

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING
August 12, 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.

The Supervisor asked for a moment of silence for Addison Wardwell II, who passed away on Saturday. He was a former Village Trustee, Mayor, Town Clerk, Town Planning Board member and involved in many Town and Village activities.

The Pledge of Allegiance was then said.

The Supervisor announced that Jane Jenkins, a long time Town resident and member of Watertown Little Theater, will perform at an International Theater Festival in Quebec next month representing the United States. Supervisor DelSignore presented a plaque and gift to Mrs. Jenkins and congratulations from the Town.

Jill Evans, Executive Director of Frontier Housing Corp. in Dexter, N.Y. was present to explain that Frontier Housing offers grants to low income home owners for repairs, maintenance or remodeling to their home. She asked the Board's permission to service the Town of Hounsfield at no cost to the Town. The Board agreed to this request.

Betsy and Burr Stoker were present to give a check for \$100 in appreciation to the Town for use of the Public Safety Building for an RV event in July.

At this time the privilege of the floor was opened and Victoria Pitcher of 14741 Co. Rt. 145 was present to ask for an appeal of a decision made by the Town Board on July 31, 2009, rejecting a motion to find a way and cost projection to add residents to water district 3, including the Pitcher home. There were no other comments and the privilege of the floor was declared closed.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Lawrence to approve the Board minutes for the meeting on July 8, 2009. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Supervisor read a letter to Governor Patterson from Assemblywoman Adie J. Russell asking for his support of the proposed Town of Hounsfield Water District 5 funding application, which would serve the Watertown Airport.

The Supervisor read a letter to the Town from the Board of Directors of the Campbells Point Association about the bad condition of Chestnut Ridge Road from the entrance of Campbells Point to Westcott Beach and asking if there are plans to repave it in the near future. In a discussion with the Supervisor, the Highway Superintendent reported that this road is on the list to be repaved next year and he will get in touch with the Board of Directors.

A letter was received from Hospice of Jefferson County asking the Town to consider passing a resolution of support and donation of services for construction of the new administrative offices and an eight bed residential center proposed for Gotham Street in Watertown.

Another letter was received from the State Board of Real Property Services saying that the Town assessment roll was certified on 7/31/09 and they have established a final state equalization rate of 100% for the Town of Hounsfield.

The Supervisor announced that copies of various Town reports are available to the public tonight.

C'man Cobb reported that he attended a Fire Department Board of Directors meeting where the By-Laws were reviewed. They hope to have them ready for another vote on September 2nd.

C'man Lee reported that he attended a District 3 Water construction meeting. He also spoke to the Zoning Officer about an industry that would like to open business in our Town. C'man Lee asked if the Town has heard anything about federal stimulus funding for Water District 5 or Water District 3 and Mr. Dimmick answered that he has not heard anything on that and no stimulus money is guaranteed. C'man Lee also asked if the Town should apply for transportation stimulus funds for road work and the Supervisor stated that he was under the impression that transportation stimulus funds are going to new bridge and new road construction.

C'man Lawrence stated that he has concerns about the upcoming budget and the Supervisor added that he hopes to have a draft 2010 Budget for Board members in a few weeks and then work sessions can begin.

C'woman Podvin reported to the Board her concerns about the expenses of the union negotiator. She thinks the Board needs to discuss this because the current bill is over \$3600 and the negotiations have not moved forward. C'man Lee also expressed his concerns over the cost of the negotiator. C'man Cobb stated that the expense is not all caused by the negotiator, it's a two way street. Supervisor DelSignore stated that the issue is: the Town Board submitted one single proposal to the bargaining unit which said that anything the Town agrees to will be unchanged for the term of the contract. The bargaining unit submitted twenty-six proposals for the Town to consider and the Town needs to work through the twenty-six proposals. C'woman Podvin reminded the Supervisor that the single proposal from the Town included numerous items. C'man Lawrence stated that the Town hired the negotiator to do the job and the Board should let him continue. Supervisor DelSignore stated that when the negotiator met with the Board he said that the key issues were: who, what, when and where, which is subject to any negotiations in your ability to operate Town business and if the bargaining unit would agree to those key issues of the Town proposal, there would be a contract tomorrow.

C'woman Podvin asked the Supervisor why there was another Board meeting in the parking lot with three members after the special public meeting on July 31st and the Supervisor replied that he was talking to the engineer and Mrs. Pitcher about her water situation and then when speaking with the other Board members it was just personal conversation. According to her research, C'woman Podvin informed the Board that three Board members meeting unadvertised is illegal.

Rachel Barnet and Corey Reid of Bernier, Carr & Associates were present with an update on construction of Water District 3.

C'woman Podvin asked Mayor Constance about repayment of Town loan funds used for the proposed water storage tank in the Village and he replied that everyone who has water that comes from the new tower, Village and Town, will repay funds used from the Town loan.

Councilmembers received abstract #8, vouchers #415-489.

General Fund A	\$ 24,143.81
General Fund B	542.80
Lakeside Cemetery Fund	1,393.50
Highway Fund A	16,556.96
Highway Fund B	25,067.78
Water District 2	4,337.36
Water District 1	18,389.73

Water District 4	2,902.36
Water District 3 Capital Fund	<u>718,534.20</u>
Abstract Total	\$ 811,868.50

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'woman Podvin for resolution #09-90, to approve payment of bills in abstract #8, vouchers #415-489. C'man Cobb had a question about repairs to a mower and asked for description of work on those repairs. C'woman Podvin asked if the legal bills are up to date and she was told that legal bills received were for special districts. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Supervisor gave his monthly report: total receipts were \$997,852.55, total disbursements were \$715,974.48, total bank balances were \$760,007.09, and total investments were \$476,902.06.

A motion was made by C'man Lawrence and 2nd by C'man Lee for resolution #09-91, approval of the Supervisor's report. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Supervisor also reported that he attended a Lakeside Cemetery meeting and a Mapping Mobile Project meeting which is a mapping project for infrastructure that our Town will probably get involved with in the future.

A motion was made by C'man Lawrence and 2nd by C'man Lee for resolution #09-92, approval of reallocation of 2009 Bed Tax Funds from the canceled Jazz Festival to the Concerts on the Waterfront in the amount of \$409. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Cobb for resolution #09-93, authorizing the Supervisor to send a letter of support for Frontier Housing Corporation for service expansion to the Town of Hounsfield. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Lawrence for resolution #09-94, to set a date of September 16, 2009 at 7:00 PM for the Public Hearing for Local Law # 1 for 2009 which is an amendment to the Zoning Law which was introduced on June 10, 2009. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lawrence and 2nd by C'man Cobb for resolution #09-95, approval for renewal of a financial agreement with the Village of Sackets Harbor for 2010 in the amount of \$55,000 for the provision of fire and emergency services for the Town of Hounsfield. All voting aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor DelSignore and 2nd by C'man Cobb for resolution #09-96, approval for hiring Bond, Schoeneck and King PLLC for Tax Certiorari Legal Matters. C'woman Podvin stated she would like the full Board to be involved in decisions such as this, contacting a legal firm to hire. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Lawrence for resolution #09-97, amending resolution #09-65, requesting lower speed limits on Lee Road. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Lee asked if negotiations have begun yet for a pilot agreement for the wind farm project on Galloo Island and the Supervisor replied that no negotiations have begun yet.

C'man Lee asked the Board if they would reconsider the decision from last meeting that rejected getting more information to help residents living outside water district 3 be added to the district and a discussion was held.

A motion was made by Supervisor DeSignore and 2nd by C'man Lee to instruct Bernier, Carr and Associates to design a plan and apply for funding for a new district which would include residents outside water district 3 who wanted to be added to district 3. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Supervisor announced that the joint Town-Village Board meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2009 at 9:00 AM at the Village Municipal Building.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane M. Nier
Town Clerk