

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 10, 2010

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 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Supervisor Scee opened the floor for comments and a question was asked about the upcoming audit and Supervisor Scee replied that the Town is on a list for an audit this year. He will contact the State Comptroller to see when it will take place.

A question was asked from the floor about the cost effectiveness of in floor heat vs. baseboard heat for the new addition and that question will be directed to the Highway Superintendent when he returns from a trip to Albany.

A comment was made that in many years of attending Planning Board meetings, the March meeting was the first in a decade that had no Zoning Officer present and no report given. She asked, when the new Zoning Officer starts being paid, while he is on vacation for a month or when he starts working.

A question was asked about how much it costs for Bernier, Carr to engineer and help with the bid process for the new furnace and Supervisor Scee answered that it will be about \$4500.

Comments were made that it looks like the new furnace will cost \$10,000 to \$12,000 more than the first low bid that was rejected and the new Zoning Officer should not get the same salary as the last Zoning Officer who was very experienced and educated.

A question was asked if a salary can be changed in mid year and the Clerk to the Supervisor answered that the Board can vote to change the salary of an appointed official but not an elected official.

The new Zoning Officer, Bob Bouchard, spoke on his qualifications, that his vacation was planned, that he did speak to applicants while on vacation, and that the salary is between himself and the Board.

A comment was made that the taxpayers are paying Town salaries and it does affect all of us and at this time the privilege of the floor was closed.

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

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista to approve special Board minutes of 2/26/10. All members voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee received correspondence about new laws on Fire Department consolidation and a seminar will be held.

The Supervisor's Report was given: Abstract #3, voucher # 121-191 totaled \$148,438.31. Total receipts were \$1,013,373.57, total disbursements were \$1,149,355.11, checking accounts total \$85,402.44, and the investment balance is \$726,902.56.

Supervisor Scee gave an update on Lakeside Cemetery transfer to the Town. Attorney Sly has a deadline of May 1st to have some results on this. The next Cemetery Committee meeting is 3/19 at 10 AM.

A motion was made by C’man Battista and 2nd by C’man Lee to accept the Supervisor’s Report. All members voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C’man Lee and 2nd by C’man Farrington to pay bills in Abstract #3, vouchers 121-191.

General Fund A	\$ 82,932.71
General Fund B	6,868.42
Highway Fund A	20,513.44
Highway Fund B	55.00
Water District 2	3,068.43
Water District 1	377.58
Water District 4	16,907.11
Water District 3	666.77
Water District 3 Capital Fund	13,498.85
Fire Protection	<u>3,550.00</u>
Abstract Total	\$ 148,438.31

All members voted aye and the motion was carried.

C’man Lee reported that he met with the Village and the Battlefield Alliance, met with Supervisor Scee and Rural Development on Water District 5, met with Bernier, Carr on an idea of a wrap around water district, and attended a Water Committee meeting. Dwayne Eppley, chair of the Water Committee read a resolution from them in support of Jeff Kenney, Water Superintendent.

C’man Cobb reported that he attended a Fire Dept. meeting. They have sold a used pumper truck in a bid process and there are new young members coming in and getting trained. Mr. Cobb was disappointed to learn that there was no application sent in for a joint records grant with the Village this year and the Clerk to the Supervisor suggested that the Town apply on its own for this grant next year and the Board agreed.

C’man Battista reported that he attended the Henderson Town Board meeting on the article 78 proceedings against Town of Hounsfeld, but it has held in executive session. He attended the Bed Tax Committee meeting and the funds were given out as follows: \$2000 went to Can Am Committee, \$1250 went to Sackets Harbor Historical Society, \$500 went to Hay Memorial Library, \$500 went to the Sackets Harbor Fire Dept., \$1500 went to Sackets Harbor Chamber of Commerce, \$1250 went to the Sackets Harbor Battlefield Alliance, and \$500 went to Seaway Trail Foundation for a total of \$7500.

C’man Farrington reported he met with the Highway Superintendent and discussed the oil separator in the garage that needs to be pumped out for \$4537.50. This needs approval from the Board because it is above \$3000. A motion was made by C’man Farrington and 2nd by C’man Lee to approve having the oil separator pumped out for the above amount. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Because of a State mandate of changing all street signs to a more reflective design in the next two years, the Highway Superintendent has started the process. He estimates that this will cost about \$8000 and there was \$3000 put in the 2010 Budget. C’man Farrington would like to see more funds added to that for this year. A motion was made by C’man Farrington and 2nd by C’man Lee to add \$2000 for new signs.

All members voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Farrington asked the Board what direction they would like to give the Highway Superintendent on the addition project. There are materials on site that could be installed. A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to authorize the Highway Superintendent to resume work on the addition but not to exceed \$5000. All members voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Highway Superintendent has submitted a written report this month in his absence.

The Zoning Officer gave a short report.

The Town Clerk reported that the 11th is her last day for collecting taxes and she will have a full report to the Board next month. She invited everyone to the Seaway Trails Quilt Show on the 20th and 21st in Sackets Harbor. The Town Barn Quilting group has entered a wall hanging in the show that will be in a raffle this summer. She read a letter from the State Office of Real Property Services notifying the Town of a payment of \$9556.84 for completing a 100% reassessment in 2009 and congratulating our assessor.

In a second public comment session a question was asked about the article 78 lawsuit from Town of Henderson representation and Supervisor Scee reported that our attorney fees are being paid by the developer of the Galloo Island wind farm. A comment was made that it could be a conflict of interest that Scherzmann & Wise are representing our Town in the article 78 lawsuit because an attorney from that firm also guided the Planning Board through the site plan review. The question was asked on how a part time employee at the Cemetery is qualified to collect unemployment and the Clerk to the Supervisor answered that he has worked enough weeks to do so. A comment was made from East Hounsfield Library that their State Aid check was reduced about \$1400 to \$73.18.

Unfinished Business: Kris Dimmick was present from Bernier, Carr and gave updates: Water District 5 is waiting for funding from NYS Drinking Water, improvements will be made to the Village water treatment plant to increase capacity, and he reported on a study for a wrap around district to tie in loose ends of other districts.

Supervisor Scee reported that the plans for the new boiler were not finished for tonight but he was told that the Town will tentatively receive them on March 17th and will be able to review them, put them out to bid and then open bids on April 7th. That would give the Board a chance to review the bids before the regular meeting on April 14th when a bid could be accepted.

Rachel Barnet was also present to report that the water tower project in the Village will begin next week and they have a finish date of July 31st. Rachel also negotiated with the contractor to have a maroon band painted on the tank.

Christine Eggleston was present and gave an overview of how the Residential Alternative Energy Committee came up with its recommendations for a law on this subject. The Board members have these recommendations now for review. A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Cobb to move the recommendations from the Residential Alternative Energy Committee for a local law to the next level. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Mrs. Eggleston also reported that she has found someone to give ethics training and this will be available to all Town boards, committees, employees, appointees and elected officials and the Supervisor has invited any Village officials and employees that wish to come. A date will be posted soon.

Jan Maas was present to give a report on the joint recreation committee.

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2nd by C'man Battista for resolution # 10-19 expressing Town support of the Sackets Harbor Battlefield Alliance to keep the Sackets Harbor Battlefield open. All members voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Cobb asked the Supervisor why there has not been any information to Board members since the first of the year about the union negotiations and why the parameters of the contract that were set last year have changed. He also asked if the contract will come back to the Board to vote on. Supervisor Scee explained that after the election he met with the negotiator for an update and after the first of the year decided to attend the negotiations. The Supervisor reported that the meetings have moved forward and the contract is almost to the point where the employees will be voting on it. Supervisor Scee said he feels that the Highway Department has been harassed and abused enough. He added that when they vote to approve a contract, he alone, as the Chief Executive Officer of the Town will sign the contract and ask the other Board members to support his decision. C'man Cobb said he strongly objects as a councilman and a tax payer to Supervisor Scee signing a contract alone. Supervisor Scee said he is standing by this decision and he will ask the negotiator to come after the contract is approved to explain it to the Board members.

Supervisor Scee announced that a joint Town/Village meeting will be held on March 26, 2010 at 4PM at the Town Hall.

At a final public comment session there were comments on the union contract negotiations.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane M. Nier
Town Clerk