

**MINUTES  
OF  
THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 9, 2015  
7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 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 Thomas 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, Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Mark Overbaugh, Assessor Richard Tollner, Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Doug Story, and Recycling Coordinator Jon Whitbeck. Also present were five interested citizens.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Jeannette Rice inquired into the gift card for Richard Tollner. She stated that she thought it was inappropriate to give a select person taxpayer dollars and that many people volunteer. Supervisor Lounsbury explained that the gift card would *not* come from taxpayer dollars, but rather from the Veteran's Clark White Post 50/50 raffle.

Marie Dermody stated that there are people who have served on committees for years and have donated many, many hours and to single out one person is not only setting a dangerous precedent, but is sending a not very nice message to everyone else.

Councilwoman Cooke stated that they have a lot of money invested in their equipment.

Marie Dermody also wanted to comment on the June 30, 2015 Special Meeting and requested that the following letter be entered into the minutes of this meeting:

July 9, 2015

I respectfully request that this letter be entered in its entirety into the official minutes of the Town Board meeting.

To Town Board members and Rensselaerville residents,

I believe that Councilman Bolte is probably upset, annoyed, angry, embarrassed, any or all of the above, because his statement at the June 30, 2015 special town board (meeting) calling factual documentation “junk” was quoted in the July 2015 issue of the R’ville Community Newsletter. The only logical reasons for these emotions are 1) that he said it, and 2) that it was publicized. The comment specifically refers to a document detailing over \$400,000 in highway equipment and machinery purchases since January 2012. Perhaps if Councilman Bolte had chosen his words more carefully, this would not be an issue now.

Councilman Bolte is very good at introducing “red herrings” into his arguments, statements that are intended to divert attention from the real problem or matter at hand. At this meeting, he was quick to counter that Superintendent Bates has saved this town a great deal of money since taking office. That may or may not be true. However, this is not germane to the original issue, that the Town Board has authorized over \$400,000 in highway equipment and machinery purchases since January 2012.

Councilman Bolte also attempted to tell me what a terrible supervisor I was, another red herring. He is certainly entitled to his opinion, but that’s all it is, his opinion. Councilman Bolte can spew as many derogatory and defamatory remarks that he wants. But none of these remarks are germane to the original issue, that the Town Board has authorized over \$400,000 in highway equipment and machinery purchases since January 2012.

Councilman Bolte may say that the presentation of such documentation was out of order since the intended purpose of the meeting was to authorize the purchase of another piece of equipment for the highway department. This was the absolute opportune time to remind the Town Board that the Town Board has authorized over \$400,000 in highway equipment and machinery purchase since January 2012.

Nothing I said at the meeting or reported in the newsletter article was critical of the highway superintendent, his crew, or the job they do for this town. It was simply to remind the Town Board of their fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers of the Town of Rensselaerville. I have the audio tape of this meeting to prove the veracity of everything I’ve said in this message. I am more than willing to share it with anyone who cares to listen to it. I am not ashamed nor embarrassed with how I conducted myself at this meeting. I wonder if Councilman Bolte can say the same.

Sincerely,  
Marie Dermody

### End Letter

Rebecca Platel, on behalf of the Carey Center for Global Good, made a presentation explaining NYSERDA's (New York State Energy Research Development Agency's) program called Cleaner Greener Communities. She explained that the basic premise of the program is to support regional and local sustainability initiatives. There was money made available a few years ago for various regions across New York State to develop different sustainability plans. The Capital Region was successful in getting some of that money. There is now a sustainability plan in place and there is money available from NYSERDA to implement the plan or projects that are aligned with it.

The Carey Institute is developing a program that may be eligible for some of the available funding. In short, it would be something like an institute or leadership program to help people who are interested in supporting sustainability initiatives in their own community to come to the Center for training and to learn more about it. The application for this funding is due on July 31, 2015 and requires a letter of support from the Town. The letter would indicate that the municipality acknowledges that the Center is taking on this project and applying for funding, and that the municipality is in general support of the initiative. There is no financial commitment.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to submit a letter of support to the Carey Center for the NYSERDA project; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Wood.

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

### **MINUTES**

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

June 9, 2015 – Work  
June 11, 2015 - Regular

The motion was seconded by Councilman Wood.

