

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

The Work Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 2015 at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting commenced immediately following the Public Hearing at 7:21 PM. Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury convened the meeting 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 were six interested citizens.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

None

**MINUTES, VOUCHERS, AND BILLS**

Minutes to be accepted at the Regular Meeting on July 9, 2015:

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

Vouchers and bills will be addressed at the Regular Meeting.

**TRANSFERS**

Transfers, if any, will be addressed at the Regular Meeting on July 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 July 9, 2015.

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Superintendent Bates wished to address a few things before the Regular Meeting.

1. The roller the Town owns may have a substantial engine problem. Superintendent Bates has contacted neighboring Towns to see if it is possible to borrow one. That may be possible, but unlikely because they are in the heart of their construction season as well. Superintendent Bates has also 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. Superintendent Bates may, based on the outcome of Finke's diagnosis of the Town's roller, need authorization to rent one.

2. The Olmo Road Qualified Abandonment requires the landowner to adhere to certain stipulations; one is to allow easy access through the gate. The gate has been chained up and cannot be opened without the use of tools. Signs indicating 'private property – no trespassing' have been hung; also a violation of the agreement between the Town and the property owner. As a Qualified Abandonment, Olmo Road remains a right-of-way and the public has a right to use it. It has been said that the property owner has communicated that if the road is used, vehicles cannot legally turn around. However, the Town Highway Department created an established turn-around for the specific reason to allow vehicles to turn around safely. Superintendent Bates has contacted the attorney for the Town to inquire about re-opening Olmo Road based on the landowner's disregard of the conditions of the Qualified Abandonment. The landowner was the initiator with regard to the Qualified Abandonment and the Town was very explicit regarding its intentions and the law. Attorney Fallati will be at the Regular Meeting to address this matter in greater detail.

Supervisor Lounsbury questioned what improvements would need to be made in order to maintain Olmo Road if it were to be re-opened. Superintendent Bates explained that maintenance would be minimal. He further explained that 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.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Supervisor Lounsbury read the report which Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Mark Overbaugh prepared regarding the unsafe buildings on County Route 354 in Potter Hollow.

Officer Overbaugh performed an investigation of the barns in question and has determined that both barns are in such condition as to be deemed unsafe and therefore should be demolished and removed. Both barns have loose metal roofing that is in danger of being blown off by the wind. In addition, neither would be considered repairable. Another concern is what Officer Overbaugh believes to be asbestos siding on the one barn. If this is the case, State and Federal guidelines must be adhered to. Based on Local Law No. 2 of 1996 of the Town of Rensselaerville, entitled Unsafe and Burned Out Buildings, it is concluded that both buildings are a threat to the health and safety of the citizens of Rensselaerville.

Officer Overbaugh noted that the County will not reimburse the municipality for the costs associated with a demolition without prior approval. This will only be an issue if the landowner does not comply and the Town is forced to proceed with the demolition. It is the consensus that Officer Overbaugh begin with contacting the landowner. This matter will be addressed in greater detail on Thursday at the Regular Meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. The proposed Zoning maps are complete. The map was the one piece that was hampering the scheduling of a Public Hearing. A date for the Public Hearing will be determined at the Regular Meeting.

2. In regard to donating a gift card to Richard Tollner in appreciation of his service as Master of Ceremonies and D.J. at the Town-Wide Picnic for the past two years, Diana Hinchcliff, a member of the Ethics Committee, prepared a letter addressing potential ethics issues. Ms. Hinchcliff cautioned that even if Town funds were not going to be used, there may still be a potential ethics issue in the sense that it would be a government body (the picnic committee) at a government function (the picnic), giving a gift to a government official. She advised that in order to avoid any appearance of impropriety, the Town Board take a formal vote on the giving of the gift card.

Supervisor Lounsbury made it clear that the money for the gift card came from the Veteran's Clark White Post 50/50 raffle; not from Town funds. A motion can be made at the Regular Meeting stating that the gift card would be purchased from the proceeds of the 50/50 raffle.

Marie Dermody stated that there are many volunteers who have served for years on committees doing Town business and that is the whole nature of volunteerism. She cautioned that this may be opening up a can of worms down the road.

**CANON COPIER**

3. Although not on the Agenda, a decision must be made regarding the Canon copier. The lease is due to expire at the end of August. Supervisor Lounsbury will gather the necessary information needed to reach an informed decision whether to keep it or send it back.

**TOWN BOARD COMMENTS**

1. Councilman Bolte announced that he has a letter he would like read into the minutes of the Regular Meeting.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 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