

**TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING
MAY 9, 2012**

The pledge of allegiance was said and Supervisor Timothy Scee called a public hearing to order at 7 PM, at the Town Hall, 18774 Co. Rt. 66, for the purpose of hearing public comment on a proposed Town Law to establish an Ethics Law and to appoint an Ethics Board. The public that were present had not seen the proposed law. Supervisor Scee noted that the proposed law had been posted on the website and the Town Clerk had copies. A few copies were passed out for the public to review to comment later in the meeting and the public hearing was declared closed at 7:04 PM.

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Timothy Scee immediately following the public hearing and members present were: Supervisor Scee, C'man Stephen Lee, C'man Todd Farrington, C'man Vincent Battista, and C'man Richard Young.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to approve the minutes of the meeting on April 18, 2012. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Correspondence: Supervisor Scee received a notice from the Attorney of the JCIDA that there will be a public hearing on May 17, 2012 at 10 AM at the Sackets Harbor Village Hall for the purpose of hearing comments on the Payment in Lieu of Taxes project at Madison Barracks. He also received an engineering packet from MJ Engineering and they would like to be considered for the next water project.

C'man Young read an email he received about the street sign for Derouin Drive that was knocked down and damaged but was not replaced. The Highway Superintendent has a new sign ordered but he will replace the old one until it arrives.

C'man Lee received a copy of the Hay Memorial Library 2012 Annual Meeting if anyone is interested in reading it.

The Supervisor's Report was read by the Clerk to the Supervisor: Receipts- \$555,435.09, Disbursements- \$612,348.61, Cash in Bank- \$179,675.39, Investments- \$951,904.28. A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Lee to approve the Supervisor's Report. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

Abstract #5, vouchers #249-303, was presented: General Fund A \$13,987.67, General Fund B \$257.44, Highway Fund A \$10,457.60, Highway Fund B \$6,874.22, Water District 2 \$3,029.21, Water District 1 \$596.70, Water District 4 \$449.91, Water District 3 \$2,312.00, Abstract Total \$646,964.75. A motion was made by C'man Farrington and 2nd by C'man Battista to pay the bills in Abstract #5. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

C'man Lee reported that the Water Committee meeting is scheduled for next week, the 16th, and District 5 construction should start before the end of May. He would like to advertise on the website for residents who are interested in being on the Comprehensive Plan Committee and set the first informational meeting tentatively for May 23rd at 7 pm.

C'man Young gave reports for the Hay Memorial and East Hounsfield Libraries and he announced that after 25 years, Beth Burdick is stepping down as president of Hay Memorial's board and he offered congratulations and thanks to her on a job well done.

C'man Battista reported he was unable to attend the last Fire Dept. meeting but he will email minutes to Board members.

C'man Farrington announced that a Public Info Forum will be held for the Parks and Recreation Commission on May 22, 2012 at 7 pm at the Multi Purpose Room in Sackets Harbor Central School.

C'man Lee asked if the Town has received a new ISO rating (Insurance Service Organization) and Water Operator Jeff Kenney replied that a report has been received and it evaluates dispatch, training of firefighters, and the water supply. He added that the Town lost a point (from 5/9 to 6/9) and according to the report this was due to a lack of training of the firefighters. C'man Battista added that the Fire Dept. has reports that will change the rating when submitted.

Mr. Kenney would like to have a meeting with some members of the Fire Dept. and the Water Committee to go over key points of the report and C'man Battista will set that up.

A discussion was held about clearing the field behind the East Hounsfield Library in order to create a ball field to be used for the Town/Village Recreation program. It was mentioned that if the Highway Dept. used machinery to clear it the same legal issue comes up of using Town equipment on private property. A suggestion was made that the Town lease the property and the Town attorney replied that if that happened, the property would be considered Town property and they could legally clear it.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington that the Town investigate the possibility of the Town or Village leasing the field at the East Hounsfield Library for recreation purposes. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Highway Superintendent gave a work report for April.

The Highway Superintendent also reported that the DEC inspected the Town landfill and everything was fine but there was a violation at the recycling center for blowing plastic bags.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista to authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase tires for the mower tractor. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to authorize the Highway Superintendent to hire two part time workers for the summer. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

The Town Clerk gave a collection report for April.

A Planning Board report was given by the Planning Board Chairperson.

A Zoning Officer's report was given.

Corey Reid of Bernier, Carr was present with an update on Water District 5. He reported that the ground breaking ceremony will be on 5/14/12 at 2pm at the Airport and on 5/16/12 the preconstruction meeting will be held. The bonds and insurances have been approved for construction of the district.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Lee to close the Public Hearing for proposed Local Law #1 of 2012, rezoning a portion of NYS Rt 12F from Multi Use to Marine District and open development area. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Battista and 2nd by C'man Lee for Resolution # 12-28, to accept and adopt Local Law #1 of 2012, rezoning a portion of NYS Rt 12F from Multi Use to Marine District and open development area. After attorney Renzi read the resolution, the members all voted aye and the motion was carried.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista to enact Local Law #1 of 2012 and to change the Zoning map accordingly. All voted aye and the motion carried.

The Board held a discussion on the proposed Town/Village Economic Development Position that was tabled last month.

Supervisor Scee reported that more information has been provided on this subject by the Ad Hoc Committee but Board members still had more questions.

It was announced that there was an ad in the newspaper for the position of Town/Village Economic Development Director without the knowledge of the Chamber of Commerce or the Town Board.

The Board allowed residents that were present to comment and many were skeptical that the idea of hiring an Economic Development Director would help the Town and Village.

After a lengthy discussion and because the Board agreed that they need more information, a motion was made by Supervisor Scee and 2nd by C'man Lee to table the vote on the Town providing funds to create a position and hire someone as a Town/Village Economic Development Director. A special meeting will be held May 16, 2012 at 7 pm to vote on this issue. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

In the public comment section, congratulations were given to C'man Young for retiring from JCC after 41 years as professor. It was announced that the Daughters of 1812 group have funds for projects related to the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and if anyone hears of any, contact Bev Sterling.

Attorney Dave Renzi reviewed SEQR forms for the proposed Ethics Law with the Board, and Board members asked Attorney Renzi to clarify different sections of the proposed law.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Battista to table public comments on the proposed Ethics Law to the next regular meeting of the Town Board. All voted aye and the motion was carried.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier
Town Clerk