

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**9/15/2022**

Minutes of the Parish Town Board's Regular Meeting held September 15, 2022 at 2938 E. Main Street in the Village Gym. Supervisor Bernys called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**PRESENT;**

Doug Houghton, Councilor  
Gary Wood, Councilor  
G.R. Horning, Councilor  
Robin Eaton-Novak, Councilor  
Jim Bernys, Supervisor  
Kelly Reader-Petit, Town Clerk

**ALSO PRESENT:** L.J. Harvey; Fire Chief; Bob Genant, Town Attorney; Denise Trudell, Assessor; George Horning, Hwy Sup't; Steve Cronk, DCO; John Dunham, PL Brd Member; Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Rep.; and Eleanor Kinney attended by Zoom

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

No comments.

**MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.**

**SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:**

Supervisor Bernys reported that he and Bookkeeper Engst have begun working on the 2023 Budget. They also attended a workshop on 9/1/2022 on the budget process and they continue to work on issues.

**COUNCILOR'S COMMENTS:**

Councilor Eaton-Novak would like Board to consider moving the meeting time to a later time as it is difficult for people that work to get to the meeting.

Discussion was held on moving the meeting time. Supervisor Bernys explained that the meeting starts earlier because people can go home earlier. It was the consensus of the Board to move the meeting time from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm.

A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Houghton to move the official start time of the monthly meetings from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm beginning October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and to request Paul Baxter to post it on the Town's Website. Roll taken...All in Favor...motion carried.

Councilor Wood has been approached by residents asking what was going on with the Water Project. Councilor Wood suggested to reach out to the village and see what the status was and to bring the water issue back up front and center.

The village took it upon themselves to pursue the Water Project for village residents. Also, the village has been in discussion on which avenue they wanted to pursue in obtaining water. The village will be holding discussions with both the towns of Mexico and Hastings (Aqua).

Supervisor Bernys stated that the town has put the Water Project up twice. It was voted in the first time, but the Bond Resolution did not pass as it required a Super Majority vote. The second time it was put before the voters in Water District 1, and it failed because the price doubled.

Discussion was held that possibly the Water Project should be brought back up and start from square 1 because the testing and findings are out dated.

Councilor Wood suggested that the Board attend the Village's Water Meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to obtain information on the Water Project.

Councilor Houghton feels that the Board should get the facts before they proceed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to approve the August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Meeting Minutes as received. Roll taken...All in Favor...Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Assessor's Report:** Assessor Trudell explained that NYS Legislature and the NYS Governor have amended New York Property Tax Law §467 to raise the maximum income eligibility levels for the Senior Tax Exemptions. Assessor Trudell reviewed what the level of income of eligibility for Senior Citizens that the county recently increased. Currently, the Town's Senior Citizen Income level is \$12,500.00. That applies to six residents currently in the Town of Parish. Assessor Trudell suggested that the town adopt the same income level as the APW School District. The exemption level for the school district is \$13,500.00-\$19,200.00 utilizing a sliding scale. Currently, this impacts around 19 people. Assessor Trudell is not certain what townships the residents are from that receive the School Senior Citizens Exemptions because there are different townships in the school district.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Houghton, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to set a Public Hearing on October 20, 2022 at 6:15 pm to adopt a local law or to consider amending Local Law #1 of 1995. The purpose to adopt Local Law #1 of 2022 or amend Local Law #1 of 1995 is to consider raising the income level for Senior Citizens from \$12,500.00 to \$13,500 to \$19,200.00 utilizing a sliding scale. Roll taken...All in Favor...motion carried.

**CEO/ZEO Report:** Supervisor Bernys read the Ceo/Zeo Report submitted by CEO/ZEO Hamacher.

**DCO Reports:** DCO Cronk gave the DCO Report and reported on some issues that he has been experiencing in regards to dog calls.

**Fire Chief's Report:** Fire Chief Harvey gave the Fire Chief's Report for August, 2022.

**Hwy Sup't Horning:** Hwy Sup't Horning gave the Highway Report.

Councilor Wood mentioned that he just found out that when the State DOT places equipment out on bid, municipalities can come and view the equipment. If a municipality finds a piece of equipment they need, it can be pulled from the auction and given to the municipality free of charge. Councilor Wood will get more information for the Hwy Sup't.

**Tug Hill Circuit Rider Report:**

Paul Baxter reported that towns are in the process of preparing their 2023 budgets. The tax limits are 2% for next year. It is 2% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. Paul is in the process of preparing the Oswego County Towns Budget categories comparison sheets. They have not been available in the past few years due to Covid. Paul's goal is to have them available soon.

The Tug Hill Commission's next meeting will be Monday, in Trenton beginning at 10:00 am at the Trenton Municipal Building. The meeting will be offered by Zoom and details will be included on the Tug Hill Website.

The Governor allowed the COVID state of emergency to expire at midnight on September 12, 2022. Any provisions that the town has been operating pursuant to those continuing provisions are no longer in effect.

The Tug Hill Commission's Annual Dinner has been scheduled for Thursday October 20, 2022 at Zero Dock Street in Carthage, NY. Invitations were mailed out last week.

