

**MINUTES  
OF  
THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 20, 2015**

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 2015 at 7:00 PM 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  
                                  Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir  
                                  Councilman Gerald Wood  
                                  Councilwoman Marion Cooke  
                                  Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

ABSENT WAS:             Councilman Robert Bolte

Also present were Kim Graff and Connie Kudlack representing the Rensselaerville Library, Assessors Donna Kropp, Richard Tollner, and Kathy Wank, as well as Highway Superintendent Randy Bates.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the review of the 2016 Tentative Budget.

1. Supervisor Lounsbury stated that the Library had gotten \$23,750 last year and she proposed a \$1,250 increase to boost them back up to the \$25,000 they had several years ago.

Kim Graff and Connie Kudlack noted that the money from fundraising was about the same as it was last year and donations were slightly lower. The restitution (which used to be received regularly in the amount of \$138/month), was down to \$40 and that the Library was struggling to get even that much.

The Library received approximately \$21,000 from the school district.

The population of families with young children is increasing. Kim is trying to get more programs going for children. She would like more organizations to utilize the library for meetings, etc. She would like to increase space in and outside of the Library for events, and is always looking for available grant money to help

support the programs. Kim has submitted an application for funds to re-do the stone stairway behind the library to allow for a safer exit and to promote programs in back yard.

Kim would like to send out a survey in an effort to gather ideas about what people are looking for and what their needs may be. The library is looking at doing 'Focus Groups' in the spring in an effort to get first-hand information on how people are using the library and what can be done to provide services to the community. The Focus Group would be sponsored by the Upper Hudson Library System.

She has offered the Rensselaerville Fire Department her grant-writing ability and is more than happy to extend the offer to the other Fire Departments as well. The Library has also held community safety programs, for example, the proper use of a fire extinguisher.

Ms. Graff would like to encourage the ambulance to hold safety programs such as CPR training. Connie Kudlack is a certified CPR instructor and would be very pleased to teach a class.

2. Councilwoman Sedlmeir wanted to discuss the situation regarding the Assessor's request for a computer. Assessor Donna Kropp spoke on behalf of the Assessor's Office and clarified that what they were requesting was not necessarily a laptop, but an additional work-station. She explained that when there are two or more people in the office, it is extremely difficult to be productive with only one computer to work from. Having another work-station would make the office much more efficient. Councilman Wood asked if concrete numbers could be provided so that a sound decision could be reached. They will check into how much it will cost for a new computer, an additional RPS program, and how much the annual service fee will be from ITS. Figures will hopefully be ready for Thursday's budget workshop meeting.

Supervisor Lounsbury announced that she has increased the line item for the Assessor's Clerk from \$11,700 to \$12,000 just to provide more of a cushion in case the new Clerk needed to put in more hours.

3. Superintendent Bates reviewed his budget proposals with the Board line by line. Increases were minimal if any.

Superintendent Bates did request an additional \$6,800 for 'Road Material/Sand/Salt'. Supervisor Lounsbury met him half-way and asked if \$3,400 would be do-able. A compromise may be reached by taking \$3,400 from the 'Gas/Oil' line item due to the decrease in fuel costs.

Superintendent Bates does not anticipate any other purchases other than small items, accessories, and/or tools which may be obtained at on-line auction sites.

Under 'Road Machinery', both the 'trucks' line and the 'Misc.' line were reduced by \$5,000 each. 'Equip Repairs & Maint.' was also reduced by \$5,000.

Superintendent Bates reported that there was a surplus of sand/salt from last year due to several factors: the trucks were calibrated; usage was monitored very carefully; and days that it is was so cold, materials were not spread because they would not have been effective anyway.

Superintendent Bates reiterated his thoughts from last year regarding the salaries of the neighboring Town's Highway Superintendents and how they far exceed the salary paid by the Town of Rensselaerville. Superintendent Bates' salary has seen a 0% increase since 2013 and noted that the Town of Rensselaerville Superintendent's salary is 25% less than that of the adjoining Towns with significantly less road mileage and functioning on half the budget the Town of Rensselaerville has. He asked how long the Town can keep these salaries so low and also noted that other departments were going to receive a raise and others like the Town Clerk were not. Superintendent Bates wonders about his successor and how the Town will be able to find a qualified individual at the rate of pay that is being offered. He feels it will not be anyone who can build roads; fix, spec, and purchase equipment; calibrate trucks; and manage the snow and ice program with money savings each year for the salary that is currently being offered. He feels it's a matter of fairness; how long can the Town keep salaries so low, when other salaries go up.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Cooke.

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

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;**

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk