

**MINUTES
OF
THE TOWN OF RENNELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2014**

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 7th day of October, 2014 at 7:30 in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor 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 Marion Cooke
Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

There were no interested citizens present.

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to begin review of the 2015 Tentative Budget.

- Superintendent Bates presented his views on the 2015 Tentative Budget. Almost all line items in the Highway budget will remain the same as they were for 2014 with the following exceptions: Superintendent Bates requests that Road Material/Sand/Salt and Gas/Oil be increased by 2%; and Trucks and Miscellaneous Equipment be increased by \$5,000 each.

The Town has not spent any money on equipment this year therefore leaving a surplus of \$30,000. Superintendent Bates would like to add this \$30,000 to the existing Capital Fund to put towards a new tandem plow truck.

- The figures for Worker's Compensation are still up in the air, but will be finalized shortly. Additionally, the compensation for 'Operator' is yet to be determined, contingent upon the completion of the Union Negotiations.
- The C.H.I.P.'s Program is being left at the base amount of \$181,514 for the time being as the Town will not have firm figures until after the State's budget passes.

- Superintendent Bates addressed the wages of the neighboring Towns' Highway Superintendents and compared them with the Town of Rensselaerville. He noted that the annual salary for the Town of Rensselaerville's Highway Superintendent is on the average, \$10,000 less than that of each of the neighboring Towns of Berne, Knox, and Westerlo. Yet, the Town of Rensselaerville has a comparable number of crew members, but has many, many more miles of roads to maintain. His concern is not for his own salary, but for those that follow. Superintendent Bates also pointed out that any increase should be done gradually, not in one sudden jump. Superintendent Bates acknowledged the reality and what is affordable in a small Town, but noted that there is a cost to having qualified people. He questioned increasing the salaries of all the positions within the Town. For too long the Town has sat on these salaries because there just isn't enough money. Superintendent Bates understands also that there is a political cost to raising salaries; it can become an issue, but there comes a time where a qualified person needs to be compensated.
- Town Clerk Kraker has requested a raise for the Deputy Town Clerk who currently earns \$11.00/hour, noting that five years ago, in 2010 the Deputy was earning \$11.88/hour. Once again, comparing neighboring Towns, Deputies earn between \$14.98 (as a new-hire) and \$17.33/hour. Clerk Kraker also noted that no one has taken a new position in the Town earning less money than that of their predecessors; nor even less than that of someone who held the position five years prior, regardless of their level of experience.
- Supervisor Lounsbury recommends the line item for mileage be increased.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk