

REGULAR MEETING
5/20/2021

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Parish Town Board held May 20th, 2021 at 2938 E. Main Street, Parish, NY in the Village Gym and by Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Phillips at 6:30 pm.

Present:

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

Excused/Absent: Gary Wood, Councilor

Also Present: Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Rep; Jim Bernys, CEO; Craig Petit, Hwy Sup't; Robin Eaton-Novak, Deputy Supervisor; Paul Gage, Karen Gage, John Horning, George Horning, and Lee Robinson.

Present by Zoom: Bob Genant, Town Attorney and Eleanor Kinney.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Residents were given 3 minutes if they wanted to speak and were instructed to be respectful.

John Horning expressed concern regarding a Town Councilor's residence that is currently serving on the Board. Mr. Horning informed the Councilor that he had been watching him and has had an investigator watching him on several occasions. The Councilor informed Mr. Horning that it was none of his concern.

Mr. George Horning expressed the same concern and felt that it was illegal.

Supervisor Phillips remarked that she was not sure about the legality of the situation.

Mr. George Horning expressed that he didn't know if it was legal or not but thought that it was unethical.

Lee Robinson was in attendance and spoke in regards to an election law relating to election signs that are attached to guard rails, electric poles, etc. Mr. Robinson presented the law as reference and it applies to all election signs or campaign signs throughout NYS. The municipality as well as the person that has attached the sign could be held liable if there was an accident. It is matter of liability and he wanted to provide the information to safeguard everyone. Discussion took place on the legality.

Mr. Robinson expressed concerns regarding inconsistencies on informing the public when meetings are being held on the Town's website. Information is posted, however sometimes Special Meetings are held that are not always held on the same dates and times. The meeting schedule are set at the beginning of the year. Navigating the Town's Website was explained to obtain the information.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

The Supervisor's Report was presented to the Board for review through the end of April 31,2021. The auditors have recommended that all Revenue and Expenditure Reports be given to the Board.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

General Fund A: A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Dunham to approve the claims to the General Fund A Account, those being claims #103-#129 for a total warrant of \$13,867.96. Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Jordan, and Supervisor Phillips-Aye (4) Nay (0) motion carried.

DA Highway Fund: A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Horning to approve the claims to the DA Fund, those being claims #89-#109 for a total warrant of \$37,941.16. Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Jordan, and Supervisor Phillips-Aye (4) Nay (0) motion carried.

DB Highway Fund: A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Horning to approve the claims to the DB Highway Fund, those being claims #110-#117 for a total warrant of \$40,657.08. Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Jordan, and Supervisor Phillips-Aye (4) Nay (0) motion carried.

REPORTS:

Highway Report: Hwy Sup't Petit reported that they are getting the materials ready for the CHIPS Project. The road projects are planned to begin the 2nd week in June, weather permitting. The crew has completed some work in Happy Valley and he is hoping to do some grader work after Memorial Day. The fences have been painted and repaired at some of the rural cemeteries. Hwy Sup't Petit informed the Board that he has been working with the grant writer for the last 31/2 weeks, nights and weekends for the truck grant. The grant deadline for the new snowplow is on May 27th, 2021.

Assessor Report: Assessor Trudell

CEO Report: CEO Bernys

Justice Report: Justice Dayger

Clerk's Report: Clerk Reader

DCO Report: DCO Spriggs

Tug Hill Circuit Rider Report:

Unchanged: The Tug Hill Commission are still operating at a 50% occupancy level with a schedule with Watertown based staff.

COVID-19. Commission staff continue to be available for meetings with your municipality.

It's been announced that NY State's COVID-19 restrictions will be easing in various ways, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guideline update last week.

The Governor's Executive Order allowing remote meetings and public hearings (via means such as Zoom) has been extended through June 9, 2021.

The Town's 2021 Tentative Assessment Roll is posted on the Town's Website. The CNY Regional Planning and Development is doing a county-wide community survey on availability of broadband toward improving area coverage. The Tug Hill Commission will be hosting a webinar on the new New York cannabis law on June first at noon.

Paul attended an Association of Towns webinar today on the American Rescue Plan Act.

Fire Chief's Report: Councilor Dunham read the Fire Chief's Report for April, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS:

Water District #1 Report: A Project Budget/Cost Certification was presented to the Board for review. The total by year was from 2016-2021. The total is \$79,822.76.

Opening Merrill Park:

Hwy Sup't reported that they are trying to get the park back up and running for the upcoming season. The vandalism has been cleaned up. The new pump will be installed in a couple of weeks. The Covid signs will be put up. The automatic light sensors have been installed in the restrooms at the park and new tennis nets will be purchased from the donation from the Russell Horning American Legion Post-601. Discussion was held regarding when the park will be officially opened. Some of the Board Members and Hwy Sup't Petit attended a webinar in reference to park safety. Most of the repairs have been completed at the park. It was determined that the park will officially open by May, 28, 2021. The CARP Committee was discussed regarding holding a meeting.

Park Maintenance Employee: Discussion was held regarding hiring a park maintenance employee or having the highway department take care of it.

Hwy Sup't Petit explained that the parks are a separate department and he has roads that need maintenance and that was his first priority. Councilor Jordan noted that a park maintenance person has been hired in the past and felt that should continue.

A motion was made by Councilor Dunham, seconded by Councilor Jordan to hire a Park Maintenance employee to take care of the parks, mow and weed eat, clean bathrooms, take care of trash, open and close the park, and any other park related duties at no more than 20 hrs per week at the rate of \$15.00 per hr. Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Jordan-Aye (3), Supervisor Phillips-Nay (0). motion carried.

Lease: Discussion will be held at the Joint Meeting on June 10, 2021 as Supervisor Phillips has some concerns.

NEW BUSINESS:

Justice Court Audit: A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Dunham to accept the Justice Court Audit conducted by Bonadio & Co. LLP. Roll taken...Councilor Dunham, Councilor Horning, Councilor Jordan, and Supervisor Phillips. Aye (4) Nay (0). motion carried.

RAN Information:

Supervisor Phillips reviewed the information regarding the RAN for \$100.00 until the /CHIPS money is reimbursed. Due to the fact that the interest rates are low, the interest for borrowing would be around

\$452.00 which is a larger savings than usual. 3 banks have bid on the RAN-MBT, Green Bank, and Pathfinders Bank.

Highway BLDG Bids for Building Repairs:

Roof Replacement Bids:

VanDuzen Exteriors:-\$69,650.00
Apple Roofing Corp-\$67,300.00/w alternate costs.
Diamond Roofing-\$72,882.00

Boiler Replacement Bid:

J&A Mechanical Contractors, Inc.-\$20,800.00w/option costs.
Precision Plumbing & Heating-\$14,917.00

Twench Drain/Replacement Bid:

Henderson Brothers Contracting-\$41,589.00
C&S Companies-\$29,400.00

Column Repair:

Henderson Brothers Contracting-\$9,680.00
C&S Companies-\$6,450.00

Hwy Sup't Petit will review the bid proposals to discuss with the Board at a future meeting.

2021 Equalization Rate: 88%

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Town of Parish has a Tax Exempt Account set up at Staples-valid until 8/21/2034.

Informational Items:

Tug Hill Times-4/23/2021 & 5/7/2021
The Spotlight CiTi BOCES
Minutes; 5/10/2021-Special Meeting & Regular Board Meeting-4/15/2021
Planning Board Agenda & Minutes: 4/26/2021

Clean-up Day: 7:30 am-11:30 am at Dill Pickle Alley.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

John Horning made a derogatory remark to Councilor Jordan. Councilor Jordan did not respond.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE BOARD.

A motion was made by Councilor Jordan, seconded by Councilor Dunham to adjourn at 8:06 pm. Roll taken... All in favor. motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Reader
Parish Town Clerk