

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING
April 13, 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 Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee to approve the minutes for March 9, 2011 meeting. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Supervisor reported that he received correspondence from the Department of Commerce concerning challenging census totals, Time Warner with a franchise renewal notice for 2013, and a letter from the Jefferson County Planning Board with comments and recommendations on the proposed Zoning Law amendment for residential alternative energy, which he will pass on to Christine Eggleston for review.

Supervisor Scee also received a letter from the Sackets Harbor Planning Board. A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista to grant their request for the Town to allow the Village Planning Board to be lead agency for the SEQR process on a proposed development in Madison Barracks. A letter will be sent to the Village Planning Board . All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A F.O.I.L. Request was received from C'man Battista for records and time cards of highway employees for information of how many overtime hrs. and dollars earned, by employee, also all information on benefit time for each employee. He also asked for documentation and cost for the work on the main water line extension in District 3 on Co. Rt. 145.

While on the subject of the extension, C'man Cobb wanted to discuss the total cost of the extension. He did not recall approving a price or any more than one line and one meter pit. C'man Farrington reminded Mr. Cobb that the Board did approve a price of \$28,000 for the extension. The Highway Superintendent explained that there was interest in three more hookups by Richard Peffer, the adjacent property owner, and the Highway Supt. made a decision to install them at

the same time to save digging again at a later date and possibly voiding the
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warranty of the original water line. Mr. Peffer has paid for his three meter pits and was present to ask the Board for a hookup to a rental property just outside District 3 but in the Town of Hounsfield and for an outside user agreement for water to two homes on his property outside District 3 and in the Town of Adams.

After much discussion C'man Lee made a motion and C'man Farrington 2nd that since Water District 3 is not closed out yet, Mr. Peffer be approved for a water hookup to his parcel in the Town of Hounsfield for the price of a meter. The hookup fee is waived. C'man Farrington, C'man Lee and Supervisor Scee voted yes. C'man Battista and C'man Cobb voted no. The motion was carried.

As for the request of Mr. Peffer for water hookups outside our Town, C'man Lee suggested that Mr. Peffer get a letter from Adams Town Board giving him permission to be served by the Town of Hounsfield. The Hounsfield Board will send a letter of request to the Village Board to purchase water for these outside users.

A discussion was held on wording in the outside users agreement for users inside our Town opposed to outside the Town. The Town attorney will be asked to review the wording in the agreement.

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

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to pay bills in Abstract #4, vouchers #145-215: General Fund A \$40,129.53, General Fund B \$367.77, Lakeside Cemetery Fund \$1,613.54, Highway Fund A \$23,216.74, Highway Fund B \$11,007.52, Water District 2 \$1,412.29, Water District 1 \$133.92, Water District 4 \$16,668.78, Water District 3 \$637.86, Fire Protection Fund \$55,000.00, Totaling \$150,187.95. In discussion, C'man Battista commented that \$200 to have the meeting room floor stripped and waxed was too expensive when our own employees should have time to do that and the purchase of a copier for the Highway Dept. for \$950 was not needed, he should wait until the clerk's copier is available and use that one. C'man Farrington asked the Highway Superintendent about a truck repair bill. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee for resolution #11-17 to approve budget transfers. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Lee reported that he attended a Water Committee meeting. He also reported that he has been contacted by a Henderson resident on the Ridge Road who would like to hookup to the Town of Hounsfield water line that is across the road. C'man Battista spoke against this because this resident is in a town that is still threatening the Town of Hounsfield with a law suit to prevent the wind farm on Galloo Island and he would like to see more Hounsfield residents get water first. C'man Lee reminded this Board that a motion was carried in May 2010 to approve supplying the Henderson residents on Ridge Road with water with a 4-1 vote (C'man Battista voting no) and he would just like to move on with it. A discussion was held and the Highway Superintendent confirmed that when the planned road project on the Ridge Road is done the pipe could be installed under the road during the project. Mayor Eric Constance asked how the yearly EDU will be charged to an outside user when it is outside our town and C'man Lee explained that the EDU would be billed to the user once a year and each outside user will pay an \$800 deposit in case of a default in payment of any bill.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to allow the water hookup of seven Henderson residents on Ridge Road to Water District 3. Each Henderson user will pay for the meter pit and/or meter, the pipe under the road to the right of way (to be done during road construction), a lateral to their house (work done by their own contractor), and an \$800 deposit. The curb stop will be installed in the Town of Hounsfield. Each Henderson user will sign an outside user agreement and will be billed, yearly, an EDU (debt repayment) charge. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting yes and the motion was carried.

C'man Cobb reported on the Fire Dept. election of officers for 2012 and they are as follows: Corporation Officer Chairperson: Mike Hoagland, Secretary: Gayle Benjamin, Treasurer: Sally Daly, Board: Tom McKay, Randy Cloe, Jim Lawrence Jr., and Ed Mereand, Chief: Steve Sullivan, 1st assistant chief (sta.1) Jarred Farrington, 1st assistant chief (sta.2) Ken Lawrence, 2nd assistant chief (sta.1) Mike Vaness, 2nd assistant chief (sta.2) Travis Alcombrack. Supervisor Scee added that the EMTs will meet tomorrow to further discuss EMS service.

C'man Battista reported on bed tax funds awarded as follows: Can Am Festival Committee - \$2250, Sackets Harbor Historical Society - \$1250, Hay Memorial Library - \$500, Sackets Harbor Chamber - \$1500, Sackets Harbor Battlefield Alliance - \$750, Seaway Trails Foundation - \$500, and Arts Association of NNY - \$750.

C'man Farrington reported that he attended the Cemetery Committee and they are designing a new sign for the entrance and the laborer issue was discussed again. C'man Cobb suggested advertising for quotes for mowing and trimming the cemetery to review and the Board agreed. C'man Farrington also reported that he attended the City of Watertown work session for a proposed District 5 IMA and also met with Mayor Constance to discuss an IMA for Dist. 5. C'man Farrington stated that he attended the annual Local Government Conference.

The Highway Superintendent gave a monthly work report and also noted that the Massey Street bridge will be closed soon for repairs and may be closed for 6-8 months or longer.

The Town Clerk gave a collections report and added that she attended the Local Government Conference. She also noted that the Planning Board will have a special meeting on April 19th at 7PM to act on outstanding applications.

Kris Dimmick of Bernier Carr Assoc. was present with an update of the testing of the wells on NYS Rt. 180. They may need to be treated with a chlorine system.

A discussion was held on considering a B.A.N. (Bond Anticipation Note) in order to pay outstanding invoices in Water District 5 and Supervisor Scee made a motion to take out a B.A.N. For \$600,000 to pay bills incurred by Town of Hounsfield Water District 5. In discussion there were concerns of doing this before an IMA is reached. A roll call vote was taken: C'man Battista voted no, C'man Farrington voted yes, C'man Lee voted yes, C'man Cobb voted no and Supervisor Scee voted yes, and the motion was carried. The clerk to the Supervisor will contact the attorney tomorrow.

Supervisor Scee gave an update on IMA progress with the City of Watertown for
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Water District 5. The City is interested in selling the Town water for \$4.94 per thousand plus \$.50 per thousand for the pass through in Town of Watertown. Mayor Constance assured the Town Board that the Village would like to provide water for Dist. 5 but does not feel comfortable entering into an agreement until they hear about funding for their water upgrades. He said it may take another few months to hear about the funding. C'man Cobb stated that he is in favor of waiting to get the water agreement from Sackets Harbor because the price is much better and C'man Battista agreed.

The Highway Superintendent reported to the board that the Town will need to have an easement drawn up with Glen Hall, at the dead end of Morin Lane South, in the near future for a turn around placement. Mr. Hall is planning on purchasing a strip of land at the end of Morin Lane South pavement from his neighbor.

Supervisor Scee reported that he spoke with Mr. Seelman of Division of Cemeteries about having the association's bank accounts turned over to the Town and he said the Watertown Savings Bank account funds will be sent to the Town soon. The other accounts should be turned over within 30 days.

A discussion was held on the position of the cemetery maintenance worker and C'man Battista suggested that the Highway Superintendent should decide to bring him back or not. The Highway Superintendent suggested that the Board go into executive session later in the meeting to discuss it further.

A discussion was held about the proposed walking trail going through the cemetery and Supervisor Scee reported that he can not find much support for that route although it is being researched to located this trail on an easement just outside the cemetery fence.

C'man Lee asked how the payments stand on the damage to the District 2 water tower and Supervisor Scee reminded the Board that he made a verbal agreement with Mr. Biggs, who caused the damage, to pay \$100 a month until the bill of over \$1000 was paid. To this date \$200 has been paid in four months. Supervisor Scee will have the Town attorney send Mr. Biggs a letter saying that the monthly

payments definitely need to be made on time.

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A motion was made by Supervisor Scee and 2nd by C'man Cobb to appoint Melanie Castor to the Planning Board to fill the unexpired term of Deb Johnston (12/31/2014). All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee reminded appointees that their oath of office needs to be signed within 30 days of their appointment and filed with the Town Clerk, and at this time a motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista to reappoint Mark Farrington to the Planning Board with a term expiring on 12/31/2015. C'man Lee, C'man Battista, C'man Cobb and Supervisor Scee voted aye, C'man Farrington abstained because the appointee is his brother, and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2nd by C'man Lee to appoint Terry Gonseth to the Recreation Committee to fill out the unexpired term of Rusty Williams. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Cobb to authorize the Supervisor to write a speed limit request to the Jefferson County Highway Superintendent for Co. Rt. 145 at Old McDonald's Farm. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Cobb and 2nd by C'man Battista to have a record of vacation time, sick time, personal time, ect., gained, used, and remaining entered on the Town employees check subs. A discussion was held and the clerk to the Supervisor told the Board she would have to work closely with the Highway Superintendent on this and the Highway Superintendent told the Board that the Teamsters Union does not require this and he does give his men an update of this information once a month. In a roll call vote C'man Battista voted yes, C'man Farrington voted yes, C'man Lee voted no, C'man Cobb voted yes, and Supervisor Scee noted no. The motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Lee to start the bidding process for a Gradall when the Town is reimbursed for Water District 5 costs. In discussion C'man Cobb commented that he is still in favor of renting

instead of buying and C'man Battista added that he is in favor of borrowing instead
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of buying. In a roll call voted C'man Battista voted no, C'man Farrington voted yes, C'man Lee voted yes, C'man Cobb voted no, and Supervisor Scee voted yes. The motion was carried.

The floor was opened for public comment and comments included alternatives to buying a Gradall, concerns that an IMA for Water Dist. 5 has not been reached, concerns that the well water and other water may be mixed with a portion of Dist.2 water, and the need for a speed reduction on Co. Rt. 145.

C'man Battista commented on air conditioning at the Town offices when he was asked. He reported that he has refused the air conditioning units offered to the Town by William Lawler because he feels it is not ethical. He would like the Board to consider air conditioning purchases at next month's meeting.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Cobb to move ZBA alternate, Ed McWayne, to fill the unexpired term of Melanie Castor that ends on 12/31/12 and advertise for an alternate member. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Water Operator reported that the Town has received another violation on levels of disinfectant by products for water districts 2 & 4 and customers are being notified. He said that the water, however, is still safe to drink. Department of Health officials have said that mixing the well water with the treated water is an answer to controlling the levels of disinfectant by products.

The Highway Superintendent commented on the Gradall purchase. He explained that this Town had a Gradall for 25 years until 5 years ago when it became too costly in repairs to keep it and the Board fully intended to purchase another one. He said the Town does need one and it will be used regularly.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier, Town Clerk