

**MINUTES  
OF  
THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 12, 2015**

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

Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates, Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Mark Overbaugh, Assessor Richard Tollner, Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Doug Story, Recycling Coordinator Jon Whitbeck, and Investigator Tracy Mance from the Albany County Sheriff's Department. Also present were seven interested citizens.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Brenda Wood and Robert Boellner presented the Town with a check for \$42,000.00 from the Rensselaerville Volunteer Ambulance as payment towards the Advanced Life Support program. Supervisor Lounsbury, on behalf of everyone, thanked the Ambulance, not only for the check, but for all that they do. Mrs. Wood stated that a 'thank-you' was the best payment they could ask for.

Marie Dermody asked about the draft minutes that she had for the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and why the Board was not approving them with the other January meetings. Supervisor Lounsbury responded by stating that the Board had also received them recently and needed a reasonable amount of time to review them.

Mrs. Dermody also inquired as to why the meeting was not put on the Community Calendar. Supervisor Lounsbury stated that the meeting was advertised in the Altamont Enterprise, but apologized for it not being on the Calendar.

Mrs. Dermody wished to make a comment on the January 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting minutes. She inquired as to why many of the audience comments that were actually dispersed throughout the meeting, were placed all together in one section of the minutes

titled "Audience Comments". She also wished to note that there were nine comments made and only three were listed.

Jost Nicklesberg recommended that the Town Board get to know other representatives in the other towns and make connections so that we have strength in numbers.

## **MINUTES**

Supervisor Lounsbury inquired into how the Board felt about the January 8<sup>th</sup> minutes and if the audience comments should be stricken or placed throughout wherever they were stated. Councilwoman Sedlmeir felt they should be left as is. Councilman Wood felt that the minutes should be left as is for now, but in the future all the comments should be included. The consensus is that a notation be made indicating other comments were made and that they were stated throughout.

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

- January 2, 2015 – Organizational
- January 6, 2015 – Public Hearing – Tax Cap Override
- January 6, 2015– Work Meeting
- January 8, 2015 – Regular Meeting (as corrected)

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bolte.

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

## **TRANSFERS**

None

## **ABSTRACTS/VOUCHERS**

General Fund	\$57,362.76
Highway Fund	96,772.44
Ambulance Fund	15,000.00
Fire Protection Fund	147,500.00
Lighting District	1,451.73
Sewer Fund	563.82
Water Fund	1,065.53
<u>TA Fund</u>	<u>6,943.52</u>
Total Abstracts	\$326,659.80

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

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A ‘thank-you’ letter along with a donation towards the maintenance of the Senior/Youth Bus was received from Sue Britton, Linda McCormick and Perry Moak in sincere appreciation for the use of the bus. They have made use of the bus on several occasions as it is the only way to transport their parents from the nursing home where they reside. They especially thanked Bob Bolte and Tom Snyder for their donation of time and service and noted what a positive difference the bus has made in the lives of many.

Supervisor Lounsbury also wished to express appreciation and to thank all the drivers, as without them, this service would not be possible.

### **REPORTS**

#### **SUPERVISOR**

1. Supervisor Lounsbury congratulated Kathryn Wank on her completion of the Basic Appraisal Principals course and complemented her on her hard work towards her certification.

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 Wood; Nays (0)*

#### **ATTORNEY**

1. Attorney Fallati announced the adoption of the National Flood Insurance Law. FEMA has required all Towns to update their flood insurance laws to comply with new standards. Attorney Fallati read the Resolution as follows:

#### **RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD**

WHEREAS, the Town has been advised by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“DEC”) of the need to adopt a local law that incorporates the regulations required to maintain the Town’s eligibility to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (“NFIP”); and

WHEREAS, the Town presented a draft local law (attached hereto) to the DEC on January 15, 2015, which the DEC found acceptable for the Town's continued participation in the NFIP; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board conducted a hearing on the attached proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2015 on February 10, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to adopt the proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2015 and maintain the Town's continued participation in the NFIP;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the duly convened Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York, ordains and enacts the attached Local Law No. 2 of 2015, which is incorporated herein.

By motion made by Robert Bolte, and seconded by Margaret Sedlmeir, the foregoing resolution was adopted by a majority of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2015 as follows:

<u>Town Board Member</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent/Abstain</u>
Valerie Lounsbury, Supervisor	X		
Marion Cooke, Councilwoman			Absent
Robert Bolte, Councilman	X		
Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilwoman	X		
Gerald Wood, Councilman	X		

END RESOLUTION

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

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

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

1. Highway Superintendent Bates reported that all the trucks and equipment are up and running. He wished, once again, to express his appreciation for the hard work and the skills of the highway crew that enable these trucks to keep going.

2. The salt shed is at 90% capacity and there should be no problem keeping it that way. The news media has led us to believe that there is a salt shortage. However, the issue is more of a delay in the delivery of the salt, not a shortage of supply.

3. Superintendent Bates provided the Board with several quotes on a new truck. He is pleased with the quotes he has received noting that the quotes on this tandem axle

truck are only \$13,000 more than what was paid for the single axle truck purchased two years ago. He also noted that obtaining a quote on a higher-end truck could be difficult due to the fact that an accurate quote requires extensive work on the part of the salesman - sometimes in excess of 20 to 30 pages of specs. Some vendors are not inclined to put the work into a quote unless they feel that a purchase is imminent.

Councilman Wood inquired about transferring the truck radios. Superintendent Bates expressed his desire to sell two trucks that already have radios and transfer one of them into the new truck.

Superintendent Bates further explained to Councilman Wood a figure on the quotes which indicates an extended warranty. The extended warranty would cover the engine and after treatment for five years. He is in favor of this extended warranty as the Town has the same coverage on the 2010 truck. The warranty on the 2010 International has been used extensively; it has been back for warranty work eight times. If that were to be paid out-of-pocket, it would have cost several thousands of dollars.

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

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

### **TOWN CLERK**

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

Town Clerk Department – Total Collected \$671.31

Paid to the Supervisor - \$654.31 - the breakdown is as follows:

Clerk Fees	\$93.75
Recycling	35.00
Dog Licenses	110.00
Kennel Boarding	30.00
Building Permits	350.56
<u>Zoning</u>	<u>35.00</u>
Total	\$654.31

Fees paid to NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets for the 'Animal Population Control Program' aka 'dog surcharge': \$17.00

Electronic sweep from the Town Clerk's checking account for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation - Sporting licenses: \$0

Town Clerk Kraker also presented the 2014 Annual Town Clerk Report as follows:

Total Collected/Deposited for 2014 :	\$21,271.83
Total Paid to Supervisor	

Mid Hudson Franchise Fees	\$2,590.00
Clerk Fees	1,462.54
Recycling	957.00
Dog Licenses	1,619.00
Kennel Boarding	216.00
Building Permits	3,839.10
Planning Fees	800.00
Zoning Fees	780.00
Veteran's Memorial Donations	200.00
Senior/Youth Bus Donations	282.00
Total Paid to New York State Agriculture & Markets	
Dog Licenses – State Surcharge	287.00
Total Paid to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	
Sporting Licenses	8,216.69
Total Paid to New York State Department of Health	
Marriage Licenses	22.50
Total:	\$21,271.83

Number of Marriage Licenses Issued: 1  
Number of Death Certificates Issued: 3  
Number of Birth Certificates Issued: 1

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 Wood; Nays (0)*

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

1. Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh reported one Home Replacement permit, two Solar Panel permits, and one New Home Construction permit for the month of January.

2. Officer Overbaugh also reported that all 24 Recreational Vehicle Permit Application renewals have been mailed.

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

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

### **ASSESSORS**

1. Assessor Kropp reported that the Assessor's office has been busy preparing for the 2015 Tax Roll.

2. The Assessor's Office has also been processing exemptions as they come in. Second notices have been sent out, which has prompted many to come in, but there are still many who have not yet applied. The deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

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

### **WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE**

1. Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Story reported that for the month of January, 483,100 gallons of water was filtered (an average of 15,600 gallons/day); and 204,850 gallons of sewage was pumped (an average of 6,600 gallons/day).

2. Demand has dropped off consistently since November. In November it was 19,000/day and in December 17,000 gallons/day. This is due to fewer people coming up on the weekends and a number of houses being shut down for the season.

3. In December there was a spike in the amount of sewage that was pumped. For reference, in November 190,000 gallons was pumped and in December 211,000. Officer Story feels the spike was most likely due to the rain event and melting during the middle of December. With the assistance of the Building Inspector, Officer Story hopes to find out where excess water is being put into the system that should not be.

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

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

### **REFUSE/RECYCLING**

Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck presented the 2014 Annual Report as follows:

Green Fiber: 96.75 tons

Rensselaer Iron & Steel: 44.44 tons

Tires: 262

City of Albany Landfill: 707.12 tons

Sierra Fibers: 56.05 tons

Oil: 420 gallons

Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck also presented the monthly report for January 2015 as follows:

Green Fiber: 9.74 tons  
Rensselaer Iron & Steel: 0 tons  
Tires: 5  
City of Albany Landfill: 47.82 tons  
Sierra Fibers: 4.33 tons  
Oil: 23 gallons

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to accept the Recycling Coordinator's reports; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Lounsbury.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Thomas Cetrino from SUNY New Paltz, and Frank Commisso and Ashley Brennan from the Albany County Comptroller's Office held an informal meeting for the purpose of introducing the Town to Albany County's Government Efficiency Plan. Their objective was to inform the Town of the plan that Albany County is putting together and to explain what they were looking for. The Town must show a savings of 1% over the course of the next three years in order for taxpayers to receive their rebate. The Town can join the collaboration, but may opt out at any time. Supervisor Lounsbury would like to join the collaboration and work with the other towns in Albany County. Supervisor Lounsbury may at her discretion, choose to join without approval of the Board, however, she would prefer their support. Supervisor Lounsbury requests that a motion be made authorizing her to go forward and join the group.

A joint motion was made by Councilman Wood and Councilwoman Sedlmeir to join the Government Efficiency Plan of Albany County and authorized Supervisor Lounsbury to take that action. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bolte.

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Supervisor Lounsbury has spoken to Highway Superintendent Bates regarding Auctions International. Signing the contract with Auctions International will authorize the Town to advertise for the sale of goods. There is no charge to the seller and the Town maintains the right to refuse any and all bids. Supervisor Lounsbury needs authorization to sign the contract.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to authorize Supervisor Lounsbury to join the on-line auction and to sign the contract; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Bolte.

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

2. Albany County is putting together a mutual aid program similar to what the local fire companies have here. Highway Superintendent Bates has reviewed the mutual aid contract and has agreed to be the designated representative for this program. He would be contacted as he would be the one who would have the most knowledge as to availability of equipment and personnel. Supervisor Lounsbury needs authorization to sign the contract designating Superintendent Randy Bates as the designated representative.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to sign the contract designating Randy Bates as the representative of the Albany County Mutual Aid Program; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

### **CURRENT EVENTS & AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

1. Councilwoman Sedlmeir announced that she has been working with Tom Snyder and Investigator Tracy Mance to organize an event for the seniors at their regular Tuesday meeting at the Medusa Fire House this April. Investigator Mance will give an informative presentation on important safety issues and answer any questions any of the seniors have concerns about.

2. Councilwoman Sedlmeir would also like to look into scheduling the first meeting for the Town-wide picnic organizers.

3. Investigator Mance announced that there will be a snowmobiling event at Lawson's Lake this coming Sunday from 10 AM to 2 PM, weather permitting.

4. Marie Dermody inquired as to where the Town was with the Zoning Law. Supervisor Lounsbury stated that copies will be made as soon as Attorney Fallati has completed his review of the document. Copies will be available at Town Hall, as it is a very lengthy document, and it will also be available on the Town's website.

5. Marie Dermody mentioned that she understands the official Town Newsletter is limited to Town Board minutes and Community Calendar events, but inquired as to why Special Meetings and Public Hearings were not included and stated that subscribers should be entitled to that kind of Town Board information as well. Supervisor Lounsbury will mention this to the committee.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;**

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk