

**MINUTES
OF
THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD
WORK MEETING
APRIL 7, 2015**

The Work Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 7th day of April 2015 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
Councilman Gerald Wood
Councilwoman Marion Cooke
Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present was Highway Superintendent Randy Bates and four interested citizens.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

1. Ernest Kuehl wished to remind all qualified voters in the Middleburgh School District of the proposed budget vote which will be held on April 28, 2015 from Noon to 8:00 PM at the Library. Mr. Kuehl stated that the proposed budget represents a 6% increase over last year which would mean a 9 ½% increase for the residents of Albany County based on the equalization rate. He noted that the State is taking a look at their increases. Neither the Middleburgh Library nor the Rensselaerville Library are public libraries; they are association libraries. The State is no longer allowing this, but these libraries are grandfathered in. As it stands now, the service areas overlap and so taxpayers are paying for two libraries; one through the property tax and the other through the school tax.

2. Councilwoman Cooke requested and was granted the go-ahead to send an addendum to the Newsletter on behalf of the Middleburgh Library.

MINUTES, VOUCHERS, AND BILLS

Minutes to be accepted at the Regular Meeting on April 9, 2015:
March 10, 2015 – Work Meeting
March 12, 2015 – Regular Meeting

Vouchers and bills will be addressed at the Regular Meeting also.

TRANSFERS

These will be addressed at the Regular Meeting on April 9, 2015.

REPORTS

Regular monthly reports from the Supervisor, Attorney, Highway Department, Town Clerk, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Assessors, Water/Sewer Committee, and Recycling Coordinator will be given at the Regular Meeting on April 9, 2015.

REPORT FROM THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

1. Superintendent Bates has made an offer to the Town of Catskill to purchase a surplus 1986 Oshkosh truck for \$6,000. Catskill has given the Town of Rensselaerville first dibs to make an offer. They are having a meeting tonight and may either accept, reject, or make a counter-offer. Otherwise, the truck will be placed on Auctions International.

2. Superintendent Bates has requested several quotes for rental of a sweeper. Three companies have responded: Finke Equipment at \$1,950/month; Abele at \$2,100/month; and Carver at \$2,375/month. Superintendent Bates accepted the quote from Finke, as was done last year.

3. Quotes were also requested for rental of an excavator. Two companies responded: Finke Equipment at \$3,755.39 and Abele at \$4,195.00.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERVISOR

1. Supervisor Lounsbury mentioned that the Town is in desperate need of a custodian. She has researched what other towns are doing and most have staff that they pay. Mike Bennett of Bennett's Cleaning Service out of Middleburgh is interested in the position. His company will do everything from steam cleaning the carpets to routine janitorial duties. His base rate is \$75 and \$25/hour for each additional man. Supervisor Lounsbury would like to hire them for monthly cleaning. Services will be more extensive in the beginning as there is much cleaning to catch up on. The highway department would be included in the services.

OPENING OF BIDS

The opening of the Highway, Mowing, and Port-a-Pot bids commenced at 7:15PM. Supervisor Lounsbury opened and read all bids. Awarding of bids will be publicized at the Regular Meeting on Thursday.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councilwoman Sedlmeir and Councilman Wood have met to discuss the proposed noise ordinance. They have taken New Scotland's example and have made some minor changes. The Board members were given copies for their review. The attorneys will then review the draft, and copies can then be made available to the public.

2. Supervisor Lounsbury received a response from the New York State Department of Transportation regarding the proposed 20 mph speed limit in the hamlet of Rensselaerville. A 20 mph speed limit is not allowed by the Vehicle and Traffic Law. The only exceptions are school zones, on bridges to avoid further structural damage, on highways under the jurisdiction of Parks and Recreation, and EZ Pass Lanes. Other exceptions are those that are signed into law by the governor and most of those locations are on Long Island.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department has requested the use of the Senior/Youth bus to transport their members to the Clarksville 911 Emergency Center for training on April 13, 2015.

2. Supervisor Lounsbury will need authorization to sign the Advanced Life Support contract. This year's contract is \$49,943.93 which is a \$419.55 increase over last year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A request was made by Councilman Bolte to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and job classification.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to enter into Executive Session at 8:16 PM; 2nd by Councilman Bolte.

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 8:32 PM; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

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

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Councilwoman Sedlmeir wanted to thank Marion and Judy for their efforts with the Town Newsletter and noted how nicely it was coming along.

Supervisor Lounsbury placed a lovely note of appreciation in the Newsletter acknowledging Councilwoman Sedlmeir's continuous acts of kindness and thoughtfulness. Councilwoman Sedlmeir expressed her gratitude for the recognition.

2. Councilman Wood announced that the Albany County inmates would be working starting the week of May 4th. They will be working at the cemetery on Monday and will finish off the week at the Preston Hollow Park.

3. Supervisor Lounsbury indicated that Superintendent Bates has offered the services of the Highway Department to install the short piece of new fencing at the Bayard Elsbree Memorial Park.

4. Councilman Wood expressed his concern over the power outage at the Recycling Center this past Saturday which caused quite a calamity. He feels that due to the fact that Town Hall is a Command Center it would behoove the Town to have a back-up generator. Councilman Bolte has been in contact with Albany County Executive Dan McCoy as well as Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple and Homeland Security. They may be able to find a permanent stand-by generator and also acquire a grant for the wiring. Councilman Bolte will follow through on this matter.

5. The subject of the communications tower on Edwards Hill has come up again. Councilman Wood stated that the attorneys are trying to get the paperwork together. There has to be provisions for three other providers to get onto the tower.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk