

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

2/15/2024

Minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of the Parish Town Board held February 15, 2024 at 2938 E. Main Street, Parish, NY in the Village Gym. Supervisor Bernys called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

PRESENT:

Doug Houghton, Councilor
John Horning, Councilor
Gary Wood, Councilor
Jim Bernys, Supervisor
Kelly Reader-Petit, Town Clerk

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Robin Eaton-Novak, Councilor

ALSO PRESENT:

L.J. Harvey, Fire Chief; Bob Genant, Town Attorney; Nate Metcalf, Hwy Supt; John Dunham, Pl Brd Member; and Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Rep.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

No Comments.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

No comments.

COUNCILOR'S COMMENTS:

No comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Organizational Meeting Minutes:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Houghton to approve the Minutes of the January 4, 2024 Organizational Meeting as received. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(4) Nay-(0).

Regular Brd Meeting Minutes:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Houghton to receive the Minutes of the January 18, 2024 Meeting as received. Roll taken...Motion carried...All in favor. Aye-(4) Nay-(0).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Assessor's Report: Tabled

CEO/ZEO Report: Supervisor Bernys read CEO/ZEO Hamacher's CEO/ZEO Report.

DCO Report: DCO Cronk was excused.

Fire Chief's Report: Fire Chief Harvey gave the Fire Chief's Report for January, 2024.

Highway Report: Hwy Supt Metcalf gave the Hwy Report.

Request for disposal of an old piece of equipment-a Highway Maintainer.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Horning, seconded by Councilor Wood to authorize Highway Supt Metcalf to scrap a Hwy Maintainer that is estimated to be dated from 1930 or 1940. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(4) Nay-(0).

Tax Collector's Report:

Tax Collector Dwyer gave the following report:

Original Warrant: \$2,687,703.10

Adjustments: \$398.47

Adjusted Warrant: \$2,688,101.57

1st Installments: \$16,984.56

2nd Installments: \$2,072.71

Full Payments: \$1,589,914.85

Penalties: \$159.75

Late Notice Fees: 0

Bad Check Fees: \$20.00

Taxes Out Standing: \$1,079,129.45

Tug Hill Report: Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Rep., gave the following report:

The Tug Hill Commission, in conjunction with the Office of the State Comptroller, is hosting a fraud prevention and detection workshop on Thursday, February 29, 2024, from 7:00pm to 8:30 pm at the Booneville Municipal Building, and also via Zoom.

Registration is required; registration can be done online at tinyurl.com/FraudFlags or by calling the commission office at 315-0785-2380.

The deadline is approaching for the best registration rate for the 2024 Tug Hill Local Government Conference, scheduled for May 1-2 at the Turning Stone Casino. The regular rate applies to those registered online or postmarked by April 1, 2024. Rates increase starting April 2, 2024.

Update on plans for scheduling the first Salmon rivers Council of Governments meeting for calendar year 2024: they are currently looking at a date in the second half of March.

Reminder: the Tug Hill Commission is scheduled to meet in Pulaski on Monday, March 18 at 10:00 am., and in Central Square at the village hall on Monday, May 10.

Through the Tug Hill Commission, Paul has provided base maps of town roads to several municipalities for the planning purposes of superintendents of highways and highway departments. Paul would be happy to get some maps for Parish highway, if they would find that useful. Paul also mentioned that the commission has a traffic counter that it loans out to Tug Hill towns and villages. Let Paul know if that might be of interest, and he can get more details.

There is nothing new to report about the status of Wildlife Management Area Payment Legislation or on Salmon Restoration for the Little Salmon.

OLD BUSINESS:

Highway Mower:

Highway Supt Metcalf based his decision on Councilor Wood's information regarding the previous mower he presented to the Board for purchase. He wanted to withdraw his request for that particular mower.

Hwy Supt Metcalf found another mower exclusively owned by the Town of Remsen with 840 hours on it. The mower is a 2013, 2 wheel drive Case International Mower which includes a side mower and front broom for the amount of \$71,500.00.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Horning to authorize Hwy Supt Metcalf to purchase a 2013, 2 wheel drive, Case International Harvester Mower which includes a side mower and front broom for the amount of \$71,500.00 which includes repairs and delivery. Roll taken...All in favor. Aye-(4) Nay-(0).

Approval of Judicial Audit- (January, 2023-June, 2024) Justice Conroy.

Supervisor Bernys explained that the audit is mainly to review procedures and documents as required by the 5th judicial system.

Supervisor Bernys and Councilor Wood conducted the audit on Justice Conroy's financial records.

Justice Korthas, Court Clerk Dayger, and Bookkeeper Skellington-Bice were also present to lend assistance if needed.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Horning to pass a resolution to accept Justice Conroy's Financial Records for 2023. Roll taken...All in Favor...motion carried.

The motion to pass the resolution was adopted by vote of Councilor Houghton, Councilor Wood, Councilor Horning, and Supervisor Bernys. Aye-(4) Nay-(0). Be it

resolved that the Parish Town Board approved and accepted the 2023 Court Audit, February 15, 2024.

Tug Hill Conference:

Supervisor Bernys reminded everyone that all registrations for the Tug Hill Government Conference being held May 1-May 2nd should be turned into the clerk by March 1st, 2024.

Kilts Property:

Supervisor Bernys commented that he delivered the check for \$500.00 to Marilyn Kilts in person for payment for storage of materials on the Kilts property.

Getman Cemetery Accident:

Supervisor Bernys has been in contact with the State Troopers and the town's insurance agent in regards to the incident. Supervisor Bernys has obtained a claim # from the insurance company.

Currently, there is no insurance on the town cemeteries. The stones that were damaged are the responsibility of the family's homeowners insurance. However, due to the fact that the stones are very old, it would be difficult to track down family members. It was the consensus of the Board to pursue the driver's auto insurance to recoup the cost to repair the damage to the stones.

Volunteer Firefighters Tax Exemption Law-Local Law #1 of 2024:

Motion: A motion was made by Supervisor Bernys, seconded by Councilor Houghton to approve Local Law #1 of 2024 allowing eligible Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers to receive a Real Property Tax Exemption under Real Property Tax Law section 466-a.

Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(4) Nay-(0).

Planning Board Vacancy and ZBA Vacancy:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Houghton to enter into Executive Session to discuss the appointments of a Planning Board Member-Exp-(12/31/2028) and ZBA Member-Exp-(12/31/2025) at 7:03 pm. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(4) Nay-(0)

Motion: A motion was made by Supervisor Bernys, seconded by Councilor Wood to adjourn at 7:20 pm. to the Regular Meeting. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(4) Nay-(0).

Planning Board Appointment:

Motion: A motion was made by Supervisor Bernys, seconded by Councilor Wood to appoint Craig Petit to the position of Planning Board Member, term to expire-12/31/2028. Roll taken.

Councilor Houghton-Aye Councilor Horning-Nay

Councilor Wood-Aye Supervisor Bernys-Aye

Motion carried.

ZBA Vacancy:

Motion: A motion was made by Supervisor Bernys, seconded by Councilor Wood to appoint L. J. Harvey to the position of ZBA Member-term to expire-12/31/2025. Roll taken...

Councilor Houghton-Aye Councilor Horning-Nay

Councilor Wood-Aye Supervisor Bernys-Aye

Motion carried.

Planning Board Vacancy:

Motion: A motion was made by Supervisor Bernys, seconded by Councilor Wood to appoint Paul Henson to the position of Planning Board Alternate. Roll taken...

Councilor Houghton-Aye Councilor Horning-Nay

Councilor Wood-Aye Supervisor Bernys-Aye

Motion carried.

Mary Ann Phillips and Paul Gage also applied for the positions.

OLD BUSINESS OFF THE FLOOR: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

FOIL POLICY:

Supervisor Bernys presented a Foil Policy for the Board's approval.

Attorney Genant has reviewed the policy.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Houghton to approve the FOIL policy for the Town of Parish as presented. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried.

Aye-(4) Nay-(0).

It was suggested to post the policy on the town's website. Supervisor Bernys will forwarded the policy to Paul Baxter for posting.

2023 Yearly Audits of Supervisor, Clerk, and Tax Collector's Financial Records:

The Supervisor's records and the Tax Collector's record's will be audited by Laird Petrie the Clerk's records will be audited by Supervisor Bernys and Councilor Wood.

Oswego County BOCES Cooperative Purchasing Resolution:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Houghton to pass a Resolution for the Town of Parish to authorize Oswego County to represent them in all matters leading up to entering into a contract for the purchase of Heating Fuel.

Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(4) Nay-(0).

Town Board to visit the Highway Department and set date:

Discussion was held for the Town Board to visit the Highway Garage, Several pieces of equipment has been purchased and it was suggested to line them up so the residents can see where their money is being spent.

It was consensus of the Board to schedule the visit on a workshop night and to notify the public the date and time of the visit.

TRANSFERS:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Houghton, seconded by Councilor Wood to approve the following transfers:

From: DA Fund Balance

To: DA5130.4-Machinery Contractual

Amount-\$12,000.00

From: DA Fund Balance

To: DA5130.4-Machinery Contractual

Amount-\$68,000.00

Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(4) Nay-(0)

NEW BUSINESS OF THE FLOOR:

Councilor Wood commented that State DOT holds auctions and local municipalities can purchase 4 wheel trucks at a cheap discount price. Councilor Wood suggested that possibly this could be an option and he thinks the auction is coming up soon. More discussion will be held with the Highway Superintendent.

SUPERVISOR’S FINANCIAL REPORT:

Supervisor Bernys presented the January Supervisor’s Report for January, 2024 for the Board to review.

An extension will be filed at the end of the month for the 2023 AUD.

Supervisor Bernys reviewed the amounts in the reserve accounts including interest.

Bldg Fund-\$441,401.07

Highway Equipment Fund-\$208,522.28.

Land Acquisition Fund-\$50,619.38

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

General A Fund:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Houghton, seconded by Councilor Horning to approve the claims to the General A Fund, those being claims #24-#41 for a total warrant of \$22,432.97. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(4) Nay-(0).

Highway DA Fund:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Horning, seconded by Councilor Houghton to approve the claims to the Highway DA Fund, those being claims #15-#27 for a total warrant of \$29,770.46. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(4) Nay-(0).

Fire SF Fund:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Horning to approve the claim to the SF Fund, that claim being #1 for a total warrant of \$241,980.00. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(4) Nay-(0).

A motion was made by Councilor Houghton, seconded by Councilor Horning to adjourn at 8:12 pm. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Reader-Petit
Parish Town Clerk