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

### **TRANSFERS**

None

**ABSTRACTS/VOUCHERS**

General Fund	\$25,891.74
Highway Fund	26,849.99
Lighting District	623.75
Sewer Fund	121.32
Water Fund	145.97
T & A Fund	5,417.94
Total	\$59,050.71

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

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The only correspondence Supervisor Lounsbury received were the written comments regarding the proposed Noise Ordinance which were read at the Public Hearing.

**REPORTS**

**SUPERVISOR**

1. Supervisor Lounsbury received a letter from Pat Parker, one of the Town's volunteer drivers for the Senior Car who suggested that a letter be distributed to all those who will be using the car. Mrs. Parker's letter reads as follows:

Medical Appointments  
Use of Town of Rensselaerville Car

This service depends on donations. This is not tax-subsidized. The drivers for this service are your friends and neighbors. They volunteer their time to help you when you have no other means of getting to your appointments.

If you require any assistance getting in and out of the car or other physical limitations, you MUST bring someone with you. Your driver's only responsibility is to get you safely to your appointment. You are responsible for any bridge tolls and parking lot fees.

If you are in a wheelchair, the Town bus will be used to take you to the doctor.

When you make an appointment through Ann Vogel (797-3376), please provide the following:

Date & Time of Appointment  
Doctor's Name, Address, & Phone Number

If you cancel or change appointment, let Ann know as soon as possible.

#### End Letter

Supervisor Lounsbury noted that there have been some instances where people have not notified Ann about schedule changes and/or have not been willing to pay bridge tolls or parking fees. Supervisor Lounsbury asked for and received the Board's permission to distribute the letter.

2. Supervisor Lounsbury announced that the budget process has begun. She will be sending out the departmental requests within the next couple of weeks.

3. The Public Hearing on the proposed Noise Ordinance was held this past Tuesday. Supervisor Lounsbury thought it went very well and that a lot of good suggestions were presented. She believes that this proposed ordinance will be taken back to the drawing board.

4. Supervisor Lounsbury announced that she received the Tentative 2014 AUD. This should be ready to file with the State Comptroller's Office in a few days.

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

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

#### **ATTORNEY**

1. Attorney Fallati stated that the items he would be reporting on were listed later on the agenda; he will address them at that time.

2. He will take into account the many comments and suggestions made at the Public Hearing regarding the proposed noise ordinance.

#### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

1. Before Superintendent Bates gave his report, he wanted to address the 'Audience Comments' that were made during the Special Meeting on June 30, 2015. Out of the \$400,000 figure that is out there regarding equipment that has been purchased, \$190,000 has not been spent yet because the Town does not have the truck yet. Superintendent

Bates stated, as he has many times in the past, that his greatest worry is snow and ice control. It is a safety issue; it is a matter of life and death if a fire truck or ambulance cannot get to someone. Superintendent Bates views the Town's trucks as having the same status as fire trucks and ambulances; if the Town's trucks can't get through, the fire truck or ambulance cannot get through either. He believes the money is well spent. The average age of the Town's plow trucks is 20.8 years. He is grateful for the 2012 truck and particularly grateful for the new truck that is on its way.

Supervisor Lounsbury noted that the fact that the Board approved the purchases, they are in full agreement. She also noted that in the past, the Town and County have had to assist with ambulance calls in bad weather. On behalf of the Board, Supervisor Lounsbury stated that they are grateful that the Highway Department will have safe equipment for the men to be out on the roads with.

2. The Highway Department has completed three miles of moto-paving through the various weather delays; paving was scheduled to begin the third week of May, but were not able to start until the third week of June.
3. The Highway Department continues its mowing, patching, and ditching.
4. Superintendent Bates thanked the Board again for the Oshkosh truck from Catskill.
5. The contractor that was hired to place the pavement typically uses their own roller at a cost of \$960/day. Using the Town's own paver, Superintendent Bates was able to save approximately \$4,000. Subsequently, the Town's roller developed an engine issue. Finke Equipment is performing diagnostic testing on it and will report their findings. This is the heart of the paving season and Superintendent Bates planned to place 2,000 ton of hot mixed asphalt with the Town's own paver during late July and early August. He has reached out to neighboring Towns in hopes of borrowing a roller, but they are all in the heart of their paving season as well. Superintendent Bates has done research on the cost of renting a roller. Neither Finke nor Carver has a roller available. A. Montano Co. has one for \$2,800/month and Abele has one for \$2,700/month or \$900/week. He is asking for authorization to rent a roller from Abele if it becomes necessary, for a maximum of three weeks.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to authorize Superintendent Bates to rent a roller from Abele at \$900/week for a maximum of three weeks on the condition that if the Town's roller is repaired before the three weeks is up, the rental would be returned. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Bolte.

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

6. In regards to the Public Hearing on the proposed noise ordinance and the Right to Farm Law, Superintendent Bates discovered nine 'Right to Farm' signs in the shop. They

were purchased by Jim Glorioso some years ago. It is the consensus of the Board to place the signs on as many roads that enter the Town as the number of signs allow. He will contact the Department of Transportation and Albany County to obtain permission to place the signs on their right of way.

7. Several years ago a landowner on Olmo Road approached Superintendent Bates expressing his desire for an abandonment of the road. Subsequently, following a bit of research and finding the legal implications of doing so, a Qualified Abandonment was granted. Under a Qualified Abandonment, the Town never gives up the right of way, nor does the Public give up their right to use it. There are stipulations that the landowner(s) that border the road must abide by such as; it shall continue to be subject to use as a public highway; it may not be impaired or obstructed; no person shall be required to repair it; persons owning or occupying lands on both sides may erect a fence across the highway at each end of the area owned or occupied providing such fence has a gate which shall remain unlocked at all times and supplied with a latch keeper. A gate was installed, but a chain was wrapped around and secured with a locking bolt. It was unable to be opened without the use of substantial tools. Prior to that there were issues which the Attorney for the Town had corresponded with the landowner's attorney advising him of these stipulations. Soon after Superintendent Bates removed the lock, it was reinstalled. It is clear that the landowner is not complying with the law. Additionally, signs have been posted along the road which Superintendent Bates believes were placed there to intimidate anyone who may wish to proceed. The signs are also placed on the Town's right of way.

Attorney Fallati has looked into §205(2) of the Highway Law and stated that it allows the Highway Superintendent to provide an application to the Town Board to rescind the Qualified Abandonment.

If the Qualified Abandonment were rescinded, Olmo Road would then become a Town road once again. Superintendent Bates walked the road and found it to be in good condition. Also, C.H.I.P.s funding is based on mileage; re-claiming Olmo Road would give the Town an extra ½ mile which would be the equivalent of approximately an extra \$1,000 in C.H.I.P.s funding. This would help balance out any additional expenses that may be incurred for maintenance.

Marie Dermody inquired as to what the benefit is to the landowner to agree to a Qualified Abandonment. Superintendent Bates explained that it goes back to the early 1900's and it was largely for agricultural purposes so that a farmer could close a road, install a gate, and use the area for a pasture. Mrs. Dermody also questioned whether there were any tax implications and Superintendent Bates stated that there were none, and neither is there any guarantee of privacy.

Mary Jane Schroeder stated that she purchased the remaining 29 acres that surrounds her house and continues on to Thunder Hill. Her deed states that she has the right to access her land via Olmo Road and now it is being locked against her.

A discussion arose regarding the history of Olmo Road. Superintendent Bates is uncertain of the history of Olmo Road, but what is on the Town's inventory is that Olmo Road is  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles long and the first  $\frac{1}{4}$  goes into a residence and the Town maintains that portion year-round. The remaining .5 miles is a seasonal road and ends at a field which was once the site of the original Olmo homestead. From that point on it is Thunder Hill.

Superintendent Bates requested that the Board pass a resolution authorizing the Town Supervisor to re-open the road. If, in fact, the Town decided to go forward with the resolution, Superintendent Bates thought it prudent to set a date to give the landowner adequate notification of the action.

Superintendent Bates sent Supervisor Lounsbury a letter summarizing what had been discussed. Supervisor Lounsbury turned to Attorney Fallati for guidance in how to proceed. Attorney Fallati said the law requires Superintendent Bates to submit a written application which has been done. A resolution can be passed accepting the application and authorizing Attorney Fallati to contact counsel for the property owner to advise them of the application and the Town's intention to act on it at the next meeting. This would give the landowner an opportunity to respond.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to accept Superintendent Bates' application to rescind the Qualified Abandonment of Olmo Road and request the landowner and his attorney be notified to see if a resolution can be reached. Depending on the outcome, this can be discussed at the next meeting. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Bolte.

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

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

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

## **TOWN CLERK**

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

Town Clerk Department – Total Collected \$1,166.98

Paid to the Supervisor - \$930.66 - the breakdown is as follows:

Clerk Fees	\$ 77.68
Recycling	140.50
Dog Licenses	223.00
Building Permits	414.48

Zoning	25.00
<u>Planning</u>	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$930.66

Fees paid to NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets for the 'Animal Population Control Program' aka 'dog surcharge': \$46.00;  
Electronic sweep from the Town Clerk's checking account for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation - Sporting licenses: \$122.82;  
Fees paid to the State Health Department for Marriage Licenses - \$67.50.  
Water Rents for the month totaled \$818.39 which includes \$9.84 in penalties, and Sewer Rents totaled \$820.91 which includes \$6.52 in penalties.

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

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

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

1. Recently a homeowner had work done without obtaining a permit. Now the contractor wants more money and the work that was already done needs to be redone. Officer Overbaugh stated that this is a perfect example of why permits are issued; they are issued to protect homeowners against contractors.
2. Officer Overbaugh reported one New Home Permit, one Home Replacement Permit, two Solar Panel Permits, and one RV Permit for the month of June.
3. He recently received a complaint from a resident on County Route 6 of a mobile home and an RV that was brought in on the same property; the RV is almost in the road. The owner contacted Officer Overbaugh regarding the mobile home. Officer Overbaugh responded by telling him that because it is old (1976) it will not meet any codes now in effect, and in addition, the owner had not gone through any of the process of obtaining a permit. The owner has been ordered to remove the mobile home.

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

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

\* The Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector's report was given later in the meeting.

### **ASSESSORS**

1. Assessor Tollner reported that the Final Roll is complete.

2. The Assessor's Office encourages all senior citizens and veterans to ask questions regarding their exemptions. They are still seeking agricultural exemptions for farmers and encourage citizens to help each other in keeping exemptions current.

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

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

### **WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE**

1. Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Story reported that for the month of June 456,500 gallons of water was filtered (an average of 15,217 gallons/day). Officer Story attributes these much lower numbers to a leak that was detected and remedied.

2. At the bottom of the hill 216,000 gallons of sewage was pumped (an average of 7,200 gallons/day).

3. Officer Story reported that he will be contacting the Rural Water technician to set a date in late July or early August to perform a smoke test. This hopefully will help determine who is tied into the system and therefore locate where the additional water is entering the system.

4. The filter is running well. Officer Story is monitoring the system on an hourly basis so as to determine how much water is being used and at what time of day it is being used.

5. Officer Story is pleased to announce that the tank has maintained a good level. The amount of water filtered is roughly equivalent to the amount of water being consumed.

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

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

### **REFUSE/RECYCLING**

1. Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck reported the following for the month of June:

Rensselaer Iron & Steel:	7.19 tons
Tires:	34
City of Albany Landfill:	72.44 tons
Sierra Fibers:	Comingled 5.08 tons and O.C.C. 6.25 tons
Oil:	66 gallons

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

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

### **CURRENT EVENTS**

1. The Trinity Episcopal Church in Rensselaerville will be celebrating their 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on October 24, 2015. It is the oldest building in the Dioceses. They are looking for anyone who may have photographs of the church, its architecture, the interior, and photographs of how the church affected families who attended, such as weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. A collection of the photographs will be placed on a CD. Please contact Bill Rice for more information.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh read the letter he wrote following through on the unsafe buildings on County Route 354 in Potter Hollow as follows:

TO: The Town of Rensselaerville Town Board

RE: Unsafe Building Complaint

Barns at 180.-2-19.10

Dear Supervisor Lounsbury and Board;

After my investigation of these barns, both are in such condition to be deemed unsafe and collapse what already has not collapsed. Neither would be considered repairable, so both should be demolished and removed.

Two safety concerns are the metal roofing being blown off the red barn and flying in whatever direction the wind is.

The second concern is that I believe the white barn has asbestos siding which will have to be dealt according to State and Federal guidelines.

In conclusion, both barns are a threat to the health and safety of our citizens and need to be demolished and cleaned up. These are addressed by Local Law No. 2 of 1996 of the Town of Rensselaerville, entitled Unsafe and Burned Out Buildings.

Thank you,

Mark Overbaugh  
Code Enforcement Officer

## End Letter

Officer Overbaugh suggested that the Board authorize him to write a letter to the owner.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to authorize Mark Overbaugh as Code Enforcement Officer to notify the property owner of the two unsafe barns on County Route 354 in Potter Hollow of what the concerns are and to see if the situation can be resolved. The Town requests that a response be made by July 31, 2015. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Bolte.

