

**TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**April 8, 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 Farrington and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lee to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3/11/15. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee received correspondence: Annual Report of East Hounsfield Library and a letter to thank the Town for their support of the library which C'man Young read. Sandy Farrington was present to speak about programs and upcoming events at the EH library. A notice came from the Bank of Green County that they have services for municipalities.

Supervisor Scee reported that he met with Norm Hunnyman and there will be a meeting for the Parkinson Coalition on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at the St. Andrew's Parish Center. The group has received national funding for local Parkinson awareness programs.

The Supervisor's report for March was read by the Clerk to the Supervisor: Total receipts \$369,622.58, Total disbursements \$459,239.04, Total cash in bank \$155,670.01, Total investments \$1,000,000 and a motion was made by C'man Young and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Farrington to accept the Supervisor's Report. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lennox and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Farrington to pay bills in abstract #4, vouchers #180-236 as presented: General Fund A \$13,180.81, General Fund B \$49.19, Lakeside Cemetery Fund \$163.33, Highway Fund A \$14,706.61, Highway Fund B \$8,154.37, Water Dist. 2 \$2,166.82, Water Dist. 5 \$65,182.88, Water Dist. 1 \$133.50, Water Dist. 4 \$100.89, Water Dist. 3 \$1,109.23, Fire Protection \$60,000, Abstract total \$164,947.63. All voted aye and the motion carried.

C'man Lee reported that he attended the monthly Water Committee meeting and proposed water districts 6 & 7 were discussed. He also met with the engineers for the districts and Mike McManaman from Rural Development. He also reported that some water credit requests came in and referred to the Water Operator: A water credit request was received from Peter Gries residence, 19231 NYS Rt. 12F, and this meter had recently been replaced with a new meter. It was discovered that the new meter was

programed incorrectly at the factory and was reading an incorrect amount of gallons used. For this reason C'man Young made a motion and C'man Farrington to forgive an amount of \$941.82 on water account #250. All ayes, motion carried.

The Water Operator received a letter from Samantha Derrigo, 20439 NYS Rt. 180. account #599 with a request for prior usage due to a leak past the meter pit. The Town repaired the leak but in past cases of leaks the Town has not forgiven usage due to a leak. The Board denied the request.

A credit request for \$349.50 was received from Jessica Dorr at 13887 Hess Road, account #809. This meter has not been reading with the radio reader for four years and the billings have been estimated. In November the meter did read and resulted in a very large bill. The request is for the amount over the minimum charge of \$85 which was paid because Mrs. Dorr wrote that the meter should have been repaired or replaced in the four year period. A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Farrington to forgive the amount of \$349.50 and to replace the meter and all the wires with new ones and have the meter sent to have it tested. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Water Operator reported that he has been purging in District 5 and it worked to lower the levels of disinfecting byproducts which caused the Town to have a violation from the state.

C'man Young reported that the East Hounsfield Library meeting will be tomorrow night and he was not able to attend the Hay Memorial Library meeting, but Christine Eggleston gave a short report on that meeting.

Supervisor Scee reported that he attended the Economic Development Committee meeting.

C'man Farrington reported that he attended the annual Fire Dept. meeting and election of officers. A discussion was held on ambulance service. C'man Farrington will meet with a Sackets Harbor Fire Dept. officer about ambulance service and C'man Lee will meet with a Guilfoyle representative for a price on ambulance service.

C'man Lennox reported that he attended the Water Committee meeting but did not attend the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. He also attended the Tug Hill Conference at JCC.

The Highway Superintendent gave a work report for March.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Farrington to authorize the Highway Superintendent to hire two temporary employees now at \$12 hr. and one temporary employee in May for roadside mowing at \$16.30 hr. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A report was given by the Zoning Officer.

Supervisor Scee reported that he attended a Jefferson County Supervisor Association meeting and there was a committee appointed to meet with the County about the dog control fees charged to the Towns.

The Supervisor also reported that the parts are order to repair the water tower and a discussion was held on ways to heat the inside of the tower in the winter.

A motion was made by C'man Lennox and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lee to authorize the Highway Dept. to build a small insulated room inside the tower for \$500 or less. C'man Farrington abstained and the other four members voted aye. Motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Young to purchase a Bob Cat skid steer for the purpose of cleaning out water hydrants and using in the Highway Dept. He proposed that \$10,000 a yr. from the water districts and \$3,000 a yr. from the Highway Dept. for a total of \$65,000 will be paid in a 5 yr. lease. At the end of lease the Town can purchase the skid steer for \$1. The Bob Cat is a state bid price and no bidding is necessary. After a discussion a vote was taken: C'man Lennox voted yes, C'man Farrington voted no, C'man Lee voted yes, C'man Young voted yes, and Supervisor Scee voted no. This motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Young and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lee for Resolution #15-06 to permit David Renzi of Brown, Dierdorf & Renzi to complete any legal work necessary to finalize Water District #3 and be compensated in an amount not to exceed \$4,000. All voted aye in a roll call vote. Motion carried.

Supervisor Scee provided an update on the Schwerzmann & Wise law suite against the Town. On February 25, 2015, the Supervisor and C'man Farrington attended the appeal hearing in Rochester and the Town was notified recently that in a 4-0 decision, Judge McClusky's decision against the Town was overturned and this case will be sent back to Jefferson County.

C'man Lee reported that he is disappointed with how the engineers for the proposed water districts 6 & 7 are handling the job. Supervisor Scee added that there is a meeting with the engineers on Monday and any questions can be asked then.

Supervisor Scee reported that earlier tonight Dr. Ludwig Khoury came and requested a refund from the Town of \$408.51. He did not receive his tax bill and this is the amount of late fees and interest when he paid his taxes at the County yesterday. Supervisor Scee also was told that Dr. Khoury had changed his address to a post office box in Watertown before the bills were sent out in January and did not notify the County who addresses the tax bills. When the Dr. called the Town Clerk/Collector last week she found his tax bill that had been returned with his old address on it.

After a discussion, A motion was made by Supervisor Scee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lee to refund \$408.51 to Dr. Khoury for fees and interest on his taxes because he did not receive a tax bill. All members voted no because they feel it is the responsibility of the property owner to notify Jefferson County of an address change. Motion was not carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lennox to renew the Town's membership with the Sackets Harbor Chamber of Commerce for \$125. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Clerk to the Supervisor reported that she received audit proposals for a full audit. Fergeson and Co. responded by email saying that they would not have time to preform a full audit at this time. Bowers and Co. proposed a full 2 yr. audit for \$18,000. Crowley and Halloran proposed a full 2 yr. audit for \$23,800 or a 2 yr. water district audit only for \$9,000. The Supervisor reminded the Board that there is about \$9,500 left in water district 5 that can be used for the audit. A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Young to accept the proposal of \$18,000 from Bowers and Co. for a full 2 year audit of the Town. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

At this time the floor was opened for public comment by the Supervisor and residents commented on ambulance service, bids for mowing at the cemetery and our legislators no vote on raising the county sales tax rate.

The Highway Superintendent will have an ad published for bids on mowing Lakeside to be opened at the next meeting and this meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Submitted by Diane M. Nier, Town Clerk

