

**MINUTES  
OF  
THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 12, 2015  
7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 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  
Councilman Gerald Wood  
Councilwoman Marion Cooke  
Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

ABSENT WAS: Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir

Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates, Assessor Donna Kropp, Recycling Coordinator Jon Whitbeck, Investigator Tracy Mance from the Albany County Sheriff's Department, John Mormile, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and six interested citizens.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Marie Dermody read a letter she had prepared for the meeting as follows:

1. It is the Town Board's intention to adopt the budget this evening as presented in its preliminary stage. At Tuesday's work meeting, Supervisor Lounsbury stated that she wasn't in favor of any changes and that she had cut as much as she could. In fact, this isn't true. This budget contains, in part, thousands of dollars in raises coming in at 4.7-9%. This is unconscionable, when seniors will be enjoying a 0% raise in their Social Security benefits for 2016. And, by the way, I do not oppose those raises that are coming in at 1.4/1.5%, because they are reasonable. The Town Board has made valiant efforts to keep the increases within the prescribed tax cap, however, raises in the amount of 4.7/4.9% are unreasonable. This budget does not represent your constituents in that you did not allow public input during your workshop meetings, at least for the meeting that I attended. And to date you have chosen not to publicly discuss or consider public comments in your decision to adopt the budget. At the November 5<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing on the budget, Councilwoman Sedlmeir stated that if it were important to them, people

would show up and be heard. Really, why should they? It is simply wasted effort, since their opinion doesn't matter anyway. This Town Board continues to act in a vacuum adhering only to their own agendas with little regard for representing the people who elected them in the first place. No meaningful Town Board discussion ever takes place in the public forum. This is a systemic problem that needs to be addressed. I implore this Town Board to make a concerted effort to change this current state of affairs. The residents of this town deserve transparent representative government; not elected officials, who, according to popular perception, turn a deaf ear to the public, or who make many decisions behind closed doors and just rubber stamp them at public meetings.

2. It wasn't all that long ago that I sat in this room while the Town Board discussed insurance renewal for our active employees who wound up with excellent benefits including up to \$5,000/\$10,000 in co-pay reimbursements. At this meeting when the retirees insurance was briefly discussed, I distinctly recall asking this Town Board not to throw the retirees under the bus; and you assured me that you would never do that. Fast forward to now; as per the discussion at Tuesday's work meeting, you are set to renew the retiree's insurance coverage tonight. The premiums are lower, but out-of-pocket expenses will rise from \$3,000 to \$5,000. At the work meeting, Supervisor Lounsbury stated that we can't afford to keep reimbursing for co-pays; we are going to get ourselves in trouble. And Councilman Wood said we have to start cutting somewhere. You all know that I am very vocal when it comes to spending taxpayer money, but you also know that I'm all about fairness. Did you have a meeting with the retirees to let them know about these changes? You did for the active employees. Did you offer them an option of staying with Blue Shield or exploring other plans? You did for the active employees. And, Valerie, you spoke with a retiree who was happy with the plan because of the doctors that were included. Speaking to one person is not representative of the entire group. Whereas, you reimburse significantly for co-pays for our relatively young, gainfully employed people, retirees most of who are on fixed income, will just have to suck it up with regards to a \$2,000 increase in their out-of-pocket expenses. Where was this Town Board's fiscal conscience or restraint when you granted the \$5,000/\$10,000 in co-pay reimbursement back in September? This is wrong, very wrong. Our retirees deserve better treatment than this. And I am, in no way, personally affected by this Town Board decision, nor have I been elected to be a spokesperson. But throwing retirees under the bus should not be an option that is even considered.

End Letter

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Taylor Cooke agrees that the Town should make every effort to continue in the same manner as they have been in the past regarding the retirees.

Supervisor Lounsbury stated that the health insurance will be discussed later in the meeting.

## **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2015 Special Meeting – Presentation of Tentative Budget; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Lounsbury.  
*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2015 Work Meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Bolte.  
*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2015 regular Meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Bolte.  
*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2015 Budget Workshop Meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Wood.  
*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Lounsbury, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0); Abstains (1) Bolte*

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2015 Budget Workshop Meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Lounsbury.  
*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Lounsbury, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0); Abstains (1) Bolte*

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2015 Budget Workshop Meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Cooke.  
*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Lounsbury, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0); Abstains (1) Bolte*

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2015 Budget Workshop Meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Wood.  
*Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2015 Public Hearing – Tax Cap Override; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Wood.  
*Motion carried: Ayes (3) Lounsbury, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0); Abstains (1) Bolte*

## **TRANSFERS**

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to approve the following transfers:  
From ‘Specialty Equipment’ A7140RNE 22080 to ‘Misc. Contractual’ A7140RNE 44999 in the amount of \$244.50 to cover port-a-johns and pizza; and  
From ‘Specialty Equipment’ A7140RNE 22080 to ‘Electric’ A7140RNE 44101 in the amount of \$205.00; to cover electricity bills for the year

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cooke.

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

**ABSTRACTS/VOUCHERS**

General Fund	49,919.86
Highway Fund	42,534.87
Lighting District	1,404.83
Sewer Fund	157.50
Water Fund	234.56
T & A Fund	789.01
Total	95,040.63

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

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**REPORTS**

**SUPERVISOR**

Supervisor Lounsbury read a letter she had prepared for the meeting as follows:

The Town Board held the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget on November 5<sup>th</sup>. I was unable to attend that meeting as I was not feeling well but I have reviewed the written comments that were submitted. There are a couple of comments that were submitted in a letter read and prepared by Marie Dermody that I found to be inaccurate.

1. The first such comment is regarding the Justice Department. The statement reads, “It is a little known fact that the Supervisor has sought the assistance of someone from outside Town government (at additional taxpayer expense) to help correct the justice accounts that are so incredibly out of order. Is this what we reward with a 9% salary increase?”

I would like the record to show that I, as Supervisor, have not sought the outside assistance of anyone, nor have I spent any money, to help correct the justice accounts. To my knowledge the justice accounts are in order and have been in order. I spoke with each Town Justice and they are not aware of any problems with the accounts in their department. The accounts are reviewed each year by at least one, if not two board members, and since I have been Supervisor, they have been found to be in order. One

could say that the court clerks are doing a satisfactory job and the justice accounts are fine.

The Town board has budgeted money to obtain and maintain the “SEI Courtroom Program”. This is a program used by courts state-wide, including every court that borders our jurisdiction - Westerlo, Berne, Broome, and Durham. The Town of Rensselaerville is one of about ten towns that do not use this program. This purchase will only enhance our Justice Department. Perhaps, this is the information that has been misunderstood because there are no records “incredibly out of order”.

2. The comment reading: “In a very recent budget, the highway superintendent offered to lower his clerk’s salary in exchange for a modest increase in his salary and that he would take on some of the clerk duties. This request was granted with the result that the Town Supervisor now assumes many of the clerk duties. And for 2016, another proposal is placed before us for a slight increase in the clerk’s line and a significant increase in the superintendent’s salary line”.

Since I have held the position of Supervisor, February 2012, the Highway superintendent has not offered to lower his clerk’s salary in exchange for a modest increase in his salary and has not offered to assume many of the clerk duties. I, as Town Supervisor, have not assumed many of the Highway Superintendent’s clerk’s duties. If this offer was made and accepted it was prior to February, 2012 and I would have no knowledge or control over it.

3. The last matter I would like to address is regarding the assessor’s clerk. The line item for the assessor’s clerk does have an extra \$300 and this was done so that if the “new” clerk needed some extra time to complete some of the work or if she needed to attend some training classes there would be money available. This is not “padding” the budget but planning for a “new clerk”.

The Town Board always welcomes public comments but I feel that when statements are made that are misleading, clarification must be made.

End Letter

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Supervisor Lounsbury also wanted to thank Councilman Bolte for repairing the door in the meeting room so that there would no longer be a draft coming through at the bottom of the door and Jon Whitbeck for taking care of the outside of the door.

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

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

**ATTORNEY**

1. Attorney Fallati announced that the Public Hearing regarding proposed Local Law No.4 of 2015 – Erecting Additional Traffic Control Devices at the Intersection of Sayre Road and Gerard Road, was held just prior to the Regular Meeting of the Town Board. Attorney Fallati read the Resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1660(a)(1), a town Board has the authority to enact local laws that order the erection of stop signs on town highways; and

WHEREAS, the four way intersection of Sayre Road and Gerard Road (the “Intersection”) is currently controlled by two stop signs; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that the erection of additional stop signs at the Intersection is necessary for public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to erect additional stop signs at the Intersection; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) §617.5(c)(16), the installation of traffic control devices on existing roads is a Type II action under SEQRA and is thus exempt from further review under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board conducted a public hearing on November 12, 2015 on the proposed Local Law;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the duly convened Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York, ordains and enacts the attached Local Law No. 4 of 2015, which is incorporated herein.

By motion made by Valerie Lounsbury, and seconded by Gerald Wood, 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 November, 2015 as follows:

Supervisor Lounsbury	Yes
Councilwoman Cooke	Yes
Councilman Bolte	Yes
Councilwoman Sedlmeir	Absent
Councilman Wood	Yes

Town of Rensselaerville

Local Law No. 4 of 2015

A Local Law Erecting Additional Traffic Control Devices at the  
Intersection of Sayre Road and Gerard Road

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent and Authority

Pursuant to New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1660, a Town Board may enact reasonable ordinances, orders, rules and regulations with respect to traffic as local conditions may require, including but not limited to, the erection of stop signs. The Town Board has determined that additional traffic control devices at the intersection of Sayre Road and Gerard Road are necessary to ensure public health and safety.

Section 2. Erection of Two Stop Signs

The Town Highway Superintendent shall erect two additional stop signs at the intersection of Sayre Road and Gerard Road in the Town of Rensselaerville, thus transforming the intersection from a two-way stop to a four-way stop.

Section 3. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State and erection of the additional traffic devices.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the Attorneys report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Lounsbury.

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

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

1. Highway Superintendent Bates reported that the Highway Department has been actively preparing for winter. They have been ordering supplies and also taking advantage of pre-season specials. He noted that the salt shed is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
2. The Highway has also been busy working on patching and drainage.
3. Superintendent Bates traveled to Watertown to do a 'final build-out' of the new Western Star truck which is tentatively scheduled to be delivered around the first week of December.

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

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

Supervisor Lounsbury read the list of Seasonal Roads as follows:

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville wishes to inform the residents of the Town and the Public that the following roads are Limited Use Highways and will not be maintained from December 1, 2015 through April 1, 2016:

- Gulf Road Extension from Gulf Road to the northerly end of State Lands;
- Kenyon Road from the intersection of Roney Road to CR 359;
- Roney road from last residential structure in from Pearson Road to the intersection of Kenyon Road;
- Scutt Road from the southerly end of State Lands to CCC Road; and
- Edwards Hill Road from 500 feet in from SR 145 to the top of the hill.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept the list of Seasonal Roads and authorize Clerk Kraker to place a Legal Notice in the Altamont Enterprise noticing the Seasonal Roads; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Bolte.

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

### **TOWN CLERK**

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

Town Clerk Department – Total Collected \$2,147.55

Paid to the Supervisor - \$887.32 - the breakdown is as follows:

Clerk Fees	\$192.52
Recycling	93.00
Dog Licenses	119.00
Building Permits	352.80
<u>Zoning</u>	<u>130.00</u>
Total	\$887.32

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: \$1,220.73; and

Fees paid to NYS Department of Health for Marriage Licenses: \$22.50.

Water Rents for the month totaled \$1,330.03 which includes \$23.45 in penalties, and Sewer Rents totaled \$996.82 which includes \$19.55 in penalties.

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

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

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

1. Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh reported for the month of October, 2 Accessory Building Permits, 2 New Home Construction Permits, and 1 Woodstove Permit.
2. Officer Overbaugh reported that he had completed his training for the year and that he had also been busy with several title searches.
3. Regarding the dilapidated buildings in Potter Hollow, Officer Overbaugh reported that the one building which contained the asbestos had been taken down.

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

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

### **ASSESSORS**

1. Assessor Kropp announced that their new clerk, Debbie, was working out very well.
2. The Assessors have begun the new 2016 tax roll.
3. The exemption renewal reminders will be sent out near the end of December.

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

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

### **WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE**

No Report

### **REFUSE/RECYCLING**

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

E-Waste (bill has not yet been received)

Rensselaer Iron & Steel: 6.85 tons

Tires: 34

City of Albany Landfill: 63.29 tons

Sierra Fibers: Comingled 4.51 tons and O.C.C. 5.51 tons

Oil: 43 gallons

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

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

**CURRENT EVENTS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

Attorney Fallati reported that John Mormile has worked with the attorneys preparing the Environmental Assessment Form and thanked him for his hard work and the many hours he spent preparing a draft. Essentially the finding was that there will not be any significant impacts on the areas that are reviewed by SEQRA. The new proposed Zoning Law, although it has some substantive changes, is predominantly a reorganization of the existing code. The actual changes are limited in scope and the assessment is that they do not pose any substantial impact.

The Town Board previously designated itself Lead Agency and notices were prepared and sent out to all interested and involved agencies. The 30-days has passed for anyone to object and as the Town has received no objections, a Resolution has been prepared by which the Town Board would accept and adopt the EAF designating the Town as Lead Agency and noting the finding of a Negative Declaration (meaning that there is no significant impact on any areas). Following adoption of the Resolution, the determination would then be submitted to the Department of Environmental Conservation.

If the Resolution is adopted, the next step would be to submit it to the Albany County Planning Board. The last step in the process would be to schedule a final Public Hearing.

John Mormile wished to thank Attorney Tom Fallati and Attorney Devlyn Tedesco for their assistance preparing with the EAF.

Attorney Fallati read the Resolution as follows:

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

WHEREAS, the town of Rensselaerville Town Board (the “Board”) desires to revise its Zoning Law (the ‘Project’); and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) 6NYCRR Part 617, and determined that the Project is subject to SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, by resolution on September 10, 2015, the Town Board determined this Project to be a Type 1 Action, declared its intent to be a Lead Agency for the purposes of Coordinated Review of the Project, and

WHEREAS, on or about October 8, 2015, the Town circulated a Notice of Intent and an Environmental Assessment Form to all Involved and Interested Agencies; and

WHEREAS, no agency objected within the statutory period to the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville acting as Lead Agency in connection with the Project, and therefore the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville became Lead Agency by default; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Rensselaerville Town Board, as Lead Agency, has conducted a SEQRA review of the Project and reviewed the full Environmental Assessment Form, and has enlisted the assistance of John Mormile in the preparation of such Form; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Rensselaerville Town Board has had the opportunity to review the Full Environmental Assessment Form (“EAF”) attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the duly convened Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York, that pursuant to Part 617 of the SEQRA Regulations, the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville hereby confirms that it is Lead Agency for the SEQRA Review of this Project; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby adopts the EAF, attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to Part 617 of SEQRA and based upon the Town Board’s review of Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the Full EAF, the Lead Agency hereby determines that the Project will have no environmental impact and is thus an Unlisted Action; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville hereby adopts a determination of Negative Significance under SEQRA (attached hereto as Exhibit “B”), determining that the proposed Project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and directs the Town Clerk of the Town of Rensselaerville to take all necessary steps to publish this determination.

By motion made by Marion Cooke and seconded by Gerald Wood, the foregoing resolution was adopted by a majority of the members of the Town of Rensselaerville Town Board on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 2015 as follows:

Supervisor Lounsbury	Yes
Councilwoman Cooke	Yes
Councilman Bolte	Yes
Councilwoman Sedlmeir	Absent
Councilman Wood	Yes

END RESOLUTION

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Attorney Fallati continued with the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE  
TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE  
TOWN BOARD

WHEREAS, the Town of Rensselaerville has determined that its zoning law should be amended to better reflect the Town's needs and vision for future growth; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has prepared a proposed revised zoning law to reflect these changes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to General Municipal Law §239-m, the Town Board must refer the amended zoning law to the Albany County Planning Board for review and approval; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville desires to comply with the law.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the duly convened Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville that pursuant to §239-m of the General Municipal Law, the Town Clerk is empowered and directed to submit the proposed revised zoning law and all necessary documentation to the Albany County Planning Board for its review of the proposed revised amended zoning law.

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

Supervisor Lounsbury	Yes
Councilwoman Cooke	Yes
Councilman Bolte	Yes
Councilwoman Sedlmeir	Absent
Councilman Wood	Yes

END RESOLUTION

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**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Superintendent Bates reviewed the bids which were submitted for the new dump truck noting that Crossroads Ford and Metro Ford's bids met the required specifications. DePaula Chevrolet's and Mangino's bid did not include the locking front hubs or the desired gear ratio. Superintendent Bates had made several attempts to contact someone at Metro Ford for clarification of their bid, but to no avail. Superintendent Bates recommended the bid be awarded to Crossroads Ford for \$36,337.00.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept Crossroads' bid as specified by Superintendent Bates; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Bolte.

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

2. Supervisor Lounsbury needed authorization to sign and return the Order from Central Hudson which offers municipalities the option to lease high efficiency LED street lights. The resolution authorizes Central Hudson to replace all 'Rate-A' street lights which fail, with an LED equivalent fixture.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte authorizing Supervisor Lounsbury to sign and return the order; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Wood.

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

3. Town Clerk Kraker submitted a verified statement of all the unpaid water and unpaid sewer rents existing on the books as of November 1, 2015.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the unpaid water and unpaid sewer rents; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Cooke.

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

4. The Albany County Hilltown's website is seeking \$100 from each of the four hilltowns of Berne, Knox, Westerlo, and Rensselaerville for the upkeep of the website. The website is quite informative; however, it is the Board's consensus not to contribute.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to decline the \$100 contribution to the website; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Cooke.

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

5. Supervisor Lounsbury presented the Board with the new figures on Medicare premiums for the retirees. The Blue Cross/Blue Shield Medicare rates have gone down from \$467 to \$408 per retiree per month, saving the Town a total of \$708 per year, per retiree. (The rate for out-of-area retirees has also gone down from \$515 to \$444; a savings of \$852/year/retiree.) However, the out-of-pocket maximum for the retirees has gone from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Supervisor Lounsbury reminded everyone that each retiree (and their spouse) is reimbursed for their total annual Part B Medicare premiums, which amounts to \$1,258 per year (2015) per retiree plus \$1,258 per spouse, if applicable. Spouses of deceased retirees also receive this reimbursement. Supervisor Lounsbury has researched many policies and believes that this is a very good plan and noted that the out-of-pocket expenses are still lower than most other plans.

An extensive discussion ensued over the decrease in the Town's premium vs. the increase in the retiree's co-pays. A decision was reached to reimburse an additional \$500.00 in out-of-pocket co-pays. Each retiree would still be responsible for the first \$3,000 in out-of-pocket co-pays. Co-pay expenses above \$3,000 up to a maximum of \$3,500 would be reimbursed by the Town providing that receipts (Explanation of Benefits) for all co-pays (including the first \$3,000) are submitted. The caveat being that this only applies for the calendar year January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to renew the policy with Blue Cross/Blue Shield as specified above; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Cooke.

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

6. Supervisor Lounsbury announced that she was comfortable with the Preliminary Budget; the Public Hearing was held and comments that were made have been taken into consideration.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to adopt the 2016 Preliminary Budget; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Bolte.

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

### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

1. Investigator Tracy Mance announced that the Sheriff's Department is taking over the "Choices 301" program. The program provides educational programs for teenagers on topics such as drugs, alcohol, and social media.

2. Marie Dermody stated that she expects to be corrected when she is in error. She intends to do further research to clarify and verify what she stated and if it is an error, she will retract her statements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Cooke.

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

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;**

Victoria H. Kraker

Town Clerk