

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING

September 14, 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 7 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista to approve the Board minutes of 8/10/11. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee reported on several pieces of correspondence: Association of Towns sent a notification of the Town's dues for 2012. - DEC letter explained that the final survey of the easement for Water District 5 is being reviewed and will be completed soon. - A letter from Justice Gary Loomis asking Town and Village officials to refer any calls to the Town Court phone for any court information. - An email was received from Town of Adams Supervisor Kellogg, reporting that the Adams Town Council voted in favor of Richard Peffer receiving a water pipe extension from Town of Hounsfield. - A letter received from New York State Real Property saying that the Town of Hounsfield's assessments have been listed as 100% of full market value.

The Supervisor's Report was given: Total receipts were \$153,232.06, Total disbursements \$302,135.99, Total in checking accounts \$235,523.79, and Total investments \$651,903.70. A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Cobb to approve the Supervisor's Report. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Lee to pay bills in Abstract # 9, vouchers #473-528: General Fund A \$7,424.29, Lakeside Cemetery Fund \$1,161.00, Highway Fund A \$12,794.70, Highway Fund B \$60,716.07, Water District 2 \$16,857.76, Water District 1 \$1,742.68, Water District 4 \$11,918.86, Water District 3 \$9,982.80, Water District 5 Capital Fund \$5,964.50, Water District 4 Capital Fund \$817.18, Water District 3 Capital Fund \$580.00, Abstract Total \$129,959.84. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington for Resolution #20, to record budget transfers. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Lee reported that he attended a Water Committee meeting and a proposed IMA was discussed. A work session was held with the Town Board and Attorney Dave Renzi to discuss the proposed City of Watertown IMA. Supervisor Scee and the Town Water Operator met with the Mayor and a trustee and revised some language in the proposed IMA with the Village. The Water Committee met to discuss the changes and will send it on to the Attorney. A copy of this will be made for the Town Board members.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to appoint Diane Nier from Water District 2 to the Water Committee. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington for Resolution #21, to approve the proposed Outside Water User Agreement cover sheet. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Cobb reported he attended the Fire Dept. meeting last week and their 2nd annual Garrett Loomis Run fundraiser will take place at 11 AM on October 1st. This is a 5 & 10K run. Station #2 Ladies Auxiliary will hold a chicken Bar-B-Q on October 8th from 11AM to 3PM with education for children on fire prevention.

C'man Battista reported that a few Sackets Harbor Firefighters traveled downstate for three days to help out with the flooding. He also reported that the Board received a budget proposal from the Hay Memorial Library board president.

Beth Burdick gave a short Library report.

C'man Farrington reported that he attended a Recreation Commission meeting and he will be working on the new Tiger III grant with Board approval.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista to have C'man Farrington apply for the Tiger III highway grant. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Farrington also reported that he called the NYS Comptroller's Office and learned that if there is no justification for a municipal audit, a request for an audit may not be acted on. He also learned that any municipality should be doing yearly internal audits. The clerk to the Supervisor added that in the past the Supervisor, Town Clerk, and Justice books are reviewed and signed by the Town Board each year in January. C'man Farrington stated that he is not in favor of using tax payer's funds for an independent audit when an audit will be conducted through Water District 3 funds.

A discussion was held on closing out Water District 3 and which attorney will work on it. Supervisor Scee will call EFC to ask if Attorney Renzi could be used for that closing.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee to authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase a used Tiger flayal mower attachment costing between \$4000 and \$4500. After a discussion a vote of all ayes was taken and the motion was carried.

The Highway Superintendent gave a work report for August. He also reported that National Grid has completed the installation of the energy saving lights and a motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Lee to pay that bill when it arrives without delay. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Highway Superintendent provided the Board with quotes received for cutting three trees in Lakeside Cemetery and they are as follows: Bill Elliot \$2500, Ryans \$1800, Davis \$1700, and Black River \$900. A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2nd by C'man Lee to hire Black River Tree Service to cut down the three trees in Lakeside for \$900. The Highway crew will do the cleanup. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Highway Superintendent received correspondence from New York State to notify the Town of a replacement of the NYS Rt. 3 bridge over Mill Creek in 2015. They asked if this would cause any difficulties for the Town and Mr. Alcombrack commented that there may need to be a detour through Sackets Harbor. He also reported that Supervisor Scee and himself attended a Shared Services meeting with other towns and the county.

The Town Clerk gave a collections report for August and reported that she attended a Cemetery Committee meeting and a Water Committee meeting.

Kris Dimmick and Rachel Bernat were present from Bernier, Carr Associates with an update on Water District 5.

Christine Eggleston was present to discuss the proposed Town Comprehensive Plan and she suggested that the Town Board hold a work session to decide what should be done now. Supervisor Scee asked if a committee should be formed and Mrs. Eggleston agreed. The work session was set for 9/27/11, Town Hall at 7 PM.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista to reappoint Michele Avery to the Board of Assessment Review for a 5 yr. term. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee reported that since the last meeting interviews were held with three applicants for a position on the Town Planning Board. The Board agreed to table the vote for a new member to research the law. Since an applicant is also the Planning Board Secretary, there is a question of could she hold both jobs if appointed. C'man Cobb announced that he will remove himself from this process because he works for a corporation of which one of the applicants is a member.

Supervisor Scee announced that he did send a letter to the Comptroller requesting a full Town audit and Board members received a copy. A discussion was held about how to go about having an audit. C'man Battista reminded the Board that a vote was taken last month to receive bids for a full audit of the Town by an independent firm. The Supervisor asked if C'man Battista received any bids and he replied that he thought that was the Supervisor's job. The Board agreed that C'man Farrington and C'man Battista will work with the clerk to the Supervisor on an internal audit to see if there is anything questionable.

The Supervisor announced that the current health insurance plan that the full time Town employees receive will be eliminated by the broker and a new one will need to be chosen to replace it.

The floor was opened for comments at this time and Paul Warnek commented that he would like to have tax payer dollars pay for a full Town audit and would like to see a comment period at the beginning of the meetings. Supervisor Scee explained to Mr. Warneck that there used to be public comment at the beginning of these meetings but it was abused by the public.

John Repaty commented that he would like to see the meeting agendas published on the website in advance, he would like to see the public's comments and the Highway Superintendent's report published also. He said that the Board does not discuss a variance report and an audit finding should also be published. He would also like to know what the goal for the rate on the 2012 Budget is.

Kathy Mereand commented that she thinks the comment period at the end of the meeting is good because you may comment on anything discussed at the meeting.

Jane Bardon was present to ask of the progress of the Storrs Road property and Supervisor Scee answered that he is waiting for a written report from the appraisal company before offering a portion of this lot to the neighbors on each side of it.

Yvonne Podvin was present to comment that C'man Battista does not seem to have much of a report for the meetings unless he has a written report from Hay Memorial Library to read and he seems to have forgotten that there is a library in East Hounsville also. She also asked C'man Cobb how his father's health is. C'man Cobb said his dad (Ed Cobb) is doing a little better.

Helene Rainville was present to say that she is so glad to see a good turn out at the Town meetings and to encourage the Town Board not to limit the time for each person's comments. She also added that audits are a good thing and the Town should set a time each year for an audit. She also complimented the Town on the recycling center and the very helpful employees that work there and she would like to see more shared services.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee to rescind a motion that was approved to record the highway employees vacation, sick and compensation time on the stub of their pay checks because it is already being recorded by the Highway Superintendent and given to employees once a month.

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He does not believe the Board should be telling the Highway Superintendent what to do. After much discussion, a roll call vote was taken, C'man Battista voted no, C'man Farrington voted yes, C'man Lee voted yes, C'man Cobb voted no, and Supervisor Scee voted yes. Motion carried.

At this time the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier

Town Clerk