

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING

June 9, 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 public comment and Mary Pennock, Co. Rt. 75 was present to express to the Board that she is not satisfied with the restoration of her lawn after the construction of the District 3 water project last year. At this time the floor was closed.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Farrington to approve the minutes of the May 12th meeting. During discussion, Supervisor Scee stated that C'man Battista had asked if the names of Board members and how they voted could be included in the minutes when there is an uneven vote. Board members agreed and the May minutes will be revised to include that information. All voted aye and the motion carried.

The Supervisor's Report was given: Abstract #6, vouchers # 316-381 totaled \$305,499.92. Total receipts were \$585,214.92, total disbursements were \$248,596.22, checking accounts totaled \$417,881.86, and the investment balance was \$501,902.75.

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

C'man Lee reported that there have been three complaints of restoration from District 3 Water project and the Board will need to make a decision on that. The Water Committee has drafted an outside user agreement for possible water users on the Ridge Road, Town of Henderson. The Board agreed to have further discussions with the Town of Henderson and revise the agreement.

C'man Lee explained that the Board will consider a resolution to close out Water District 4 later in the meeting.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to accept a bid of \$26,877.12 that was received for an earth boring machine which will be paid for from grant funds left in Water District 4. After a discussion a roll call vote was taken: C'man Lee voted yes, C'man Farrington voted yes, C'man Cobb voted no, C'man Battista voted no, and Supervisor Scee voted yes and the motion was carried.

C'man Lee reported that there were two water credit requests in District 3. One request was for the late fee of \$7.50 because the bill was not forwarded by the post office and this was denied. The other request was due to an incorrect radio read of a meter causing an overcharge of \$513.00 and C'man Lee made a motion that this be credited, C'man Cobb 2nd the motion. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Cobb reported that he missed the Fire Department meeting but the members have completed training recently and there are two events being held on Saturday the 12th. A Beer and Wine Festival will be held at Madison Barracks, sponsored by the Fire Department and a chicken barbeque sponsored by the Sulphur Springs Ladies Auxiliary will be held at Station 2.

C'man Farrington reported that he attended a Cemetery Committee meeting and the document containing the cemetery rules is ready for Town Board review. The committee was pleased with the spring clean up job in the cemetery which was done by the Highway Department. A discussion was held and it was decided to change attorneys to complete the transfer of ownership to the Town. Next meeting is 7/20/10.

C'man Farrington also reported that he has started the registration process for the application for a Highway grant with the help of Marlene Lennox. He also thanked the Planning Board for their work and approval of the Nice N Easy Store coming into the Town.

Supervisor Scee reported that he has asked Attorney Dave Renzi to work on the Lakeside Cemetery transfer to the Town and he will start on that immediately. Beverly Sterling has done some research on the Muskalonge Cemetery and has applied for two different grants to make improvements there.

The Highway Superintendent gave his work report for May. He went to Highway School and was told that the CHIPS funding was guaranteed to be in the State budget but as yet the budget has not been passed.

A report was given by the Town Clerk.

Supervisor Scee opened the floor for public comment and Beth Burdick reported that Hay Memorial Library has received three grants. Maryann DeClerk asked about grants for the Police Department and when the Town audit will begin. The Police Dept. grants are a Village project. Supervisor Scee will write to inquire about the audit. Another comment was from Sharon DelSignore about Jeff Kenney's (Water Operator) overtime. She has been watching him come and go and would like to see less money spent on overtime pay. The Clerk to the Supervisor answered that Jeff has almost no overtime.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Lee to pay bills in Abstract #6, vouchers #316-381.

General Fund A	\$ 7,966.09
General Fund B	1,717.20
Lakeside Cemetery Fund	9.99
Highway Fund A	7,184.56
Highway Fund B	11,931.27
Water District 2	13,545.23
Water District 1	248.97
Water District 4	211.58
Water District 3	6,142.55
Water District 3 Capital Fund	<u>256,542.48</u>
Abstract Total	\$305,499.92

In discussion C'man Battista requested that all legal bills for the Wind Farm project be reviewed by the Board before being paid. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

An update on the heating system was given by Kris Dimmick of Bernier Carr Group and he reported that the three bids were opened on June 3rd at 3:00 PM and they were: B-S Industrial Contractors, Gouverneur, NY bid a total base bid of \$115,149, Deouin's Plumbing & Heating, Watertown, NY bid a total base bid of \$84,222, and Empire Northeast, Gouverneur, NY bid a total base bid of \$52,083. Unfortunately, the low bid, Empire Northeast withdrew their bid because of an error in calculations.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Cobb to reject all bids listed above for the heating system of the Highway Building. All voted ayes and the motion was carried.

C'man Cobb and C'man Battista suggested to Mr. Dimmick that the bid process be simplified to attract more local bidders. Mr. Dimmick will analyze the project and prepare for another bid advertisement.

Mr. Dimmick also gave updates on the new water tank progress and the proposed wrap around water project.

At this time C'man Battista reminded that section 3, part a of the Town of Hounsfield Ethics Law states that no gift having a value of twenty-five dollars or more shall be received or accepted by any Town official or employee. He added that he thinks the trip to Illinois taken by C'man Farrington and Jeff Kenney, Water Superintendent, that was paid for by the company that built the new water tank being installed in Sackets Harbor, was unethical according to the Town's Law and he made a motion that the Town repay the tank company for the trip. C'man Cobb 2nd that motion. A discussion was held and C'man Lee argued that the trip was a training session to learn how the tank works and Jeff and Todd could not be influenced for a vote because Jeff doesn't have a vote and Todd was not on the Board last year when the bid was awarded to this tank company. In a roll call vote C'man Lee voted no, C'man Cobb voted yes, C'man Farrington abstained because he took the trip, C'man Battista voted yes, and Supervisor Scee voted no. The motion was not carried.

The Board held a discussion on the three restoration complaints in the District 3 project and included Kris Dimmick of Bernier Carr. The Board agreed to review pictures of the three areas and have C'man Farrington work with the Highway Superintendent to restore these areas.

Supervisor Scee informed the Board that while reviewing the bills this month he discovered that bills from attorney Whelpley have increased by \$15 an hour and have become very unreasonable. The Supervisor suggested that although Attorney Whelpley is a very fine attorney, the Town should hire another attorney for general legal matters and new projects that come up in the future as a cost saving effort for the Town taxpayers. The Supervisor has spoken to Attorney Dave Renzi about this in addition to the cemetery job and he was pleased to accept whatever work the Town has for him. There were comments from the floor encouraging the Board to let Attorney Whelpley go and reminding the Board that Dave Renzi is also the attorney for the Town of Henderson who stills has a law suite against our Town. The Supervisor asked attorney Renzi about that suite and he assured him that he is not involved in that case.

C'man Battista made a motion that the Town of Hounsfield will gradually transfer to Attorney David Renzi for legal matters and C'man Cobb 2nd the motion. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista for resolution # 10-26, allowing the Highway Superintendent to post weight limit and local delivery only signs on the Cady Road to stop the tractor trailer trucks from using this road as a detour from interstate route 81. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Scee and 2nd by C'man Farrington for resolution # 10-27, allowing the Supervisor to sign the new DOT form PERM-1 which allows our highway crew to work in a state right of way without bonding. In a roll call vote all members voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2nd by C'man Lee for resolution # 10-28, to establish hours worked by the Clerk to the Supervisor, the Town Clerk and the Highway Superintendent for New York State Retirement System. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington for resolution # 10-29, allowing the NYSDOT to use town roads as a detour during the bridge repairs on the Massey Street Road bridge. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington for resolution # 10-30, authorizing changes to the administrative budget to close out Town of Housfield Water District 4 (Storrs Road). All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee opened public comment one last time and comments were made about the furnace bids and what a very bad mistake it was to turn down the low bid in the first bidding cycle and how much more it has cost the Town in the long run. The Highway Superintendent spoke about the Rt. 3 resurfacing project and urged people to try to avoid it. Another comment was made about the ethics law or code and why have it if we are not going to abide by it. Two other comments were that it is just nit picking on the highway department and the water department and let's just work for the tax payers.

The July Town Board meeting will be moved to July 7th.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier
Town Clerk