

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING

July 7, 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 comments were made on: ethics training, hiring an additional attorney to work with the Town, a possible breach of contract, and how the Town can focus on the positive events instead of always negative. There were comments about the union negotiations and contract and there was a request for Supervisor Scee's resignation. Another comment included a question to the Board about how future equipment purchases will be handled. There was also a statement that a call will be made to the Attorney General about the procedure followed for the purchase of a boring machine this year. The final comment was a suggestion that the political witch hunt should stop and the Town residents need to support the current Town Board.

Attorney David Renzi was present and he responded to the comment about breach of contract. He has reviewed the document for legal services in question and stated that it is not a contract. It was part of an application for funding from Rural Development for Water District 5 but the Town never received any funding from them. In regard to the purchase of the boring machine, Attorney Renzi stated that with the information he was given, the process to purchase this could have been cleaner but was not illegal.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by Farrington to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2010 meeting. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee stated that a letter was received from Mayor Constance, Village of Sackets Harbor, requesting that the Town post a 45 MPH speed on Co. Rt. 62 from the Village to NYS Rt. 3. A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Cobb that the speed limit be reduced to 45 MPH on Sulphur Springs Rd. from NYS Rt. 3 to the Village limits. All voted aye and the motion was carried. This will be submitted to the County by our Highway Superintendent for review.

A letter of resignation was received from Dwayne Eppley, Chair of the Water Committee. A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to publicly recognize Dwayne for his contribution to the Town.

The Supervisor's Report was given: Total receipts were \$15,531.68, Total disbursements were \$351,604.42, checking accounts were \$81,809.12, investments were \$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.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Lee to pay the bills in Abstract #7, vouchers #382-436: General Fund A \$14,334.85, General Fund B \$5,323.05, Lakeside Cemetery Fund \$114.95, Highway Fund A \$9,216.15, Highway Fund B \$12,402.31, Water District 2 \$2,245.85, Water District 1 \$55.87, Water District 4 \$37.74, Water District 3 \$399.80, Water District 4 Capital Fund \$405.61, Totaling \$44,536.18. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Lee reported that the Town received a funding award letter from New York State for Water District 5 and it should be out to bid in March. He attended project meetings for the new water tank.

The tank is up and full of water, inspections will be conducted and then it can be used. The old tank will come down soon.

C'man Cobb reported that he did not attend the last Fire Dept. meeting. The Fire Protection Contract will be renewed in August and a break down of expenses should be received.

C'man Battista asked C'man Lee for an explanation of EDUs that will be charged to Black River Campgrounds in District 5 and C'man Lee answered that a meeting with the owners of that property will be set to discuss if they would like to have the entire campgrounds included or just their home & vac. lot.

C'man Farrington reported that he has been working on the highway grant application that would give us funds to work on our Town roads.

The Highway Superintendent gave a work report for June.

The Town Clerk gave a report of revenues collected in June.

Supervisor Scee opened the floor again for public comment and a work day at Muskellunge Cemetery on the Evans Road on July 10th from 11 AM till was discussed. The Sackets Harbor American Legion will send a crew to the work day.

A discussion with engineer, Kris Dimmick was held about how to proceed with heating system bids and a motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2nd by C'man Farrington to rebid for a heating system for the Highway Building through Bernier, Carr with more simplified specs and the bids will be opened on August 5th at 3 PM at the Town Hall. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington for resolution #10-33, authorizing receipt, use and disbursement of USDA Rural Development grant funds up to \$5,000 for Water District 6 report and study. All voted yes in a roll call vote and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Cobb for resolution #10-34, authorizing Supervisor Timothy Scee to sign any required documents in regards to USDA Rural Development grants and/ or loans. All voted yes in a roll call vote and the motion was carried.

C'man Lee presented and read a proposed Outside User Water Service Connection Agreement that could be used for potential water customers on the Town of Henderson side of Ridge Road. C'man Battista asked questions about billing Town of Henderson directly for those outside users, as the Board discussed before, the Town asking the Village to add on these users, and the capacity of the new tank. C'man Lee answered that the Town of Henderson does not want to be billed directly for the water. Paul Warneck was present from Jefferson County Real Property and stated that he is in favor of a district being formed by Henderson because with a district an unpaid water bill could be relieved to the town/county tax bills. Attorney David Renzi stated that the town of Henderson sent a letter to Hounsfield saying that they have no problem with their residents receiving water from Hounsfield but the cost of establishing a water district on the Ridge Road would be a prohibitive expense to them. C'man Lee added that the outside users would be required to pay a quarterly payment in advance and the Town would also have the right to shut off water for non payment. When asked by C'man Lee, Jeff Kenney said if some Board members were against this happening because he lives on the Ridge Road he would sign off on getting water so his neighbors would be able to get it.

Attorney Renzi will send a list of pros and cons of outside water users to the Board for their review.

A discussion was held on restoration of properties in Water District 3 and one property in District 2. For District 3, one property needs gravel, and two properties need top soil and grass seed. The property in District 2 has had 11 loads of dirt and 50# of grass seed installed already.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Cobb to take care of the restorations in Water District 3 with funds left in District 3 account. C'men Farrington and Battista will work on this project. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee received correspondence from Rebecca Spino about the litigation in the Cring, Lawler assessment case. She has a meeting with Attorney Whelpley and Paul Warneck on July 15th about possibly developing a Positive Commercial Assessment Policy. Paul Warneck added that he will give Ms Spino a call because he is not in favor of developing such a policy.

C'man Cobb said that he feels that since the highway employees now have a contract with the Teamsters Union, the bookkeeper should record the sick days, vacation time, and personal days on their pay checks. This was discussed with the Highway Superintendent and the Clerk to the Supervisor.

Sean Ripp was present representing land owners on Brent Lane and they are requesting that this short dead end road be turned over to them to be used as a private road and they request that the water EDU be adjusted because they have purchased a vacant lot on Derouin Drive that will be combined with their home. The Town will need an easement for the water hydrant. The land owners will have their attorney send a formal request to the Town. C'man Cobb will go and look at the area.

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2nd by C'man Lee for resolution #10-31, authorizing budget transfers. All voted yes in a roll call vote and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington for resolution #10-32, designating Watertown Savings Bank Municipal Bank as an official bank for Town funds in compliance with the Town of Hounsfield's Investment Policy. All voted yes in a roll call vote and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2nd by C'man Lee for resolution #10-35, authorizing Maryann Yuhas and James Yuhas, accountants, to have information and preform Watertown Municipal Savings Bank internal transfers on Town of Hounsfield accounts. All voted yes in a roll call vote and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee announced that a meeting will be held at the Town Hall to discuss proposed alternative routes for the transmission lines of the Galloo Island Wind Farm. It will be held on August 17th at 6:30 PM.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista that the Town will pay for the property restorations in Water District 3 and then have the district reimburse the Town. All voted aye and the motion was carried

Diane M. Nier
Town Clerk

