

**TOWN OF HECTOR
REGULAR AUDIT MEETING
2019 Fire and Budget Hearings
November 8, 2018**

Members Present:

Alvin J. White, Supervisor
Justin Boyette, Councilman
Robert Barton, Councilman
William Preston, Councilman
Elizabeth Martin, Councilwoman
Jessica Rodgers, Councilwoman

Others: Chris King

Susan Secord-Jensen
Sandra Bradford, Historian
Carl Taber

Others:

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk
Robert Stapleton, Water Superintendent
Richard Bump, Deputy Highway Supt.
Tom Kiernan Ralph Ward
Pete Coats Neal Melveney
Diane Melveney Robert Lovell
Cindy Lovell Ben Dickens
Sarah Winstead Adam Welch
James Jensen Beren Argetsinger
Nancy Adams Jesse Beardslee
Tim Dunlap Paul Taber

Called to order at 7:00pm by Supervisor White, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

RESOLUTION #182 – offered by Preston, seconded by Barton

Resolved to approve the minutes of October 4, 2018 and October 9, 2018 as written.

Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #183 – offered by Preston, seconded by Martin

Resolved to approve and authorize the Supervisor to make the following Budget Amendments/Journal Entries: transfer \$799.44 from A1990.4 to A8389.4 Water District Extension; transfer \$261.00 from A1990.4 to \$5132.22 Highway Building Improvements; transfer \$390.00 from A1990.4 to A1680.4 Computer Software Maintenance; transfer \$43.46 from A1990.4 contingency to A1680.2 Computer Equipment; transfer \$20,000 from B599 fund balance to B3989.4 Flood Debris Removal; and transfer \$25,000 from DA5130.2 to DA5130.4 Machinery Contractual. Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #184 – offered by Martin, seconded by Rodgers

Resolved to have audited and further authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from the following funds: General Vouchers #331 thru #361 - \$24,083.32; Highway Vouchers #250 thru #273 - \$51,616.17; Water District Vouchers #181 thru #194 – \$11,320.81; Capital Projects Voucher #3 - \$7,228.76; and Trust & Agency Vouchers #23 thru #25 - \$1,816.29 Ayes 6, Nays 0

Public Comment: 7:07pm

Sarah Winstead – attended Hector Zoning meeting; felt uneasy; questions regarding zoning; who's who of Hector; vocal few; asked board to consider the barriers that poor people have in knowing meetings are being held; no internet; no transportation; single parent homes; zoning laws end up favorable to the wealthy and powerful; must be a better way; concern that the burden will be on the under-represented; rooted in bias and historical misuse; concern will discourage people coming to Hector; urge board to consider all the residents of Hector in making their decision. Supervisor White asked for copy of info read in order to share with the Zoning Commission.

Jessica Rodgers researched a Historic Preservation Committee; not appropriate for the Town of Hector to proceed with a legal entity; large amount of red tape; don't have resources; more flexibility on a volunteer basis. Logan Community Center is on Historic Register and in need of repairs. Susan Secord Jensen is the last remaining charter member; the organization is in

need of financial help; building steeple is leaking. James Jensen is the current vice president; Community Center is last real part of older history in Logan Community; need to preserve and would appreciate help from the Town.

Supervisor White – feel we should be looking into buildings that should be recognized as historic structures; cemeteries also need help. It was reported that John Munroe has been informed by the State Division of Cemeteries is looking at taking away his authority as he is the only officer left; they are telling him he must have a secretary, treasurer, etc. in order to continue; need volunteers to step up. Susan Secord-Jensen – both organizations would welcome any help from the community or any one interested in becoming involved.

Step backwards, to discuss where this started; Dandy Mart in Hector, Logan Community Center; thank you to those that reached out to Dandy, disappointed with board in not pursuing saving the building. Asking Board to show a united front; continue with western/rustic theme.

Councilwoman Rodgers reported that Dwayne Phillips at Dandy has indicated that it is not an option to save the building; looking at a re-design to be more rustic, etc.

Supervisor White recommended this should be approached privately; the board has no power over this issue; if zoning is implemented in the future, the Board may have power, building is not structurally sound; past the ability to save.

Cultural preservation could help. Councilwoman Rodgers indicated it is not best use of time to fight something with this one building.

Cindy Lovell asked what does it take to help Logan Community Center in repairing the steeple. Susan Secord-Jensen - involved for 35 years; informal meetings are held; welcome anyone interested in getting involved; contact Susan; need to make people aware.

Public Comment Closed at 7:33pm

Budget Presentation: Supervisor White presented a review of the 2019 Preliminary Budget and read the Budget Message; largest increases are in snow removal and fire protection. Adding an additional snow plow run as one round is currently 5+ hours; adding a truck will reduce each round to approximately 4 hours round trip. Review of deficit budgeting; working to eliminate using fund balance to balance the budget; requires Town to exceed the tax levy; transportation and public safety are where budget increases are. Slides presented tonight will be posted on Town website.

Pete Coats asked if the Town is eligible to get funding to cover flood expenses. Supervisor White reported that we should get about 70% of expenses back from FEMA; VLH Fire Company is eligible for some funding due to use of fire house also.

Public Hearings:

Local Law #2 of 2018 Override Tax Cap: Public Hearing opened at 8:12pm Councilwoman Martin read Local Law#2 of 2018. Diane Melveney asked if this means taxes are rising over and above? Supervisor White reported that our Preliminary Budget is over the current 2% tax cap; passing the local law protects us from penalties. Diane Melveney also asked about re-assessment next year; does that not help raise taxes? Supervisor White explained that next year's assessment changes will not apply to taxes until 2019 School and 2020 Town & County; reviewed current projected tax rates and prior years tax rates. Councilwoman Martin explained that assessment changes affect what people pay not what we need for budget.

Cindy Lovell asked if there was any way the Board has thought of to bring tax rates down to stay within the cap.

Supervisor White explained that we review the budget line by line and compare to last 5 years; can increase revenues to decrease taxes; change in sales tax impacts the Town as the

County is only sharing a portion of the sales tax collected every year; some fees could be raised, but that impacts tax payers also.

Tom Kiernan – can the Town ask the County to look at the businesses in Hector that contribute to sales tax and ask for a better share; revenue from those businesses should be shared with the Town.

Ben Dickens – the County is not required to share sales tax at all; Schuyler is one of 13 Counties in the state that do share; Town share would have been 0 in 2017 if it was not for the sewer plant project; sales tax is up for review in 2019.

-?- If I heard correctly, zoning costs would be funded by sales tax; if this is not a guaranteed source of funding; how does this work; why would we commit to something new if there is no increase in funding to support? Supervisor White explained that we know we will get a percentage of sales tax collected up to \$10,000,000. We will get \$560,000 every year under the current agreement. Supervisor White explained that we use fund balance (left over sales tax in DB) to repair and build roads.

Paul Taber asked if you raise the tax levy; is it stuck there? Supervisor White explained that if we cut services, we can lower the levy. Paul Taber raised concerns with rising costs, rising assessments and property values

? - Can't get blood from a stone; taxes can't keep going up; we have nothing left to give; it has to stop somewhere. Councilwoman Rodgers asked - do we cut the fire departments? Supervisor White explained unfunded mandates; we get told by the State some things that we have to pay for and provide; State has not increased funding to the Town's in many, many years. Governor is pushing for shared services; would like to see lower levels of government disappear; hard to cut services when you are a growing Town.

Carl Taber – exactly correct with state requirements for Fire Departments; turn out gear is \$2000 which must be replaced every 5 years; new cancer insurance coverage premiums are unknown; training requirements; trucks must be replaced every 20 years; suggest people contact State Officials to get some of these restrictions eased or funded.

Public Hearing closed at 8:38pm

RESOLUTION #185 – offered by Boyette, seconded by Martin

Resolved to adopt Local Law #2 of 2018 Tax Cap Override.

Roll Call Vote: Rodgers – Aye, White – Aye; Boyette – Aye; Preston – Aye; Martin – Aye; Barton – Aye
Ayes 6, Nays 0

2019 Fire Protection District Contracts/Budget: Public Hearing opened at 8:40pm

Supervisor White reviewed the fire contracts for 2019. No public comments.

Public Hearing closed at 8:42pm

RESOLUTION #186 – offered by Preston, seconded by Martin

Resolved to approve and accept the fire contracts and budgets for 2019 as follows:

District #1 – Mecklenburg Volunteer Fire Company – 1-year contract - \$134,640.00

District #1A – Village of Odessa Vol. Fire Department – 2-year contract - \$11,169.00 for 2019 and \$11,281.00 for 2020

District #1B – Valois Logan Hector Vol. Fire Company – 1-year contract - \$228,000.00

District #1C – Village of Burdett Vol. Fire Department – 1-year contract - \$294,710.44

District #1D – Village of Trumansburg Vol. Fire Dept. – 1-year contract - \$18,014.00

Roll Call Vote: Barton – Aye; Martin – Aye; Preston – Aye; Boyette – Aye; White – Aye; Rodgers – Aye
Ayes 6, Nays 0

2019 Trumansburg & Mecklenburg Ambulance Contract/Budget: Public Hearing opened at 8:44pm. Supervisor White reviewed Trumansburg and Mecklenburg Ambulances contracts for 2019. Revenues received from billing help to reduce taxes the following year. Mecklenburg dropped 36%. Pete Coats asked questions regarding the changes and what funds used to offset taxes. Supervisor White explained that the contract is calculated on a 3-year rolling average; we only have 2 years average for Mecklenburg currently; Trumansburg Ambulance revenues were less in 2018; less calls caused less revenues to reduce taxes for 201. Pete Coats asked questions regarding Mutual Aid; if Bangs comes, do we still get revenue from billing? Believe we would not. Discussion of mutual aid; if Trumansburg is not available Bangs is being called; Mecklenburg Fire Company would prefer Schuyler unless not available. Supervisor White will send a letter to Emergency Management making the request for Schuyler to be the backup Mutual Aid. Pete Coats – no negative remarks regarding Trumansburg or Schuyler; response times have been cut in half with Trumansburg responding instead of Schuyler. Paul Taber asked from the stand point of a tax payer, it would be nice if the cost for ambulance gave a tax abatement for ag value exemption; farmers pay a considerable amount due to land assessments; where is this fair and equitable; question of exemptions regarding special use district; discussion of ag exemptions and application for fire and ambulance. A big cost to farmers with vacant land; tax rate is based on each 1,000 of assessment. Public Hearing closed at 8:57pm

RESOLUTION #187 – offered by Rodgers, seconded by Preston

Resolved to approve and accept the Ambulance Contracts and budget for 2019 as follows:

Village of Trumansburg Ambulance, 1-year contract for \$37,907.00

Village of Trumansburg for Mecklenburg Ambulance, 1-year contract for \$42,512.00

Roll Call Vote: Rodgers – Aye; White – Aye; Boyette – Aye; Preston – Aye; Martin – Aye;

Barton – Aye Ayes 6, Nays 0

2019 Preliminary Town Budget: Public Hearing opened at 8:58pm

No comments received. Public Hearing closed at 8:59pm

RESOLUTION #188 – offered by Boyette, seconded by Preston

A resolution adopting a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2019 making appropriations for the conduct of the Town of Hector Government and establishing the rates of compensation for officers and employees for such period;

WHEREAS, this board has met at the time and place specified in the notice of public hearing on the Preliminary Budget and heard all persons desiring to be heard thereon; now, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, that the 2019 Preliminary Budget as amended and revised and as hereinafter set forth is hereby adopted and that the several amounts stated in the column titles “Adopted” in Schedule A1 and Schedule F1 be and they are hereby appropriated for the objects and purposes specified and the salaries and wages stated in Schedule 5 of such budget shall be and are hereby fixed at the amounts shown therein effective January 1, 2019.

Rolls Call Vote: Barton – Aye; Martin – Aye; Preston – Aye; Boyette – Aye; White – Aye;

Rodgers – Aye Ayes 6, Nays 0

Department Reports:

Highway: Deputy Superintendent Bump gave report of work completed, sand made; equipment repaired, trucks, plows and sanders ready, etc.

Salt Storage Building Update: Expect to be completed by Friday.

Tree Removal – Mecklenburg Pond: Three quotes were obtained: BnR Landscaping - \$7800; Finger Lakes Forest Management - \$6200; and KJ's Property Care - \$4625.

RESOLUTION #189 – offered by Boyette, seconded by Martin
Resolved to authorize the Supervisor to proceed with the lowest bid for the removal of the broken trees at Mecklenburg Pond property not to exceed \$6000. Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #190 – offered by Boyette, seconded by Preston
Resolved to appoint Douglas Lott Jr as MEO/Mechanic effective October 29, 2018 at the hourly rate of \$19.00 Ayes 6, Nays 0

Water District: Superintendent Stapleton reported daily average; water tests done; copper and lead testing done; all well under the mcl; meter readings look like another set of batteries going dead in meters; leak detection showed no leaks; water meter reading system radio and antennas sent to be updated – came back not working; 21 turn offs; 1 turn on; winterizing hydrants; work place violence; sexual harassment training completed; have no heard the State has moved the date to implement and train into 2019; survey needs to be completed and sent out.

RESOLUTION #191 – offered by Preston, seconded by Boyette
Resolved to authorize the Water Collection Clerk and the Supervisor to proceed with the re-levy of the 2018 Delinquent Water Bills on to the 2019 Town & County Tax Bills per the list as presented totaling \$21,191.20; and further authorize the Supervisor to submit the list to the Schuyler County Legislature. Ayes 6, Nays 0 Amount amended 11/28/18 to \$19,994.41

Club Seneca Water Extension: USDA application re-submitted; looking to get funding approval in order to submit to Comptroller to get approval to proceed.

Test Drilling: Water Advisory Board is still working on what to do going forward; looking into costs for certain items, need to determine infiltration galleries or a well; will have further recommendations for Board in December.

Code Enforcement: Officer Patterson's written report submitted and reviewed.

Smith Park: Manager's Report

South Bath House – Award Bid; advertised for reserve expenditure; no petition received so funds can be expended for project; ready to award bid to lowest bidder; bids reviewed; MRB Group recommends awardee to Edger Enterprises of Elmira Inc. Questions asked regarding start and end dates; we may have to have some temporary portable.

RESOLUTION #192 – offered by White, seconded by Barton
Resolved to award the bid for the South Bath House Project at Smith Park to Edger Enterprises of Elmira Inc for a total cost of \$357,220.00. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Assessment: Assessor's Report - none

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Court Clerk: Clerk's Monthly Report submitted to Board.

Rabies Clinic Report: 48 animals vaccinated; donations received totaling \$134.00; vaccine cost \$120.00; Vet's fee \$80; advertising \$84; Hector/Burdett Consolidated Board of Health covered the \$200 cost of the vaccine and vet services.

Shelter Contract with HSSC: Discussion of request by HSSC to remove the dog enumeration from the contract. Request is denied at this point; must have a meeting with Town Supervisors, Clerks and Animal Control Officer. Willing to negotiate but must have a meeting; letter to be sent regarding timeliness of contract changes.

NYS Retirement Reporting:

RESOLUTION #191 – offered by Martin, seconded by Preston

STANDARD WORK DAY AND REPORTING RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Hector hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body:

Title	Name	Standard Work Day (Hrs/day)	Term Begins/Ends	Time Keeping System (Y/N)	Days/Mo
Elected Officials					
Town Clerk/Tax Coll.	Jane M. V. Ike	8	01/01/18-12/31/2021	Y	20
Town Justice	Dale E. Jaynes	8	01/01/18-12/31/2021	N	13
Town Councilwoman	Elizabeth Martin	8	01/01/2018-12/31/2021	N	2
Appointed Officials					
Deputy Clerk/Acct Clerk	Laurie B. Landon	8	01/01/18-12/31/2021	Y	20
Bookkeeper/HR	Janine A. Bond	8	01/01/16-12/31/2019	Y	20
Code Enforcement Officer	David Patterson	8	01/01/18-12/31/2019	Y	15
Water Superintendent	Robert Stapleton	8	1/1/2014	Y	20
Assistant Water Supt.	Joshua Mikkelsen	8	1/1/2014	Y	20
Highway Superintendent	Randy Rappleye	8	01/01/18-12/31/2019	Y	20
Enacted on the 8th day of November, 2018			Ayes 5, Nays 0, Abstain 1 (Martin)		

Zoning Commission: no report

Councilwoman Rodgers reported that a resident asked her if Zoning would be allowed within the Scenic Byway; believes the Scenic Byway would be sufficient to cover needs.

Supervisor White reported that the byway was set up to not hinder construction, etc. Councilman Barton will talk with Janet McCue, President of Scenic Byway.

Supervisor:

Committee Reports: Route 414 Corridor; need to set up a new meeting with group; signage recommended by wineries needs to include breweries and restaurants. Committee meetings for the 11/15 are cancelled; will meet 11/29; 11/20 meetings still on.

Schuyler County Planning Commission: Re-appointment of Matt Schamel discussed. Councilman Boyette stated that if we are re-appointing him, he should report to us occasionally. Term would be 1/1/19 thru 12/31/20; this will be his last term. Councilman Preston suggested that Supervisor White contact Matt and/or Kristin to come to our December 11 meeting to give a report.

Composting Service: Meeting with woman again tomorrow; need to delay decision.

Email addresses: Domain name is still linked to Vicky Kelly; she is going to call the company to find out our options; looking to get disconnected from her and have our own account; emails would be \$7.00 per person under current set up.

Empire Access – phone lines: We are having continued problems with the phones working; Empire has repaired several times; sort term fix; suggested moving phones to fiber optics; this will be moving along in the next few weeks.

Flood Debris Removal: Contractor found and committed to debris removal; RFQ's sent out to 6 contractors; 3 quotes received with hourly rates; lowest quote is Schamel Brothers; Supervisor White has authorized Schamel's to proceed with cleanup; we have most of the signed permissions from property owners; contract has been signed.

RESOLUTION #192 – offered by Preston, seconded by Martin
Resolved to authorize Schamel Brothers to do the flood debris removal as directed by the Town Supervisor with up to 70 hours of work. Ayes 6, Nays 0

LP Gas RFQ: RFQ's sent to 3 providers – Farrell Gas, AmeriGas and Superior Plus. We must request to be attached to the state bid listing in order to purchase off state bid. Superior \$1.629/gal fixed rate for 1 year; Farrell \$1.799 fixed (state bid); AmeriGas \$1.999 fixed; would float at \$1.749 based on market.

RESOLUTION #193 – offered by Boyette, seconded by Martin
Resolved to accept the bid of \$1.629 fixed price per gallon for LP gas starting December 1st thru November 30, 2019 from Superior Plus. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Miscellaneous/Correspondence/Other: Earth Care team will come do a presentation at December meeting.

On a motion by Martin; seconded by Preston; meeting adjourned at 10:10pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk