

**MINUTES  
OF  
THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 9, 2014**

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 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, Assessor Donna Kropp, Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Doug Story, Recycling Coordinator Jon Whitbeck, and Deputy Sheriff Tracy Mance from the Albany County Sheriff's Department. Also present were seven interested citizens.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Marie Dermody inquired as to whether there has been any communication from Senator Breslin's office regarding the 'little red car'. Supervisor Lounsbury stated that there was none.

**MINUTES**

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

September 9, 2014 – Work Meeting

September 11, 2014 – Regular Meeting

September 16, 2014 – Special Meeting Zoning Review

September 30, 2014 – Presentation of Tentative Budget\*\*\*; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

\*\*\*Councilman Wood abstains from voting on the September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting as he was not present.

### **TRANSFERS**

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to approve the following transfers:

From 'General Medical Insurance' A 89060 to 'CDPHP' A4179 in the amount of \$3,000.00;

From 'Highway Medical Insurance' DA 89060 to 'CDPHP' A4179 in the amount of \$3,000.00;

From 'Senior/Youth Bus Fund' A 8514 to 'Vehicle Maintenance' A7610E 44072 in the amount of \$781.00 to replace front brakes, back-up alarm, and light on bus; and

From 'Bayard Elsbree Memorial Park Checking' A7140PHR to 'Park Contractual' A7140PHE 4499 in the amount of \$2,066.00 for sealing of bike path and donation for memorial bench; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Cooke.

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

### **ABSTRACTS/VOUCHERS**

General Fund	\$36,952.32
Highway Fund	43,597.43
Lighting District	707.19 (Preston Hollow \$337.73; Rensselaerville \$369.46)
Sewer Fund	1,183.55
Water Fund	492.35
<u>Trust Fund</u>	<u>6,192.90</u>
Total Abstracts	\$89,125.74

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

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Supervisor Lounsbury read a letter (from an author who wishes to remain anonymous), expressing concerns about the failure of the school system to keep residents apprised of any changes in income guidelines relating to the Enhanced Star Program. The concern lies in the change in income parameters which determine eligibility and the amount of savings.

### **REPORTS**

## **SUPERVISOR**

1. The bike path at the Bayard Elsbree Memorial Park has been sealed.
2. The Town Board has set the following dates for Budget Workshops:  
October 15, October 16, October 20, and October 23, 2014.
3. The Senior/Youth Bus was used for the Cycling Festival and was only driven approximately 25 miles. Jon Kosich inquired as to how much the Town would like to be reimbursed for its use. A suggestion was made to accept a small donation to the Senior/Youth Bus Fund in lieu of charging for fuel.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to accept a small donation to the Senior/Youth Bus Fund in lieu of actual payment for fuel used for the Cycling Festival; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Wood.

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

4. Highway Superintendent Bates has researched the cost of paving the Honor Roll and has determined that it will total approximately \$5,800.00. Both Supervisor Lounsbury and Superintendent Bates feel that in the alternative, due to the high cost, crushed stone would be adequate. Councilman Wood thought there were funds available for this project. Supervisor Lounsbury will check into this matter.

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

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

## **ATTORNEY**

1. The renewal of the Heavy Industry moratorium is close to expiring. The Town has had three prior, one-year moratoriums. The current moratorium expires in December. Attorney Fallati has prepared an update of the existing law.

2. The new National Flood Insurance maps from the Department of Environmental Conservation have been updated and issued. To maintain eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program, the Town must adopt the new Flood Insurance Study and Insurance Rate Maps into the communities Flood Plain Management Regulations. A draft must be submitted to D.E.C. by December 16, 2014 and a local law must be adopted by February of 2015. Attorney Fallati has prepared a red-line comparison showing the base document and additional provisions which D.E.C. has recommended.

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

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

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

1. Highway Superintendent Bates reported that construction projects were essentially complete for this year.
2. The Highway Department continues to do maintenance work including patching, ditching, and tree trimming.
3. The focus now is on winter. The Highway will resume their winter hours commencing the Tuesday after Columbus Day. Superintendent Bates and his Department will be putting snow and ice equipment together and performing numerous repairs. The goal is to be 100% operational by November 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. Superintendent Bates has received the New York State Office of General Services contract for salt. The price this year is \$58.12/ton compared to \$48.00 last year. Sand last year was \$6.85/ton; this year the contract price is \$7.75. Based on a three-year average, this would increase our cost \$10,000 or 15 %.
5. Superintendent Bates would be more than happy to construct a road into the new portion of the Brookside Cemetery donated by Earl and Ellen Potter, but according to the Attorney, this would not be legal.

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

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

**TOWN CLERK**

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

Town Clerk Department – Total Collected \$4,574.42

Paid to the Supervisor - \$807.77 - the breakdown is as follows:

Clerk Fees	312.88
Recycling	172.50
Dog Licenses	137.00
Building Permits	393.44
Zoning	20.00
Planning	50.00
<u>Senior/Youth Bus Donation</u>	<u>62.00</u>
Total	\$1,147.82

Fees paid to NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets for the 'Animal Population Control Program' aka 'dog surcharge': \$26.00

Electronic sweep from the Town Clerk's checking account for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation - Sporting licenses: \$3,400.60

Water Rents paid for the month of September: \$486.42 which includes \$3.49 in late fees; and Sewer Rents paid for the month of September: \$1,632.58 which includes \$16.18 in late fees.

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

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

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

Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh was unable to present his report in person, therefore Supervisor Lounsbury read his report; summarized as follows:

There was a total of \$393.44 collected for various building permits; \$20.00 in Zoning permits; and \$50.00 in Planning permits.

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

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

### **ASSESSORS**

1. Assessors Donna Kropp and Kathy Wank, and Assessor's Clerk Linda McCormick attended a three-day training session on Real Property Services in Albany.

2. Assessors Tollner and Wank continue to pursue their training requirements.

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

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

### **WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE**

1. Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Doug Story reported that for the month of September 560,200 gallons of water was filtered (an average of 18,673 gallons/day); and 168,480 gallons of sewage was pumped (an average of 5,616 gallons/day). This leaves a 13,000 gallon/day difference. A lot of the water has tested positive for chlorine indicating that it is not ground water, but rather water from the system.

2. In the continuing search for the leak, it has been determined that the system does not have enough pressure in it to transmit enough sound in order for a leak to be detected.

3. Officer Story would like to rent a large compressor and close off sections of the water system one at a time. He hopes that pressurizing will help lead to locating a leak. Officer Story is convinced that the leak is on the 'user' end of the system.

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

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

### **REFUSE/RECYCLING**

Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck reported the following for the month of September:

Green Fiber: 9.61 tons

Rensselaer Iron & Steel: 7.13 tons

Tires: 35

City of Albany Landfill: 68.46 tons

Sierra Fibers: 5.92 tons

Oil: 25 gallons

E-waste: 1.63 tons

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

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

### **CURRENT EVENTS**

1. Jack Long announced that the 'Old Songs Community Arts Center' will present "The Anti-Rent Rebellion of New York State – Down with the Rent" documentary/musical on November 21 and 22, 2014 at 8:00 PM at the Old Songs Community Arts Center in Voorheesville, NY.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Councilwoman Cooke reported that the Newsletter was coming along steady. The first batch of emails has been entered. Councilwoman Cooke will be meeting with Judy to set up the form for the Newsletter. The Committee is looking forward to a November 1<sup>st</sup> publication date.

2. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to set November 6, 2014 at 7:00 PM for the Public Hearing to address the Preliminary Budget; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Bolte.

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

3. A vacancy exists on the Board of Ethics. The position will be advertised and hopefully filled by the November Board meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. A date of November 18, 2014 at 7:00 PM has been set for a Public Hearing on the extension of the Gas Drilling Moratorium.

2. An estimate of \$4,800.00 has been received to repair the damage on the Myosotis Lake Spillway. Chairman Tom Delp is considering this repair an emergency situation based on the fact that fair weather is in their favor, but not for too long.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to authorize Chairman Delp to go forward with the repairs; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Wood.

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

3. Mary Carney, who serves as Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals Clerk and also as Clerk to the Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector will be resigning effective November 1<sup>st</sup>. Those positions will be advertised also.

### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Deputy Tracy Mance from the Albany County Sheriff's Department, who serves as the Community Liaison, reported that she held a very informative meeting for approximately 50 seniors from New Scotland. She spoke on internet and email scams, keeping their homes safe, the effects of aging on driving, and many other safety related matters. The Seniors had several questions for her following her presentation. It was very well received and Deputy Mance inquired as to whether or not Rensselaerville Seniors would be interested in something like this also. Councilwoman Sedlmeir noted that she had discussed this with Tom Snyder and Supervisor Lounsbury and they have suggested holding off for the winter months.

Deputy Mance has also been asked to speak to Criminal Justice students at Bryant & Stratton. In addition, South Vermont College has contacted the Sheriff's Department as they are interested in an internship program for their students.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to go into Executive Session at 7:48 PM for the purpose of Union Contract Negotiations; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 7:56 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Wood.

Supervisor Lounsbury noted an error in the Union Contract Draft under the job classification section.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to authorize Supervisor Lounsbury to finalize the draft with the job classification clarified; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 8:00 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.  
*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

### **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;**

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk