

**MINUTES  
OF  
THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 12, 2014**

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 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 William Ryan  
Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury  
Councilman Robert Bolte  
Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir  
Councilwoman Marion Cooke  
Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker  
**ABSENT WAS:** Councilman Gerald Wood

Also present were Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Mark Overbaugh, Assessor Richard Tollner, Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Doug Story; and Recycling Coordinator Jon Whitbeck; and three interested citizens.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

None

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the minutes of the following meetings: April 29, 2014 Special Meeting – Zoning Review  
May 6, 2014 Work Meeting  
May 8, 2014 Regular Meeting  
May 22, 2014 Special Meeting – Board of Ethics Procedures and  
May 28, 2014 Special Meeting – Zoning Review;  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Cooke.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)  
Supervisor Lounsbury abstains from the May 8, 2014 meeting as she was attending the Association of Towns seminar.*

**ABSTRACTS/ VOUCHERS**

General Fund	\$36,294.02
Highway Fund	56,347.50
Lighting District	602.54 (Preston Hollow \$287.57; Rensselaerville \$314.97)
Sewer Fund	60.50

Water Fund	110.88
Trust Fund	<u>3,517.62</u>
Total Abstracts	\$96,933.06

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to pay all signed vouchers; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Cooke.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

### **TRANSFERS**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to accept the following transfers (to cover withdrawals):

From 'General Medical' A 89060 to 'CDPHP' A 4179 in the amount of \$5,000.00 and From 'Highway Medical' DA 89060 to 'CDPHP' A 4179 in the amount of \$5,000.00; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to approve the budget amendment increase in the New York State C.H.I.P.S. Funding from \$181,514.00 to \$204,144.00. The increase was due to the 'pothole fund'.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Supervisor Lounsbury read a note from Wayne Teter, President of the Brookside Cemetery Association thanking the Town for their help in repairing the damage the cemetery had incurred from the harsh winter and also some minor vandalism. A special thanks goes to Councilman Gerald Wood for his efforts in obtaining the services of the Albany County inmates.

### **REPORTS**

#### **SUPERVISOR**

1. Supervisor Lounsbury and Clerk 1, Sarah Hunt attended the Association of Town's school on Annual Financing and reported that they had gained a significant amount of knowledge and that it was certainly worth attending.

2. Supervisor Lounsbury confirmed that Tom Snyder is willing to take over the Senior/Youth bus scheduling until such time as Ann Vogel is back on her feet and able to resume the duties.

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

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

**ATTORNEY**

No Report

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Due to Highway Superintendent Bates' absence he has prepared a written report as follows:

Road base reconstruction is nearing completion on a 1.1 mile section of Cheese Hill Road and a 0.6 mile section of Roney Road.

Reconstruction of a 0.6 mile section of Edwards Hill road will begin Monday, June 16, 2014.

The paving of sections of Travis Hill Road, Roney Road, Johnny Cake Hill Road and Sayre Roads is scheduled to begin July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Routine maintenance including patching, mowing, and drainage work will continue.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Bates  
Highway Superintendent

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

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

**TOWN CLERK**

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

Town Clerk Department – Total Collected \$1,224.65

Paid to the Supervisor - \$1,007.48 - the breakdown is as follows:

Clerk Fees	\$ 23.08
Recycling	87.00
Dog Licenses	300.00
Building Permits	272.40
Zoning (RV Permits)	25.00
Planning	<u>300.00</u>
Total	\$1,007.48

Fees paid to NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets for the 'Animal Population Control Program' aka 'dog surcharge' - \$66.00

Electronic sweep from the Town Clerk's checking account for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for sporting licenses - \$151.17

Water Rents paid for the month of May \$792.78 which includes \$15.54 in late fees

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

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

### **BUILDING INSPECTOR/CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

In the absence of Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Overbaugh at this time, Supervisor Lounsbury read the report provided. \$50.00 was collected for Building Repair Permits; \$62.40 for New Accessory Building Permits; \$10.00 for Pool Permits; and \$50.00 for Solar Panel Permits for a total of \$172.40.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to accept the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer's written report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Bolte.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Overbaugh arrived late due to another commitment. He spoke of the recent webinar training in Westerlo and said outside of the technical difficulty they encountered, it was very informative.

### **ASSESSORS**

1. Assessor Tollner reported that the assessments are complete.
2. On Grievance Day, May 27, 2014, six concerned citizens appeared personally and three announced their grievance via mail. The majority of the six grievances who appeared personally, were settled before the meeting was concluded.

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

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

### **WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE**

Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Story reported that for the month of May, the amount of water filtered was down considerably and therefore the search for leaks narrows; 394,800 gallons of water was filtered (an average of 12,735 gallons/day). However, there is still a significant leak. The shutoff valve still needs to be located and the service to the house in question needs to be mapped as the service was added on after the original system was built.

Mr. Story reported that the filter is working very well and is very proud to report that the turbidity level has been down consistently below 1 NTU. Mr. Story is learning more and more every day about the filter and how to maximize its efficiency.

Mr. Story also attended a symposium on water infrastructure that NYS sponsored held at the Rockefeller Institute. The prevailing topic there was CSO (Combined Sewer Outflow). In most older systems the storm sewer and the sanitary sewer are running in

the same channel. They are only divided by a weir running down the middle. When the water gets high the water mixes and runs through the outflow without being treated. The DEC is considering establishing smaller sewer districts like the one in Rensselaerville. This might be something that Medusa and Preston Hollow will have to face in the future.

The Town of Westerlo will be installing solar panels on their facility in order to underwrite some of the electrical costs of their pumps. They are hoping to defray as much as 60% of their electrical costs by installing the solar panels. They have already managed to lower their expenses \$1,500/month last year.

Mr. Story has contacted someone with respect to using the overflow from the water district to see if it can be piped down and run through a generator in an effort to contribute more money to the Water and Sewer District.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to accept the Water/Sewer Treatment Officer's report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

### **REFUSE/RECYCLING**

Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck reported for the month of April as follows:  
Green Fiber: 7.71 tons; between the \$400.92 that was saved and \$192.75 that was made leaves us \$593.67 ahead.

Rensselaer Iron & Steel: 5.81 tons (\$2.30/ton X 5.81 tons = \$1,336.30)

Tires: 18

City of Albany Landfill: 62.56 tons

Sierra Fibers: 4.48 tons

Oil: 87 gallons

E-waste: 1.6 tons of which we had to pay only for 1.2 tons due to the CRT's picture tubes

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

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

### **CURRENT EVENTS**

1. Supervisor Lounsbury thanked everyone who participated in the Town Wide Picnic for their efforts and was very pleased that the picnic was such a huge success once again. She especially thanked Sergeant Tracy Mance and K-9 George from the Albany County Sheriff's Department. Councilwoman Sedlmeir concurred and is very grateful to all.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Thus far four resumes have been received in response to the advertisement for the Assessor's Clerk. Interviews will be conducted on Thursday, June 19, 2014. Councilwoman Sedlmeir would like to attend the interviews.

2. Between Supervisor Lounsbury and Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh, the job description for Officer Overbaugh's clerk has been completed. Authorization is needed to place the ad in the newspaper.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to approve the job description and authorize the ad to be placed in the newspaper; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Cooke.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

3. The two-way radio has been moved away from the Town Clerk's office and closer to Supervisor Lounsbury's office.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Lorraine Case has been chosen as one of the new Court Clerks.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to appoint Lorraine Case as Court Clerk; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

2. The Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Company has four new members.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept Daryl Niemerow, Josh Carlsen, Paul Rath, and Richard Rath as members of the Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Company; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

3. Board of Ethics member Alden Pierce has submitted his letter of resignation. Mr. Pierce feels he would not have the time to allocate should a situation arise where a significant amount of time is required of a board member.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the resignation of Alden Pierce; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Cooke.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to authorize the advertisement of a new Board of Ethics member; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

4. Deputy Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Steve Carney has submitted his letter of resignation. Due to the demands of his full-time employment and responsibilities, Mr. Carney feels that he does not have the time to devote himself as Deputy Treatment Officer, but makes it clear that he will not abandon Mr. Story and will make every attempt to help if and when needed.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept Steve Carney's resignation; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Seldmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

5. Supervisor Lounsbury received a call from the Town of Berne Supervisor, Kevin Crosier. The Hilltown Senior Services has gone to the wayside and is doing away with their Board of Directors. They are looking to keep their tax-exempt status and are asking each of the four Hilltowns to select one Board member and one citizen to represent each Town. They are considering keeping the meals and perhaps scheduling an occasional dinner or movie night for the seniors. Supervisor Lounsbury spoke to Tom Snyder at length and he wasn't sure about who would be interested. It was difficult at best to get a group together to go to the Hiawatha Grange. It is possible that having the meals in Berne might be even more difficult. The seniors themselves will have to be questioned; their wants, needs, and desires must be determined. This matter will be tabled until such time that more discussion and research can be done.

6. Supervisor Lounsbury has spoken to the Association of Towns regarding having Victoria Kraker train the new Court Clerks. Mary Carney who currently serves as the only Court Clerk, has shown interest in resigning as well. Victoria Kraker will be allotted 40 hours at \$12.00/hour to train both new clerks.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to authorize the hiring of Victoria Kraker to train the new Court Clerks and be paid an hourly wage of \$12.00/hour for a maximum of 40 hours; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Lounsbury.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

7. Councilwoman Cooke has drafted an advertisement for the newspaper seeking volunteers to assist in the publishing of an official Town newsletter.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to authorize the advertisement seeking volunteers for the newsletter; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Marie Dermody inquired if Lorraine Case would be salaried or paid hourly. Ms. Case will be salaried as the other Court Clerks have traditionally been.

Mrs. Dermody also questioned how Victoria Kraker would be paid and how she would be keeping track of her hours. Supervisor Lounsbury responded by stating that the Association of Towns recommends that she be considered an independent contractor for the purposes of training. She will be punching a time card and submitting vouchers on a monthly basis.

Councilwoman Sedlmeir informed everyone that she represented the Town at the Upper Hudson Library System Dinner held at the Century House in Albany.

Sergeant Tracy Mance announced that the Sheriff's Department is now publishing a monthly newsletter in hopes of developing a better relationship with the community; identifying and resolving problems and increasing the quality of life. Sergeant Mance worked diligently on the first issue and was pleased to report that it was extremely well received. She also suggested that the Town might like to create a link on their website so the Sheriff's newsletter could be viewed there as well.

Councilwoman Sedlmeir and Supervisor Lounsbury thanked Marcello Iaia from the Altamont Enterprise for his coverage of the Town-Wide picnic.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir and Cooke; Nays (0)*

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;**

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk