

**TOWN OF HECTOR
REGULAR AUDIT MEETING
2020 Fire and Budget Hearings
November 7, 2019**

Members Present:

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

Others:

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk
Randy Rappleye, Highway Superintendent
Jason Santobianco, Code Enforcement
Mike Hicks, VLH Fire
Nate Mayo, Mecklenburg Fire
Frank & Donna Davis
Robert Stapleton, Water Superintendent
Dale Walter, Village/Burdett Mayor
Jason Kelly, Burdett Fire

Others: Bret Seafuse	Tim Dunlap	Chris King	Sarah Winstead
Russell King	Harvey King	Meghen B. ?	Holly Hatch
Shawn Tubridy	Matthew Haynes	Jesse Turner	Michael Bergen

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

RESOLUTION #142 – offered by Preston, seconded by Martin

Resolved to approve the Minutes of October 3, October 8, October 10, October 15 and October 22, 2019 as written. Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #143 – offered by Boyette, seconded by Barton

Resolved to approve and authorize the Supervisor to make the following Budget Amendments and Journal Entries: Transfer \$250.00 from A1990.4 Contingency to A1670.4 Central Printing; transfer \$275.00 from A7110.11 Smith Park Asst. Mngr. to A7110.12 Smith Park Lifeguard/Laborer; transfer \$4267.98 from B599 Appropriated Fund Balance to B9060.81 \$4046.82 Medical Insurance and to B9060.82 \$221.16 Dental Insurance; transfer \$400.00 from DA5140.2 Misc. Brush & Weeds Equipment to DA5140.4 Misc. Brush & Weeds; transfer \$29.26 from DB599 Appropriated Fund Balance to DB9060.82 Dental Insurance; and transfer \$399.98 from SW1990.4 Contingency to SW1990.2 Equipment. Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #144 – offered by Martin, seconded by Preston

Resolved to have audited and further authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from the following funds: General Vouchers #333 thru #370 - \$18,227.55; Highway Vouchers #250 thru #270 - \$45,726.82; Water District Vouchers #178 thru #197 - \$9,501.83; and Trust & Agency Vouchers #37 thru #39 - \$23,089.94 Ayes 6, Nays 0

Public Comment: Sarah Winstead read a statement regarding the October 28 Zoning Commission meeting; denial of request to see draft document presented by consultant. One year ago, came before the Town Board to object to zoning as it is a historically discriminatory construct. Paul Bursic informed them that the Zoning Commission did not want the document public at this time. The Town Board is complicit in this situation whether they know about it or not. Why does the board want to keep this information from the public? Filed at Freedom of Information request that has been denied to date; asking Paul Bursic and Supervisor White to reconsider their position on this issue; urge others to file their own freedom of information request.

Councilman Preston encouraged the public to attend Zoning Commission Meetings to provide public input; the public should be telling the Zoning Commission what they want, not

the Zoning Commission telling the public what they are going to get; there will be 4 more public informational meetings regarding any proposals from the Zoning Commission in addition to their regular monthly meetings.

Supervisor White commented that the document is a working document, commission has not even reviewed; as soon as the commission has it will be released. Sarah Winstead objected; the board can override the Zoning Commission.

Councilwoman Rodgers commented that when information that is not finalized or very preliminary is distributed, mis-information goes out; need to let the Zoning Commission review; it will be public after that review.

Supervisor White informed Sarah that her request is not denied; it will be public soon and will be provided.

Sarah Winstead – I consider this a denial of my foil request. It is challenging to participate when the Zoning Commission is looking at paperwork and the audience does not have access to be able to follow along; no transparency.

Supervisor White explained that the Town Clerk and Town Board cannot give something they do not have.

Budget Presentation: Supervisor White presented a power point presentation on the 2020 Preliminary Budget covering revenues and expenditures by fund; reviewed and explained the significant increases in the 2020 budget; sales tax cap reviewed along with the affect it's had on the budget. Budget message read. Supervisor White will have presentation and budget posted on web site soon.

Public Hearing Local Law #1 of 2019 Override Tax Cap: Public Hearing opened at 7:51pm.

Tim Dunlap asked if the override is for 1 year or more. Supervisor White stated it is always for 1 year.

-?- Did a great job on presentation for total budget of \$4.6 million. Asked if the LWRP plan was public.

Councilwoman Rodgers responded that it is; would love to see more public participation in the LWRP process.

Supervisor White responded that there will be more public meetings during the process to develop the actual plan.

Councilman Boyette explained that a lot of work will go into the plan which will hopefully free up grant funds including federal funding.

Supervisor White explained that the Town did receive almost a half million dollars in grants for the salt storage building and Smith Park improvements this past year.

Councilman Preston commented that Smith Park is nearly self-sufficient. Supervisor White would like to see it be more of a community park.

Frank Davis asked questions regarding return on investment of increased improvements; realize it's not an income motivated process.

Tim Dunlap asked if Smith Park generated sales tax revenue for the county. Supervisor White indicated that people that stay at the park probably purchase items locally that would generate sales tax.

Councilwoman Rodgers stated the main goal for the park is to improve infrastructure and community use. Hearing closed at 8:02pm

RESOLUTION #145 – offered by Preston, seconded by Boyette

Resolved to approve and adopt Local Law #1 of 2019; Tax Cap Override.

Roll call Vote: Rodgers – Aye; White – Aye; Boyette – Aye; Preston – Aye; Martin – Aye; Barton – Aye

Ayes 6, Nays 0

2020 Fire Protection District Contracts/Budget: Public Hearing opened at 8:05pm
Contract numbers by District reviewed by Supervisor White. Mayor Dale Walter reported that the final closing with USDA for the Fire House loan will be December 10, 2019. No other comments. Hearing closed at 8:07pm

RESOLUTION #146 – offered by Boyette, seconded by Preston

Resolved to approve and accept the fire contracts and budgets for 2020 as follows:

District #1 – Mecklenburg Volunteer Fire Company – 1-year contract - \$174,500.00

District #1A – Village of Odessa Vol. Fire Department – for 2020 - \$1,281.00

District #1B – Valois Logan Hector Vol. Fire Company – 1-year contract - \$232,560.00

District #1C – Village of Burdett Vol. Fire Department – 1-year contract - \$308,561.64

District #1D – Village of Trumansburg Vol. Fire Dept. – 1-year contract - \$17,469.00

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

2020 Trumansburg and Mecklenburg Ambulance Contract/Budget: Public Hearing opened at 8:10pm

Jackie Wright sent questions via email as she could not be present. Town and Village of Trumansburg meet to review fire and ambulance budgets; need to hire EMS coordinator; overtime numbers are high; questioned number of calls between Trumansburg 126 calls and Mecklenburg 62 calls; concern raised that the coding of calls may not be recorded to proper district.

Supervisor White reviewed the process in averaging calls; reported that revenues received in the last year have been way down.

Councilman Barton – Jackie's questions are management oversight questions; don't know how to answer.

Paul Bursic asked who provided service to Mecklenburg. Supervisor White explained the contract with the Village of Trumansburg Ambulance to cover the Mecklenburg District. Hearing closed at 8:16pm

RESOLUTION #147 – offered by Preston, seconded by Barton

Resolved to approve and accept the Ambulance Contracts and budgets for 2020 as follows:

Village of Trumansburg Ambulance, 1-year contract for \$52,026.00

Village of Trumansburg for Mecklenburg Ambulance, 1-year contract for \$49,548.00

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

2020 Preliminary Town Budget: Public Hearing opened 8:18pm

Mike Bergen commented that the 2020 budget power point was very well presented. -?- Why is there not an interactive recording going out on line. Councilwoman Rodgers asked if she had knowledge of how to do? A basic camera on a tripod cost under \$100 and could be done; what are the hurdles? Councilwoman Rodgers has looked into recording meetings; could not figure out what camera to purchase; need help in determining what and how; have invited wet couch radio to come; need knowledge to figure out how to do; asked her if she would be willing to volunteer help to make this happen.

Paul Bursic – looked quickly at the budget; run on a shoe string; people are not paid much here; if add resources you will stress the budget; effort & energy is needed to make steps for recording go forward; maybe it can be done economically; not due to lack of interest or concern; town is very extremely conscious of salaries, benefits and expenses; applaud the town for keeping these expenses extremely low.

Councilman Preston acknowledged we need to grow with progress around us and get into the digital age.

Supervisor White reviewed the length of plow runs after a position was not filled years ago; runs were 6 hours approximately; by adding one more highway person and an additional plow run, those times get down to 4 hours; improved service provided.

Paul Bursic - you are not adding onto an already exorbitant budget; do need to move forward; additional steps require more time.

-?- Public wants to get involved but work all day; don't know how; ask questions; don't know how or where to get answers.

Volunteer base in the town is mostly elder; some are not comfortable with technology. Discussion of publication and costs; ways to improve communication and education; people need a way to understand process, etc. Hearing closed at 8:38pm

RESOLUTION #148 – offered by Martin; seconded by Rodgers

A resolution adopting a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2020 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 2020 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, 2020.

Roll call vote: Barton- Aye; Martin – Aye; Preston – Aye; Boyette – Aye; White – Aye; Rodgers – Aye
Ayes 6, Nays 0

Department Reports:

Highway:

Lake Street, Valois: Road Abandonment Request discussed. Property owner requesting 70 feet be abandoned so they can build a house at the end across that section of the road. Need to look into this further; not sure this is practical. Councilman Boyette voiced concern that everyone north of the bridge would be stranded if the bridge went out. Discussion continued regarding the bridge; other property owners; snowplowing; current roadways, etc.

Superintendent Rappleye reported mowing on back slopes almost done, ditching done; hauled 6,788 yards of sand from pit to Tuttle Road; has approximately 9,000 yards on site; may be able to make more if weather cooperates; plows and sanders ready; dressed all the trucks yesterday; still cold patching; 21 new driveways to date; John Deere Loader back; 3rd axle installed under warranty; Doosan still has issues.

Water District: Superintendent Stapleton reported number of gallons pumped and treated; PFOS and PFOA testing done with none detected; VOC's testing done with a small hit of toluene; will retest every quarter; currently reading water meters; 20 seasonal services turned off; water shut off valve on Peach Orchard replaced; Pall tank leak; complete tank reinforced; backup generators and air compressors all working. F250 vibration; steering damper replaced; wobble is back; will be going back to shop; is a Ford mechanical problem.

Chemical pump cleaned; did not work; sent for repair. Smith Park water system shut down for the season; new bath house will be shut down tomorrow; Contractor is meeting Jason Bond tomorrow to complete the water shutdown. New well – waiting on Moravec to do pump testing.

MRB quote for well development \$25,630; feel extremely expensive. Supervisor White indicated we should check with a couple other sources. Water Extension Engineering RFQ from MRB received today \$23,300; need to get more quotes before proceeding. Discussion of need for an RFQ for Engineer for the Town.

Superintendent Stapleton and Supervisor White visited Wilmington's Water System to check out their meter reading system and programing; terrain is very similar to ours. Zenner AMI water meter system; informative visit; batteries are replaceable; will be able to email information to customers; would not be locked into just one meter manufacturer; will look into sending out RFQ's to see what we can do for funding, etc.

Delinquent Water Accounts: Review of list of delinquent water bills to be re-levied on the January 2020 Town & County tax bills.

RESOLUTION #149 – offered by Preston, seconded Martin

Resolved to authorize the Water Collection Clerk and the Supervisor to proceed with the re-levy of the 2019 Delinquent Water Bills onto the 2020 Town & County Tax Bills per the list as presented totaling \$27,285.78 plus 10% penalty \$2,728.60 for a total to be re-levied of \$30,014.38; and further authorize the Supervisor to submit the list to the Schuyler County Legislature for approval. Ayes 6, Nays 0

2020 Truck purchase: Superintendent Stapleton requested permission to order the new truck now in order to get earlier delivery in 2020.

RESOLUTION #150 – offered by Boyette, seconded by Rodgers

Resolved to authorize the Water Superintendent to proceed with the order of the new truck for delivery in 2020. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Code Enforcement: Code Officer Santobianco reported numbers for new permits issued; completed permits; construction value; and permit fees collected \$1,623.50

Spent some time with Town of Horseheads, mobile version of Codes program would be useful; will check into pricing; would be able to document inspections in real time instead of just in the office; can attach pictures and documents; Code Officers in Horseheads have been a great resource for information; still doing some more research into regulations for a proposed solar farm. Also need to research solar exemptions with our assessor; property tax revenue from solar, exemption for tax purposes; have not had risk of solar farms prior to this.

Smith Park: Park is closed for the season.

Assessment: no report

Zoning Commission: Paul Bursic reported they are still meeting with the consultant from STC; starting on Phase 2; October 28th a draft law and map was delivered; takes into account all of the conversations from the last 22-23 months and the 4 public meetings; have draft report; will meet on November 11 to go through the document; editing and objections; commission will continue working on document; will then vote for official draft before releasing the document and proceeding to public input and meetings which will lead to Phase 3 to wrap up everything before

presenting a plan to the Town Board. Do not have it electronically; have on paper; do have an electronic pdf but cannot edit that as you go; doing edits on paper; hope to make progress on the first 4 sections.

Supervisor White explained the public's argument; cannot participate without seeing the document. Paul Bursic voiced concerns with giving a few people a draft document that may not be what is going to go to the public; want a real document complete to go out to all not just a few. Purpose of public input at meetings discussed; if commission is releasing information, they need to be comfortable with the document and that it is what they want to put forth.

Councilman Boyette – hypothetically thinking; if document is 10 pages and 3 are going to be thrown out; no need to present arguments over it; don't want to hand out misinformation.

Discussion of foil request: Request received asking for document repeatedly. Jessie Williams asked if the purpose of the Zoning Commission was to determine if zoning would or would not be good for us.

Supervisor White explained the process of the Zoning Commission; they cannot make any policy decisions; they can put together a draft plan and/or recommendation to the Town Board and then the Town Board will have to make decisions, etc.

Jessie Williams asked where the Town Board gets their information? Councilman Preston commented that there will be 4 more public meetings to cover the proposed draft plan; to gather public input, recommend changes, etc. before a final document will be presented to the Board.

Paul Bursic reported that the next group of meetings will have a draft plan that will be printed and available so that everyone can follow along at their meeting.

Question asked - why start zoning at all. Councilman Preston commented that Hector is a very diversified Town with areas along the lake, Odessa, Trumansburg; 414 corridor; national forest; agriculture, etc. No zoning at this time or in the past; no limits for what can or cannot be done on property. Public comment - zoning will prevent people from doing what they want.

Paul Bursic reported that if zoning is implemented it must cover the whole town; however, can parcel out different sections for different things. Dandy in Hector is a prime example of people that want some control; some parts of the town don't have a need for control; quality of development in the community; challenge is trying to see what level of community input do the people of Hector feel they can sustain. Commission will discuss at next meeting what they feel comfortable with for release of draft documents.

Councilwoman Rodgers commented that the Town has talked to the State Office covering Freedom of Information; legally don't have to give any documents to the public because it is a volunteer commission. The Town Board does not feel that is a good way to go; but a good document needs to be given to the public

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Court Clerk: Monthly Report provided covering fees collected and dispersed.

Rabies Clinic Report: 29 animals; \$132 donations; vaccine was donated from Seneca County; Dr. Chaffee will submit a bill for her time.

Supervisor:

Committee Reports: November 19th Finance Committee Meeting at 2pm and Communications Committee at 3pm.

Town Justice Position: Discussion regarding resolution to eliminate one Justice position at the end of the non-expired term which is December 31, 2021.

RESOLUTION #151 - offered by Martin, seconded by Preston

THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF HECTOR hereby finds and resolves as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town of Hector currently has two Town Justice positions; and

WHEREAS, one of the Town Justice positions is currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires, pursuant to Town Law section 60-a, to reduce the number of Town Justices for the Town of Hector to one by eliminating the vacant position;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED, that the number of Town Justices for the Town of Hector is hereby reduced to one (1) by elimination of the currently vacant Town Justice position, such reduction to take effect upon the expiration of the term office of the justice that had held the position prior to the vacancy.

This Resolution is subject to permissive referendum pursuant to Town Law Article 7.

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

Rodgers – Aye

Ayes 6, Nays 0

Municipal Solutions Contract: Supervisor White reviewed what sources we can use them for; will be beneficial for seeking funding, grants, bonding, etc.

RESOLUTION #152 - offered by Boyette, seconded by

Resolved to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Municipal Solutions contract upon approval from Attorney Halpin. Discussion: Councilwoman Martin asked to table a vote until December 10th meeting in order to be able to read and review the contract. Resolution Tabled

Miscellaneous/Correspondence/Other:

NYSERDA Workshop Battery Storage: Information provided to Town Board.

Town of Ulysses: Notice of proposed Zoning Law amendments to be adopted by the Ulysses Town Board received.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12pm on a motion by Councilwoman Martin, seconded by Councilman Preston.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk