

**TOWN OF HECTOR  
REGULAR AUDIT MEETING  
May 9, 2017**

**Members Present:**

Alvin J. White, Supervisor  
William Preston, Councilman  
Justin Boyette, Councilman  
Michael Bergen, Councilman  
John White, Councilman

Absent: Beverly Morley, Councilwoman

Others: Jeanne Chapman      Charlie Stevenson  
Carol DeSarno      Paul Bursic  
Van Harp      Barb Kelley

**Others:**

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk  
Randy Rappleye, Highway Superintendent  
Richard Bump, Deputy Highway Supt.  
Janine Bond, HR/Park Manager  
Peyton White      Mark Smith  
Ralph Ward      Martin Conwell  
Vicky Flynn, Assessor  
Alan McIlroy      Ben Dickens  
Phil Cherry, Cooperative Extension  
Sam Schimizzi, V/Watkins Glen  
Bo Lipari

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

**RESOLUTION #61** – offered by M. Bergen, seconded by J. White

Resolved to approve the minutes of April 11, 2017 as written and presented. Ayes 5, Nays 0

**RESOLUTION #62** – offered by J. White, seconded by B. Preston

Resolved to approve the following Journal Entry/Budget amendment: transfer \$1,000 from A1990.4 contingency to A1010.4 Town Board contractual. Ayes 5, Nays 0

**RESOLUTION #63** – offered by M. Bergen, seconded B. Preston

Resolved to have audited and further authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from the following funds: General Vouchers #124 thru #157 - \$29,803.54; Highway Vouchers #91 thru #115 - \$36,618.91; Water District Vouchers #72 thru #86 - \$8,281.88 (V#80 voided); and Trust & Agency Vouchers #8 thru #9 - \$921.62      Ayes 5, Nays 0

**Public Comment:** 7:03pm

Carol DeSarno asked if there was any progress on a Comprehensive Land Management Plan. Supervisor A. White reported that he has given the Town Board some information to review; will report again next month. Closed at 7:05pm

**Cooperative Extension:**

Paul Bursic reported that his term on the Board of Cooperative Extension is up this year; looking for new board members. This is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cooperative Extension; gave a brief history of founding; celebration will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup> at Logan Ridge; introduced new Executive Director Phil Cherry.

Phil Cherry gave a brief history on his past; interested to hear from people with any comments and concerns; moved here from Delaware; started in agriculture; still assisting farmers; working on local farming, farmers market initiative; eating better; youth development; Hidden Valley celebrates 70 years; programs and education on going; robotics team made it to the regional finals. A youth shooting program has started to include archery and air rifles; Odessa Conservation Club and Schuyler County Chapter of SCOPE are supporting the program. Solar Schuyler program is continuing.

**Environmental Management Council:** Charlie Stevenson asked if there was anything further to add regarding Natural Resources in the Town of Hector. Items discussed include view sheds; Scenic Byway; under mammals, add Fisher cat. Supervisor A. White and Clerk Ike researched the property at the head of the lake that lies in the Town of Hector; NYS turned it over to the Village of Watkins Glen in 1989. Charlie asked if they build on it do they get permits from Town of Hector; – yes.

Carol DeSarno asked where this property is; small section on left hand side heading up 414 out of Watkins toward Hector.

Councilman J. White asked if the Fishers were extremely rare; Charlie reported that they are coming back; have been spotted in several locations.

**Village of Watkins Glen Youth Program:** Mayor Sam Schimizzi presented information on the program including numbers of children attending from surrounding towns; school has been running the program; grant funding has been cut some; this year Cargill donated \$15,000 (\$40,000 annual cost); looking for donations from surrounding municipalities to help cover costs needed to keep the program going; free breakfast and lunch included; the Village of Watkins is taking the lead to assist the school.

Councilman J. White asked how much money they had and how much more they needed; it is important to help kids; would like to see some better numbers. Janine Bond asked if this was part of the swim program, as Hector does contribute up to \$1000 to that program. Mayor Schimizzi thinks so but was not sure. The program has purchased kayaks, etc.; has received some monies from the 21<sup>st</sup> century grant; cannot rely on Cargill every year; would like to start a fund to create revenue to get away from relying on grants.

Councilman J. White reported that we build a budget; need to be accountable; need better numbers to make a decision. Mayor Schimizzi will get some more information for the board; looking for more participation from the community.

Phil Cherry asked what the age range was; grade school to middle school.

### **Department Reports:**

**Smith Park:** Park Manager Bond reported that all 2017 Seasonal sites are filled with the exception of 3 non-electric sites that have transitioned between seasonal and transient use over the years. Lottery will be held for any remaining seasonal sites this weekend.

Transient reservations are slightly ahead of last year; added convenience of an email link for direct credit card pay has been very helpful; reservations are being paid and confirmed in a timely manner.

Will Jennings completed the forestry work at the Park last week. He did have to move some seasonal camper sheds/property to safely place his equipment to remove the trees; it is agreed that in the future we will identify the sites that need to be cleared out in advance so the campers can be notified and remove their belongings themselves; Will would like the road to the boat launch blocked off when he is doing tree work; the boat launch was very busy while he was working which caused problems for him accessing trees with his equipment; high water at the beach area made removing a couple of the large trees difficult but the most dangerous trees are gone. He will return in the fall to review what trees should go next and hopefully coordinate the effort with the proposed new water system project.

Still waiting for the completed Engineering report for the water project for the park. It might be most beneficial to hire a grant writer to facilitate the grant process. Senator Tom O'Mara is on board to try to assist with funding. We will be inviting Phil Palmisano to visit the park.

The Park Committee has determined that the 1993 Wilderness Camper is no longer of use at the Park; it should be declared surplus; placed on Auctions International with a \$1000 reserve.

The mower was delivered two weeks ago; first mowing done; was working fine; quit today; Martin's will come get it for repairs. Walk behind blower was picked up last week; makes leaf clean up much faster; more efficient.

Water was turned on last night; water samples drawn for testing today. Opening Friday for seasonal campers only and transient camping the following weekend; approximately 80% full at this time for Memorial weekend.

PERMA safety training hosted by the Village of Watkins Glen on Wednesday, May 31 for Park, Town Highway and Water Department staff.

The park committee recommended appointments for Assistant Park Manager, 1 part-time laborer and 2 part-time office/laborers along with recommending the starting hourly rate for new lifeguards will be set for \$12.00/hour with \$.50/hour for each returning year of employment. With this structure to staff the park, there will be no unemployment necessary over the winter.

Working on updates for the park rules and regulations; have a preliminary copy of two sided glossy flyer for the park.

**RESOLUTION #64** - offered by B. Preston, seconded by J. Boyette

Resolved to declare the 1993 Wilderness camper as surplus and further to place it on Auctions International with a reserve of \$1000. Discussion: Councilman J. White asked why we would not put out to bid ourselves. Clerk Ike reviewed both processes including amount of work required for each. Ayes 5, Nays 0

**RESOLUTION #65** - offered by A. White, seconded by B. Preston

Resolved to appoint Jason Bond as Assistant Park Manager effective May 10, 2017 with setting the salary as the balance of the A7110.11 (\$15,817.35) thru December 31, 2017. Discussion of duties. He will still oversee the beach and lifeguards along with mowing. Ayes 5, Nays 0

**RESOLUTION #66** - offered by A. White, seconded by M. Bergen

Resolved to make the following appointments for Smith Park: Brady Bond part-time laborer starting May 10<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> at a rate of \$12.00/hour; Sydney McGannon-Bond part-time office/laborer from May 10<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> at a rate of \$12.00/hour. Christina Mansfield part-time office/laborer position starting May 26<sup>th</sup> through September 4<sup>th</sup> at a rate of \$11.50/hour. Further resolved to set the rate as follows for lifeguards: starting rate for new lifeguards will be set at \$12.00/hour with \$.50/hour added for each returning year of employment. Ayes 5, Nays 0

Councilman J. White asked questions regarding Highway guys helping at the Park; does that get billed back to the park. Park Manager Bond reported that it is shared services between departments; Supervisor A. White confirmed. Councilman J. White asked about the 2 entity rule; goes back to if budgets are separate; if Highway spends 100 hours at Park; should that not be reflected in the budget. Park Manager Bond indicated that goes against what the Governor is pushing for; more shared services between departments and municipalities. Excess funds from the Park goes back to fund balance annually. Supervisor A. White indicated that we should document the hours; guys are still going to be working and are going to be paid; it's all taxes.

**RESOLUTION #67** - offered by M. Bergen, seconded by J. Boyette

Resolved to establish a Petty Cash Fund for Smith Park in the amount of \$200.00. Ayes 5, Nays 0

**Highway:** Superintendent Rappleye reported gravel is being made; ditching on going; driveway pipes being installed; grading began 4/13; heading into Steamburg area now; sand was moved from Jolly to Tuttle; mower tractor getting repaired; covered sections of roads repaired from erosion; new truck is at plow equipment company for installation; paving on South Hill Road starting tomorrow; Shuler Road next week. Randy and Highway Committee toured roads and visited upper Ball Diamond Road; will discuss further in committee meeting. Hoping to start dust oil next week.

Supervisor A. White clarified an issue brought up last month regarding dumping at Smith Park; it was Town truck that broke something in the tailgate; dumped the load at the Park and went back later to pick it up.

Councilman Preston asked why the Town received information on the Swick Pit from DEC. Clerk Ike explained that the Town gets copies of all active permits within the Town.

**RESOLUTION #68** - offered by M. Bergen, seconded by B. Preston

Resolved to authorize Richard Bump and Randy Rappleye to attend Highway School at Ithaca College June 12-14, 2017. Ayes 5, Nays 0

**Assessor:** Assessor Vicky Flynn asked to address and respond to the letter in the paper. Believe the letter should have come out when the re-val letters went out. If people start calling now, they may not get a chance to meet prior to grievance. Letters were sent out March 31; have met with 272 people as of today, another 112 are scheduled; are doubling up if needed; also 112 in Catharine as of today; have made special arrangements to meet with people. We have found some new homes that were not on the roll, large farmers are not the only ones buying; sales make the market. Job is to keep an equal roll; reviewed past years equalization rate; contract is to maintain everyone at 100%; permits and sales are on-going; don't know when it will stop; don't get paid for the re-val or overtime; definitely need more help; need a data collector; 279 hours of overtime so far.

Bill Preston explained that the letter he and Justin Boyette placed in the paper was not meant to bash our Assessor, it was meant to educate people on the process; apologized for the lateness in getting it in the paper; do agree there is no enough help in the Real Property Tax office especially when trying to do complete re-vals in two towns in one year.

Councilman J. White asked if the overtime related to the job as a whole, not all Town of Hector. Assessor Flynn reported that she has been told she is expected to work whatever it takes to do the job. Supervisor A/ White commented that he is working on trying to get an oversight committee started to get fair shared services. Vicky – work of 3 people; Alan - work of 2 people. Cheryl is doing more than she should be. Discussion of concerns at length; there is improvement; need to continue to work on issues. Councilman J. White commented that there are some people that don't want to go to grievance day. Alan reported that they are willing to stay later hours to accommodate everyone that they can that wants to meet. Supervisor A. White asked for a report as to how things went after Grievance.

**Water District:** Superintendent Stapleton was excused from tonight's meeting; written report was submitted.

**Cherry Landing:** Chatfield Engineering's report regarding Cherry Landing was submitted to the board for review. The proposal covers what is needed to get the existing lines up and running. Everything that needs to be done must be done by those that want water at no cost to the town.

**SPDES permit** has finally been issued effective June 1, 2017 for 5 years.

**Code Enforcement:** Officer Patterson excused by Supervisor A. White. Written report submitted.

**Supervisor:** Councilman Bergen and Supervisor A. White attended finance school in Buffalo; great training; important to get council members to some classes; would like to get the State to come to Schuyler County to do a training with all the towns; capital planning, multi-year plans. Office of the State Comptroller is excellent at training; encourage board members to get all the training they can; working on giving more information to board members monthly; including bank reconciliation reports; Supervisor's report; budget status report; should review reports and fund lines before they run out not after; invited board members to review and ask questions. Councilman J. White commented that they need more than just a couple of days to review these if they are going to be discussed at the board meeting.

Supervisor A. White went to Binghamton to a Department of State training; informative, but not as good a training. We are required by the State Governor to develop a shared services panel and develop a shared services plan; panel is headed by County Administrator; school districts can participate if they wish. Must have 3 public hearings; the first one is May 17; Time O'Hearn is required to put together the plan and submit to County Legislature by August 1<sup>st</sup>; panel must vote on plan by September 15; plan must be completed and approved by October 15. Concern with state's time line; how can a good job be done in 3-4 months. Supervisor A. White will keep the board informed; Supervisors and mayors are the voting members of the panel. Asked for board input as to how to vote.

Councilman J. White asked to be excused at 9pm.

**Committee Reports:**

Dumpster Day: June 3, 2017 is coming up; expect to have all requests for pick up done on Thursday June 1 by the Highway Department. Sites will be staffed with volunteers as usual; donations will be accepted to help defray costs; electronics must come to Reynoldsville only.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Monthly report submitted to the Board. This is Municipal Clerk's week; fellow Clerk Carmella Hoffman from the Town of Catharine is being honored by Senator O'Mara as a Woman of Distinction from the 58<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

**Miscellaneous/Correspondence:** Discussion of driving reasons for re-val; sales along the lake and Trumansburg school district; large land sales. Letter in the paper was intended to provide people with information on how to fight their assessment; system needs to change; everyone needs to challenge their assessment; property tax system is broken.

Adjourned at 9:15pm on a motion by Councilman Preston, seconded by Councilman Boyette

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk