



Town of Rensselaerville

The Hamlets of Cooksburg, Medusa, Potter Hollow, Preston Hollow, and Rensselaerville

Volume 21, Number 1

January 2010

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November Town Board Minutes Summary

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 12th day of November, 2009 at 7:30 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Nickelsberg and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Jost Nickelsberg, Councilman Gary Chase, Councilwoman Marie Dermody, Councilman J. Robert Lansing, Councilwoman Sherri Pine, Attorney Joseph Catalano

ABSENT: Superintendent of Highways G. Jon Chase
There were 26 interested citizens present.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

- Mr. Gloriosio asked about the Right to Farm Law. Supervisor Nickelsberg, we will look into it.
- Attorney Catalano mentioned not in the last two years that he has been sitting here there hasn't been any legislation concerning this law. There is definitely the Right to Farm language in the revised zoning law which is going to be retained.
- Cheryl Baitsholts, DCO, mentioned that she has a Rottweiler and two beagles that need homes.
- Richard Amedure asked about the centerfold in the November newsletter which had a letter from Joe Catalano to the Town Supervisor about all the violations and things that have gone wrong. Discussion ensued regarding the Freedom of Information Law.
- Gerald Wood asked what happened with Pearson Road? Attorney Catalano reported that Mr. Bossolini investigated and said that it appears that the settlement is localized to the pavement section and not related to the specific installation of the culvert. Mr. Bossolini feels that it is not an issue as far as the integrity of the culvert, nor is it an issue with respect to how the road will handle traffic. In his opinion it is something that should be monitored over time, but he feels that it doesn't have an immediate impact on the safety of the road or the ability of the culvert to go over.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to approve as read the following minutes; Regular Meeting - October 8, 2009, Special Meeting - October 5, 2009, Special Meeting - October 27, 2009; 2nd by Councilwoman Pine. A *vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

TRANSFERS: Clerk 1 Cornwell explained the transfers to the Town Board at their work meeting on Tuesday evening.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to make the following transfers as reported by Clerk 1 Cornwell:

(Continued on page 10)

Library Bookmark

The Rensselaerville Library would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's Greenery Sale a success. Special thanks go out to Bill Bensen from the Palmer House for his baked goods, and to Richard Toller for providing the holiday music. Thank you also to all of the Board members who helped to coordinate the event, as well as the vendors who participated. We couldn't have done it without everyone, and we appreciate the time and effort that was put toward making it a success.

On Friday, January 8 from 7:00P.M. to 8:30P.M., local author Helen Benedict will be reading from her new novel *The Edge of Eden*. There will be a question & answer session following the reading, and Ms. Benedict will be available for book signings. We are very excited to have the opportunity to hear Ms. Benedict read from her new novel, and we hope many people can come enjoy this event! (**Special note:** Copies of *The Edge of Eden* will be available for the sale price of \$20.00 at this event. All proceeds from this event are being donated to the Rensselaerville Library by the author. We would like to extend a warm thank you to Ms. Benedict for her generosity!) Please visit the event listing at our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/rensselaervillelibrary.

The Rensselaerville Library is now on Facebook! Visit our new page at www.facebook.com/rensselaervillelibrary. Become a fan and spread the word, get updates, check out events, and leave comments.

First Friday Films continue on Friday, January 8 at 6:30P.M. (please note the special date this month) with a showing of *Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian*. History is larger than life - and twice as funny - in this monumental comedy sequel that's "better than the original" (At the Movies)! Ben Stiller leads an all-star cast (including Amy Adams, Owen Wilson, Hank Azaria and Robin Williams) as Larry Daley, a former night watchman at the Museum of Natural History, where the exhibits come to life after dark. But now Larry's nocturnal friends are being retired to the archives of the Smithsonian Institution, luring him back for a hilarious, all-out battle against museum misfits who plan to take over the Smithsonian...and the world. Run time: 105 min. Rated PG for mild action and brief language.

Second Saturday Film Series continues on Saturday, January 9 at 7:00P.M. with a showing of *Julie & Julia*. Meryl Streep is Julia Child and Amy Adams is Julie Powell in writer/director Nora Ephron's adaptation of two bestselling memoirs: Powell's "Julie & Julia" and "My Life In France", by Julia Child with Alex Prud'homme. Based on two true stories, "Julie & Julia" intertwines the lives of two women who, though separated by time and space, are both at loose ends...until they discover that with the right combination of passion, fearlessness and butter, anything is possible. Run time: 123 min. Rated PG-13 for brief strong language and some sensuality.

Please join us at this month's **Saturday Story Times at 10AM:**

January 2 - Theme: Winter

January 16 - Theme: Snowmen

Want to know what's new this month at the Rensselaerville Library? Check out www.rensselaervillelibrary.org and click on "What's New?" for a complete listing of newly acquired materials.



Staff:

Liz King, Director;
Katie Caprio, Assistant;
Barbara Husek, Assistant;
Zachary Wellstood, Page

The next **Library Board meeting** is on **Monday, January 18th at 7:00P.M.**

Library Hours:

Tuesday &

Wednesday:

10:00 AM to Noon,

4:00-9:00 PM

Thursday & Friday:

4:00-9:00 PM

Saturday:

9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Conkling Hall—What’s On In January

JANUARY 1: RHDA New Year’s Day Open House. Come join us for a pot luck open house to celebrate the beginning of the New Year. Food and Wine provided. Desserts welcome. Open to all. No charge. 1:00 - 4:00 PM.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8: “First Friday” movie date change (this month only). Library will present a children’s movie. 6:30 PM. \$1. admission.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9: Second Saturday Grown Up Movie. Presenting: Julie and Julia”. 7:00 PM. BYO treats. \$2. admission.

Pilates: Saturdays 9 - 10 AM. Mat class. Strengthen your abdominals, gain long, lean muscles and work with good alignment. Appropriate for all levels.

Yoga: Tuesdays 9 - 10:15 AM. Move, breathe and relax. Good for what ails you. Open to all. Please call Sarah Nelson-Weiss at 239 6825 for more information.

You can contact Conkling Hall at 518 797 3459 or read our website at www.ConklingHall.org. We send frequent announcements/reminders about our events. If you wish to be added to the list, please give us your email address at ConklingHall@earthlink.net.



Methodist Hill Road
Rensselaerville, NY
(518) 797- 3459

Volunteer News and Events

Medusa Volunteer Fire Department

Company Meeting: Monday, January 4th, at 8:00 PM
Drill & Work Meeting: Monday, January 11th and 18th at 7:00PM

Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Thank you to EVERYONE that helped support the food and toy drive to support the Hilltown Community Resources Center. We hope all our neighbors and supporters had a wonderful Holiday!!
 Calls as of December 8th : 42

January:
 4th - 7pm Company Drill
 6th - 7pm Ladies Battalion
 11th - 7pm Company Drill
 27th - 7:30pm Company Meeting

February:
 1st - 7pm Company Drill
 3rd - 7pm Ladies Battalion
 8th - 7pm Company Drill
 14th - 8-11am Pancake Breakfast
 24th - 7:30pm Company Meeting

Special Events:

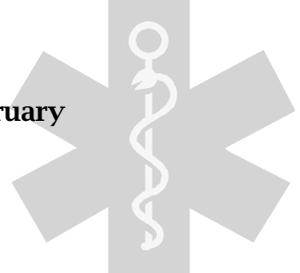
- 2/14 - 8am to 11 am - Pancake Breakfast - Fight Cabin Fever and Bring your Sweetheart for something Sweet to eat!!

Looking into the future:

- 3/27 - 4pm to 6pm Take Out Chicken Barbeque Pre-sale available in February

Tri-Village Volunteer Fire Department

Company Meeting: Wednesday, January 6th at 8:00PM



Senior Corner

Need Information? Elder Source Line (447-7177) has information about Senior Services to help in a variety of ways. Call between 8:30AM-12:30PM Monday through Friday. Call for free assistance with housing options, insurance counseling, benefits and entitlements, community resources, adult daycare, and caregiver options. This program is funded by United Way of Northeastern New York and Senior Services of Albany Foundation.

Senior Citizens Club: We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at the Medusa Firehouse at noon. \$1.00 is collected. ALL senior citizens are invited to join the club. Please bring a covered dish to share and/or dessert. Members need to bring their own plates and utensils. Coffee is provided.

Senior Van: Tuesday: Bryant's Center, Greenville
Thursday: Cobleskill (Wal-Mart)
Monday, Wednesday and Friday: Van is available to travel to doctor appointments. Call Ann Vogel at 797-3376 regarding scheduling and/or arranging for van pick up.

Helderberg Senior Services: Lunches are served Monday through Friday at noon for \$3.75. A one-day advance reservation would be appreciated and can be made by calling Marie at 797-3652 between 9:00AM-1:00PM for information and reservations.

We need volunteer drivers!!!! If you have a valid driver's license and could volunteer a couple hours of your time now and then, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Kathy Hallenbeck, Town Clerk, for more details.



Senior Vehicle Regulations (revised)

1. All scheduling must go through the Senior Services Coordinator, Ann Vogel. No one else is permitted to schedule or modify a schedule.
2. The bus will be used for individual medical appointments only when the passenger's only means of mobility is a wheelchair. Those passengers able to use a walker, cane, or other aid (other than a wheelchair) will be assigned the use of the car (when available) rather than the bus.
3. Passengers who require a personal aide/assistant must provide their own. The Town of Rensselaerville will not provide such assistance due to liability to the Town.
4. All groups other than senior citizens must bring the vehicle back with a full tank of gas.
5. All drivers must present a valid license to the Town Clerk two weeks prior to driving. (This applies to new drivers)
6. All trips must be logged in the book in the appropriate vehicle (bus or car). Information required includes: name of driver, number of passengers, time out and back, destination, and odometer readings.
7. Drivers, passengers, and scheduler will be treated with respect and courtesy. Any violations of this policy are to be reported in writing to the Town Clerk as soon as possible after the incident.
8. There will be absolutely no smoking in the vehicle.
9. There will be no passenger pick-ups before 9AM.
10. Do not leave any trash in vehicle.
11. Leave the vehicle in the condition in which you found it.
12. When a trip begins before normal business hours, the vehicle(s) will be outside awaiting the driver.
13. When a trip ends after normal business hours, the key(s) to the vehicles(s) must be dropped in the mail slot near the entrance door to the Town Hall.
14. No fee is charged for the use of the vehicle. However, donations are gratefully accepted. Such donations are deposited into the existing Senior/Youth Bus Fund.

Extra Helpings Food Buying Club — Available to Everyone

Extra Helpings is a program of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York and is offered to the community through The Hilltowns Community Resource Center (HCRC) in Westerlo. The program is open to all individuals regardless age or income. Extra Helpings has changed the prices and the menus being offered. Anyone is welcome to purchase any or all of the package options. The menu for each month's Extra Helpings' offerings will still be published one month in advance. January's Extra Helpings menus are as follows:

January's Regular menu: \$21.00

- 6 -7 lb. Roasting Chicken
- 1 lb. Mild Bulk Sausage Roll
- 1.5 lb. Beef Patties
- 2 lbs. Boneless Pork Chops
- 2 lb. Bag Onions
- 5 lb. Bag Potatoes

Special #1: \$ 13.00

- 6 lbs. Sweet Italian Rope Sausage (2 - 3# boxes)

Special # 2: \$ \$ 20.00

- 10 lbs. Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast

Special #3: \$32.00 MEAT BOX

- 2 lbs. Pork Roast Netted
- 3 lbs. Stew Beef (3/ 1# pkgs.)
- 3 lbs. Chicken Tenders (2/ 1.5# pkgs.)
- 2 lbs. Maple Breakfast Sausage Links
- 3 lbs. Ground Beef (3/ 1# pkgs.)

(Substitutions of equal value may be necessary due to availability.)

PLEASE NOTE: .Orders *with payment* are due at the HCRC office by January 5th for pick-up on **January 26th**. HCRC distributes Extra-Helpings at the Rensselaerville Firehouse from 11:00 to 12:00 p.m. and at St. Bernadette's Church in Berne from 11:15 to 11:45 p.m. on delivery days. The pick-up site must be noted with each order. Anyone wishing more information regarding Extra-Helpings or other Hilltowns Community Resource Center services, please call 797-5256. HCRC's mailing address is P.O. Box 147, Westerlo, NY 12193. Please include your phone number on all correspondence.



THANK YOU

We would like to express appreciation to everyone who supported us during the November election. Thank you to all the voters of the Town who believed in us and trusted us with their votes.

We look forward to working with the other employees and elected officials of the Town toward bipartisanship so that all residents of the town will feel that they do have a voice in Town Government.

Our motto will always be honesty, integrity and accountability and we will continue to uphold it for all residents of the Town.

Happy New Year!



Middleburgh Library Happenings

1/1 - **The Library is Closed. Happy New Year**

1/5, 12, 19, 26 - 3:30 PM - **Reading with Indy** - Indy is a trained and certified therapy dog who along with his trainer, Karen Van Dyke, offers non-judgmental ears to your little one. Children who are just beginning to read, need practice reading or simply need a confidence boost, will find Indy a great friend.

1/6 - 1:00 PM - **Wednesday Matinee - "500 Days of Summer" (PG 13)**

1/7, 14, 21, 28 - 7:00 PM - **Knitting Circle** - Do you like to knit or crochet or do you participate in other fiber arts? Bring your project and join your neighbors for some creativity and conversation. No registration is required.

1/16 - 11:00 AM - **Family Film - "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" (PG)** The most delicious event since macaroni met cheese. Inspired by the beloved children's book, the film focuses on a town where food falls from the sky like rain.

1/16 - 9:00 to 2:00 - **Drop-in Craft - 3D Showman** -We'll provide everything you need to create these cute, 3D snowmen

1/19 - 7:00 PM - **Book Discussion - Lord of the Flies by William Golding.** The classic study of human nature which depicts the degeneration of a group of schoolboys marooned on a desert island.

1/25 - 6:00 PM - **The Recipe Club** - Recipe Clubs are food-themed friendship circles in which friends—both new and old—gather to share memorable food-related stories from their lives. Registration Required.

1/27 - 12:00 - **Chat & Chew** - Bring a bag lunch & join the Director in a discussion about what we've all been reading!

1/27 - 1:00 PM - **Wednesday Matinee - "Moon" (R)**

WHAT IS HEAP?

HEAP is an energy assistance program which helps to pay for utility bills.

Where Can I Apply?

Cornell University Cooperative Extension/CHOICES
Faith Plaza, Route 9W, Ravena, NY 12143

01/07/10 Cornell Cooperative Extension, Voorheesville, 3:00pm-6:00pm
01/08/10 Colonie Senior Resource Center, 1:30pm-3:30pm
01/13/10 Families Together, East Berne, 9:00am-12:00pm
01/14/10 Rensselaerville Town Hall, 12:30pm-3:30pm
01/20/10 Bethlehem Town Hall, 4:30am-6:30pm
02/01/10 Hilltown Resource Center, Westerlo, 12:30am-3:30pm
02/04/10 Cornell Cooperative Extension, Voorheesville, 3:00pm-6:00pm
02/17/10 Bethlehem Town Hall, 4:30pm-6:30pm
02/17/10 WIC Lutheran Church, Berne, 9:30am-12:30pm
03/04/10 Cornell cooperative Extension, 3:00pm-6:00pm
03/10/10 Families Together, East Berne, 9:00am-12:00pm
03/11/10 Rensselaerville Town Hall, 12:30pm-3:30pm
03/17/10 Bethlehem Town Hall, 4:30pm-6:30pm
04/01/10 Cornell Cooperative Extension, Voorheesville, 3:00pm-6:00pm

To apply for Emergency HEAP you must apply at the HEAP certifier office and then take the application to Albany County Department of Social Services located at 162 Washington Avenue, Albany

Call 756-8650 for more information regarding eligibility and document requirements.



ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST

7 to 11 AM



JANUARY 16TH
FEBRUARY 20TH
MARCH 20TH
APRIL 17TH

MEDUSA FIRE COMPANY

Free Will Offering



The Town of Rensselaerville Conservative Party would like to thank everyone who supported our candidates in the November Elections. Thank you to the Republican Party and Independence Party for their support also.

The newly elected candidates look forward to working with the residents of the Town and will serve all residents regardless of political affiliations.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year!



Church Services

Preston Hollow Baptist Church

Route 145, Preston Hollow,
239-6544
Worship: Sunday - 11:00AM

Rensselaerville Presbyterian Church

Summer Session Worship - 11:00AM
Coffee Hour following Service

United Church of Christ

Medusa, 239-6119
Worship: Sunday - 10:00AM

Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Lane, Rensselaerville,
797-5395
Holy Eucharist & Church School Sunday
11:00AM

Potter Hollow Union Church

4824 Potter Hollow Mountain Road
Potter Hollow, 263-4478
Worship: Sunday - 10:00AM
Coffee Hour & Sunday School—11:30AM
Call for Bible Study and Prayer Group

Please Take Notice:

TOWN BOARD FINAL MEETING of 2009
DECEMBER 30, 2009 - 7 PM

TOWN OF RENNELAERVILLE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 1, 2010 - 11 AM

2010 Tax Collection

TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS.

Your 2010 property tax bill is expected to be mailed on or before January 4, 2010. If you do not receive a bill by January 12, please contact the Town Clerk/Collector. If you no longer own the property and receive a bill, please send it to the new owner. Partial payment may be accepted from those who currently receive senior exemptions. Please contact the Town Clerk/Collector for more information concerning this. When paying by mail, please send the entire bill along with your payment. A receipted bill will be returned to you if the appropriate box is marked.

The collection hours are as follows:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - 9 AM to 4 PM,
Thursday - 1:30 to 6:30 PM
Friday—9 AM to 3PM.

Additional hours:

January 30th, February 28th and March 27th— 10 AM to 1PM.

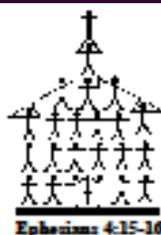
Any questions please call the Town Hall, 518-797-3798 or 239-4225.

HILLTOWNS COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER Charities VITA Program



The Hilltowns Community Resource center is coordinating the VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE Program for the Hilltown area. This service will provide **free** Federal and State income tax return preparation for income qualified individuals and families. If members of your household earned \$49,000 or less in 2009, you may qualify for this service. Tax preparation will be done at Conkling Hall in Rensselaerville on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 and appointments are available from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call HCRC at 797-5256 with any questions regarding this service and to make an appointment. Information regarding documentation required for participation in the VITA program will be given when appointments are made.



Ephesians 4:15-16

The Church @ Potter Hollow

Potter Hollow Union Church News

WEEKLY ACTIVITES

Sunday

Morning Worship
10am

Mustard Seed Coffee Hour,
Youth & Adult Bible Studies
11:30am

Praise & Prayer
6:30pm

Midweek Fellowships

Call for location and details.

January 10th (and every 2nd Sunday)
pot luck in place of coffee hour and Bible
studies.

Ephesians 5:15-16

"but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head even Christ, from from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

Concert

"This Way Up"
band



Three teen siblings from Mechanicsburg, PA bring unusual percussion with boomwhackers and PVC pipe, among other talents.

**Saturday Jan 2nd
6:30pm**



This is an unconventional concert you won't want to miss!

VISIT US

Potter Hollow Union Church
Fellowship Hall
4824 Potter Hollow Rd.
Potter Hollow NY.

CONTACT US

Po Box 576
Preston Hollow, NY
12469
nathandmiles@hotmail.com
(518) 263-4478

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From:	To:	Amount:
General Transfers:		
A1990.4	A7610.1	\$2200.00
Contingency Account	Personnel	
Water Transfers:		
SW8340.4	SW8310.4	\$ 610.00
Transmission Water Contr.	Admin. Contr.	
2 nd by Councilman Chase.		

A vote was taken and unanimously carried.

WARRANT 2009-11 – VOUCHERS/BILLS: V09-747 thru V09-825 - The General Fund - \$14,233.05; Highway Fund - \$21,630.07; FEMA - \$17,422.82; Water District - \$209.88; Sewer District - \$718.89; Lighting District - \$333.56; Total - \$54,548.27; V09-826 thru V09-829 7 V09-764 - General Fund - \$708.88; Highway Fund - \$34.45; Lighting District - \$293.03; Total \$1036.36. Pre-pays - V09-735- V09-742; General Fund - \$5,515.47; Highway Fund - \$5,460.93; Total - \$10,976.40.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pine to pay all signed bills; 2nd by Councilwoman Dermody.

A vote was taken and unanimously carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Albany County H1N1 Vaccination Clinic: The County will hold a free clinic for the H1N1 vaccine on November 15, 2009, 10 am to 7 pm at the Times Union Center in Albany, NY. Pre-registration is required.

REPORTS

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Supervisor Nickelsberg mentioned that Ken Meggie from the State Comptroller's office told him that if he thinks there is something wrong with a voucher, you should not sign it.

Councilman Chase mentioned that you have to pay it if the Town Board agrees.

Councilman Chase asked if he had it in writing from anybody that supports what you are saying.

Supervisor Nickelsberg will get it.

Councilwoman Dermody encouraged Supervisor Nickelsberg to fill out an inquiry form and submit it to the Board of Ethics. That is the way the process gets started.

Supervisor Nickelsberg, we don't have a clean slate of the accounting and the numbers in this town. If he were the incoming administration, he would want a clean slate; as the outgoing administration, he wants a clean slate. He thinks a forensic audit which would cost in the range of twenty or thirty thousand dollars by somebody who is far away from this Town is absolutely mandatory. Supervisor Nickelsberg asked if there were any questions on any of the reports.

- Newsletter: An ad was received from the Institute inviting the Town's residents to an Eggnog Party on December 5th. What do we do with it? They would like to publish the ad free of charge. Do we charge them or not? Supervisor Nickelsberg will talk to them about this ad. We will get someone to pay for it.
- Letter of appreciation to Gene Smith: Councilwoman Dermody asked Supervisor Nickelsberg if he has done this letter yet. Supervisor Nickelsberg will write this letter.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Catalano reported on the new regulations put in by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation concerning the enforcement of any outdoor burning. It is his understanding that DEC will soon begin enforcing this regulation.

- Pearson Road: Attorney Catalano mentioned that it would be a good idea to set up a meeting to discuss the Pearson Road issue with Mr. Bossolini from Ingalls & Associates, Superintendent Chase, and Superintendent-elect Zeh.
- Release-- Dan's Hauling & Demo Inc.: Attorney Catalano asked for the Board's authorization for the Supervisor to sign a mutual release document with regard to the first bidder of the project. The first

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November Town Board Minutes Summary

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bidder was awarded the bid and based on some investigation that bid was taken away and awarded to the current contractor. We are still holding the bid bond on that first bidder. Attorney Catalano insisted before releasing the bid bond that there be a mutual release so that company cannot go after the Town for anything regarding the bidding process.

A motion was made by Councilman Chase authorizing Supervisor Nickelsberg to sign this release; 2nd by Councilwoman Dermody. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

- Baitsholts Estate Issue: Cheryl Baitsholts explained the letter that she had given to the Town Board concerning the David Baitsholts Estate and the conveyance of property to his wife Sandy, where a trailer recently stood.

Attorney Catalano will meet with Attorney Kosich and Code Enforcement Officer Overbaugh concerning this issue and see if they can come up with some resolution. The Town Board does not have jurisdiction over the Planning Board; it is not really a Town Board issue.

- FOIL: Once a voucher is approved for payment by the Town Board, it means that the vendor has a claim against a Town for the receipt of that money. His memo simply said the checks are not signed; he has to advise the Town Board what the next step was which would be Article 78. The premise that an elected official, when it is brought to the notice of other officials, should be entitled to secrecy for not doing something that is expected of him and that should be kept a secret from the public is a position that he does not take and certainly not supported by the open meetings law or the Freedom of Information Law. He believes that we went through the proper process and there was no violation of the open meetings law or Freedom of Information Law. We fully complied with the intent of those laws, which is open government; citizens have a right to know what their elected and appointed officials are doing or not doing.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pine to accept Attorney Catalano's report; 2nd by Councilman Chase. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Supervisor Nickelsberg—NAY, Councilman Chase—AYE, Councilwoman Dermody—AYE, Councilman Lansing—AYE, Councilwoman Pine—AYE

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Supervisor Nickelsberg read Superintendent Chase's Monthly Report as follows;

- We have been in contact with the Grist Mill and they have been granted repair of the temporary wall to keep the building from sagging. They were to commence work within the next week or two. As I understand, there will be no cost to the Town or the Mill.
- Pearson Road Project is finished. A figure will be given in December.
- The Gifford Hollow culvert project is finished.
- The Highway has been grading and patching roads as necessary in the Town.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to accept Superintendent Chase's report as read; 2nd by Councilman Chase. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT: Town Clerk Hallenbeck reported the following report for the month of October 2009: Town Clerk - Total Collected - \$3,243.35; Paid to Supervisor Nickelsberg (fees) - \$959.16; Paid to Albany County Treasurer (dog lic.) - \$10.57; Paid to NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets (spay/neutering program) - \$3.00; Paid to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (sport lic.) - \$2,270.19; Water Rents Collected - \$2,264.55; Sewer Rents Collected - \$2015.96.

A motion was made by Councilman Chase to accept the Town Clerk's Report; 2nd by Councilwoman Dermody. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

ASSESSING DEPARTMENT: Assessor Pine talked about a circuit breaker which is that you would pay real estate taxes based on your income up to a certain amount. He also talked about Tier 5 for the State Retirement. Assessor Pine explained this to the Town Board.

A motion was made by Councilman Chase to accept the Assessor's Report; 2nd by Councilwoman Pine. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

CURRENT EVENTS

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November Town Board Minutes Summary

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- The Medusa Fire Company will hold a Breakfast on November 21st.
- The Middleburgh Library will be holding a Vaudeville Show on November 21st at the Middleburgh School.

Councilwoman Dermody asked for permission to contact the Middleburgh Library and ask them to restrict their advertising in the newsletter to one page; they submitted 4 pages this month.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg giving Councilwoman Dermody permission to contact the Middleburgh Library and ask them to restrict their advertising to one page in the newsletter; 2nd by Councilman Chase. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

WATER/SEWER DISTRICTS: Jack Long reported that the Water/Sewer Committee has received the plans and specifications for the small impounding dam from Fraser Associates and are reviewing them.

SPEDES Permit - This has been taken care of.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE/BUILDING INSPECTOR REPORT: CEO Overbaugh reported the following for the month of October: 1 - Building New Accessory, 2 - agricultural use permits, 1 - septic repair, and 1 - new home permit. Total funds collected: \$306.60.

A motion was made by Councilman Chase to accept CEO Overbaugh's report; 2nd by Councilwoman Pine. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

OLD BUSINESS

CEILING ADDENDUM: When doing the contract, the roof vents were omitted. Attorney Catalano drew up an addendum to the contract which included the roof vent installation.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody authorizing Supervisor Nickelsberg to sign this addendum; 2nd by Councilman Chase. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

2010 BUDGET: The following changes to the Preliminary Budget were unanimously agreed upon by the Town Board:

Revenues - A2544 - Dog License- changed from \$1500.00 to \$1000.00.

Appropriations - A8020.12 - Planning Board Secretary - changed from \$15,600.00 to \$9400.00.

A9030.8 - Social Security -changed from \$16,397.00 to \$24,000.00.

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the budget, the budget process, and the forensic audit.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg to put \$20,000 more into the line item for a forensic audit, line item - A1320.4. (This would make the line item \$25,000.00), and that we increase the use of the unexpended balance by the same amount; 2nd by Councilwoman Dermody. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

A motion was made by Councilman Chase to move the Preliminary Budget into the 2010 Final Budget with the corrections above and adopt as the 2010 Adopted Budget for the Town; 2nd by Councilwoman Dermody. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Supervisor Nickelsberg—NAY, Councilman Chase—AYE, Councilwoman Dermody—AYE, Councilman Lansing—No vote, Councilwoman Pine—AYE

FEMA: Supervisor Nickelsberg mentioned that we received a letter from Mary Ann Wollaber from FEMA/SEMO concerning our 2007 FEMA projects.

The Board talked about the FEMA Project at length.

Councilwoman Dermody mentioned that between now and the next meeting she will have a meeting with Ms. Wollaber and see what needs to be done and do it if necessary.

WASTE OIL FURNACE - BIDS: No bids were received for the waste oil furnace.

Councilwoman Dermody mentioned that since Superintendent-elect Zeh said that he would find a way to make it work for us, she would like to extend that invitation to him with the full cooperation of this Town Board in any way possible.

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November Town Board Minutes Summary

(Continued from page 12)

Supervisor Elect Zeh will find a way to use this furnace.

NEW BUSINESS

MEDUSA VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY – NEW MEMBERS

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to add the following people to the membership list for the Medusa Volunteer Fire Company as Associates Members: Scott Kunkler and Laurel Herendeen; 2nd by Councilwoman Pine. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

RENSSELAERVILLE WATER DISTRICT – RE-LEVY: The Re-levy is a list of Unpaid Water Rents which will be included in the property owner's land tax bill for January 2010.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to accept the Rensselaerville Water District list of Unpaid Water Rents for the year 2009 which will be applied to the property owner's 2010 land taxes as a re-levy; 2nd by Councilwoman Pine. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

RENSSELAERVILLE SEWER DISTRICT – RE-LEVY: The Re-levy is a list of Unpaid Sewer Rents which will be included on the property owner's land tax bill in January 2010.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to accept the Rensselaerville Sewer District list of Unpaid Sewer Rents for the year 2009 which will be applied to the property owner's land taxes as a Re-levy in January 2010 ; 2nd by Councilwoman Pine. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

RENSSELAERVILLE WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE: A letter has been received from Timothy Miller submitting his resignation as a member of the Rensselaerville Water/Sewer Committee effective upon the Town Board acceptance. He has been appointed Town Justice for the Town of Rensselaerville.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to accept Timothy Miller's resignation from the Rensselaerville Water/Sewer Committee effective tonight; 2nd by Councilwoman Pine. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

ROOF: A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to seek sealed bids for a metal roof to be installed on the office part of the Town Building; bids to be in the Town Clerk's office by 6:30 PM on December 8, 2009 and opened at 7:30 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Pine. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

HAMMOND SECURITY: Supervisor Nickelsberg mentioned that he has contacted Hammond Security and two other security companies concerning putting 3 outside cameras at the other end of the building. The new cameras would have to be able to be incorporated with the current system. Judge LaPlante has requested a security camera to be installed in the Court Room; the cost is \$800.00.

STATE ROUTE 85 PROJECT: Supervisor Nickelsberg mentioned that he had been working for some time with an engineer from NYSDOT concerning Route 85 paving. The initial project was in 1996. He and Superintendent-elect Zeh have completed an application to get this project moving and try to get grant funding from the Federal Government.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Town's minimum required local match of 20%, the 14-year-old age of the original application and its applicability to the current existing opinions of the affected hamlet, and questions as to why the Town should have to pay anything for the improvement to a state road. Supervisor Nickelsberg, we said that in 1996 we went through the process and here are the results. We don't know if it is going to be the same this time, we don't know if the Town is going to want to do it, we don't know if the Hamlet is going to want to do it, and we don't know what the response is going to be. We can reject it, but we can't get back in line if we didn't do it by Monday.

CELL PHONES – TO GO PHONES: Councilwoman Dermody mentioned that we are paying \$65.00 a month for two cell phones. We can terminate the contract for \$135.00 for each phone and purchase a

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

Go Phone for approximately \$100.00 a year each, resulting in considerable savings.

A motion was made by Supervisor Nickelsberg authorizing Councilwoman Dermody to take the two cell phones and change them to Go Phones for approximately \$100.00 a year each; 2nd by Councilman Chase. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

HEALTH INSURANCE – RETIREES: A motion was made by Councilwoman Pine that we write a letter to the retirees informing them that as of January 1, 2010, they no longer are eligible for that HRA reimbursement plan because of the decreased co-pay and the increased benefits; 2nd by Supervisor Nickelsberg. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

NEWSLETTER ADS: A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to have an ad sale in the December newsletter giving the people placing ads 2 months free advertising if they paid for ten months; 2nd by Councilman Chase. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

LICENSE PLATE WEBSITE – IN NEWSLETTER: Councilwoman Dermody mentioned that there is a web site where you can go say “no” to the new license plate cost. She would like permission to put this in the December newsletter.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pine giving Councilwoman Dermody permission to put the web site address for the License Plate issue in the December newsletter; 2nd by Supervisor Nickelsberg. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

PLANNING BOARD/ZONING BOARD SECRETARY: A motion was made by Councilwoman Dermody to appoint Kathryn Wank to the Planning Board/Zoning Board Secretary’s position, pay to be \$10.00 an hour with a 90 day probation period, to be considered to be permanent after the 90 day probation period; 2nd by Councilwoman Pine. *A vote was taken and unanimously carried.*

TRANSITION OF ALL OFFICERS: Supervisor Nickelsberg, what can we do to facilitate the transition of all officers? It would be Councilwoman Dermody and him, Superintendent-elect Zeh and Superintendent Chase.

Councilwoman Dermody mentioned that it should be on a case by case basis; we can’t legislate or mandate meeting between people. Hopefully there will be civil interaction and get the job done.

ROOF VENTS: CEO mentioned that the ceiling person should put the roof vents in now in case the roof job is not done for a while. The Town should add roof vents to the metal roofing job because you can’t use vents that are for an asphalt roof for a metal roof.

