

**MINUTES
OF
THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD
WORK MEETING
AUGUST 9, 2016
7:00 PM**

The Work Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 9th day of August 2016 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: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury
Councilman Robert Bolte
Councilwoman Marion Cooke
Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir
Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

ABSENT WAS: Councilman Gerald Wood

Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates, and two interested citizens.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

None

MINUTES

Minutes to be accepted at the Regular Meeting on August 11, 2016:

June 9, 2016 – Regular Meeting
July 12, 2016 – Work Meeting
July 14, 2016 – Regular Meeting

TRANSFERS, VOUCHERS, AND BILLS

Vouchers and bills will be addressed at the Regular Meeting on Thursday. Supervisor Lounsbury also has a transfer that will need to be approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Lounsbury received correspondence from the Brookside Cemetery Association, which she will read at the Regular Meeting.

HIGHWAY

1. Superintendent Bates reported that the front drum and bearing on the rented roller from Abele failed. Abele was able to deliver a replacement roller within a few hours. However, Abele is claiming that the failure of the bearing was due to the Highway Department's chaining the roller down too tightly and repairs would cost around \$3,300. Superintendent Bates told Abele that it was not possible to damage a wheel bearing on a roller in that manner. He has worked highway maintenance for 38 years; he has personally transported thousands of rollers over the years; and he has been an equipment operator as well as an instructor in this regard. Superintendent Bates presented the situation to Finke Equipment and they confirmed that the accusation was absolute nonsense. Superintendent Bates will not approve the charges.

As far as the Town's roller goes, Finke expected it should be ready by next week.

2. Councilwoman Cooke inquired about the mower which remains on the side of the road after being involved in a minor accident. Superintendent Bates stated that it should not be moved until the tire could be replaced. When that is done, the mower can be brought back to Town Hall and can then be inspected to determine the extent of the damages.

Supervisor Lounsbury reported that the insurance company has been notified as well as Worker's Compensation; however, she still awaits the police report.

REPORTS

The regular reports from the Supervisor, Attorney, Highway Department, Town Clerk, Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector, Assessors, Water/Sewer Committee, and Recycling Center will be given at the Regular Meeting on Thursday.

OLD BUSINESS

1. On July 12th Erin Nevins of Nevins Insurance Agency presented the Town with the renewal rates for the health insurance which will become effective September 1, 2016. She reported that, as always, the replacement plan is not exactly the same, but very similar. The renewal plan would incorporate a 2.8% increase over last year's premiums; deductibles would increase from \$4,000/\$8,000 to \$4,800/\$9,600; out-of-pocket will increase from \$6,350/\$12,700 to \$6,850/\$13,700; 'tier 1' pharmacy will increase from \$8 to \$10; there will be a slight increase/change in the Primary Care and Diagnostic

Radiology co-pays/structure; Specialist co-pay remains at \$60; and the Emergency Room deductible structure will change.

However, neither the dental nor the vision premiums will increase this year.

Supervisor Lounsbury noted that Mike Lyons, the Union Representative, has been afforded the information on the health plan renewal, but she has not heard back from him as of this evening.

2. Supervisor Lounsbury announced that the interviews to fill the vacancy on the Planning Board were held. Maryanne Overbaugh was one of the applicants and Thomas Kropp was the other, however, his letter of interest arrived past the due date. The Planning Board requested that the Town Board entertain the idea of having an alternate member, for the purpose of meeting the quorum, which is frequently *not* met due to members' other commitments. They recommended that Maryanne Overbaugh be appointed to fill the vacancy and Thomas Kropp be appointed as the alternate.

Councilwoman Cooke questioned whether an alternate would be acceptable under Town Law. Supervisor Lounsbury will look into that matter.

Discussion ensued over each Board members thoughts and perspectives on the appointment of the new Planning Board member:

Councilwoman Sedlmeir felt that Mr. Kropp would be new blood and when people like that come forward, they should be welcomed. Councilwoman Sedlmeir made it very clear that her feelings on the matter had nothing to do with Maryanne, who she described as a lovely person who serves the Town and Community in so many other wonderful capacities. Councilwoman Sedlmeir would like to see Thomas Kropp appointed to fill the vacancy and Maryanne Overbaugh selected as the alternate.

Councilwoman Cooke felt that Maryanne Overbaugh be appointed to the Board and Thomas Kropp be appointed as the alternate. Her concern lies with the fact that Mr. Kropp's letter of interest arrived a week after the deadline that was set.

Councilman Bolte and Supervisor Lounsbury remembered that there have been other times where a letter of interest had been received late, but was still accepted as long as it was received before interviews were conducted.

Councilman Bolte stated that he did not have a problem with Maryanne and noted that she has been very good to the Town. However, he felt that the Planning Board depends on the Building Inspector to answer questions for them. When you appoint someone who you know will have to recuse themselves due to a conflict of interest that is bound to arise, that person should not be appointed to the Board. In addition, the Town has worked

hard to get families out of Town government for the betterment of the Town. He would vote against her appointment again.

Supervisor Lounsbury stated, as she has before, that out of respect for the Planning Board, the Town Board should honor the recommendation of the Planning Board.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Although Supervisor Lounsbury is skeptical about switching accountants, she asked the Board to consider putting out a request for proposals.
2. With the Town having been audited recently, it has been suggested that, although the four new accounts that were created in the recent past were approved by the Town Board, a Resolution should be passed to approve them. Attorney Fallati will have the Resolution prepared for Thursday's meeting.
3. Supervisor Lounsbury wished to bring to the Board's attention, the Tyler Technologies contract is due to expire at the end of this year. Supervisor Lounsbury asked the Board to consider renewing the Tyler Technologies contract which costs the Town approximately \$25,000 per year for support and updates.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Councilwoman Sedlmeir suggested that something positive be placed in the monthly 'Town of Rensselaerville Newsletter' in an effort to inform readers of the optimistic and constructive happenings in and around Town.
2. Councilman Bolte inquired if anyone from the Water Committee applied for some of the millions of dollars in grant money that is available. Supervisor Lounsbury confirmed that there was no grant application out there.

Supervisor Lounsbury wished to inform everyone that the water in the hamlet is much improved. The aerator which was installed has proven to be effective as the water is becoming clearer by the day.

Councilman Bolte stated that the State is continually encouraging residents to get off of surface water. If the Hamlet got off the surface water, it would not only eliminate the brown water experienced during the summer months and turn the fire hydrants into properly functioning hydrants, but it would also take the whole Town off the liability of the dam.

Councilman Bolte noted that it does not cost as much to drill wells as rumor has it. The drilling of wells has proven to be very effective in other localities. Councilman Bolte hoped that with the new members on the Water Committee, someone would apply for the grant money that is available.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Cooke, and Sedlmeir; Absent (1) Wood;

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk