signing checks on insufficient funds.

DCO Report: DCO Spriggs

Tug Hill Report: Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Rep. Baxter reported that the Tug Hill Offices are still operating at a 50% occupancy level.

The Governor's Executive Order allowing remote meetings and public hearings (via means such as Zoom) has been extended through May 6th, 2021.

The Tug Hill Commission's next meeting has been scheduled for April 19th, 2021 at 10:00 am at the Central Square Village Hall and via Zoom.

NYS has passed legislation for adult use of cannabis which includes an option for a municipality to opt out for their town or village. Paul had attached a model-opt-out local law. If the town chooses to adopt it, they would need to act on it by the end of this year. There is an option for the public to overturn that action via referendum.

Tug Hill Times was attached regarding upcoming webinars.

Fire Chief's Report: Councilor Dunham read Fire Chief Harvey's Fire Chief's Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Zoning Law Amendment: A motion was made by Councilor Dunham, seconded by Councilor Wood to adopt the proposed Zoning Law Amendment with correction to section 1210-#1-Accessory Structure Exceptions-from less than 25 sq ft to less than 144 sq ft ground coverage, unless over 15 ft. in height does not require a Zoning Permit. Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Wood, Councilor Jordan, and Supervisor Phillips-Aye-(5), Nay-(0).motion carried.

Moratorium 6 Month Extension on Free Standing Solar Panel Installation in the Town of Parish:

It was not necessary to extend the moratorium as it was addressed in the Zoning Law Amendment Adoption.

Water District 1 Progress Report: A copy of the report compiled by DANC was sent to all the Councilors from 2017 to the present. This information would determine how much the Water District would have to pay back to the General Fund.

Opening of Merrill Park:

Discussion was held on guidelines to open Merrill Park. The tentative date for opening Merrill Park is May 1st, 2021. Placing Covid signs, sanitizing the restrooms, and providing a safe environment for the public was discussed. There is a presentation on April 28th, on COVID guidelines. The Clerk reminded the Board that if the Board is not going to open the park, the town may have to reimburse rental fees that have been paid.

Bank of Green County current rates for Town of Parish: 1.6%.-Addressed.

Councilor Jordan stated that he had some other items for Old Business:

Councilor Jordan asked if Kevin Dwyer had received his Planning Board check yet?

Supervisor Phillips responded that she has not issued his check because he did not sign the attendance sheet as required by law.

Councilor Jordan responded that the Board voted that the Planning Board did not have to sign an attendance sheet because they are salaried and proof of attendance is verified in the Minutes. There is also no attendance problem.

Supervisor Phillips explained that she doesn't receive the Minutes until after the checks need to be issued and the Minutes were not signed.

Councilor Jordan responded that if an attendance sheet is required by the Planning Board, then he feels that all appointed positions should be required to sign an attendance sheet.

Councilor Jordan asked if Paychex has been contacted for the Town's payroll company?

Supervisor Phillips responded that she hadn't and she was not going to as it was her call not the Board's. Councilor Jordan disagreed and reminded the Supervisor that she was shown the law that it is not her call. Supervisor Phillips explained that it was cheaper doing payroll in-house. Councilor Jordan responded that it was not cheaper and he does not understand why she does not have to follow the Board's direction. Supervisor Phillips explained that it was against the law. However, Board Members disagreed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grievance Day Change: A motion was made by Councilor Dunham, seconded by Councilor Jordan to change Grievance Day from Tuesday, May 25th, 2021 to Wednesday, May 26th, 2021. Roll taken...

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

Bond Insurance Coverage: A motion was made by Councilor Dunham, seconded by Councilor Wood to authorize the increase of the Town of Parish Crime Bond from \$500,000.00 to \$1000,000.00. Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Wood, Councilor Jordan, and Supervisor Phillips-Aye (5) Nay (0). motion carried.

Approval of Justice Court Audit: Tabled.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Oswego County Business Renewal Notice.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Tug Hill Times-3/26/2021 & 4/9/2021

Spotlight from Citi BOCES

Clerk's Minutes: 3/18/2021-Special Meeting and Regular Town Board Minutes.

Planning Brd Minutes & Agenda-3/22/2021

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Robert Prockup from the Zoom Session stated that he was unable to here the audio on the information regarding Water District 1. He wanted to know the source of the Water District information and the amount of the Water District 1 bill. Paul Baxter responded that he informed Mr. Prockup that it was DANC. And the Supervisor may want to address the total of the Water District bill at some point for anyone that wanted the information.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Councilor Horning, Councilor Dunham to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel appointments at 8:30 pm. Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Wood, Councilor Jordan, and Supervisor Phillips.-Aye-(5), Nay (0). motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Wood to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:55 pm. Roll taken...All in favor...motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Wood to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Roll taken...All in favor...motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Reader
Parish Town Clerk