Councilwoman Dermody will include in the bid for the metal roof the following: job to include four 12 inch by 12 inch roof vents appropriate for a metal roof.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

- Gerald Wood mentioned that he is going to try and take on a project in Preston Hollow which is the sidewalks along State Route 145. The sidewalks in front of the cemetery are very dangerous. He is going to need some guidance. Superintendent-elect Zeh will look at this issue; the State DOT will be contacted.
- Mr. Amedure mentioned that election is over and he would like to see a better attitude on January 1, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Chase to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM; 2nd by Supervisor Nickelsberg. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Kathleen A. Hallenbeck, Town Clerk

NOTE: Full Town Board Minutes can be found on the Town website (www.rensselaerville.com) or at the Town Hall.

RESOLUTION
OF THE
TOWN BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville wishes to honor an exemplary public official and citizen of the Town of Rensselaerville on the occasion of his last regular meeting on the Town Board before his term as Councilman expires at the end of 2009; and

WHEREAS, J. Robert Lansing, Bob to all that know him, has served the community of Rensselaerville for over six decades, and has done so throughout with exceptional dedication and integrity and with his heart set firmly in the best interests of the Town he loves and its people; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board, desires to express its appreciation on behalf of all the residents in the Town, for Bob Lansing's long history of public service and dedication to the Town of Rensselaerville;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville that the Town Board hereby officially acknowledges the public service that J. Robert Lansing extended to the Town of Rensselaerville with a recitation of the variety of such service over the years as follows:

Bob's first position of public service in this Town occurred when he served as the Justice of the Peace from 1962 through 1967. During that time the Justice was also a voting member on the Town Board and it was Bob who proposed the construction of the Town building.

Bob served as Town Supervisor in three decades; in 1968 and 1969; from 1972 through 1975; and from 2002 through 2005 where he then continued as Councilman to this day. Even when he was not on the Town Board, Bob was a familiar and important presence as he faithfully attended most if not all Town Board meetings during the 27 years between his terms as Supervisor.

Outside of Town government, Bob has been equally if not more dedicated to the community with his various activities on behalf of the organizations that shape our community. He has been a member of the Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department since 1958. He was a member of the Rensselaerville Library Board of Directors for 12 years, half of which he served as Treasurer. He has been President of the Rensselaerville Historical Society, a member of the Board of Directors of Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension, a member of the Board of Directors of the Helderberg Medical Center that brought Dr. Richard Carle to the area, and he assisted in the establishment of the medical facility in Westerlo in honor of Dr. Anna Perkins. He was one of the founders and was a member of the Rensselaerville Volunteer Ambulance Squad since its formation until the 1990's.

And most of all, we note that Bob performed perhaps his greatest public service when he served his country in World War II in the Army Air Corp. He has been an active member of the Clark White American Legion since 1950 and has been both the Commander and County Commander of that post during his membership.

ACCORDINGLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville, that the Town Board hereby officially acknowledges J. Robert Lansing's public service which is unsurpassed in the history of this wonderful Town, and the Town Board sincerely offers its greatest appreciation to Bob for the continued dedication and exemplary public service in which he has served the Town of Rensselaerville, our country and community.

The foregoing resolution was duly and adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville on the 17th day of December in the year 2009.

STAR Applications

Please be advised that March 1, 2010, is the deadline for submitting applications for enhanced STAR exemptions. Enhanced property tax exemptions are available to senior citizens age 65 and older with a 2008 adjusted gross income of \$74,700 or less. The property must be the applicant's primary residence, and proof of age and 2008 income is required.

Enhanced STAR applications must be filed each year. Those who have never applied before or who have moved within the past year should submit an application.

Basic exemptions are available to virtually all New Yorkers who own their own one-, two-, or three-family home, condo, cooperative apartment, or mobile home. Those applying for the basic exemption must show proof of residency and need not reapply unless they move or become eligible for the enhanced exemption.

STAR exemption applications are available from the Town's assessing department. They are also available to be downloaded from www.orps.state.ny.us/ref/forms.

Forms must be returned to the assessing department no later than March 1, 2010. Anyone with questions regarding the STAR program is encouraged to contact the assessors for additional information or assistance.

(Note: A special thanks to Linda Fenoff, editor of the Greenville Press, for allowing us to reprint this information from the 11/19/09 issue of the paper.)



We promote ethical, honest, and competent town government regardless of party affiliation!

Time To Pull Together

No matter what your point of view, or which candidates you voted for, this New Year brings new opportunity. Consider getting involved by attending town meetings, serving on a committee, and making your voice heard.

Also, contact us to contribute to our work through direct participation or financially:

Rensselaervillecitizens@gmail.com

PO Box 159, Rensselaerville, NY 12147

518-797-3296

<http://groups.google.com/group/concerned-citizens-of-rensselaerville>



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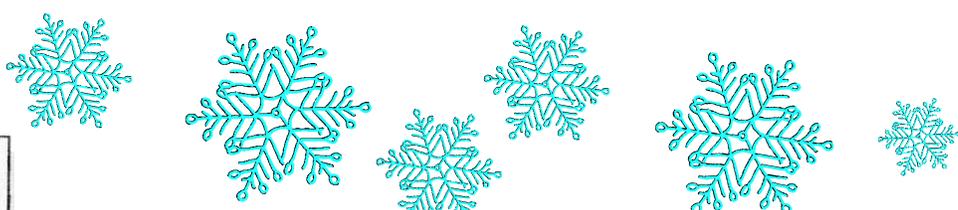
A Note from the Supervisor~

I am honored to have been elected Supervisor for the Town of Rensselaerville and vow to lead by example. I wish to share with you some of my beliefs which were originally presented at a Candidates Forum in October.

- I believe that either you control your attitude or it controls you. No one knows everything about everything. It behooves us all to check our attitude at the door and listen to all who may have something valuable to contribute to the discussion at hand.
- I believe that two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different. That doesn't necessarily mean that one is wrong and the other is right. We need to respect diversity of opinion and let it work for us, not against us.
- I believe that this Town has the ability to heal past hurts and move forward in a more collegial manner for the common good.
- I believe in compromise as a way to settle differences. Most issues are not either all black or all white. We need to look at the middle "gray" area where opposing sides give a little to gain a little.
- I believe in the basic goodness of humankind. Everyone has something positive to contribute to any situation. Rather than exploiting our differences, it's time we begin to realize how very much we're alike and capitalize on those likenesses so that both sides benefit.
- I believe that everyone deserves to be treated with respect. Name-calling and character assassination have no place in government at any level, and it certainly can't or won't be tolerated under my watch.
- I believe that you can't please all of the people all of the time. Unfortunately, it's probably true that there are some people you'll never please at all. But it is possible to please most of the people most of the time. And that can be accomplished by doing what is right, not necessarily what is popular. Such a position takes courage, not belligerence and arrogance.

I invite each and every one of you to join me in making this one of the most successful administrations in the history of the Town of Rensselaerville.

Best wishes to all for a New Year filled with health & happiness, hope & peace ...
Marie Dermody



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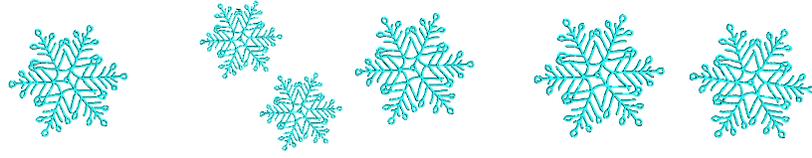
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&
January 18, 2010 for Martin Luther King Day





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friends

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Important Contact Information

<u>Town Board Meetings</u> Second Thursday 7:00 pm	<u>Town Supervisor</u> (as of 1/1/10) Marie Dermody	<u>Town Hall</u> 518-797-3798; 518-239-4225 Fax: 518-239-6339
<u>Working Meeting</u> Tuesday 7:00 pm before regular meeting	<u>Town Clerk & Collector</u> Kathleen A. Hallenbeck	<u>Town Highway Department</u> 518-239-4225, 518-797-3798
<u>Town Justice Court</u> Mondays 7:00 pm	<u>Town Justices</u> Victor LaPlante, Timothy Miller	<u>Sen. Neil Breslin, 46th Dist.</u> Capital Bldg., Room 502 Albany, NY 12247 518-455-2800
<u>Planning Board</u> First and third Thursdays 7:30 pm	<u>Councilpersons</u> Gary Chase, (& as of 1/1/10) John "Jack" Kudlack, Marion Cooke	<u>Assemblyman John McEneny, 104th Dist.</u> LOB, Room 648 Albany, NY 12248 518-455-4100
<u>Zoning Board of Appeals</u> First Tuesday 7:00 pm	<u>Building Inspector & Code Enforcement Officer</u> Mark Overbaugh	<u>County Legislature, 39th Dist.</u> Alexander (Sandy) Gordon 144 Beebe Road, Berne, NY 12023 518-872-2602
<u>Building Inspector/Zoning Officer</u> Thursday 8:00-10:00am, 7-9 pm	<u>Assessors</u> Jeff Pine, Donna Kropp, (& as of 1/1/10) Michael Weber Rachel Chase, Clerk II	<u>Albany County Highway Dept.</u> 518-239-6715, 518-239-6710
<u>Town Clerk's Hours</u> Monday-Wednesday 9:00am-3:30pm Thursday 1:30pm-7:30pm Friday: 9:00 a.m. - Noon	<u>Highway Superintendent</u> (as of 1/1/10) Gary Zeh	<u>Rensselaerville Fire Company, 911</u> Social Number - 797-3218
<u>Supervisor's Hours</u> To be announced	<u>Planning Board</u> Muriel Frasher, Chairman Kathryn Wank, Secretary	<u>Tri-Village Fire Company, 911</u> Social number - 239-6780
<u>Assessors' Hours</u> Thursday 6:00 pm-8:00 pm	<u>Zoning Board of Appeals</u> Alden Pierce, Chairman Kathryn Wank, Secretary	<u>Medusa Fire Company, 911</u> Back up emergency number, 765-5979 Social number - 239-6166
<u>Assessors' Clerk Hours</u> Monday, Tuesday, Thursday morning	<u>Deputy Town Clerk</u> Dee Andrus	<u>Rensselaerville Vol. Ambulance, 911</u> For Information - 518-797-5233
<u>Dog Control Officer</u> Cheryl Baitsholts 518-797-5201	<u>Bookkeeper</u> Andrea Cornwell	<u>Albany County Sheriff, 911</u> 518-765-2351
<u>Town Refuse Station Hours</u> Wednesday and Saturday 7:00am-3:45pm		State Police <u>Rensselaerville and Hilltowns, 911</u> 518-477-9333
<u>Water/Sewer District Meeting</u> First Thursday 7:00 pm		

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Town Supervisor: townsupervisor@rensselaerville.com; mdermody.rensselaerville@yahoo.com
Town Clerk: townclerk@rensselaerville.com
Bookkeeper/Clerk I: clerk1@rensselaerville.com
Newsletter: newsletter@rensselaerville.com
Board of Ethics: ethicsboard.rensselaerville@yahoo.com
Deputy Town Clerk: deputytownclerk.rensselaerville@yahoo.com
Code Enforcement Officer: codeenforcement.rensselaerville@yahoo.com
Assessors: assessors.rensselaerville@yahoo.com
Planning Board: planningboard.rensselaerville@yahoo.com
Councilman Gary Chase: gchase.rensselaerville@yahoo.com

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