

**TOWN OF HECTOR
REGULAR AUDIT MEETING
March 21, 2017**

Members Present:

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

Absent: John White, Councilman

Others:

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk
Randy Rappleye, Highway Superintendent
Robert Stapleton, Water Superintendent
Janine Bond, HR/Smith Park
David Patterson, Code Enforcement
Van Harp, County Legislator
Richard Bump, Deputy Highway Supt.
Vicky Flynn, Assessor Barb Kelley
Rich Brown Martin Conwell

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

RESOLUTION #37 – offered by B. Morley, seconded by J. Boyette

Resolved to approve the minutes of February 14, 2016 and February 16, 2017 as written.

Ayes 5, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #38 – offered by A. White, seconded by B. Preston

Resolved to approve Journal Entry/Budget Amendment as follows: transfer \$2600.00 from A1990.4 to A1620.2 Shared Services to replace furnace; and transfer \$109.80 from A1990.4 contingency to A4540.4 Ambulance Certificate of Need. Ayes 5, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #39 – offered by B. Morley, seconded by M. Bergen

Resolved to have audited and authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from the following funds: General Vouchers #60 thru #98 - \$14,497.68; Highway Vouchers #40 thru #62 - \$45,033.91; Water District Vouchers #33 thru #56 - \$9,635.14; and Trust & Agency Vouchers #4 thru #5 - \$836.15. Ayes 5, Nays 0

Public Comment: 7:07pm

Carol DeSarno – asking about a comprehensive land management plan; concerned with development along State Route 414. Supervisor A. White asked Mike and Justin to meet with him and the County Planner and find out what we can and cannot do and to review the comprehensive plan. Carol – most recent newsletter from SLPWA identified agricultural run off and rampant unedited development are two growing concerns for Seneca Lake.

Van Harp asked what the status of speed limit request was for State Route 414. Supervisor A. White reported that a new DOT engineer has been assigned; we are on low priority list; have met with him; appears to be a non-positive reaction from the engineer; tried to sell the group on the little green/blue signs, etc. DOT was also asked them to look at County Road 5 intersection limited sight distance. We will schedule another follow up meeting; not pleased with outcome so far. Comment period closed at 7:13pm

EMC – Charlie Stevenson: not present

Department Reports:

Highway: Superintendent Rappleye reported activities for the month of February. Spread gravel and stone in areas of soft roads; graders and rakes all serviced; Winter Storm Stella cost reports covering equipment, manpower and materials \$48693.63; waiting to see if there are any funds for reimbursement from the state due to state of emergency.

Currently have only 7 hours per man left for over-time for the rest of the year. We budgeted \$125 hours per man which is not enough to get through this year. Randy will submit an amount to the supervisor for what might be needed to get through the rest of the year; anticipate as much as 50 more hours per person may be needed; will present numbers at April meeting.

NYS DOT shared services agreement: Attorney Halpin has reviewed and sees no issues.

RESOLUTION #40 – offered by M. Bergen, seconded B. Morley
Resolved to approve the NYS DOT shared services agreement and further authorize the Highway Superintendent to sign the agreement. Ayes 5, Nays 0

Supervisor A. White thanked the crew for all their work during and throughout the storm. Highway Committee will meet with crew Thursday, March 23 at 7am. Highway Committee will meet March 31 at 1pm.

Water District: Superintendent Stapleton reported the daily average of water pumped and treated; meters read, bills sent out; DEC annual 2016 report sent; leak on State Route 414 repaired; 1 hydrant out of service; still working on making a tool; Pall skid up and running properly; water heater quit – replaced; spectrophotometer repaired; MSDS sheets updated to SDS. Leak on Bassett Road; house froze; basement full; approximately 60,000 gallons. Annual inspection from DOH reviewed.

RESOLUTION #41 - offered by A. White, seconded by B. Morley
Resolved to authorize Water Superintendent Stapleton to attend 2017 training May 22-25 in Niagara Falls; NY Rural Water Association conference. Ayes 5, Nays 0

Code Enforcement: Officer Patterson excused from meeting. Written report submitted to board.

Smith Park: Manager J. Bond reported that 3 of the 5 main players on WG Basketball State Champion team live in the Town of Hector.

Park committee is recommending a \$25.00 increase across the board for seasonal sites for the 2017 season; reviewed the changes in seasonal rates; leaving transient site rates alone for now; reviewed laborer appointments; leaf blower will go to Agway to be repaired; after rates are approved will send letters out to seasonal campers.

RESOLUTION #42 - offered by M. Bergen, seconded by J. Boyette
Resolved to set the seasonal camping rates for 2017 at Smith Park as follows:
Lakefront w/electric - \$1825.00; Non-Lakefront with electric - \$1725.00;
Lakefront non-electric - \$1625.00; Non-Lakefront non-electric - \$1475.00
Ayes 5, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #43 - offered by M. Bergen, seconded by B. Preston
Resolved to appoint the following effective March 22, 2017 through October 31, 2017:
Jason Bond as Head Lifeguard/Laborer at a rate of \$16.65/hour; Emilia Bond as Lifeguard/Laborer at a rate of \$12.50/hour; and Lois Brown as Laborer at a rate of \$12.00/hour. Ayes 5, Nays 0

Richard Brown and Jeremy Brown were established as year round general laborers for the town and can start at the park as soon as the weather is conducive.

Will Jennings provided a list of priority trees (24 large, 9 medium) for removal and 4 need to be pruned at Smith Park; would also like him to grind 3 black locust stumps while there. Not sure about opening date of park; hoping to open by May 12 pending functional water; not sure what they will find when they turn water on. Will is looking at starting in 10-14 days and completing the work by May 6th at the latest.

RESOLUTION #44 - offered by A. White, seconded by M. Bergen

Resolved to accept the quote from Will Jennings Fingers Lakes Forest Management LLC for Smith Park; and further authorize the priority hazardous tree removal and maintenance at the park for this season including takedown and processing of 24 large trees, 9 medium trees and pruning of 4 trees at a cost of \$15,700.00 Ayes 5, Nays 0

A representative from our new Insurance Company was here; Janine and Randy met with him; toured Town, Highway and Park properties. Still have not received his report

Grant application resolution of support is needed; looking to find monies for water system and rest rooms. Supervisor A. White explained there is money available for waterfront revitalization; access to water front for handicapped, etc. Camping fees help fund the park; would like to see more community use and/or activities.

RESOLUTION #45 - offered by A. White, seconded by J. Boyette

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 2017 CONSOLIDATED FUNDING APPLICATION

WHEREAS, in 2011 Governor Cuomo created ten Regional Economic Development Councils and the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) to improve New York's business climate and expand economic growth; and,

WHEREAS, the CFA has been designed to give economic development project applicants expedited and streamlined access to a combined pool of grant funds and tax credits from dozens of existing programs; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Hector, with assistance from SCOPED, is submitting an application through the CFA process for a matching funds grant(s); and,

WHEREAS, this funding, if secured, will be administered by the Town of Hector and used for the engineering, permitting and construction of improvements to the Smith Memorial Park water system and rest room facilities; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Hector Town Board supports the application for funding through the 2017 CFA process and authorizes the Supervisor to sign any and all necessary documents relative to said grant.

Roll call vote: Preston – Aye; Boyette – Aye; Morley – Aye; A. White – Aye; and Bergen – Aye;
Absent – J. White Ayes 5, Nays 0

Assessor: Assessor Vicky Flynn submitted a written report. Field work is almost complete with re-valuation; will be working on ag exemptions within the fire districts; have a few left to run numbers on; things going well; week of April 5th Vicky will be on vacation.

Supervisor A. White asked Vicky to look into the parcel at the edge of the Town/Village line in Watkins. In March 1989 property was transferred from NYS to Village of Watkins Glen.

Bev Morley spoke to someone at the County regarding Assessor being able to use their own vehicle and get paid mileage; they must first check to see if a county vehicle is available; if not they can submit mileage.

Supervisor: Committee Reports: Public Safety Committee needs to meet regarding disaster plan; Wednesday March 29, 2017 at 7pm at the Town Hall.

Dumpster Day: Set date for June 3, 2017 9am to 3pm; agreeable to all.

Southern Tier Regional Training Conference is April 6, 2017 in Corning.

RESOLUTION #46 - offered by M. Bergen, seconded by B. Preston

Resolved to authorize the following to attend the Southern Tier Regional Training Conference in Corning on April 6, 2017: Councilman M. Bergen, Councilman W. Preston, Supervisor A. White, Judge D. Jaynes, Clerk J. Ike and Highway Superintendent R. Rappleye. Ayes 5, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #47 - offered by B. Preston, seconded by B. Morley

Resolved to authorize Supervisor A. White and Councilman M. Bergen to attend the AOT Annual Finance School May 4-5, 2017 in Buffalo, NY at a cost of \$200 each plus hotel and mileage. Ayes 5, Nays 0

AIM Program Resolution: Supervisor A. White read the following statement into the record:

Municipal officials from around the state are delivering a unified message on correcting misperceptions about local government that New York State citizens may have because of recent budget proposals from Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Local officials dispute the governor's oft-repeated message that local governments are the primary cause of high property taxes in New York, pointing to decades of cooperation and shared services to keep tax hikes low, as well as school districts' hefty proportion of property tax bills.

New York's 3180 local governments have a long history of sharing services and working together. Shared services occurs in a wide variety of areas including public works & transportation, administrative/support services, recreation and social services, public safety, and economic development & planning. So as the governor pushes for yet another set of efficiency plans while most of the state is already operating under a current set of plans through 2020, we proudly point to a history of shared services where the average length of an agreement spans 18 years.

The governor's latest property tax relief proposal requires counties to fund more government efficiency studies that may result in the loss of local services, thereby impinging on home rule. Not only does the governor's latest proposal not provide direct funding to create these new efficiency plans, the governor seeks to withhold state aid (aka AIM funding) from cities, towns and villages if the Legislature does not include his county-wide shared services property tax savings plan proposal in the budget. Withholding state aid is no way to reduce property taxes. State aid is a proven tool to lower property taxes and should not be conditioned on the adoption of another unfunded mandate. AIM was cut in 2009 and again in 2010 and has been flat since 2011. The cuts alone represent a 9 percent reduction, and when inflation is factored in, AIM has fallen 17.6 percent. Increasing AIM funding by \$152.8 million will make up for lost funding and help local governments lower property taxes.

In addition to increasing AIM funding, sustainable property tax relief requires meaningful mandate relief, a stated goal of the governor's since he took office. In reality, to date, only a single initiative toward mandate relief has been enacted, a Medicaid cap benefitting county governments.

Let's stand together to protect local democracy. Now more than ever we must come together to protect local governments. Join us in this opportunity to remind the state legislature and Governor the importance and value of local government and home rule. Please lend your voice and support to help us deliver a clear and unified message to Albany.

Councilwoman Morley reported that Gov. Cuomo would like to have all STAR exemptions all go through Taxation and Finance in Albany also; not a good idea; your assessor knows the local people.

Supervisor A. White agreed that local governments are the closest to the people; Towns are only 11% of property taxes. Have emailed Senator Tom O'Mara and have talked to Assemblyman Phil Palmisano.

NYS Town Clerks Association is also opposing this action and has provided a sample letter to submit to Senators, Assemblymen and the Governor.

RESOLUTION #48 - offered by A. White, seconded by B. Preston

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Aid and Incentives to Municipalities program (the "AIM"), New York State provides unrestricted, general fund aid moneys to New York's cities, towns and villages; and

WHEREAS, AIM funds are an integral part of the budget for New York's municipalities, as they are necessary to provide some measure of offset to the costs incurred by these municipalities due to the onerous and burdensome unfunded mandates imposed by New York State on its municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Budget for 2017-18 proposed by Governor Cuomo includes a requirement that AIM funding be conditioned upon the enactment by the State Legislature of an amendment to the State's Municipal Home Rule Law that would require county governments to prepare "efficiency plans" for sharing services within their counties for approval by the county's voters; and

WHEREAS, the nearly all of the real property tax dollars paid in New York State go to school districts and to pay for State-mandated programs and services, neither of which would be affected by the required "efficiency plans"; and

WHEREAS, as such, while New York's municipalities recognize that sharing of services and other efficiencies are a necessary part of local government operations, any real tax savings generated as a result of the plans required by the Governor's proposal would be relatively miniscule, and, worse, the Governor's requirement amounts essentially to yet another unfunded mandated foisted upon the State's municipalities;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Town Board of the Town of Hector (the "Board") that the Board is opposed to the Governor's proposal as described above, and any similar plans that would condition AIM funding on additional State-mandated actions to be taken by New York's municipalities.

Discussion: Councilman B. Preston – education system needs to be revamped; common core needs to go; parents are unable to assist children. Supervisor A. White reported that the AIM funding to the Town of Hector is only about \$18,000 per year; does not even cover the increase in health insurance costs annually.

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

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Late notices on taxes went out March 8, 2017 reminding tax payers that their bill is not paid. Final date to pay with 2% penalty and \$2.00 late charge is March 31st.

Clerk's monthly report submitted.

Junk Yard License Renewals: April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018

RESOLUTION #49 - offered by M. Bergen, seconded by B. Preston

Resolved to approve the Junk Yard License renewals for William J. Brown, dba Schuyler Wrecker & Auto Parts and Michael Cox, dba Coxy's effective April 1, 2017 thru March 31, 2018. Ayes 5, Nays 0

Master Service Contract reviewed by Supervisor A. White; recommended by Attorney Halpin.

RESOLUTION #50 - offered by B. Preston, seconded by J. Boyette

Resolved to approve the Master Service Contract for use as a template by the Town of Hector when entering into service contracts and authorize any amendments as needed or recommended by the Attorney for the Town. Ayes 5, Nays 0

Miscellaneous/Correspondence:

Broadband funding eligibility: Information reviewed; Hector is an underserved and unserved area for broadband. Empire Telephone is working on something; Haefe TV is also working on something to our knowledge.

Farm to Fork Fondo: Finger Lakes Bicycle event June 25, 2017 information and map reviewed.

Finger Lakes National Forest: Scoping letter for Solar Array Project involving 1 acre of land within Ballard Pasture located off Searsburg Road; comments accepted until April 9, 2017.

Cybercriminal Activities: Notice received from the Division of Local Government Services detailing scammers targeting payroll and HR professionals. Detailed things to be aware of regarding phone calls and emails.

Annual Financial Audit: The audit of the books and records of Justice Fitzsimmons needs to be completed. Supervisor A. White mandated he attend the April 11th meeting at 5:30pm to complete his 2016 audit.

Supervisor A. White would also like to review how last year's total budget monies were spent; has prepared a slide show which he can present at the end of the next meeting.

Adjourned at 8:46pm on a motion by Councilwoman Morley, seconded by Councilman Preston.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk