

**MINUTES
OF
THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD
WORK MEETING
APRIL 8, 2014**

The Work Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 8th day of April, 2014 at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury
Councilman Robert Bolte
Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir
Councilman Gerald Wood
Councilwoman Marin Cooke
Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates, Assessor Richard Tollner and four interested citizens.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

None

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Co-Chairwoman of the Newsletter Committee, Diana Hinchcliff, along with Kimberly Graff provided an explanation of how the Committee arrived at their recommendations. They noted that the Town Board placed some restrictions on the Newsletter such as: there should not be any paid ads – political or otherwise; there should not be any ‘letters to the editor’ nor announcements where there would be a fee involved, (Councilwoman Cooke stated that this was a recommendation of the attorneys); and that it should be kept short. Ms. Hinchcliff noted that the Board *would like* to see an electronic version as well as hard copies made available to those who do not have internet access. There was some discussion about whether or not the Residents would want those restrictions as well; or would they prefer to see the newsletter as it used to be.

There were thoughts on providing a short summary version of the newsletter in the electronic form, then providing a link for more detailed information; or linking the Town Calendar to the Town’s website. However, that would not work for hard-copy format. MailChimp was mentioned as a possible aid to publication.

There are also some restrictions such as what resources the Town has or does not have to do a newsletter. A newsletter requires money and time.

The Committee summed up their research and provided two options: 1. due to the shortage of resources, corral volunteers and/or ask the editors of the current ‘community

newsletter' to place the minutes of the Board meetings in their newsletter or 2. have the Town publish the newsletter internally. Supervisor Lounsbury remembers that the Town purchased publishing software only a short time ago. Councilwoman Cooke noted that there should have been three licenses, but when they went to look for them there was only one.

Councilman Bolte had a concern about how the Town could control truths and untruths in the newsletter if it were left to the hands of someone outside of the Town itself. For it to be sanctioned or connected in any way there should be some control.

Shawn Styer offered assistance with MailChimp as did Ms. Graff. Supervisor Lounsbury thanked all of the committee members: Sandra Varno, Sharon Costello, Ernie Kuehl, Kim Graff, Diana Hinchcliff and Marion Cooke for their hard work.

REQUEST FOR USE OF SENIOR/YOUTH BUS

Jason Caprio, owner of the Medusa General Store, requested the use of the Senior/Youth Bus for a trip to the Bronx Zoo. Among the many concerns are insurance coverage for such a trip, the ages of the children riding and the use of personal child restraints, and the fact that the group attending is not considered an organization. Councilman Bolte stated that the bus was originally set up as to *not* be used as a school bus. Supervisor Lounsbury will contact Marshall & Sterling.

MINUTES, TRANSFERS, VOUCHERS, AND BILLS

These items will be addressed at the Regular Meeting on April 10, 2014

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Lounsbury will read a thank you note from the Westerlo Volunteer Fire Department at the Regular Meeting on April 10, 2014.

REPORTS

Reports from the Supervisor, Attorney, Highway, Town Clerk, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Assessors, Water/Sewer Committee, and Recycling Coordinator will be given at the Regular Meeting on April 10, 2014.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

1. The Highway Department would like to rent a sweeper for one month at the quoted rate of \$1650.00/month vs. \$625.00/week.
2. The trucks' two way radios are now equipped with the Middleburgh Central School's frequency. Albany County's Emergency Medical Services dispatch frequency was also added.
3. The Highway Department will resume their summer hours commencing April 21, 2014.
4. The draft for the Countywide Shared Highway Services Feasibility Study is complete.

5. The Town's excavator has a defective transmission, but so far has performed well on the jobsite. The bucket is also cracked but is scheduled to be welded. The excavator is an essential piece of equipment. Superintendent Bates is looking into the feasibility of purchasing a new one: the availability of FEMA funds; unused money in the highway budget; financing; renting/leasing is also a possible option. A new one would cost in the range of \$150,000.00.

6. Councilwoman Cooke heard that there will be an increase in monies available to the Hilltowns. Superintendent Bates confirmed that there will be an increase in CHIPS funding. Supervisor Lounsbury announced that the funds will now be received electronically.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Meetings to continue the review of the Zoning Regulations have been tentatively scheduled for April 29, 2014 and May 14, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

2. The next meeting to continue the review of the Board of Ethics procedures will be addressed at the Regular Meeting on April 10, 2014.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The quote from I.T.S. is to replace two PCs, eliminate the Planning Board laptop, upgrade two PCs and dispose and wipe old equipment.

2. A letter was sent from Brian Wood, Captain of the Albany County Paramedics, announcing the Sheriff's Public Safety Meeting on May 27, 2014 at 5:00 PM. Supervisor Lounsbury and Councilman Bolte will be attending.

3. Bids for highway material, the mowing of the three parks, and the Port-a-Pot rentals will be opened at the Regular Meeting on April 10, 2014.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Diana Hinchcliff requests that the Committee on the Board of Ethics please be included in the discussions before any final decisions are made.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:58PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Wood and Cooke; Nays (0).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk