

**MINUTES
OF
THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 10, 2014**

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 10th day of July, 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: Attorney Tom Fallati
Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury
Councilman Robert Bolte
Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir
Councilman Gerald Wood
Councilwoman Marion Cooke
Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates, Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Mark Overbaugh, Assessor Richard Tollner, Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Doug Story, Sergeant Mance from the Albany County Sheriff's Department, and Albany County Legislator, Deborah Busch; along with four interested citizens.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

1. Jeff Pine along with his neighbor, William Hillicoss expressed their concerns over the road conditions on Cheese Hill. Mr. Pine feels that the road conditions are dangerous in the section of roadway that has had work done on the base; there are no shoulders, the stone is loose on the edges, the drop-off between the road and driveways is significant and the width of the road is inadequate to accommodate two vehicles. Some people have expressed to Mr. Pine that they have gone sideways and have even almost tipped their cars. Mr. Pine also feels that if the portion of roadway in question would be topped this year, it would remedy the situation. However, since it is not in the contract to have Cheese Hill Road topped, Mr. Pine feels the need to bring this matter to the Board. Mr. Pine *does* commend the Highway for doing a very good job on the base.

2. Legislator, Deborah Busch informed the Board that she has been in contact with the Hilltown Community Resource Center and that very soon, *all* services provided by Albany County will be available at the Resource Center in Westerlo. Dick Rapp of Westerlo has offered the Westerlo Town Hall for sensitive issues so that individuals may have privacy. The Albany County Sheriff's Department has also offered services for

sensitive issues. In addition, Mike Hammond has offered the Town of Knox Town Hall where there will be a job-sharing program to offer employment to local unemployed individuals that perhaps do not have the means to go into the city, but can work locally. There will also be guidance counselors from different schools in an attempt to abate the cost of H.V.C.C. Hudson Valley students cost the towns quite a bit of money and every year it is a bone of contention about who is going to pay to supplement the school - the County or the Town? They are trying to get students interested in other opportunities such as Schenectady County Community College which now operates a base out of Albany at the County Building. S.U.N.Y. Albany is also on the list to have a base there as well. Brochures listing the County services that are available will be printed and distributed shortly.

A small group concerned with energy and electricity met at the Town of Knox. A very prominent group from the New York State Senate with the New York State Energy Commission has been very gracious in providing their attorneys to this group and also an individual who provides solar energy to municipalities through special grants. Most recently, Warren County has put all of their municipal services, i.e. County, Town, Fire, Rescue, etc. on a solar plan. The reason why this group held a meeting is that they would like to follow the plan that is being utilized in Sharon Springs. The Town of Sharon Springs has 'community solar' and can appreciate as low as \$15.00/month on their electricity bills. Municipalities as well as residents benefit from this plan. The problem is that currently, New York State only allows for municipalities to become solar energy efficient with their grants and does not extend that to the community. Legislator Busch is now writing legislation to get that into the New York State Senate so that it may be passed for next year. The hope is that eventually all the Hilltowns may become energy efficient and independent of the grid. The Town of Knox as well as the Town of Berne is considering this and Ms. Busch is asking the Town of Rensselaerville to investigate this proposition as well and to meet with the other Towns to discuss the possibility of jumping on board with this plan. There is no cost to the Towns; this particular provider was brought to the Hilltowns by the New York State Senate. The State is working with this provider almost exclusively so that the most benefit can be derived from the NYSERDA grants. The plan is a 20-year plan; 32 acres is needed in order to provide enough energy for 1,000 homes.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the minutes of the following meetings:

June 10, 2014 Work Meeting

June 12, 2014 Regular Meeting; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

ABSTRACTS/ VOUCHERS

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| General Fund | \$31,000.29 |
| Highway Fund | 100,776.49 |
| Lighting District | 635.83 (Preston Hollow \$303.49; Rensselaerville \$332.34) |
| Sewer Fund | 127.46 |
| Water Fund | 486.72 |
| <u>Trust Fund</u> | <u>3,514.62</u> |
| Total Abstracts | \$136,541.41 |

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to pay all signed vouchers; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Lounsbury read a letter from the Albany County Sheriff's Department which announced that effective June 27, 2014 there will be a change in personnel due to the retirement of Captain John Layton. There will be no interruption of emergency services during this transition. Thomas Remmert will assume the duties of Acting Emergency Manager.

REPORTS

SUPERVISOR

1. Supervisor Lounsbury reported that Lenny's Tire Service has paid for all the damage to the Senior/Youth bus in the amount of \$1,359.79.

2. Supervisor Lounsbury received a letter from the Greenville Central School Board of Education accepting the donation from the Town of the one-acre parcel of land on Potter Hollow Mountain Road and adjacent to the Potter Hollow Schoolhouse. The Greenville Central School expresses their sincere appreciation for this generous donation.

Attorney Fallati confirmed the acceptance of the donation and reported that Greenville Central School will proceed with filing.

3. The Cycling Festival sponsored by the Carey Center and the Catalpa House scheduled for September, will need a 'follow vehicle'. Jon Kosich has inquired as to the possibility of using the Senior/Youth bus. Highway Superintendent Bates is familiar with the Festival and through facts provided by him, it was determined that it is a 'non-profit' event. Councilman Bolte feels that it would serve the Town well if the bus was made available for the event.

4. Marybeth Peterson from the Hilltown Community Resource Center asked if the Senior/Youth bus could be utilized to transport a severely disabled, wheelchair-bound 16-year-old boy to Albany for rehabilitation services. The boy's family has the means for transportation, however due to the incredible amount of pain the boy experiences on a daily basis, getting him in and out of their vehicle only adds to his distress. Use of the Senior/Youth Bus and its wheelchair lift would be a tremendous help. Councilwoman Cooke and Councilman Bolte are very much in favor of allowing the use of the bus; however, they are concerned about the fact that the bus might be quite a rough ride. The consensus is that the Board would like the family to make that determination.

5. A Special Meeting is scheduled for July 29, 2014 at 7:00 PM to review the new health insurance options.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to accept the Supervisor's report; 2nd by Councilman Bolte.

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

ATTORNEY

1. Attorney Fallati reported that he was following up on the donation of the piece of land on Potter Hollow Mountain Road. He has spoken with the attorneys from the Greenville Central School and they are in the process of filing the deed.

2. The proposed revisions to the Board of Ethics procedures have been completed and are available in draft form. A Special Meeting to review these proposed revisions with the Board of Ethics will be held on August 7, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the Attorney's report; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

1. Highway Superintendent Bates has signed up for the Rensselaerville Cycling Festival and has informed everyone that it costs \$55.00 to participate. This cost covers a t-shirt, lunch, prizes, etc.

2. All the rain has made June an extra busy month. There has not been any major damage, but the highway department has been challenged trying to keep up with plugged culverts, fixing ruts caused by runoff, and the general maintenance that comes with heavy downpours.

3. Base restoration is complete on Roney Road, Cheese Hill Road, and Edwards Hill. In response to Jeff Pine's concern over Cheese Hill, Superintendent Bates stated that he was on Cheese Hill earlier today after speaking with Mr. Pine. There is a drop-off in a few locations, but it is all related to the process. The larger aggregates separate from the smaller ones and through time and use, the stones migrate to the edge and fall off the sides and form a taper on the shoulders. This process has been used for three to four years and was done on Pond Hill Road, Travis Hill Road, Roney Road, Johnny Cake Hill Road, Sayre Road, Camp Winsoki Road, and Pucker Street, so far with good results. Superintendent Bates will continue to monitor Cheese Hill and if necessary, material will be added and/or grading will be performed. In the interim, material will be added to John Hillicoss' driveway as it is quite low.

4. Motor-paving will begin the end of July instead of the third week as originally planned, again due to weather conditions. Paving will be done on Travis Hill Road, Roney Road, Johnny Cake Hill Road, and Sayre Road as outlined in the contract.

5. Paver patching and repair will continue. Shale has been placed on Gulf Road, Gulf Road Extension, Kenyon Road, and Davis Mountain Road. Drainage work has been ongoing and the first round of mowing has been completed.

6. Superintendent Bates has been looking on the Auction International website for bargains as they occur. Within the last several years the Town purchased its paver and two Oshkosh trucks from this source. The 1984 Oshkosh, which the Town purchased many years ago has an issue with the front wheel bearing and the axle is essentially destroyed. Mr. Bates has tried every avenue possible to replace these parts, but to no avail. The Town has a significant amount of money invested in this truck and it needs to be up and running. Auctions International has a 1981 Oshkosh available. The price is currently \$1,800.00. Superintendent Bates would like to purchase this truck for parts. The front-end would be used to repair the 1984 Oshkosh. It also comes with a stainless steel spreader which could be used to replace one of the three that are in need; a computerized spreader control which is worth about \$2,000.00 in itself; a plow and wing; and the engine could be used to replace the engine in truck #8. Superintendent Bates asked the Board for a \$2,500.00 limit to purchase the truck. Councilwoman Cooke inquired as to whether or not \$2,500.00 would be enough. Councilman Bolte stated that the tires appear to be brand new and if the truck were to be pieced-out, there is considerable value there. The auction ends on Monday, July 14th. Due to the fact that Superintendent Bates has not actually seen the truck and it is too far to travel to do so, he is reluctant to spend too much money on it.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to allow Superintendent Bates to bid up to \$3,000.00 for the 1981 Oshkosh; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the Highway Superintendent's report, 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke.

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

TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Kraker reported for the month of June as follows:

Town Clerk Department – Total Collected \$1,405.61

Paid to the Supervisor - \$1,332.74 - the breakdown is as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Clerk Fees | 110.88 |
| Recycling | 107.50 |
| Dog Licenses | 14.00 |
| Building Permits | 775.36 |
| Zoning (+RV Permits) | 145.00 |
| Planning | 150.00 |
| Senior/Youth Bus Donations | <u>30.00</u> |
| Total | \$1,332.74 |

Fees paid to NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets for the 'Animal Population Control Program' aka 'dog surcharge': \$2.00

Electronic sweep from the Town Clerk's checking account for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for sporting licenses : \$70.87

Water Rents paid for the month of June : \$3,220.56 which includes \$26.17 in late fees; and Sewer Rents paid for the month of June: \$509.40 which includes 0.48 in late fees.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to accept the Town Clerk's report; 2nd by Councilman Bolte.

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/BUILDING INSPECTOR

1. June was a busy month, but we still do not have any 'new house' permits. Greenville does not have any new house permits either.

2. Officer Overbaugh has been following through on some violations.

3. Councilwoman Cooke questioned the discrepancy between the Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector's report and the Town Clerk's report. The answer is the manner in which each department's computer program is configured and figures are entered.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept the Code Enforcement/Building Inspector's report; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

Officer Overbaugh later explained the discrepancies in detail. In addition to the differences in the computer program, a number of permits were issued when Officer Overbaugh's computer was down and he was unable to enter them until the following month. The same permits were reported on the Town Clerk's report for the month in which they were actually received. Also, RV permits are not able to be entered at all on Officer Overbaugh's computer, but the Town Clerk's program has a field for them.

ASSESSORS

1. The Board of Assessment Review went well this year.
2. The Tentative Tax Roll and the Final Tax Roll were completed on time.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the Assessor's report; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE

1. Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Story reported the labor on the filter has been more than usual due to the excessive rainfall and turbid streams.

2. Officer Story took advantage of this situation by raking the filter to get a good flow going in an attempt to raise the level in the storage tank. The theory is that raising the level in the tank would create more pressure at the bottom of the hill, and as a result, would help locate the leak. The water tank typically operates at 40-48" of water and the level could not be raised any more than 60". With the assistance of Phil Pearson, the valve that the Water/Sewer Committee has been looking for for years, has been located. In locating the valve, a major leak was detected. The leak was in a frost valve located in a residents' garage which they were using to turn the water on and off because they couldn't find the shut-off in the street. Mr. Story has informed the owners of the situation. Two days later, an extra 30" of water was in the tank. He suspects this might have been the answer, but will give it some more time before jumping to conclusions.

3. 440,900 gallons were filtered at the treatment plant (an average of 14,697 gal per day). This is quite a bit higher than usual, but is due to the fact that they were trying to fill the tank for several weeks. This demonstrates that an increase in pressure correlates to the amount of water that leaks out; the more pressure the faster the leak. Mr. Story would like to see the tank kept at 8 to 10 feet of water especially during the summer.

4. A small algae bloom spiked the turbidity to 1.23. A day later it had dropped down to 1.1 and is now back to the normal range of 0.3 to 0.5.

5. 6,588 gallons per day were treated at the sewer plant.

6. As part of process, there is an overflow at the top of the hill. A study was done on capturing that water and using it for potential energy at the bottom of the hill to run a generator. Mr. Story will try to come up with a plan to have a small generator installed.

7. Westerlo is well on their way to installing solar at the Park.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept the Water/Sewer Treatment Officer's report; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

REFUSE/RECYCLING

Due to the absence of Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck, Supervisor Lounsbury read the report Mr. Whitbeck provided for the month of June as follows:

Green Fiber: 5.21 tons

Rensselaer Iron & Steel: 3.06 tons

Tires: 8

City of Albany Landfill: 66.77 tons

Sierra Fibers: 4.95 tons

Oil: 35 gallons

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to accept the Recycling Coordinator's written report; 2nd by Councilman Bolte.

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

CURRENT EVENTS

1. Councilwoman Sedlmeir announced that the Village Voices will present "The Pirates of Penzance" on Saturday, July 26th at 7:30 at Conkling Hall.

2. Sergeant Mance will have July's edition of the Albany County Sheriff's Office Newsletter as soon as it is approved. Sergeant Mance has been allowed her own 'Community Resource' page and encourages citizens to contact her with upcoming activities and events.

OLD BUSINESS

1. It has been brought to the attention of the Board that the minutes of the Special Meeting held on May 28, 2014 to review the zoning regulations, identified Jeannette Rice

in her capacity as a Zoning Board of Appeals member. Mrs. Rice attended the meeting solely as a concerned citizen not as a Board member. The minutes will be amended.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to amend the minutes of the May 28th meeting; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

2. Four resumes were received in response to the ad for Assessor's Clerk, but only one of the applicants, Linda McCormick, resides in the town of Rensselaerville. The Town Board has conducted an interview of Mrs. McCormick (in addition to the Assessor's interviews conducted on June 19, 2014). It is the Town's policy to hire from within the Town.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to appoint Linda McCormick as Assessor's Clerk; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke.

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

3. A motion was approved at the Work Meeting on July 8th to run the ad for the Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector's Clerk again, with a deadline to receive resumes of August 12, 2014.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Supervisor Lounsbury read Mary Carney's resignation as Court Clerk effective July 1, 2014.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept Mrs. Carney's resignation; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

2. Supervisor Lounsbury read a letter from Justices Miller and Bischoff requesting that the Board appoint Emileigh Tanner as Court Clerk.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to appoint Emileigh Tanner as Court Clerk effective July 1, 2014; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

3. Councilwoman Cooke reported on the progress of the newsletter. She received a response from Judy Crilley who is very interested in volunteering. Sue Britton has also volunteered to enter email addresses so that the newsletter may be transmitted electronically. Councilwoman Cooke needs authorization to set up an account with Mail Chimp (there is no cost to the Town to set up this account), as well as authorization to send a letter out to all residents.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury authorizing Councilwoman Cooke to set up an account with Mail Chimp and authorizing the mailing to all residents; and also to contact I.T.S. for any assistance that may be needed; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Marie Dermody FOILED the car and bus logs from 2012, 2013 and 2014. She inquired into why the format was different for 2012. The paperwork for 2012 shows only a list of appointments, but no documented mileage. She would like know what other things the bus and car have been used for other than doctors' appointments, shopping trips and youth activities. Supervisor Lounsbury informed Mrs. Dermody that if the car was available, it might be used to transport elderly people to visit their spouses in the hospital or transport children for various reasons. The car would occasionally be used by the Highway Department to pick up parts or for an occasional trip to the bank. Mrs. Dermody questions if these convenience trips were appropriate usage and also why there was approximately 150 miles of undocumented usage.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to go into Executive Session at 8:13 PM to discuss the Union Contract; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to return from Executive Session at 9:08 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk