

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING
January 12, 2011

A Public Hearing was called to order by Supervisor Timothy Scee at 6:45 PM at the Town Hall, 18774 Co. Rt. 66, for the purpose of hearing comments on Local Law # 1 of 2011, approving New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 485g Infrastructure Exemption. Supervisor Scee explained that this law provides for an exemption of an increased assessment to building lots which are part of a residential subdivision development which includes infrastructure intended to be dedicated to the municipality or a special district for up to three years. The floor was opened to the public and there were no comments. C'man Cobb mentioned that he would like to see the same language in the Town law as there is in the Village law. This hearing was declared closed at 6:52 PM.

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Hounsfield Town Board was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Scee and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Lee to approve minutes of the Town Board meeting of 12/8/10. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista to approve minutes of the year end meeting of the Town Board on 12/29/10. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee reported on correspondence he received from Gary Hess, Storrs Road. Mr. Hess disagrees with the described boundary lines on the parcel that the Town wishes to sell which is next to one of his parcels. This will need more research.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Cobb to contact land owners on both sides of the Town owned parcel on the Storrs Road and ask them if they are interested in making an offer to the Town to purchase land to add to their existing parcels. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Another piece of correspondence the Supervisor received is a letter from Don DiMonda notifying the Town Board that he is not interested in another term as alternate on the Town Planning Board and he was thanked for his service to the Town.

The Supervisor's Report was given: Total receipts were \$398,696.23, Total disbursements were \$454,759.15, Total in checking accounts \$88,535.73, and Total investments \$351,903.32.

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

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Cobb to pay bills in Abstract # 1, vouchers # 1-32: General Fund A \$18,500.58, General Fund B \$1,235.00, Cemetery Fund \$235.99, Highway Fund A \$40,019.00, Highway Fund B \$20,285.00, Water District 2 \$1,924.90, Water District 1 \$473.22, Water District 4 \$358.97, Water District 3 \$606.63, Abstract Total \$83,639.29. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Clerk to the Supervisor reported on the 2010 summary sheet and cash balances at the end of the year.

C'man Lee reported that there was no water committee meeting in December but he met with attorney Renzi and representatives of Bernier, Carr concerning the water agreement with Sackets Harbor for Water District 5. He stressed that this agreement needs to be made with no strings attached and without it there may be no district 5 project. C'man Lee said he will meet with Trustee Daly to negotiate soon.

C'man Cobb reported that he attended the Fire Dept. meeting and they are continuing their training and fund raising.

C'man Battista had no report.

C'man Farrington reported that he attended the Residential Energy Committee meeting and they are ready to move forward with the proposed Zoning Law amendment but since the proposed law was reviewed, comments accepted and public hearing held in 2009, they questioned if it is required to be done again.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Cobb to schedule a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Residential Energy Amendment to the Town Zoning Law for Alternative Energy Zoning, for February 9, 2011 at 6:45 PM. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Farrington also reported that he attended a Recreation Commission meeting and he announced that O.D. Greene donated an outside storage bin to keep ice skates in at the skating rink behind the Municipal building and added that the Recreation Commission is accepting donations of unwanted ice skates.

A discussion was held on rolling over any unused funds for recreation at the end of the year and the amount the Town budgeted for 2011 should match the amount from the Village.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee to transfer \$2500 to the recreation fund in the 2011 budget. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Farrington was unable to attend the Cemetery Committee meeting but reported they plan to start repair of the fence this year. The highway crew will clear brush and weeds, and repair and volunteers will brush the fence and spray paint about 100 ft. at a time.

A report was given by the Highway Superintendent.

A report was given by the Town Clerk.

Kris Dimmick of Bernier, Carr was present to report on the progress of Water District 5. He stressed that a water supply agreement is priority.

Mr. Dimmick also apologized to the Board for a mix up in payment procedure for the Galloo Island wind tower project. The Board had an escrow account set up when the project first started with the Clerk to the Supervisor and the developer would put a set amount in it when needed to pay bills. The Board did this because they wanted to review the bills before they were paid. Sometime in late 2009 this changed and bills were paid directly by the developer. The engineering bills were still sent to the Town but the legal bills then went to the developer Mr. Dimmick told the Board that he was not aware this was happening until this week. The Supervisor talked to the developer's attorney today to ask him to reinstate the original policy.

A discussion was held on a proposal from Guilfoyle ambulance service for a contract to serve residents in the northern portion of the Town. Supervisor Scee invited Board members to attend with him a meeting at the Brownville Fire Hall to discuss a new fire district at 7 PM.

Supervisor Scee announced that the Village Board adopted a new IMA for Water Districts 2,3 and 4(so all three districts would have the same agreement) at their meeting last night. Supervisor Scee had a concern that the agreement has District 1 also being a partner in the debt when District 1 does not receive any benefit from Districts 2,3 and 4.

C'man Lee suggested that attorney Renzi review this agreement.

C'man Cobb asked that there be more communication with Board members on these IMAs. C'man Lee suggested a work session for that purpose before the next regular meeting.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Cobb to adopt Town of Hounsfield Local Law #1 of 2011, approving adoption of infrastructure exemption provided for in New York Real Property Tax Law Section 485g Infrastructure Exemption. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Cobb for Resolution # 11-01, establishing date and time for Town Board meetings for 2011. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2nd by C'man Lee for Resolution #11-02, adopting policies and designations for 2011. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee for Resolution #11-03, authorizing signatory and payment duties for 2011. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Cobb for Resolution #11-04, approving appointments for 2011 with an amendment to remove Zoning Enforcement Officer, Robert Bouchard (because that appointment is a 2 year term) and to add Town Constable, Richard Coseo. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee reported that he spoke to Dave at the New York Dept. of Criminal Services and he urged the council members to call him also. Supervisor Scee was told that Richard Coseo is not registered with the State as our Town constable. The Supervisor would like to research this and address it at a later date.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Cobb for Resolution #11-05, establishing salaries and wage rates with an amendment to add a ZBA alternate member for \$20 per meeting. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington for Resolution #11-06, establishing Highway Department wage rates for 2011. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington for Resolution #11-07, authorizing professional development and training for Town staff. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee for Resolution #11-08, authorizing purchases by Highway Department for 2011. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2nd by C'man Lee for Resolution #11-09, authorizing health insurance/vision care premiums for 2011. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Lee for Resolution #11-10, authorizing Town Highway Dept. uniform agreement for 2011. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Cobb for Resolution #11-11, establishing fees for services. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2nd by C'man Lee for Resolution #11-12, establishing mileage rate for official Town Business. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Lee for Resolution #11-13, appointing David Renzi the attorney for the Town of Hounsfield and amending to add to appoint Dennis Whelpley attorney for the Town of Hounsfield Galloo Island Wind Power project only. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee for Resolution #11-14, to approve rolling over any unused funds in the recreation account to the following budget year.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista that the Supervisor's records for 2010 have been reviewed and accepted by all Board members. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista to reappoint Mark Farrington to the Planning Board for a 5 yr. term. C'man Lee, Cobb, Battista and Supervisor Scee voted yes and C'man Farrington abstained because Mark is his brother. Motion carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to reappoint Christine Eggleston to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 5 yr. term. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Mayor Eric Constance was present to talk about a letter the Village received from the County Highway Superintendent asking the Village if they would be interested in taking over Co. Rt. 75 that runs through Sackets Harbor. The Mayor indicated that the Village is not interested and was wondering if the Town would want to do something like that or swap another road with the County for it. The Town Highway Superintendent spoke on the subject and he and some members of the Board thought that it would not benefit the Town to take over this road.

In the open floor comment session, comments were made on the Zoning Officer's term, updated copies of IMAs for the Water Committee, abandoned roads, an update on Hay Memorial Library, update of the road grant application, and an update on the air conditioning units promised by Lawman. Comments were also made on planning and zoning appointment interviews, legal bills and a review of Supervisor's Scee first year in office.

This meeting was then adjourned.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier
Town Clerk