

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 9, 2011

The monthly meeting of the Town of Hounsfeld Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Timothy Scee at the Town Hall, 18774 Co. Rt. 66 at 7 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2011 meeting. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee reported he received a letter from Department of Transportation regarding the speed reduction request on the Chestnut Ridge Road saying it was denied. He also received a copy of a thank you letter sent to Kevin Kieff of State Parks for meeting with the local officials to let him know that they are supporting the Battlefield Park remaining open. He also received introduction letters from Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Senator Patty Richie and met with them on the importance of the Galloo Island wind project being built.

The Supervisor's Report was given: Total receipts were \$87,313.53, Total disbursements were \$856,753.11, Total in checking accounts \$41,738.62, and Total investments \$876,903.32.

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 Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee to pay bills in Abstract #3, vouchers #91-144: General Fund \$27,486.94, General Fund B \$6,650.00, Lakeside Cemetery Fund \$31.25, Highway Fund A \$51,651.98, Water District 2 \$18,344.66, Water District 1 \$123.86, Water District 4 \$632.16, Water District 3 \$5,451.43, Fire Protection \$7,100.00, Totaling \$117,472.28. C'man Battista questioned why Attorney Whelpley bills were not paid.

Supervisor Scee replied that those bills would be discussed later in the meeting. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Legislator Barry Ormsby was present with an update of the Airport expansion and a new carrier, American Airlines.

C'man Lee reported that he met with Trustee Daly, C'man Battista and Christine Eggleston to discuss a water agreement for District 5 and the Village of Sackets Harbor is still not willing to commit water for District 5 yet. C'man Lee asked the Water Operator about the over payment of Ron Robbins and it was taken care of and the billing clerk will write Mr. Robbins a letter concerning the credit.

C'man Cobb made a motion and C'man Lee 2nd that the credit balance for the overpayment of Mr. Robbins be applied to his farm account. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Cobb reported that he talked to Mary Pennock about her usage of water and will pass on to her the history of her account. He also reported that he attended the Fire Dept. meeting and they will have elections in April. He also met with the Fire Chief and assistant Fire Chief about EMS service.

C'man Battista read a report from the Hay Memorial Library.

C'man Farrington reported that he missed the Recreation Commission meeting but he did speak to Dale Phillips about taking the vacant position on the commission and Mr. Phillips will think about it. He also reported that he attended the Cemetery Committee meeting.

The Highway Superintendent submitted to the Board a written work report for February because he was unable to attend this meeting.

Kris Dimmick, engineer for Bernier, Carr, was present to give an update on the public informational meeting held last week on Water District 5. He also answered questions from C'man Battista and Cobb about the water from the wells (hardness, quality, yield) and about rates and meters. A question from a resident on why chlorine and fluoride are added to the water was also addressed.

The Town Clerk gave a collection report for the month of February and also reported that there was a correction to abstract #2, of February 9, 2011. A double payment of \$672.79, voucher #87, was voided and the new total of abstract #2 is \$167,503.21. The Clerk asked the Board members to also sign this corrected abstract tonight.

Supervisor Scee brought up the unfinished business of a proposed contract with Guilfoyle Ambulance Service for the Evans Road and NYS Rt 12F area which has been ongoing since January 2011. The Supervisor invited Dave Sherman of Guilfoyle to speak about the proposed contract of \$1500. Mr. Sherman explained that only the insurance deductible amount of the ambulance bill would come out of the \$1500. The contract would be renegotiated each year because the amount of the contract is based on call volume. Supervisor Scee asked the Board if the Town can move on this contract so the residents in this area of the Town can be covered with ambulance service. C'man Cobb would like to have more discussions with the Fire Dept. and asked to table a decision on the contract for 30 days in order to do that. The Board agreed.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to get more information from the City of Watertown on a rate to purchase water for Water District 5 and bring it back for review by this Board. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A discussion was held on the vote last month approving payment to Attorney Dennis Whelpley for Water District 5 bills and the Clerk to the Supervisor mentioned that typically when a Town bands to pay bills on a water district project, all bills should be paid and not just some.

The Clerk to the Supervisor explained that since the Town has a Bond Authorization Resolution for Water District 5, a bonding attorney could bid out a bond based on the funding commitment letter for the water district. C'man Lee explained that another option would be to get short term funding with EFC after the application is complete, with an IMA, which might take another month or so.

A motion was made by Supervisor Scee and 2nd by C'man Lee to appoint the firm Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP as the Town bond council. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by Supervisor Scee to bond for \$500,000 to pay bills in Water District 5. After a discussion a roll call vote was taken. C'man Battista voted no, C'man Farrington voted no, C'man Lee voted yes, C'man Cobb voted no, and Supervisor Scee voted yes. The motion was defeated.

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2nd by C'man Battista to recind a motion that was approved at the 2/9/11 Board meeting, to pay Attorney Dennis Whelply and Schwerzmann & Wise for legal work on Water District 5. This will be reviewed in 30 days to see if funding is available. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Cobb asked the Supervisor if he sent a letter to the State requesting an audit of the Town of Hounsfield. Supervisor Scee answered that he did send a letter and he received a response that the Town will be put on a list but they are very busy.

Supervisor Scee reported that the Planning Board accepted the resignation of member Deb Johnston at their last meeting but she indicated that she would stay a few more months to allow the Town Board time to replace her. Supervisor Scee made a motion and a 2nd was made by C'man Cobb to develop a list of applicants for the vacant Planning Board position at the Town Clerk's office until March 31, 2011. The Board will then set up interviews. All voted aye and the motion was carried. A letter will be sent to thank Deb for her service to the Town.

Supervisor Scee reported that the Lakeside Cemetery Committee has had discussions and would like to recommend to the Town Board that the Laborer job at the cemetery be eliminated and have the Highway Dept. take total responsibility for the maintenance. This would solve the issue of paying unemployment. C'man Battista asked if the Highway Superintendent is considering the suggestion that the cemetery laborer work at the recycling center in the winter months. This subject will be tabled for now.

Supervisor Scee reported that the Town has been approached about the new walking trail being placed through Lakeside Cemetery. The Cemetery Committee discussed this possibility and a large number of the committee members were not in favor of that happening.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista to pay the Fire Department contract of \$55,000 and the youth program agreement of \$12,500. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

At this time the floor was opened for public comment and Jane Bardon of Military Road, was present to ask about floridation and chlorination of the Town water supply. She said she resents these chemicals being in her water. Ms Bardon is seaking information on the quantities of the chemicals added to the water supply, chemical formulas, the supplier of the chemicals, and the method by which they are added to the water supply. The Water Operator will get this information to the Board for distribution to Ms Bardon.

Other comments from the floor were: a thank you letter to Board members for their help in getting water to an outside user of Water District 3, a comment that a Guilfoyle ambulance contract is need for the whole Town, and a comment was made against using water from wells on Rt. 180 because of hardness or buying water from the City of Watertown because of the higher cost.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier, Town Clerk