

**TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**May 13, 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 Rocco Crescenzi was present to thank Supervisor DelSignore for doing a good job for the Town and to encourage the Board to vote to hire a professional negotiator to work with the union. Nick Surdo also spoke in favor of hiring a professional for negotiating a contract with the union. Maryann DeClerk was present to ask if the Town vehicles all have signs now and the Supervisor answered yes. Tim Scee was present to comment that at last month's meeting the Supervisor did not explain that the private roads were sanded because of an emergency situation until C'man Lee asked the Highway Superintendent about it. Mr. Scee also clarified that the water survey that was sent out was not on Town Letterhead, it only had the Town Logo. He also had a comment on Mr. Dimmick, engineer from Bernier, Carr, reporting information to the Village Board that should come from someone on the Town Board and he thinks that the Supervisor's language at last month's meeting was very disrespectful. At this time the privilege of the floor was closed.

A motion was made by Supervisor DelSignore and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lawrence to approve the minutes of 4/8/09. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Supervisor announced that copies of the department reports are available tonight.

Correspondence received: A letter from the East Hounsfield Library to thank the Town for funding and for highway employees who worked on a remodeling project.

A letter was received from the Office of the State Comptroller stating that the request for an audit of the Town may be scheduled in 2010.

A letter was received from the Town of Lyme Supervisor saying that the Lyme Town Board has concerns about the noise level from the proposed wind farm on Galloo Island carrying over to Lyme residents on Pt. Peninsula and would like the Town of Hounsfield to have a noise study done. C'woman Podvin added that she spoke to a county planner about this noise level and he didn't think that much, if any, sound would carry over to Pt. Peninsula.

Two email letters were received from residents of the Town of Lyme saying they are in favor of the wind project.

A letter was received from State Environmental Facilities Corporation saying that the Town application for funding to District 5 has been received. There were documents listed that they need to complete the application and they look forward to working with the Town if funds become available for our project.

A letter was received from the State Dept. of Health endorsing proposed Water District 5.

C'woman Podvin reported that she attended a zoning work session with the Zoning Officer and C'man Cobb, a Planning Board meeting, Rachel's Challenge, and a Fire Dept. meeting. She spoke to Andy Nevin from County Planning about the possibility of noise from the proposed wind farm on Galloo Island. She spoke to Association of Towns about posting draft minutes and was told that it is up to the Town policy. C'woman Podvin added that this issue should be voted on by the entire Board.

C'man Lawrence reported that he followed up with the work at the East Hounsfield Library and found an excellent job was done with repairs and renovations. He would like to meet with Mr. Rivest and the Highway Superintendent about the flooding issues at the Library and develop a plan to relieve it. The Supervisor asked him to report back to the Board on that meeting. C'man Lawrence added that he feels the personal issues between Board members should be dealt with outside the meetings.

C'man Lee reported that he attended a Water Committee Meeting and the survey results that are in were: 45 voted yes to the project and 21 voted no. C'man Lee spoke to some of the residents that did not respond and they were neutral on the subject. He also reported that he attended the preconstruction meeting for Water District 3 and work should begin in soon.

C'man Cobb reported that he attended the zoning work session but he could not attend the Fire Dept. meeting because of illness.

Christine Eggleston was present and gave a report on the newly formed Residential Energy Committee and the next meeting is scheduled for May 21 at 4:30 PM. She explained that the purpose of the committee is to gather information for an alternative energy zoning law, which includes non traditional home energy sources, such as: solar panels, personal windmills, and geothermal systems.

At this time the Highway Superintendent, Bruce Alcombrack, spoke about the situation of purchasing salt from the County this year. It basically was a misunderstanding with County Highway because Mr. Alcombrack told them that the cost of their salt contract this year was higher than the Town of Hounsfield could afford at a September 2008 meeting. At a November 2008 meeting, which Mr. Alcombrack could not attend, the town was put on the list to purchase anyway. Mr. Alcombrack added that it is too bad that this may affect the road work that comes to the Town from the County because our highway crew does excellent work.

Legislator Barry Ormsby was present and spoke about the salt situation. He told the Board that when the County renegotiated a higher price for the Towns Snow and Ice Contracts, it was on the assumption that the Towns would follow through with their commitment of purchasing salt. The County Board will let the Town know how they would like to proceed with this issue. Mr. Ormsby also gave an update on Cape Air.

Kris Dimmick of Bernier Carr Associates was present to speak on water updates. Some clearing has started for Water District 3 and a DOT preconstruction meeting will be held. He also spoke of the District 5 letter the Supervisor received and the interconnect with Town of Watertown on Rt. 3.

The Supervisor's Financial Report was given: Receipts of \$316,341, Disbursements of \$773,197.90, Bank Balances of \$247,609.72, and Investments of \$401,901.59. The Supervisor also summarized events he has participated in for the past month.

The Supervisor reported that he received a 12 page summary from Couch, White on wind power projects.

Supervisor DelSignore announced that the next Town, Village Board meeting will be May 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM at the Public Safety Building and discussions will be held on repairs to the Village water tower and the possibility of moving the Police Department to the Public Safety Building.

Council members received abstract # 5, vouchers # 245 – 303.

General Fund A	\$ 26,793.56
General Fund B	350.19
Unemployment Insurance	1,458.75
Highway Fund A	6,902.08
Highway Fund B	11,127.86
Water District 2	2,821.41
Water District 1	4,398.50
Water District 4	244.81
Water District 4 Capital Fund	3,545.00
Water District 3 Capital Fund	16,180.74
Fire Protection Fund	55,000.00
Wind Power Fund	<u>2,978.37</u>
Abstract Total	\$131,801.27

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lawrence for resolution # 09-59, to approve payment of bills in abstract # 5, vouchers # 245 – 303. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lawrence for resolution # 09-60, to approve the Supervisor's Report. 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 # 09-61, to approve a budget transfer in Water District 4 project. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lawrence for resolution # 09-62, to adopt a Town of Hounsfield Cell Phone Policy. A discussion was held about the purpose of the policy. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lawrence for resolution # 09-63, to approve hiring Leroy Kotary for collective bargaining Services at a rate of \$90 per hr. A discussion was held and a vote was taken with aye votes from C'man Cobb, C'man Lawrence and Supervisor DelSignore and nay votes from C'man Lee and C'woman Podvin. The motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lawrence and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lee for resolution # 09-64, to approve replacement of the roof of the building at the Rt. 180 well site. The cost will be \$1,050 from the General Fund. 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 for resolution # 09-65, requesting a lower speed limit on Lee Road . This request will go to the County and then to the State for approval. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Under unfinished business, a motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Cobb for resolution # 09-56, which 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 checked with

County Planning and this designation will not affect our Town's ability to enforce zoning on Rt. 3. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lee to approve a water credit to Mark Vincent, Act. # 2003, in the amount of \$47.10 due to a reading and billing error. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lawrence and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'woman Podvin to approve a water credit to Jefferson Bulk Milk, Act. # 645, in the amount of \$ 87.00 due to a reading and billing error. Four members voted aye and C'man Lee abstained due to a conflict of interest and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'woman Podvin for resolution # 09-66, to authorize the rehire of Dale Bishop, effective May 4, 2009 as laborer at Lakeside Cemetery at \$9.50 per hr. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor DelSignore addressed Mr. Scee's comment about a statement the Supervisor made at last month's meeting, when he said a statement by C'man Lee was a lie. The Supervisor's comment was that it was an unfortunate choice of a word. However, in researching the spending on water districts before preliminary funding approval, he stated that the Town has spent \$37,000 on District 5 and spent \$91,849 on District 3 before preliminary funding approval in 2007. At this point C'man Lee passed out copies of a preliminary funding approval letter from EFC for District 3 from April of 2005. C'man Lee explained that this district had to apply a second time for funding after a mistake by engineering was discovered. C'man Lee requested that the Clerk to the Supervisor check to see what the dollar amount was for District 3 at the time of the 2005 funding letter.

The Supervisor asked his clerk to check with the insurance carrier about coverage on the water wells building.

A motion was made by Supervisor DelSignore and 2<sup>nd</sup> by C'man Lee for resolution # 09-67, authorizing C'man Cobb to review and approve request by the Highway Superintendent for rental equipment in the Highway Dept. 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 #09-68, authorizing the Town minutes to be posted as draft minutes on the Town website and in the Gazette newspaper. Discussion was held and the Supervisor feels that the minutes should not be posted until they are approved and if someone needs them earlier, they are available at the Town Clerk's office as draft minutes. C'woman Podvin thinks they should be posted as drafts. C'man Lee voted aye, C'woman Podvin voted aye, C'man Cobb voted nay, C'man Lawrence abstained with no reason stated, and Supervisor DelSignore voted nay. The motion was not carried.

The Zoning Officer asked the Supervisor if it is true what she heard about a Galloo Island meeting and trip to the island. The Supervisor responded by saying that he planned to speak to her after the meeting but there is a Galloo Island trip planned for the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> if weather permits.

Announcements: DEC Hearings on Wind Farm project, May 18 at 3PM & 7PM at Public Safety Building  
School vote on May 19, 1PM to 9PM  
Joint Town/Village Board meeting, May 20 at 3:30 PM at Public Safety Building  
Water Committee meeting, May 20 at 7PM at Town Hall  
Board of Assessment Review meets for Grievance Day, May 26, 4-8PM at Town Hall  
Next Town Board meeting June 10 at 7PM at Town Hall

This meeting adjourned at 8:41PM.

Submitted by Diane M. Nier, Town Clerk

