

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 12, 2010

The monthly meeting of the 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. Immediately after the Pledge there was a moment of silence for Garrett Loomis, a Sackets Harbor Firefighter who died in the line of duty last month.

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

Supervisor Scee opened the floor for comments and there was a question on a zoning permit and a comment on unnecessary attorney fees incurred by the Zoning Officer and a Councilman.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3/10/10. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee explained that a special meeting was held on 4/26/10 to accept a tentative settlement in the Knobby Knoll assessment case and it was also approved to designate the Planning Board lead agency in a SEQR and site plan review for a proposed Nice N Easy Store. A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee to approve the minutes of this special meeting. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Correspondence Received: E mail from Connie Barone to notify that the Battlefield Park is closed due to the State Budget and workers were transferred to Westcott Beach, E mail from J. Rivest – East Hounsfield Library updates needed, letter from Town of Henderson that they are not in favor of wind towers being constructed in Lake Ontario, an Email in support of the proposed Nice N Easy Store, a letter suggesting that the Town start an annual yard waste pick up because of the burning ban, an Email from a resident who is concerned with the amount of tax dollars being spent on attorney and engineering bills and a letter from Martin DelSignore on the union contract negotiations and the matter in which Supervisor Scee conducted himself.

The Supervisor's Report was given for March: Total receipts were \$395,415.05, Total disbursements were \$278,080.14, checking accounts were \$202,737.36, and the investment balance was \$501,902.56.

Abstract # 4, vouchers #192-260: General Fund A - \$23,523.30, General Fund B - \$318.30, Cemetery Fund - \$9.60, Highway Fund A - \$11,069.91, Highway Fund B - \$15,643.63, Water District 2 - \$13,639.89, Water District 1 - \$209.95, Water District 4 - \$784.76, Water District 3 - \$3,538.28, Water District 3 Capital Fund - \$53,885.00, Totaling \$122,622.62

The Supervisor's Report was also given for April: Total receipts were \$245,830.68, total disbursements were \$367,304.69, checking accounts were \$81,263.16, and investment balance was \$601,902.75.

Abstract # 5, vouchers #261-315: General Fund A - \$17,420.02, General Fund B - \$466.40, Cemetery Fund - \$1,527.87, Highway Fund A - \$4,371.98, Highway Fund B - \$10,773.63, Water District 2 - \$1,456.32, Water District 1 - \$2,995.00, Water District 4 - \$185.98, Water District 3 - \$572.21, Water District 4 Capital Fund - \$45,088.93, Water District 3 Capital Fund - \$64,112.50, Fire Protection Fund - \$55,000.00, Totaling \$203,970.84.

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2nd by C'man Lee to approve the Supervisor's report. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista to pay the bills in abstracts 4 & 5. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee gave updates on several issues (Galloo Island lawsuit, Florell Tissue, Nice N Easy and the new water storage tank.

C'man Lee reported on Westcott Beach water hookup, Water District 3 restoration, and a request from a Ridge Road Henderson resident for water, District 5 is waiting for funding.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to allow Town of Henderson residents on the Ridge Road to hookup to the Town of Hounsfield Water District 3 pending an outside user agreement. After discussion a vote was taken and the motion was carried with a 4 aye, 1 nay vote.

C'man Cobb reported that the Fire Department is operating under the new by laws now and he thanked surrounding departments and the County for their help during the days following the tragic loss of one of Sackets Harbor's firefighters. The community residents also came together and helped in any way that they could. C'man Cobb added that he was not notified properly for the special Board meeting on April 26th. He would rather have a phone call than a late night email the day before the meeting.

C'man Battista reported that he too did not know about the special meeting because his email was down and agrees that a phone call would be better. C'man Battista met with representatives of the East Hounsfield Library and the Hay Memorial Library separately and would like to set up a joint meeting to see how the two libraries can work together in some ways.

C'man Farrington reported that there will be a Cemetery Committee meeting on June 3rd and informed the Board that no work has been done on the addition-waiting for bids on heat system to come in. He reported that he and Jeff Kenney went to Illinois where the new water storage tank was built and it was very informative. He also reported that he has been researching grants and was told about a new one for transportation that is due by August 23, 2010.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Cobb to apply for the Tiger II Discretionary Grant Program which helps cities and towns resurface roads. The deadline is August 23, 2010 to apply. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Highway Superintendent gave his work report and asked for Board approval of an extra bill of \$93.26 for drug and alcohol testing. He also reported that there is a big problem of littering on Town roads and at the landfill and he will be pressing charges from now on to try and stop it from happening. Another problem is that someone is stealing metal items from the Town landfill and that person will also be turned in to the authorities.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Cobb to pay an extra bill of \$93.26 for drug and alcohol testing. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Battista asked the Highway Superintendent about his schedule of road work for the year and he replied that he is not scheduling any road work until the State budget is passed and he is sure of the CHIPS funds from the state.

C'man Lee asked the Highway Superintendent his feelings on a town wide brush pick up and he said he wouldn't mind it if it was early enough in the spring and there was an ending date.

C'man Battista asked the Highway Superintendent about picking up trash that was on the side of the road and hauling it to the County transfer site. The Superintendent explained that a landlord had a court order to remove contents of a rental and place them on the curb and since the Highway Superintendent is responsible for the safety of the Town roads he had it hauled away and billed the landlord and he added that the landlord paid the Town almost \$20 more than the bill.

The Town Clerk had a summary of tax collections for the year. She announced that the "Sew Well Deserved" benefit quilt raffle will begin on Friday May 14th.

Public Comment: Y. Podvin said she did not appreciate C'man Battista's attack on her brother and asked if all legal bills in abstract 4 & 5 were paid and the answer was yes. C'man Battista said he did not talk to attorney Whelpley as it says on a bill that was turned in. K Mereand asked the status of the heating system and was told it was next on the agenda. Mr. Burns of the Cady Road would like the speed limit lowered and a stop sign there because many tractor trailers have been using it as a detour. M. Lennox asked for culverts on Co. Rt. 62 to be replaced. B. Burdick stated that there is a card with landfill and trash hauling information available at Hay Memorial Library. S. DeSignore warned the Board that their decisions regarding water distribution on the Ridge Road and picking up trash will set a president for the future.

Engineer, Kris Dimmick gave a report on proposed water district 6 which would connect other sections of the Town to existing Town water districts. He will leave a map of this proposed district with the Clerk.

A discussion was held by the Board on the heating system for this building which houses the Highway Department and Town offices. A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by Supervisor Scee to advertise for heat system bids to specs by the Bernier Carr Group, with bid openings on June 3rd. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee explained that the union contract for the highway employees has been ratified and that he signed it himself. He asked the Board to support him and accept the contract.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Cobb to have the negotiator meet with the Board to explain the union contract to them. After discussion a vote of 2 aye and 3 nay was taken and the motion was not carried.

C'man Cobb stated that it was totally irresponsible of the Supervisor to sign the union contract alone.

A motion was made by Supervisor Scee and 2nd by C'man Lee to approve the ratification of the union contract by highway department employees. A vote of 3 ayes and 2 nays was taken and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista for resolution # 10-20, that credits be given to Town & Village employees who completed ethics training to satisfy the state requirements of four hours of credit each year. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista for resolution # 10-21, authorizing the submission of an application for a water supply permit in connection with the Town of Hounsfield water district no. 3 water supply service to Westcott Beach. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington for resolution # 10-22, authorizing the submission of an application to amend the existing water supply permit for water district no. 2 to include all extensions to water district no. 2. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington for resolution # 10-23, to update signatures for Key Bank accounts. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista for resolution # 10-24, Approval of funds (\$15,000) for appraisal of Sackets Meadows, Battlefield Commons, and F & L Development for legal proceedings. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Lee for resolution # 10-25, support and concurrence with the City and Town of Watertown Empire Zone to include the property of Florelle Tissue, Corp. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Cobb asked the status of the boring machine and Supervisor Scee replied that the only bid was accepted and the machine has been delivered. C'man Cobb was upset and argued that the proper procedure was not followed in that purchase.

The Board discussed EDUs in District 3 and the water pressure issue at Robbins Farm.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:11 PM.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier
Town Clerk