

## TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 8, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Hounsfield was called to order by Supervisor Martin DelSignore at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, 18774 Co. Rt. 66, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Board members present were: Supervisor DelSignore, C'men Stephen Lee, David Cobb, Ken Lawrence Jr. and C'woman Yvonne Podvin.

The floor was opened for public comments and Maryann DeClerk was present and commented on department reports, signage on Town trucks, water rate increase and court fines. She also asked about sanding Muskellunge Bay Lane and Storrs Extension, which are both private roads, last month. C'man Lee asked the Highway Superintendent about that and he said he had called the Supervisor and was given approval to sand because it was considered an emergency situation.

Tim Scee presented the Highway Superintendent with a plaque and a lunch certificate from some Town residents to the highway crew in appreciation for a job well done.

Steve Herman had some concerns that the Board is not working together, he feels that the attorney costs are too high and that the Highway Department is being micromanaged. He also commended the Highway Dept. on a good job this winter.

Michelle Avery was present to ask about the minutes on the Town website. The Clerk said she was instructed to post to the website after they are approved but the Association of Towns will be contacted for an opinion.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lawrence to approve the minutes of 3/11/09 as revised by the Clerk. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lawrence and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Cobb to approve the minutes of the special meeting on 3/23/09. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Regarding the department reports, the Zoning Officer asked why the Planning Board does not send a report and the Supervisor will speak to the Chairperson. C'man Lee asked the Highway Superintendent about a few items in his report: The Highway Superintendent wants to know when to start the cemetery worker for the year and this will be discussed at the Cemetery Committee meeting next week. The County Highway Superintendent has asked if the Town would be interested in taking over Co. Rt. 62 from NYS Rt. 3 to the Village limits. After discussion the Board agreed that they would be in favor of doing that if the County will improve the condition of the road first.

A letter was received from Sackets Harbor Fire Dept. requesting to use the Public Safety building and grounds for the 1812 Beer & Wine Festival on June 13, 2009.

The Supervisor received and read a letter from Nationalgrid regarding a survey request that was sent to Water District 5 land owners. He said that he and two other Board members were not aware that a survey was sent out, and it was not approved by this Board. C'man Lee and C'woman Podvin assumed that since there was no opposition to the idea at last month's meeting, it did not need a formal approval. The Supervisor indicated that the survey is inaccurate and misleading and he will write a letter when a financial offer is made (grant, stimulus funds) and an accurate individual cost can be made. C'man Lee indicated that he wanted to be sure that all District 5 residents had a chance to be heard and when he stated that the Town has never spent this much money on a water district before preliminary funding approval, the Supervisor called that statement a lie. When asked, the clerk to the Supervisor indicated that she would need to look up what the Town has spent on other water districts prior to preliminary funding approval.

C'man Cobb reported that he attended a Fire Department meeting and a Zoning work session with Andy Nevin from County Planning, the Zoning Officer and C'woman Podvin.

C'man Lee reported that he attended the Local Government conference. He spoke to Rural Development about Water District 5 and was told that there could be grant money available from them for this project. He spoke to EFC about Water District 3 and there may be more loan money available at 0% interest for this project.

C'man Lawrence reported that the AED has been purchased and delivered and everyone working at this building will be trained on how it works. The Board approved \$1690 for the AED but the bill came in at \$1695 with a \$300 charge for the first year of service and the Board agreed to have that on the same voucher. C'man Lawrence and the Supervisor met with a representative of the East Hounsfield Library about interior repairs that are needed there. The library has materials for the repairs and a suggestion was made by C'man Lawrence that men from the highway crew could do the repairs as an in-kind service. There is also a drainage problem that should be dealt with. The Highway Superintendent agreed to do this. C'man Lawrence also reported that Fire Dept. slate of officers for 2009 and operating expenses for the past year were distributed to the Board members.

C'woman Podvin reported that she attended the Zoning work session and they will meet again on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The County will do the SEQR for the Zoning Law amendment. C'woman Podvin also attended the Fire Dept. meeting, the Planning Board meeting, and the Village/Town joint Board meeting.

Kris Dimmick and Rachel Bernat of Bernier, Carr & Associates were present with a report on Water District 3 & 5 projects.

Kathy Amyot from the Tug Hill Commission was present to explain the Olympic Scenic Byway and the Black River Trail Scenic Byway. C'woman Podvin asked if supporting the Olympic Scenic Byway through our town on Rt. 3 would affect our Zoning Law or any amendments made to the law. Ms Amyot did not believe that it would but Mrs. Podvin could talk to Andy Nevin at Jefferson County Planning Department.

The Supervisor's report was given: Receipts of \$ 745,984.76, Disbursements of \$150,869.94, Bank Balances of \$704,467.09, and Investments of \$501,901.12. The Supervisor suggested that the Town should have a Fixed Assets Policy with an inventory of larger items that have tags. The Supervisor also suggested that the 2010 Budget process should start earlier this year.

A motion was made by C'man Lawrence and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lee to authorize the Supervisor to request a state audit of the Town by the New York State Comptroller's Office. All voted aye and the motion was carried. The Supervisor will send a letter.

A motion was made by C'man Lawrence and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Cobb for resolution # 09-51, to approve the Supervisor's Report. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Council members received abstract # 4, vouchers # 159 – 244.

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| General Fund A | \$ 24,649.62 |
| General Fund B | 6,564.99     |
| Highway Fund A | 129,345.77   |
| Highway Fund B | 11,234.53    |

|                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Water District 2              | 13,904.48       |
| Water District 1              | 44.72           |
| Water District 4              | 7,506.06        |
| Water District 4 Capital Fund | 505,130.94      |
| Water District 3 Capital Fund | 26,910.82       |
| Wind Power Fund               | <u>4,434.00</u> |
| Abstract Total                | \$729,725.93    |

C'man Lee asked if the cost of the AED could be charged to Water District 4? The clerk to the Supervisor will check into that request.

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lee for resolution # 09-52 approving payments in abstract # 4. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Cobb for resolution # 09-53 authorizing the use of the Public Safety Building and grounds by the Fire Department on 6/13/09 for the Sackets Harbor 1812 Beer and Wine Festival. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'woman Podvin for resolution # 09-54 approving an amendment for engineering services agreement with Bernier Carr Group for Storrs Road Water Distribution System/Route 3 Interconnect, not to exceed \$34,000. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'woman Podvin and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Cobb for resolution # 09-55 accepting the low bid, submitted by Blackstone Electric Inc., Dexter, NY, to perform electrical work for the addition to the Town Office building. Blackstone Electric's bid is \$9,690 for materials and \$6,238 for labor. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Resolution # 09-56 was read by the Supervisor and it states that the Town supports extending the NYS designated byway through the Town of Hounsfield on NYS Rt. 3, to Henderson Harbor and the Town of Henderson Boat Launch. C'woman Podvin was concerned that this designation would affect our Town's ability to enforce zoning on Rt. 3. She would rather speak to County Planning about this before voting.

A motion was made by C'man Lawrence and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'woman Podvin to table resolution # 09-56 in order to Speak to Andy Nevin at County Planning about any zoning issues there may be involved in passing this resolution. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lawrence and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lee for resolution # 09-57 which gives Town support to the extension of the Black River Trail Scenic Byway, to rename State Highway 812 from Lowville to the Ogdensburg bridge as the Maple Traditions Scenic Byway, and supports legislation to achieve the above recommendations. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor DelSignore shared that he had a conversation with a representative of Couch White, who are consulting with us for the wind power agreement. A discussion was held and C'woman Podvin asked if Legislator Barry Ormsby could help us in this process. The Supervisor will ask him.

The Supervisor has provided information to the Board members pertaining to a Town Cell Phone Policy for review.

The clerk to the Supervisor was asked to research what we need to apply for a Records Management Grant for our new records room in the addition.

The Supervisor asked the Highway Superintendent to create a 5 year plan for equipment and projects along with his budget plan.

A discussion was held about culverts under Co. Rt. 62 in the Sulphur Springs area. The Highway Superintendent added that they are the responsibility of the County and he will speak to the County Highway Superintendent about them.

A motion was made by C'woman Podvin and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lee for resolution # 09-58 to authorize the Highway Superintendent to change the classification of the newest hire to permanent full time employment. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Highway Superintendent informed the Board that the roof of the building at the wells on NYS Rt. 180 is leaking and asked what the Board would like done. After a discussion the Board wants the Highway Superintendent to assess damage and estimate the cost for the repairs and if need be, a special meeting can be held for approval of repairs.

The Highway Superintendent also would like to inform the Board and the public that the State will be paving NYS Rt. 12F and NYS Rt. 3 this summer and residents might want to travel by another route when it comes that time to decrease congestion.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lawrence to approve a water credit request for John Davis Jr., account # 513 in Water District 2. The request is for a \$7 late fee charged to the current billing. His last payment was sent electronically and was never received. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Lee suggested that a Town Board member negotiate with the union instead of spending money on a professional and Supervisor DelSignore strongly suggested that the Town have a professional negotiator. A discussion was held.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane M. Nier  
Town Clerk