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

Officer Overbaugh will report to Supervisor Lounsbury by the end of the month.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. The proposed Zoning maps are complete and now include the Crystal Lake zone. A copy of the proposed Zoning Law will be placed in the Library and copies will be available at Town Hall for \$5.00. A copy will also be available to view at Town Hall. Due to its size, it may or may not be able to be placed on the Town's website as well.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to schedule the Public Hearing on the Proposed Zoning Law for August 18, 2015 at 7:00 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.  
*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

2. Supervisor Lounsbury reiterated that the gift card for Richard Tollner was *not* being purchased with taxpayers dollars. The co-chairs of the Ethics Committee would be more comfortable if the Town made a motion to approve the purchase of the gift card. The members of the Picnic Committee thought it would be a good idea to show their appreciation for Mr. Tollner's service as Master of Ceremonies and D.J. at the Town-Wide Picnic for the past two years.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to authorize the purchase of a gift card for Richard Tollner; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Cooke.  
*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

3. Deputy Town Clerk, Kathy Wank has done some research on the use of the Canon copier. It has been used very little in the past year and the lease is due to expire at the end of August. The Town pays \$128.00/month for the lease. Mrs. Wank also researched the use of the Xerox copier. The Town is allowed 20,000 copies per month based on the monthly rental fee. The Town does not come remotely close to the 20,000 copies, so it would be in the best interest of the Town to return the Canon copier and save the \$128.00/month. There will, however, be a charge of \$350.00 to return it. The Town may

elect to hire its own service to return it. Councilman Wood offered to return it if it was locale and Richard Tollner offered assistance. Supervisor Lounsbury needed a motion to either keep or return the copier.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to return the Canon copier; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Cooke.

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

### **TOWN BOARD COMMENTS**

Councilman Bolte has a letter he would like read into the minutes of this meeting:

I request this letter be included in the minutes of the July 9<sup>th</sup> Rensselaerville Town Board Meeting.

We as a Town Board – elected by the people – have been criticized by Marie Dermody over the spending of \$219,731.00 over the past approximate 4 years. I would like to explain the use of this money.

The purchase of 2 Oshkosh trucks for \$8,196.00 in 2012. Only \$2,000.00 of tax payer money was used. The rest was done by donation.

The paver was purchased for \$4,730.00. It has been used for 3 years. The town used to rent a paver for \$4,300.00 per month. Even if used for only 2 months per year for 4 years it would come to \$34,400.00 – a savings of approximately \$29,700.00 in 4 years to buy one.

The roller was purchased to roll down patches and pot holes – for \$1,200.00. It has shown its value in road repair instead of using truck wheels to roll down patches. It provides a better repair.

The Gradall was purchased for \$7,260.00 and it was in running condition. There were no oil leaks and has been on the job since it was purchased. Again, the town rented one for over \$3,000.00 per month. We also had spent well over \$15,000.00 to fix our excavator and it still can't travel over the road. A new one would have cost between \$150,000.00 to \$200,000.00.

When we purchase equipment, it is not for 1 year. We expect these trucks and equipment to last many years. The Oshkosh trucks have now run 3 years as well as the paver, and roller with no problems.

I personally want to thank our Highway Superintendent for working with the Town Board and doing a great job of maintaining the equipment and building roads to last.

I also commend our Highway Crew for repairing, servicing, and maintaining our equipment – so that it lasts and saves us tax dollars. We are not a rich town that can afford new equipment that is used for a few months of the year.

The new truck and equipment for \$165,220.51 was to replace a truck that was always broken down and would have cost many tax dollars to fix. That leaves only \$54,511.29 over 4 years for all the rest of equipment bought – at a cost of approximately \$14,000.00 per year.

I am proud to be a member of this Town Board. We are all working together.

Bob Bolte  
Town Councilman

End Letter

### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

1. Richard Tollner, a professional disc-jockey as well, commented on the noise ordinance. He described other towns where he has worked where there was always an implied decibel level. He further explained that ‘acceptable’ noise levels are different where buildings are close together than where buildings are much further apart. He suggests that if the Town is to have a law that has teeth, there needs to be an established decibel level.

Mr. Tollner’s feelings are that there is not enough noise, often enough to be a problem and solutions start with being neighborly.

2. Marie Dermody wanted to thank Councilman Bolte for his comments and wished the discourse at the last meeting had been on a more conversational level. She also wanted to clarify that what she stated regarding the highway purchases, is that the money was authorized, not spent.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 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