

TOWN OF HECTOR
REGULAR AUDIT MEETING
August 9, 2016

Members Present:

Alvin J. White, Supervisor
Beverly Morley, Councilwoman
Justin Boyette, Councilman
Michael Bergen, Councilman
John White, Councilman

Absent: William Preston, Councilman

Others:

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk
Randy Rappleye, Highway Superintendent
Dan Thorpe, Deputy Highway Supt.
Robert Stapleton, Water Superintendent
Vicky Flynn, Assessor
Barb Kelley Susanne Lipari
Bob Barton Ben Dickens
Jeanne Chapman Sarah Schantz
Ralph Ward Rob Halpin, Atty.
David Patterson, Codes 1 other

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

RESOLUTION #107 – offered by M. Bergen, seconded by B. Morley
Resolved to approve the minutes of July 12, 2016 as written. Ayes 5, Nays 0

No Journal entries known at this time.

RESOLUTION #108 – offered by J. White, seconded by B. Morley
Resolved to have audited and further authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from the following funds:
General Vouchers #239 thru #265 - \$11,714.21; Highway Vouchers #166 thru #186 - \$54,581.26; Water District Vouchers #121 thru #142 - \$17,883.99; and Trust & Agency Vouchers #14 thru #15 - \$822.39.
Discussion: Councilman J. White suggested 2 board members be appointed as an audit committee; he and Councilwoman Morley volunteered. Ayes 5, Nays 0

Further discussion held regarding implementing an audit committee. Councilman J. White expressed concern that when board members initial every bill, they don't always get an opportunity to review each one sufficiently; committee could insure that the bills are balanced and correct. Supervisor A. White agreed with the recommendation to appoint an audit committee; the bills still need to be signed; how do we get around that. Supervisor A. White appointed Councilman J. White and Councilwoman Morley to research the requirements and how to meet them and to report back next month with a recommendation for the full board to discuss.

Public Comment: 7:08pm – no comments

VLH Volunteer Fire Company potential truck purchase discussed.

The Fire Company contacted Supervisor A. White with a request for approval and written contract; looking to replace a fire truck; state's regulations make the trucks obsolete after 20 years; looking for approval from the Municipality to proceed with the purchase; no legal liability to the Town for this action. Supervisor A. White asked Attorney Halpin to review the form; Fire company needs to proceed in the next 10 days or will lose the financing contract; going through a leasing company; public hearing is not until Monday August 15, 2016; Supervisor A. White will attend the public hearing; Attorney Halpin does not see any issue with signing this agreement.

RESOLUTION #109 – offered by J. White, seconded by J. Boyette
Resolved to authorize the Supervisor to sign the acknowledgement of funding for the purchase of a new fire truck after the Fire Company holds the required public hearing on August 15, 2016. Ayes 5, Nays 0

Department Reports:

Assessment: Vicky Flynn, Acting Assessor introduced herself; has had 5 towns; CAP 1 will be Catharine & Hector as Cayuta is pulling out of the county program; Real property will be hiring an appraiser; 2017 budget will include a data collector also; sales data indicates a full revaluation in Hector; 3 public meetings will be held at Hector, Mecklenburg and Burdett Fire houses; Tom & Vicky will complete this process. Driving forces behind revaluation are vacant lands, Trumansburg School District and lake properties that are currently at 86% Equalization rate. Councilman J. White asked Vicky how she can handle all 8 Town's and 4 Villages; are you going to visit every property? Vicky responded that they will do it; do not use google earth; have already found a house that was a mobile home; and a tower that went up in 2013 that is not on the roll; welcomes everyone to come talk with her. Councilman J. White asked about farm land values and the battle to obtain lands; where do you draw the line that other land is not worth \$7-8000 per acre. Tom will do an analysis of the land values. Councilman J. White asked why Trumansburg schools prime site value is higher; \$30,000 for first acre with septic and well; not sure why. Vicky will hold office hours at the Town Hall on Wednesdays 9am to 2pm;

Supervisor A. White will talk to Tom; there should be an oversight committee including Town officials in this whole process. Councilman J. White expressed his personal view; would still like the Town to hire their own assessor. Councilwoman Morley indicated a farmer can take their agricultural exemption; someone else with land that does not run a farm or have tillable does not have an exemption. Vicky indicated she would like to think we would not include those bid wars as valid sales.

Highway:

Reduced Speed Limit Request: Petitions submitted for Lake Street, Valois asking for a 15 mph speed limit on lower Lake Street; petition has 66 signatures. Councilman J. White asked Superintendent Rappleye his opinion. The road is narrow; 2 cars can pass; don't feel 30 mph is too fast; we know not everyone is respectful. Supervisor A. White recommended this go to the Highway Committee for review. Councilman Boyette indicated he felt most of the speeders are probably residents of the area. No action to be taken until after review by the Highway Committee.

Surplus Equipment: 2002 Pickup truck will not pass inspection; estimated value for scrap is \$270; new 2016 pickup has been delivered and plates transferred. Councilman J. White suggested Highway Superintendent and Deputy take a closer look at the truck and come back to the board next month for decision on disposal.

Superintendent Rappleye reported progress on road work; shoulders on paved roads completed; stone and oil seal coats applied; ditched Shuler Road; 3 cross over pipes replaced; road side mowing on going; waiting for 1 more RFP for salt storage facility; final graded Grove and CR1 for county. Highway committee meeting August 18 and meet with the Highway crew early am.

Smith Park: Park Manager Bond excused. Supervisor A. White reviewed park report.

Park has been full and busy; shift lever broke on gator; could not start; highway guys got it back up by office; at dealer being fixed; SCOPED submitted grant application – don't feel we are competitive enough; looking at another one ARC (Appalachian Regional Council) due in September.

RESOLUTION # 110 – offered by A. White, seconded by J. Boyette

Resolved to appoint Brady Bond effective July 19, 2016 as Smith Park laborer at the rate of \$11.35 per hour. Ayes 5, Nays 0

Water District: Superintendent Stapleton reported daily average pumped and treated; monthly DOH reports done and submitted; byproduct sampling to be done this week; meter change outs slowed down; will do a final notice to some that have not responded; businesses have all been done; working on flushing hydrants; 1 water service inquiry; shut off repair on Route 414 done today; everything at well house in good working order; 1 air compressor out of service; parts ordered; to be installed Monday; PALL skid integrity test issues; once air compressor is repaired will do plant shut down and tests; SCADA and alarm system issues at water treatment plant; an overabundance of spiders may be the issue; CHN system good; EMA AC drive class in Cortland was

very good; will be working on an updated sample plan for lead and copper for next year; fire extinguishers checked and tested today – 2 out for repair.

Superintendent Stapleton asked if it would be possible to get a credit card specifically assigned to the Water District. Supervisor A. White indicated the personnel committee should address this and set a policy. Councilman J. White asked if the town has a general credit card for use – no.

Code Enforcement: Officer Patterson reported 92 permits to date; 71 completed to date; lots of activity with tents; 3.4 million construction value to date; collected \$9117. Have done a few fire inspections for new business operational permits; no fee charged. Rabbit Run project phase 1 complete (10 cabins); phase 2 house and plans for 20 more single room cabins for year round use pending septic approval from DOH. Still have 7 pending property maintenance issues; numerous vehicles on Stilwell Road removed.

Councilman J. White commented on reports presented to the board; would ask that Department Heads attempt to have reports ready to go out in the board packet mailing on the Thursday prior to the meeting; would alleviate department head reading their report; saves time.

Superintendent Stapleton – it's a board decision as to how or what you want. Code Officer Patterson asked about bumping up to the 21st century – email addresses for everyone?

Susanne Lipari – as an audience member – it would be helpful if reports concentrated on the unusual; maybe a general statement all working well except, etc.; could cut down on a lot of routine stuff that's not meaningful to most of us.

Clerk Ike commented that reports would need to be to her by end of day Wednesday or 1st thing Thursday prior to meeting.

Supervisor: Committee Reports: No reports

RESOLUTION #111 – offered by B. Morley, seconded by M. Bergen

Resolved to approve and authorize the Supervisor to sign the software support contract with Williamson Law Book Company for the Accounting program August 1, 2016 thru July 31.2017 at a cost of \$998.00.

Ayes 5, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #112 – offered by M. Bergen, seconded by J. Boyette

Resolved to authorize the Supervisor to attend the advanced accounting class October 4-6, 2016 in Canandaigua at a cost of \$85.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #113 – offered by A. White, seconded by M. Bergen

Resolved to enter into Executive Session with Water Superintendent Stapleton present at 8:04pm for approximately 10 minutes to discuss potential litigation regarding the Water District. Ayes 5, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #114 – offered by M. Bergen, seconded by J. White

Resolved to return from Executive Session at 8:17pm. Ayes 5, Nays 0

Nothing to report at this time.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Court Clerk:

Web Site: Supervisor A. White signed off on the preliminary design; Virtual Towns is moving into the next phase of design.

Recycling: Program with Casella is working; need to work out the billing process; this past week 3 containers were filled; good feedback from customers.

Mecklenburg Ambulance: Informational Meeting & Special Election

Resolution done in July to create district. Need to do resolution to approve ballot; resolution to set public info meeting and election date (looking at September 20); have not gotten confirmation for use of fire house for that date; so will hold at town hall. Discussion: Final informational meeting to be held August 30 at Mecklenburg Fire House; new information as to who can vote; must include electors in the district as well as property owners; working on getting a list of eligible voters.

RESOLUTION #115 - offered by A. White, seconded by M. Bergen

RESOLVED, that the Town of Hector shall conduct a special election to consider the following proposition:

Proposition: Shall the resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Hector made July 12, 2016, the purpose and effect of which is to establish an ambulance district in the Town of Hector in accordance with the map, plan and report prepared in connection therewith, be approved? And further

RESOLVED, that such special election shall be held on September 20, 2016 at the Hector Town Hall, 5097 State Route 227, Burdett; and further

RESOLVED, that the polls for such special election shall open at Noon and close at 8:00pm; and further

RESOLVED, those qualified to vote at said special election are the duly qualified electors residing within the proposed district and all owners of taxable real property situated in the proposed district.

Roll Call Vote: Boyette – Aye; Morley – Aye; J. White – Aye; M. Bergen – Aye; A. White – Aye;
Absent – Preston Ayes 5, Nays 0

Mecklenburg Union Cemetery: No action on the tree removal assistance request. Ownership of the cemetery is still being researched; having difficulty getting information. Law is very specific as to how the Town can help. Councilman J. White commented the tree is a public hazard; we need to protect the citizens/visitors. Attorney Halpin and Supervisor A. White will meet with the Cemetery Association to get further information. Attorney Halpin has not found anything filed in Schuyler County. Councilman J. White and M. Bergen felt the burden would be on the Cemetery Association to get the information we need to proceed.

NYSDEC: Notice of permit renewal received for Hanson Aggregates Mining Permit.

Miscellaneous/Correspondence/Others, etc.:

Schuyler County Legislature: Notice of cancellation of taxes for parcel 7.00-1-2.2 Unknown Owner received; appears to be a duplicate entry/clerical error.

Town of Enfield completion of the FSEIS on the Black Oak Wind Farm has been extended to September 15.

Sheen Housing: Annual Report sent for board review.

Council of Governments Meetings: Supervisor A. White found out recently the last meeting was the 4th Wednesday; need to find out actual time and place for future meetings.

Community Choice Aggregation for municipal governments for electricity; group together to get lowest price; could be something the board could investigate; electric sales persons are pushy, etc. May get a presentation together for board if interested.

On a motion by J. White, seconded B. Morley meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk