

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
June 15, 2023

Minutes of the Parish Regular Town Board Meeting held June 15th, 2023 at 2938 E. Main Street, Parish, NY in the Village Gym. Supervisor Bernys called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Present:

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

Also present: L.J. Harvey, Fire Chief; John Dunham, PL Brd Member; Denise Trudell, Assessor; Bob Genant, Town Attorney; Evelyn Stelmashuck, George Horning, Hwy Sup't; Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Rep.; and Steve Cronk, DCO.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Evelyn Stelmashuck was present and wanted to let the Board know that she had filled out a complaint form regarding a dog issue and filed it with the court. Evelyn expressed that she did not feel that the dog issue was handled in an appropriate or timely manner. Evelyn had contacted the DCO several times in regards to a dog that repeatedly came on to her property. Consequently, Evelyn's dog became impregnated and the end result was that she ended up with 6 puppies that she had to care for and support. DCO Cronk did respond to the calls, however the dog owner had numerous reasons and excuses why the dog was running at large and unlicensed. Supervisor Bernys designed a dog complaint form that will be available for individuals if they would like to file a formal complaint. Once the individual files the complaint, it goes to the Town Justice for a ruling.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

Supervisor's Comments:

Supervisor Bernys traveled to Adams and attended a Town Highway budgeting seminar instructed by Laird Petrie . Highway employee, Nate Metcalf also attended the seminar. Many Highway budgeting topics were covered. It is always a pleasure to gain some valuable knowledge from Laird. Our bookkeeper, Angie has also continued to learn as well. She attended a full day, New York State Local Retirement System seminar held at Jefferson Lewis BOCES. She continues to become better at her position.

Supervisor Bernys wanted to thank Clerk, Kelly Reader-Petit and Mayor Murphy for assisting him in sorting through some old items on the balcony. They marked items to be thrown away for the annual Clean Up Day. Supervisor Bernys stated that a thanks should go out to Hwy Sup't and Highway Employee, Nate Metcalf for carrying it downstairs and removing it to the dump truck. They were also involved in Clean Up Day. It was a successful Town/Village Clean Up Day. Supervisor Bernys thanked Mayor Murphy, Trustees Brown and Allardice or their help. The Town was represented by Councilor Houghton, Planning Board Member Dunham, Jack Rucynski, Confidential Secretary; and Supervisor Bernys. Supervisor Bernys commented that this type of collaboration between the Town and Village will continue.

Councilor's Comments: None.

Approval of Minutes:

May 18th, 2023-Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Houghton to approve the Minutes of the May 18th, Meeting as presented.
Roll taken...Aye-(5) Nay-(0), motion carried.

Department Reports:

Assessor's Report: Assessor Trudell gave the following Assessor's Report:
Grievance Day went fairly well with only one individual grieving. The photo project is complete. Assessor Trudell has been in contact with Oswego County Real Property Director, Corey Metz concerning Parish conducting a re-evaluation. There is a concern due to the current market values, there is a potential shift in parish residents paying more of a percentage in school taxes. The Town of Parish currently pays 27.45% of school taxes out of 5 townships. It was the consensus of the Board and the Assessor to hold off conducting a re-val and to wait until the market levels off. It was also the consensus of the Board to earmark funds every year to fund an evaluation when it's time to conduct one.

CEO/ZEO Report: CEO/ZEO Hamacher submitted a written DCO Report

DCO Report: DCO Cronk gave the DCO Report and touched base on some issues that he had been handling.

Fire Chief's Report: Fire Chief Harvey gave the Fire Chief's Report for May 2023. Fire Chief Harvey commented that the Fire Company are up on fire calls from last year.

Highway Report: Hwy Sup't Horning gave the following Highway Report:
The Highway Crew is getting ready to do Searles Road, at the end of June pending the weather. Also, the hot water heater at the Highway Garage and is in need of repair.

Tug Hill Report:

Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Circuit Rider gave the following Report:

As part of the NYS Tug Hill Commission's 50th anniversary celebration, the Tug Hill is seeking nominations for Tug Hill Sages.

Since 1983, the distinction of "Tug Hill Sage" has been bestowed upon local individuals who have demonstrated a lifetime commitment to the region through leadership, civic involvement, and community service-or individuals who have otherwise directly contributed to improving the quality of life for those on the Hill. Sages also have a deep knowledge of the Tug Hill Region's heritage, culture, and environment. To date 36 individuals have been recognized for their contributions to the region. The commission is accepting nomination forms from June 1st, 2023 to August 15th, 2023. Paul has provided a copy of the nomination form for anyone interested.

The Tug Hill Commission is in the process of tallying the responses of the five year survey of our local municipal leaders. Paul will inform us of the results when they are available. There is nothing new on the status of wildlife management area payment legislation or the Salmon restoration for the Little Salmon. Paul assisted Assessor Trudell with an issue with her e-mail account.

OLD BUSINESS:

Alarm System at Highway Garage: The Fire Alarm System has been installed. Supervisor informed the Board that they are going to hold the check until the panel box is relocated and the project is complete.

Merrill Park New Light Process: Lights have been installed on the poles with new LED lighting. The project is complete. Supervisor Bernys contacted the neighbors across the street from the park and they are not bothered by the new lighting.

Merrill Park Playground Equipment:

Councilor Wood has been researching playground equipment for Merrill Park and he provided the Board with pictures and quotes of his recommendations.

The company is Willie Goat and the price quote is \$26,500.00 including installation and delivery. There is a \$100.00 year guarantee.

The playground equipment would be appropriate for 5-12 year olds. They are looking into purchasing additional equipment for younger children.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to purchase playground equipment for Merrill Park from Willie Goat Playground Equipment for \$26,500.00 and if add ons are purchased not to exceed \$35,000.00. Also, the purchase is pending property inspection to insure that there is appropriate space for installation of the playground equipment.

Roll taken...Councilor Wood-Aye Councilor Thought-Aye Supervisor Bernays-Aye

Councilor Corning-Aye Councilor Eaton-Nova-Aye

motion carried.

Department Audits: Councilors will set up times and dates to complete the department audits.

Employee Handbook: A time and date will be set up to complete the review of the handbook.

Transfer of Monies to NYCLASS vs Pathfinder Bank: Pathfinder will offer 4.7% interest for a money market account which is fully insured.

There is a gray area regarding insurance for NYCLASS.

It was the consensus of the Board to keep business local as much as possible.

OLD BUSINESS OFF THE FLOOR:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Dog Control Complaint Form: The Dog Control Form was designed to define the Town of Parish Dog Law. This form was already discussed.

NEW BUSINESS OFF THE FLOOR:

Councilor Eaton-Novak asked if the CARPP Committee could utilize the town's grant writer. The consensus of the Board was that private organizations cannot use municipal resources such as grant writers unless they pay for the service themselves.

Also, in regards to Old home Days, Shannon Masters is doing a great job organizing the event, however she needs help as it is becoming overwhelming. Currently, there are 12 members that are involved in the CARPP Committee.

More volunteers are needed.

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Wood to move \$250.00 from the celebration line to purchase a banner for Old Home Day. Roll taken...Aye-(5) Nay-(0), motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Report: Supervisor Bernys provided a Supervisor's Report for May, 2023.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Transfers:

Motion: General A Fund Account: A motion was made by Councilor Horning, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to approve the claims to the General A Fund Account, those being claims #99-#119 for a total warrant of \$25,253.42. Roll taken...Aye-(5) Nay-(0). Motion carried.

Motion: General B Fund Account: A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Houghton to approve the claims to the General Fund B Account, that being claim #120 for a total warrant of \$41.50. Roll taken...Aye-(5) Nay-(0), motion carried.

Motion: Highway DA Fund Account: A motion was made by Councilor Horning, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to approve the claims to the Highway Fund DA Account, those being claims #69-#71 for a total warrant of \$3,329.31. Roll taken...Aye-(5) Nay-(0), motion carried.

Motion: Highway Fund DB Account: A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Houghton to approve the claims to the Highway Fund, those being claims #72-#76 for a total warrant of \$8,818.32. Roll taken...Aye(5) Nay-(0), motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Houghton, seconded by Councilor Wood to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation regarding the Phillips case at 7:50 pm. Roll taken...Aye-(5) Nay-(0), motion carried.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Houghton, seconded by Supervisor Bernys to adjourn from Executive Session to the Regular Meeting at 8:00 pm. Roll taken...Aye-(5) Nay-(0), motion carried.

There will be a workshop held on July 13th beginning at 6:30 pm. It was suggested to invite Laird Petrie to go over reserve accounts.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Horning to adjourn at 8:05 pm. Roll taken...Aye-(5) Nay-(0), motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Reader-Petit
Parish Town Clerk