Tug Hill Commission is in the process of scheduling the North Shore-Salmon Rivers of Councils of Governments fall meeting. If anyone has any suggestions for a date, a location, or any agenda items, please let Paul know.

The supervisor's computer that has served two past supervisors has begun to have intermittent problems with the startup process. A new computer comparable to the current computer has been ordered. Paul will assist the town with the transitions of programs and data to the new computer. There was nothing new to report regarding reimbursement status to Parish and other eastern Oswego County Towns and Villages for Wildlife Management Areas they contain. Also, Paul assisted the Justice's Office with a bigger monitor. Unofficially, a workshop is being scheduled specifically on municipal accounting. The workshop will be presented by Laird Petrie. The unofficial dates are 11/29/22 and 11/30/22 to be held at the Tailwater Lodge in Altmar.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ARPA Funds:** No report at this time.

**Highway Garage Reports:** Discussed at Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, Special Meeting.

**Merrill Park:**

Jack Rucynski and Councilor Houghton removed the 40ft to 50ft of culvert pipe that was rotted at Merrill Park. The channel is open and the water is running freely. That should resolve the drainage issue. The Board discussed security camera options for the park. They will continue looking into the issue and hope to have more information available at the October Meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Internal Audits:** Bookkeeper Engst gave the Internal Audit Report.

Bookkeeper Engst reported that the Tax Collector did respond to her on 8/24/2022.

Bookkeeper Engst reviewed the items that the Tax Collector needs to follow per recommendations from the Comptroller's Office. Bookkeeper Engst also suggested that the Tax Collector should be reminded that he needs to follow the statutory laws.

Supervisor Bernys will discuss the issues with the Tax Collector.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF THE FLOOR:**

**Dog Enumeration:** Clerk Reader reported that some residents were still coming in to license their dog(s) The clerk's recommendation were to extend the grace period for collecting the \$25.00. Enumeration Fee until October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will allow residents time to take advantage of the County's Rabies Clinics.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to extend the collection of the Enumeration Fee of \$25.00 until October 3, 2022. Roll taken...All in Favor...Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**BAR POSITION:** A BAR position currently held by Kevin Dwyer expires on 9/30/2022.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Houghton to pass a Resolution to re-appoint all members of Boards if they have a continued interest in being re-appointed pending Board approval. Roll taken...All in Favor...Motion carried.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Houghton to re-appoint Keven Dwyer to the BAR effective 10/1/2022 for a five year term. Roll take...All in Favor...Motion carried.

**Shelving for Records Room:**

Discussion was held regarding purchasing shelving for the records room and splitting the cost between the Justice Department and from the Audit Account. The clerk was waiting for the sales rep. from W.B. Masons to get back to her with a price quote. The clerk will contact Masons again to see if they have obtained any information.

**Approval of Cameron Graham to the Parish Volunteer Fire Company Inc.:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Horning to approve the appointment of Cameron Graham of 245 Bidwell Road, Parish, NY as an Probationary member of the Parish Volunteer Fire Company Inc. effective immediately. Roll taken...All in Favor...Motion carried

**NEW BUSINESS OFF THE FLOOR:**

Fire Chief Harvey stated that he wanted to thank the community for their support for their Chicken BBQ's and recent Boot Drive. Also, he wanted the community to know that they recently refurbished the old bell from the Fire Station. It's located by the car wash and it's still a work in progress as they want to add lights. Fire Chief Harvey stated that Craig Petit and Jake Petit put a lot of work into it. Fire Chief Harvey invited the community to stop by a see it.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:** Supervisor Bernys presented a Supervisor's Report for the Board to review and it was filed with the clerk.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

**Transfers:** A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Horning to approve the following transfer: **From:** A1320.4-Audit-\$3,390.89

**To:** A1910.4- Insurance Line- \$3,390.89

Roll taken...All in Favor...Motion carried

**General Fund A Account:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Houghton, seconded by Councilor Horning to approve the claims to the General Fund A Account as presented, those being claims #170-#186 for a total warrant of \$32,466.14. Roll taken...All in Favor...motion carried.

**Highway Fund DA Account:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Horning, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to approve the claims to the Highway Fund DA Account as presented, those being claims #97-#106 for a total warrant of \$22,564.73. Roll taken...All in Favor...motion carried.

**Highway Fund DB Account:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Wood to approve claims to the Highway Fund DB Account as presented, those being claims #107-#108 for a total warrant of \$8,852.72. Roll taken...All in Favor...motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Houghton to enter into Executive Session at 7:37 p.m. to discuss the appointment of personnel and to discuss litigation of a past town official. Roll taken.. All in Favor...motion carried.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:04 p.m.. Roll taken...All in Favor...motion carried.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Houghton to appoint Trudy Engst as Court Clerk effective September 1, 2022. Roll taken...All in Favor...Motion carried.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Horning to transfer \$3,500.00 to the Deputy Clerk Line-A1410.11 from the Contingency-A1990.4. Roll taken...All in Favor...Motion carried.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Houghton to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. Roll taken...All in Favor...Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Reader-Petit  
Parish Town Clerk