

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING

August 10, 2011

The monthly meeting of the Town of Hounsfield Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Timothy Scee at the Town Hall, 18774 Co. Rt. 66 at 7PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members present were: Supervisor Scee, Councilmen: Stephen Lee, David Cobb, and Vincent Battista. Councilman Todd Farrington was absent.

Supervisor's comments: Supervisor Scee announced that the Village of Sackets Harbor received grant money for a new water treatment plant. On a personal note he announced that he has been diagnosed with an eye disease and declared legally blind. The Supervisor assured the public, contrary to rumors, that he is still able to read letters and contracts with reading aids and it will not affect his ability to do his job.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C 'man Battista to approve the Board minutes of 7/6/11. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Correspondence: Supervisor Scee was notified by the Village of Sackets Harbor that they plan to apply for a grant in order to inform residents of the hazards of outdoor burning. He has signed a letter of support on behalf of the Town to accompany this application. An invitation for the Board was received from the Can Am Committee to attend a thank you party because the Town supports this annual event. A notice was received on a leadership training event being held in Platsburg this fall and the annual SUNY local government day in Potsdam in October. Informational packets were received from B & O Engineering and from Aubertine and Currier. Bernier, Carr Associates sent a notice introducing interns that are working with them now. The Supervisor received a copy of a letter sent to C'man Battista and C'man Cobb from Jane Jenkins, a long time resident of the Town, to tell them how displeased she was that they did not vote to appoint Marlene Lennox to the Planning Board last month.

The Supervisor's Report was given: Total receipts were \$401,008.66, Total disbursements \$255,585.50, Total in checking accounts \$384,427.72, and Total investments \$751,903.70. The clerk to the Supervisor added that Sales Tax funds received for the quarter were \$159,000 and \$18,000 was transferred for Lakeside.

C'man Lee made a motion to accept the Supervisor's Report and C'man Cobb 2nd the motion. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by Supervisor Scee to pay bills in Abstract #8, vouchers #401-472: General Fund A \$12,430.38, General Fund B \$260, Lakeside Cemetery Fund \$3,141, Highway Fund A \$109,423.10, Highway Fund B \$41,191.06, Water Dist. 2 \$1,367.24, Water Dist. 1 \$17,248.60, Water Dist. 4 \$127.05, Water Dist. 3 \$2,920.49, Water Dist. 5 Capital Fund \$25,454, Water Dist. 3 Capital Fund \$42,423.88, Totaling \$255,986.80. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Lee reported that he attended a Water Committee meeting, met with the Village about an IMA to purchase water for District 5. He gave copies of a proposed IMA to Board members and Planning Board members. He would like to set up a work session for the Town Board and the attorney to go through this proposed agreement so everyone understands it fully. C'man Lee also received a copy of the village water plant upgrade funding & debt payment schedule that he will give to the Board members.

C'man Cobb reported that he attended the Fire Dept. meeting and the next fund raiser event is the 2nd annual Garrett Loomis Run on October 1st. It is a 5K and 10K run that will take place in the Village of Sackets Harbor.

C'man Battista had no report.

Supervisor Scee asked Beth Burdick to give a Hay Memorial Library report.

Supervisor Scee reported for C'man Farrington that he has a new granddaughter in Virginia and that is the reason he is not present at this meeting.

The Highway Superintendent gave a work report for July. He also thanked the Village for use of equipment in repairing a main line water leak last week. The Highway Superintendent asked the Board if they would like him to get quotes for tree work that needs to be done in Lakeside Cemetery (two large and one small) to compare prices against the cost of the Town renting a lift and having the Town crew take them down. The Board agreed to get quotes.

The Highway Superintendent explained that a free energy audit was done of the Highway Building by National Grid and the cost to replace lighting with energy saving units would be \$5,312.87, including a 15% discount for a payment in full. A payback of this cost will be realized in 32 months. After a discussion of the Board a motion was made by C'man Lee to authorize the Supervisor to sign a contract with National Grid to have the energy saving replacements done and C'man Battista 2nd. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Town Clerk reported on her collections for the month of July. She also reported that she attended the Lakeside Cemetery Committee meeting and a training meeting. The Clerk to the Supervisor reported an increase to Abstract #6 in the amount of \$.50 in Water Dist. 5 total and the Town Clerk asked the Board members to also sign this change after the meeting.

Kris Dimmick, engineer at Bernier, Carr, was present with an update of the Water District 5 project.

Christine Eggleston gave a report on the training held on comprehensive planning.

Karyn Mintz of the Joint Recreation Commission was present to submit their budget to the Town Board members and answer any questions.

Supervisor Scee reported that an appraisal will be done on the Town's Storrs Road property. When this is done the Town will send letters to the neighbors on each side and give them 90 days to respond.

Supervisor Scee reported that the McAllasters are still interested in purchasing the Brent Lane property. The McAllasters have had a survey completed of this property. A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Lee for the Town to sell the Brent Lane property, retaining easements for the water hydrant and the drainage ditch, to Steven and Judith McAllaster for \$5800, minus costs for the survey and transfer fees. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Lee asked Board members if they had reviewed the changes to the cover page of the Outside Water User Agreement. They have & it will go to the attorney.

C'man Cobb asked if the vacation time and sick time is being printed on the check stub of the highway employees and the Highway Superintendent answered that it is not being done and it will not be done as long as he is in office. He explained that he gives his employees a statement at the end of each month with the status of their vacation time and sick time and the last auditor was happy with that and the other payroll records. C'man Cobb reminded the Highway Superintendent that the Board passed a motion in April that this procedure be done. C'man Battista said that Mr. Alcombrack is defying a Board motion and it is a condition of payment that this information be recorded on these check stubs.

C'man Battista made a motion to receive bids for an independent audit of all Town records. C'man Cobb 2nd this motion. After a discussion of how much this might cost the Town, C'man Battista indicated that he thinks there needs to be an independent audit now instead of waiting for a free audit from the State which may be conducted for Water District 5 anyway. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Since C'man Battista indicated that the State Comptrollers Office reported to him that they do not have a record of a request from Supervisor Scee, C'man Lee made a motion that Supervisor Scee draft and send another letter to the Comptrollers Office requesting a full audit of the Town records and C'man Cobb 2nd the motion. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

At this time the floor was opened for public comment and several comments were made.

C'man Cobb would like to coordinate the Planning Board interviews with the Town Board work session.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier, Town Clerk

