

**MINUTES
OF
THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD
WORK MEETING
JUNE 10, 2014**

The Work Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 10th 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: 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 Highway Superintendent Randy Bates and one interested citizen.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

None

BRIAN WOOD SPOKE EXTENSIVELY ON THE EMS SERVICES

Brian Wood, Captain of the Albany County Paramedics, spoke extensively on the Emergency Medical Services. On May 27, 2014, Captain Wood conducted a meeting where the three Hilltowns of Westerlo, Berne, and Rensselaerville were invited. The Town of Westerlo was not represented; only the Town of Berne and Heldeberg EMS and the Town of Rensselaerville and Rensselaerville EMS attended. The purpose of the meeting was to address the shortage of volunteers in the Hilltowns. From January 2013 to the present time, there were 88 calls where the primary ambulance that was dispatched did not arrive. There are several reasons why this could have happened, one of which they were already on a call, but more commonly, because there are just not enough volunteers. This has been a continuing battle and not in the too distant future, two of the three EMT's here in Rensselaerville will be retiring.

Captain Wood, who is in charge of the EMS services for the six towns that he serves, has proposed some ideas that could possibly alleviate some of the strain on the current system. For example, provide another EMT level person in Rensselaerville and split the cost, similar to the ALS Services. A multitude of possibilities were discussed,

but Mr. Wood feels the only way to make EMS services work effectively and efficiently would be if all the Hilltowns would work together.

Supervisor Lounsbury inquired if Captain Wood foresees new members for the ambulance. Mr. Wood responded by saying that training has become much more difficult. In the past training could be done in small bites. Now, one is required to attend classes more than one night per week and also some Saturdays. With full time jobs, sometimes two jobs, and families, people have difficulty committing. In addition, the closest training session was in Clarksville.

Another problem is the type of ambulance calls that are received. In some cases, it is not imperative that an ambulance be called. This leads to the ambulance being tied up if a life-threatening issue arises. Historically, of the approximate 700 calls, there are only one or two dozen times where there are multiple calls at the same time.

Councilwoman Cooke asked what Captain Wood recommends as far as 12 vs. 24 hour shifts for EMTs. One EMT would be on call to cover all three Hilltowns. He feels that 12 hour shifts would work at least for the time being. This, he thinks, would be better financially as well. EMTs are extremely difficult to rely on for part-time help as they typically have other jobs. Paramedics on the other hand, usually make this their career. It is difficult to attract people at \$13.50/hour part-time. A full time EMT might have to be added to cover gaps.

Proposals that were discussed are only in their infancy. There are still many details to be looked into.

Supervisor Lounsbury asked if figures could be in by October 1, 2014 in order to properly figure the budget. The biggest challenge is to see if Berne and Westerlo are in on this or not.

MINUTES, TRANSFERS, VOUCHERS, AND BILLS

These items will be addressed at the Regular Meeting on June 12, 2014; as well as a budget amendment.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Supervisor Lounsbury will read a thank-you letter from the Brookside Cemetery at the Regular Meeting.

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 June 12, 2014.

* Please note that Highway Superintendent Bates will not be able to attend Thursday's meeting, but will provide a written report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The Town has received four resumes thus far for the Assessor's Clerk position. Interviews will be conducted on Thursday, June 19th.

2. Supervisor Lounsbury and Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh have assembled a job description and related details for the Code Enforcement/Building Inspector's Clerk.

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. Mary Carney has expressed interest in resigning as well and therefore there will be a need for yet another Court Clerk. Discussion will continue regarding replacing Mary Carney and hiring Victoria Kraker for the purpose of training both new clerks.

2. The Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Company has four new members: Daryl Niemerow, Josh Carlsen, Paul Rath, and Richard Rath.

3. Alden Pierce has submitted his resignation as a member of the Board of Ethics.

4. Supervisor Lounsbury has spoken to Supervisor Kevin Crosier from the Town of Berne regarding the Hilltown Senior Services. Mr. Crosier is suggesting that because the Hiawatha Grange Senior Services has gone to the wayside, he might like to see the organization revitalized by having the four hilltowns form a 'new' Senior Services association.

5. Councilwoman Cooke has compiled an advertisement seeking volunteers interested in assisting with publishing an official Town Newsletter.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Marie Dermody cautions the Town not to overlap the salaried duties of the Town Clerk and the hourly wages Town Clerk Kraker will be receiving for Court Clerk training.

Councilman Bolte along with the Town Board wanted to thank Superintendent Bates and the Highway Department for the special care they gave the garage in preparation of the Town-Wide picnic.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk