

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Parish Town Board held September 12, 2024 at 2938 E. Main Street, Parish, NY in the Village Gym. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bernys at 5:00 pm.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT/EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT: L.J. Harvey, Fire Chief; Paul Baxter Tug Hill Rep.; and Bob Genant, Town Attorney.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

No Comments.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

Supervisor Bernys reported that he has attended a National Grid meeting in the Oswego County Legislative Chambers. This meeting discussed National Grid's plans to update their transmission lines throughout the County of Oswego. They intend to widen their right of way and are in contact with the property owners that this affects.

During the past month, Supervisor Bernys attended a Zoom meeting with other Town Supervisors hosted by the Association of Towns. Many topics concerning the budget was discussed. Supervisor Bernys also has been in contact with multiple agencies concerning their contracts. These are included in the agenda this evening.

Supervisor Bernys attended a meeting with the Village of Mexico concerning the dams in the Village and the repair/replacement of these dams. This was put on by the Tug Hill Commission and he commented that he was sure that Paul Baxter could provide additional information in his report.

Supervisor Bernys reminded the Board that budget season is fast approaching and he has started working on that. He has sent out letters and will begin meeting with department heads. Supervisor Bernys' Tentative Budget will be finished and given to the Clerk prior to September 30th, 2024. Supervisor Bernys' goal is once again to have a ZERO percent increase for our taxpayers. Supervisor Bernys commented that he thought with some hard work, he believes it is possible.

Supervisor Bernys has also been working on the Comprehensive Plan in August/September as well. The Comp. Plan is on the agenda for the Joint Meeting tonight. Supervisor Bernys wanted to thank Matt Johnson from the Tug Hill Commission for his continued hard work on the plan. Supervisor Bernys commented that he didn't think it could be completed with out his knowledge and expertise.

Finally, Supervisor Bernys received a copy of a letter of appreciation concerning our Town Justice, George Korthas and our Court Clerk, Sheila Dayger. The letter is from an attorney that expressed gratitude towards our court for the way they are dedicated, professional, and efficient. Supervisor wanted to say great job and keep up the fabulous work.

COUNCILOR'S COMMENTS: No Comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Houghton to approve the Minutes of the August 15th, 2024 Meeting as received. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Assessor's Report: Tabled.

CEO/ZEO Report: Tabled.

DCO Report: Tabled.

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

Highway/Park Report: Tabled.

Tug Hill Circuit Rider's Report: The Salmon Rivers Council of Governments met Tuesday, August 27, at 2:00 pm at the Albion Municipal Building, Altmar. The next meeting is scheduled for November 2024. Minutes of the August 27 meeting will be available soon.

Additional progress on the succession plan for the Tug Hill Circuit Rider position serving the North Shore and Salmon Rivers Councils of Governments: following receipt of applications and interviews with applicants, the interviewing committee recommended Heidi Tompkins as the next circuit rider for North Shore and Salmon Rivers. The Tug Hill Commission extended the invitation of employment to Heidi, and Heidi accepted.

Paperwork is currently making its way through Albany, and we are hoping to have Heidi on board before the end of the year. This will provide overlap between Heidi's start of work, and my retirement (still set for the first quarter 2025) making for a smooth transition. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Katie Malinowski (katie@tughill.org) or Matt Johnson. (matt@tughill.org.)

Previously, Supervisor Bernys mentioned that National Grid is working on potential new transmission lines in Oswego County. As promised, Paul had additional information following the meeting with communities on August 21.

An emerging issue: proposed changes to fire brigade standards which would adversely affect rural fire departments. This was discussed at a recent North Shore Council of Governments meeting, and a sample letter was developed for anyone who wanted to send a letter of support expressing concerns about the proposed changes. Paul has attached that here, and it is also available on the North Shore website, www.norcog.org.

Regarding salmon restoration to the Little Salmon River, a recent meeting was relevant to that goal. On August 28, the Tug Hill Commission facilitated an informational meeting at the Village of Mexico office, focused on issues surrounding the dams in the Little Salmon River Watershed. Paul has attached an article from September 6, 2024, Tug Hill Times that covers that meeting and what took place.

There is nothing new to report about the status of wildlife management area payment legislation, other than to mention that the subject was on the August 27, 2024 Salmon Rivers Council of Governments meeting agenda, and an update that any action on this would likely not take place before the next session of the state legislature in January 2025.

OLD BUSINESS:

Merrill Park:

Cameras: Councilor Eaton-Novak has to download the app on her phone and she will get to it soon.

Shed: Councilor Houghton needs the check for the Amish gentlemen that is building the shed for the park. Supervisor Bernys responded that the checks will be cut next week after the vouchers are approved by the Board.

Dog Enumeration Update: Clerk Reader-Petit reported that 100 dogs were licensed for the month of August. This included renewals and new licenses. The dog enumerator has counted many unlicensed dogs and the dog owners have received information assisting them with the dog license process.

OLD BUSINESS OFF THE FLOOR: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

PATHFINDER BANK MOTIONS:

Motion:

1. A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to allow Bookkeeper Skellington-Bice to transfer between accounts in on-line banking with Pathfinder Bank. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

Motion: September 12, 2024

2. A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Houghton to authorize approval to allow Pathfinder Bank to remove the "Lock Flag" in online banking for multiple signatures. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

Motion:

3. A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Houghton to add a note to the Town of Parish's profile that multiple signatures are required for withdrawal of any funds when appearing in person at Pathfinder Bank. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

Contract Renewals:

Constables Contract:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Wood to increase the Constables rate of pay for 2025 to \$23.50 per hour. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

This is a total increase of \$180 from the previous year.

McFee Ambulance Contract:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to approve the two year McFee Ambulance Contract with the amounts set at \$31,000 for 2025 and \$32,000 for 2026. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

Kilts Property Lease: Discussion was held regarding increasing the lease amount from \$100.00 a year to \$200.00 a year for storage of highway materials.

Motion: A motion was made by Supervisor Bernys, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to renew the contract for material storage on property owned by Marilyn Kilts and to set the rate of \$200.00 per year. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

More discussion will be held regarding the contract pending obtaining more information regarding ownership of the property.

Fire Contract: Tabled.

Oswego County Dams: Information was provided regarding Little Salmon River Watershed Dams focusing on issues surrounding the dams in the Little Salmon River Watershed. The meeting was intended to be a forum for municipalities and other concerned entities, and residents to learn about resources that are available through NY State and other organizations, and as a forum for sharing their independent concerns. Paul Baxter discussed the current status of dams in Mexico, one owned by the school district, one owned by the Village of Mexico, and one is privately owned.

Informational Items:

Supervisor Bernys had the following publications available for anyone interested. CiTi Spotlight and the NYMIR Annual Report.

NEW BUSINESS OFF THE FLOOR: None.

SUPERVISOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT:

Supervisor Bernys presented the Supervisor's Financial Report for the Board's review for August, 2024.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Horning to approve the Supervisor's Financial Report for August, 2024 as presented. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

Hwy Transfers:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Houghton to approve the transfer:

From: DA5142.4- Snow Removal CE

To: DA5140.1=Brush & Weeds PS

Amount: \$10,000.00

Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Councilor Horning to approve the transfer:

From: DA5130.2-Machinery-Equipment

To: DA5130.4=Machinery Contractual

Amount: \$10,000.00

Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

Cemetery Transfer:

Motion: A motion was made Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to approve the transfer:

From: Contingency

To: Cemeteries Contractual

Amount: \$300.00

Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

Health Insurance Transfer:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Eaton-Novak, seconded by Supervisor Bernys to approve the following transfers:

From: A1440.4- Engineer-\$5,000.00 A1420.4-\$5000.00 Specialized Attorney, A6989.4-Grant Writer-\$5,000

To: A9060.8-Hospital & Medical Insurance-\$15,000

Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

General A Fund:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood, seconded by Councilor Houghton to approve the claims to the General Fund A Account, those being claims #176-#197 for a total warrant of \$35,237.22. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

Highway DA Fund:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Houghton seconded by Councilor Horning to approve the claims to the Highway DA Fund, those being claims #100-#107 for a total warrant of \$14,151.62. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

Highway DB Fund:

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Horning, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to approve the claims to the Highway DB Fund, those being claims #24-#32 for a total warrant of \$21,417.08. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried. Aye-(5) Nay-(0).

A motion was made by Councilor Houghton, seconded by Councilor Eaton-Novak to adjourn at 6:05 pm. Roll taken...All in favor...Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Reader-Petit
Parish Town Clerk