

**TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**March 11, 2015**

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 7 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Board members present were: Supervisor Scee, Councilman Stephen Lee, Councilman Todd Farrington, Councilman Richard Young, and Councilman Carson Lennox.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lennox to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2/11/15. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee received correspondence: A letter was received from the Jefferson County Association of Supervisors with notice that a tour of the County Dog Shelter will be held for Town Supervisors to get more information for renegotiating a dog contract with Jefferson County. An ad was received for a new book on sale of stone houses in Jefferson County. A letter from Attorney Charles Livingston who owns property on NYS Rt. 12F that the Town has an easement through for water. He has questions on this easement and Supervisor Scee will have the Water Operator speak with him. A letter came from the Fort Drum Liaison Committee to notify the Town of a rally to be held at JCC on March 20, 2015 to support Fort Drum and discourage a base closure. A notice came from the Public Service Commission about new area codes in the north country. Supervisor Scee announced that the Town received a certificate of appreciation from the Sackets Harbor Chamber of Commerce for financial support.

The Supervisor's Report for February was read by the Clerk to the Supervisor: Total receipts \$190,197.20, Total disbursements \$957,041.67, Total cash in bank \$245,286.47, Total investments \$1,100,000.00 and a motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Young to accept the Supervisor's report for February. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lennox and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lee to pay bills in abstract #3, vouchers #106-179 as presented: General Fund A \$99,893.95, General Fund B \$7,788.19, Water Dist. 2 \$7,912.69, Water Dist. 5 \$2,384.06, Water Dist. 1 \$114.98, Water Dist. 4 \$18,002.92, Water Dist. 3 \$16,675.52, Fire Protection \$8,000.00, Abstract Total \$205,096.80. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Councilman Lee reported that he attended a Water Committee meeting and the problems at the water tower were discussed. The committee recommended that the Town close the tower to the public from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>. C'man Lee made a motion and

C'man Lennox 2<sup>nd</sup> to close the Town water tower to the public from 11/1 to 4/1.

After a discussion was held on the length of the proposed shut down, a broken valve that caused a leak and economical ways to heat the bottom of the tower, a motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Young to table a vote on closing the tower to the public in the winter. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

After a discussion on the usage of cards vs. quarters at the water tower, a motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lennox to give a refund of the \$ amount on a water card when issuing the refund of the deposit at the time the card is turned in. C'man Lee, Lennox, Young and Supervisor Scee voted yes and C'man Farrington abstained. The motion was carried.

A discussion was held about clearing snow from Town fire hydrants. C'man Lee reported that there are several ways to get this done: 1) the Town Highway Dept. can keep cleaning them as they do now, 2) the Town could pass an ordinance where the property owners that have a hydrant are required to remove snow, or 3) equipment could be purchased with a bucket and snow blower for from \$64,000 to \$75,500 which would be paid out of the water districts. The Board agreed that this needs some more discussion at budget sessions.

C'man Lee also reported that the Water Operator stated at a Water Committee meeting that he wants to take over the water billing. The Board members did not support this happening.

C'man Lee also reported that he met with Don Alexander of JCIDA and discussed the newly proposed wind farm on Galloo Island.

C'man Young reported that he attended The Treaty of Gent program presented by the Historical Society. He also attended the meeting of the Hay Memorial Library. The East Hounsfield Library will hold a meeting on March 26, 2015 but C'man Young said he will be out of Town and will not be able to attend it. Representatives of the EH Library are planning to attend the April Town Board meeting and give an update. There have been no recent meetings of the Economic Development Committee.

C'man Farrington reported that he did not attend the Fire Dept. meeting. He and Supervisor Scee attended a meeting with Town of Henderson representatives and TIERS representatives about our ambulance service. He attended the Village Board meeting

and went with Supervisor Scee to Rochester to attend the appeal hearing for the Schwerzmann & Wise law suite.

C'man Lennox reported that he attended the Bed Tax Committee meeting and the funds to be used for tourism were disbursed as follows: Can Am Festival \$4700, Sackets Harbor Historical Society \$1900, Hay Memorial Library \$1150, Sackets Harbor Chamber of Commerce \$4700, Sackets Harbor Battlefield Alliance \$2350, Seaway Trail Foundation \$725, Arts Association of NNY \$1425, Society for Preservation of Madison Barracks \$2350.

C'man Lennox attended the Joint Recreation Commission meeting and he made a motion which C'man Lee 2<sup>nd</sup> to appoint Jill VanOcker as recreation director for 2015. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Lennox also reported that the by laws of the recreation commission have been found and the commission plans to update them. A discussion was held on wording of some parts of those by laws.

C'man Lennox also reported that he attended the Water Committee meeting.

The Highway Superintendent gave his work report for the month of February. He also gave an update on funds available from federal, state and county for the storm in November 2014 and the Town could get about \$1600 in emergency funding.

The Zoning Officer gave a short report.

In unfinished business, one firm has returned a proposal for completing a Town audit and another firm will submit a proposal next month.

A discussion was held on the two Town owned lots and the Supervisor will ask the attorney what needs to be done to sell these properties.

After a discussion was held on the Village Marketing Committee project of maps of Sackets Harbor and a request to the Town, a motion was made by C'man Young to create a line in the Town Budget for funding for the Sackets Harbor Marketing Committee. There was no 2<sup>nd</sup> to this motion and no vote.

Supervisor Scee received a request from Mike Campbell of Madison Barracks for \$5000

from bed tax funds to have the traveling 911 museum come to Sackets Harbor on July 4<sup>th</sup> and it will be refunded to the Town when the funding for the project comes through. A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Farrington to do so, all ayes, carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Young for Resolution #15-05, designating Supervisor Timothy Scee, as the designated minority & women's business enterprise officer for the commissioning of a sanitary sewer preliminary engineering report. All voted yes in a roll call vote and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee explained that the Town has an application to submit to Community Bank for a Town credit card with Bruce Alcombrack and Diane Nier as designated users. The Board agreed that this be done and the application will be completed and submitted. A policy will need to be put in place for the usage of this account.

The floor was then opened for public comment. There were none and the floor was immediately closed.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Young to go into executive session for a personnel matter. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Board returned from executive session at 9:55 PM.

The Justice books and Town Clerk cash book for 2014 were signed by the Board.

This meeting was adjourned at 10 PM.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier