

TOWN OF HECTOR
Public Hearings – Tax Cap, Fire, Ambulance & Budget
REGULAR AUDIT MEETING
November 10, 2016

Members present:

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

Others:

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk
Randy Rappleye, Highway Superintendent
Barb Kelley Ralph Ward
Vicki Flynn, Assessor
Robert Reynolds, Cherry Landing
Dan Thorpe, Deputy Highway Supt
Colin McNaull Nate Mayo
Jason Kelly Keith Caslin
Jeff Mangus Mike Lausell

Called to order at 7:03pm by Supervisor A. White, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

RESOLUTION #131 – offered by J. White, seconded by M. Bergen

Resolved to approve the minutes of October 4, October 6, & October 11, October 18, and October 20, 2016 as written. Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #132 – offered by W. Preston, seconded by J. Boyette

Approval of Budget Amendments/Journal Entries as follows: Journal Entry to transfer \$21.00 from fund balance to A1460.4; transfer \$200.00 from fund balance to A1670.4; transfer \$114.71 from A5132.4 to A5132.21; transfer \$1004.73 from fund balance to A8160.41; and transfer \$3000 from A7110.23 to A7110.4. Journal Entry to transfer \$381.88 from A7110.13 to A7110.11. Journal Entry to transfer \$1561.42 from SW8340.4 to SW8330.4 and further resolved to review all water accounts to be sure bills are posted correctly. Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #133 – offered by B. Morley, seconded by W. Preston

Resolved to have audited and further authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from the following funds: General Vouchers #338 thru #374 - \$12,283.99; Highway Vouchers #230 thru #252 - \$107,955.68; Water District Vouchers #183 thru #203 - \$13,644.01; and Trust & Agency Vouchers #20 thru #21 - \$996.67 Ayes 6, Nays 0

Public Comment:

7:10pm – Robert Reynolds, Cherry Landing submitted a petition with 11 signatures requesting the extension be completed and water be made available to residents on the road; still unable to get one property owner to sign an easement.

Councilman White clarified that his understanding was that the line is still privately owned; has not been turned over to the Town. Robert Reynolds stated that the land owner objecting to the easement purchased the property knowing the line existed.

Councilman J. White – feel this is a matter for a court; not a responsibility of the Town; if we have our attorney research; it costs the Town; can sympathize but still believe this is a civil matter; cost of an attorney should be borne by those wishing to get water. Councilman J. White suggested he consult his attorney to make a determination of issue; private or public matter.

Robert Reynolds asked if the line from Willow Point direction could be accessed; would probably be costly; suggested the Town could go down the road and bypass the first property. Road is private not Town owned even though the road has been being used by residents.

Jason Kelly asked how many fire hydrants are on that road; do not believe Fire Department was notified that there was never water hooked up on Cherry Landing.

Public Hearings: Supervisor A. White read the 2017 Budget message which includes the information covering the need to override the tax cap including health insurance costs omitted in 2016; increases in fire protection; commitment to new Burdett fire house and the new Mecklenburg ambulance district.

Local Law #2 of 2016 Override Tax Cap: Public Hearing opened at 7:25pm

Budget could only increase \$81,000 to stay within the cap. Bo Lipari asked reasons to be reviewed again. Supervisor A. White reviewed the amounts related to omission of health insurance HSA accounts; 14% increase in health insurance cost for 2017; Burdett Fire house and Mecklenburg ambulance. Creating a new district also has to be included in the tax levy to be counted in the cap calculations.

Colin McNaull – Town cannot institute an income tax? Supervisor A. White – no.
Hearing closed at 7:28pm

RESOLUTION #134 – offered by A. White, seconded by J. White
Resolved to adopt Local Law #2 of 2016 Tax Cap Override.

Roll Call Vote: W. Preston – Aye; J. Boyette – Aye; B. Morley – Aye; J. White – Aye; A. White – Aye; M. Bergen – Aye. Ayes 6; Nays 0

2017 Fire Protection District Contracts/Budget: Public Hearing opened at 7:30pm

Supervisor A. White reviewed the revenue portion of the budget, covering contract amounts for each district. Questions asked regarding Burdett fire House; monies will be held until actual numbers for construction are determined; any monies not spent will be held to reduce taxes in 2018; Burdett's fire contract portion did not raise. Hearing closed at 7:34pm.

RESOLUTION #135 – offered by J. White, seconded by W. Preston

Resolved to approve and accept the fire contracts and budgets for 2017 as follows:

District #1 – Mecklenburg Volunteer Fire Company – 1-year contract - \$130,000.00

District #2 – Village of Odessa Vol. Fire Department – 1-year contract - \$10,949.00

District #3 – Valois Logan Hector Vol. Fire Company – 1-year contract - \$205,000.00

District #14 – Village of Burdett Vol. Fire Department – 1-year contract - \$271,553.44

District #15 – Village of Trumansburg Vol. Fire Dept. – 1-year contract - \$15,271.93

Ayes 6, Nays 0

2017 Trumansburg Ambulance Contract/Budget: Public Hearing opened at 7:35pm

Supervisor A. White reviewed contract amount for 2017; 2016 revenues were slightly lower; so taxable amount is raised slightly. Mike Lausell asked about charges for services. Supervisor A. White explained the process of charges, billing and reimbursement.
Hearing closed at 7:39pm

RESOLUTION #136 – offered by J. White, seconded by B. Morley

Resolved to approve and accept the Ambulance Contract and budget for 2017 as follows:

#16 Village of Trumansburg Ambulance, 1-year contract for \$22,664.82

Ayes 6, Nays 0

2017 Mecklenburg Ambulance Contract/Budget: Public Hearing opened at 7:41pm

Supervisor A. White reviewed the amount to be taxed which includes the contract and the formation costs for the new district (tax rate \$.487 per 1,000 assessed value). Service rates will need to be set by the Board.

Keith Caslin asked if Southern Tier Regional EMS had been notified; usually takes 6 months to get processed. Supervisor A. White will follow up; Trumansburg has been notified that the district was approved.

Colin McNaull – appreciate all the work that has been done to date; a little dismayed that this issue with STREMS is just coming forth. Keith Caslin stated that Donnie DeVaul is the contact person.

Bo Lipari asked if this is scheduled to start in January will they still respond if the issue with STREMS is not resolved. Supervisor A. White will get this resolved.

Hearing closed at 7:50pm

RESOLUTION #137 – offered by W. Preston, seconded by J. Boyette

Resolved to approve and accept the Ambulance Contract and budget for 2017 as follows:
#17 Village of Trumansburg Mecklenburg Ambulance, 1-year contract with a total budget of \$47,205.01 which also includes all costs for formation of the district. Ayes 6, Nays 0

2017 Preliminary Town Budget: Public Hearing opened at 7:51pm

Preliminary budgets were available; tax rates reviewed by Supervisor A. White; approximately the same as 2014 rates. No comments. Hearing closed at 7:53pm

RESOLUTION #138 – offered by W. Preston, seconded by M. Bergen

A resolution adopting a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017 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 2017 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, 2017.

Discussion: Councilman Bergen thanked all the board members for all the work hours put into this budget. Councilman J. White stated we could have stayed within the cap without the new ambulance district and the commitment to the Burdett Fire House. Supervisor A. White commended the board for a good job.

Roll Call Vote: W. Preston – Aye; J. Boyette – Aye; B. Morley – Aye; J. White – Aye;
A. White – Aye; M. Bergen – Aye Ayes 6, Nays 0

Department Reports:

Assessment:

Resolution to support 2017 Re-Assessment discussed. Discussion: Councilman Preston asked for some information; will not vote without getting the requested information. Supervisor A. White has the written plan; attended Counsel of Governments meeting and asked for an oversight committee; all agree it would be a good idea; Supervisor A. White will set up a meeting with Tom Bloodgood and Tim O’Hearn and the Supervisors to discuss process and creation of committee. Councilman J. White asked if the sharing of legal expenses been resolved. Supervisor A. White stated the contract will need to be revised to deal with those expenses. Re-assessment plan reviewed by the Board. Councilman Boyette – we have a shared services agreement; how can the county proceed with re-valuation even if board does not agree?

Assessor Flynn stated that we must keep all the Town's at 100% in the County. If we do not do this re-valuation, the Town/County will not get state aid reimbursement. Supervisor A. White informed the Board that we need to support; needs to be done the right way; a complete re-valuation is fairer for the entire town. Councilman B. Preston asked how do you undo the damage from that last few years? Assessor Flynn - will not be able to; need to move forward; some parcel values will get adjusted according to sales; definitely looking at every parcel; have not seen any consistency in past values,. Prime site with well and septic is \$25,000; Trumansburg School District going to \$35,000. Legislator Mike Lausell – not too clear on what the problem is; past re-valuation covered parcels 10 acres or more and lake properties. Councilman W. Preston indicated that the law says they must look at all properties; the assessor at the time never left the office; some parcels increased 200% in one year.

RESOLUTION #139 – offered by A. White, seconded by B. Morley

Resolved to acknowledge support for the 2017 Cap 1 full re-assessment and further resolved to authorize the Supervisor to send a letter of support to the State.

Roll Call Vote: M. Bergen – Aye; A. White – Aye; J. White – Aye; B. Morley – Aye; J. Boyette – Aye; W. Preston - Abstain Ayes 5, Nays 1 (Preston)

Highway: Superintendent Rappleye reviewed his report.

Road Abandonments: Mott Evans Spur no maintenance has been done for 15 or more years & Spaulding Road no maintenance has been done for over 6 years; with a total abandonment the property reverts back to land owners.

RESOLUTION #140 – offered by M. Bergen, seconded by W. Preston

Resolved to authorize the Highway Superintendent to proceed with the total abandonment of Spaulding Road in the Town of Hector effective December 1, 2016 with the condition that all property owners be notified prior.

Discussion: Councilwoman B. Morley asked if owners had been notified. Under Highway Law 205 we only need a board resolution for a total abandonment. Councilwoman B. Morley feels the land owners should be notified. Highway Superintendent Rappleye stated that a qualified abandonment would require prior notice. Emergency Management will be notified; along with land owners. Councilman W. Preston - assume there are no residences? Spaulding Road has not been occupied since 2008 or before. December 12th is the deadline to complete action according to the State. Councilman J. White – hate to be hit with stuff on the day of to make a decision. Highway Superintendent Rappleye explained that abandonment takes liability and responsibility from the Town; we do not plan to do any work on either of these roads. State is changing road inventory using satellites; they are recommending these 2 be removed. Councilman J. White recommended notification be sent to the owners that this will be effective December 1, 2016. Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #141 – offered by M. Bergen, seconded by J. Boyette

Resolved to authorize the Highway Superintendent to proceed with the total abandonment of Mott Evans Spur Road in the Town of Hector effective December 1st after property owners have been notified. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Road Inventory: Corrections discussed. Highway Superintendent Rappleye reviewed the roads the State removed from our inventory that are active maintained highways. Discussion of changes in responsibility of Town on Seneca Road; the state re-assigned sections; making each Town a straight section for maintenance. Councilwoman B. Morley – Albany sits there and tells us all this based on satellites; sounds like our past assessor.

RESOLUTION #142 – offered by M. Bergen, seconded by W. Preston

Be it hereby resolved by that the Town of Hector Town Board is re-affirming the acceptance of; and having full jurisdiction over the below listed Town Road(s) and acknowledges that the Town of Hector maintains said road(s) including but not limited to all repairs and capital maintenance; AND further that the Town of Hector accepts all legal responsibility for the Town Road(s) which includes liability in case of lawsuits, and that said Town Road(s) are fully open to the public at all times (excepting construction and short term weather-related issues).

Hubbs Road from CR 4 to the end of road for a total length of 0.38 miles (corrected length)

Mark Taber Road from Fitzgerald Road to the end of road for a total length of 0.30 miles (corrected length)

Mott Evans Road from Heverly Road to the end of road for a total length of 0.65 miles (corrected length)

Park Avenue from Peach Orchard Road to Bond-Smith Park Road for a total length of 0.65 miles (corrected length)

Peach Orchard Spur from Peach Orchard Road to the end of road for a total length of 0.10 miles (not private)

School Street from NY 414 to the end of road for a total length of 0.10 miles (not private)

Now, therefore, the Town of Hector Town Board members hereby resolve as follows:
The following vote was taken and recorded in the public or open session of said meeting.

Roll Call Vote: A. White – Aye; B. Morley – Aye; J. White – Aye; M. Bergen – Aye; W. Preston – Aye; J. Boyette – Aye. Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #143 - offered by M. Bergen, seconded by J. White

Resolved to approve the 12% increase to \$2.05 for gravel from State's gravel bank effective January 1, 2016 thru December 31, 2019. Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #144 - offered by A. White, seconded by J. White

Resolved to authorize the Highway Department to remove the brush piles in the Reynoldsville Cemetery. Discussion: Councilman J. White indicated that we need to set a policy for what the Town is able to do for cemeteries. Highway Superintendent Rappleye is asking for permission for liability reasons. Supervisor A. White stated that we can look at setting a policy; numbers of small cemeteries discussed. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Surplus equipment: 2006 Ford 550 4x4 dump truck; looking to sell to Smith Park at a value of \$5000; did some checking into value on line. Questions asked if there a need to surplus; Smith Park Committee agrees with transfer and dollar amount. 1996 airflow spreader is surplus also.

RESOLUTION # 145 – offered by J. White, seconded by J. Boyette

Resolved to transfer the 2006 Ford F-550 to Smith Park at a cost of \$5000. Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #146 – offered by M. Bergen, seconded by B. Morley

Resolved to declare the 1996 airflow spreader as surplus and further authorize the Highway Superintendent to dispose of as scrap accordingly. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Highway Superintendent Rappleye reported that the 2016 Ford 550 arrived and is in use. Covered ditching, shoulders pulled; chip seal patching; fall grading; sand stockpiled; stockpiling gravel for winter use; plows and sanders checked and serviced.

2017 Truck Purchase discussed; need a letter of intent to lock in 2016 pricing for purchase of a 2018 in January 2017. Discussion of funding for this truck; equip line \$60,000; reserve 60,000; 25,000 chips equipment time; the balance would be pulled from 2017 chips monies. Supervisor A. White indicated that we need to create a multi-year capital plan. Cannot increase \$60,000 equipment line item; law passed in 1957 has never been increased.

RESOLUTION #147 – offered by M. Bergen, seconded by B. Preston

Resolved to authorize the Highway Superintendent to lock in the 2016 pricing and to send a letter of intent to purchase a 2018 7600 6X4 International with Valley Fab Equipment for the completed total of \$210,832.40 by piggy backing off the Onondaga contract #7823 with the order to be placed in January 2017. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Water District: Superintendent's Written Report reviewed by Supervisor A. White.

Delinquent Water Accounts for 2016 to be re-levied on the January 2017 tax bills reviewed by Water Collection Clerk J. Ike.

RESOLUTION #148 – offered by M. Bergen, seconded by J. Boyette

Resolved to authorize the Water Collection Clerk and the Supervisor to proceed with the re-levy of the 2016 Delinquent Water Bills on the 2017 Town & County Tax Bills per the list as presented; and further authorize the Supervisor to submit the list to the Schuyler County Legislature. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Code Enforcement: Officer's Written Report reviewed by Supervisor A. White.

ISO (Insurance Services Organization) rating; letter received informing us of the current ratings for the Town of Hector.

NYS DOT sent a letter regarding the Perry City Mini Park. NYS DOT is requesting the boat and unregistered van currently sitting on the property designated as a mini park be removed. Discussion of keeping the long term lease with the State, or turning the property back to their control. Supervisor A. White will ask our Code Officer to inform them that the items in the letter must be removed immediately.

Smith Park: Manager's written report reviewed by Supervisor A. White.

The 2016 departmental income for Parks & Recreation budget line item A2001 was set at \$95,000.00. The total for that line item is currently \$126,359.01. That puts the park on track to exceed last year's total revenue by \$6395.00 and will allow \$31,359.01 to be added to the Park Property upgrade line towards the water project.

We should know by 12/8/2016 if we will receive the water project grant that was applied for.

All but one of the seasonal campers that have left their camper on site has paid the winter storage fee; Park Manager Bond is pursuing that collection.

Jason Bond and Park Manager Janine Bond will meet with Will Jennings this Saturday to review where we are at with the tree maintenance at the park to be completed before the end of the year and the plan pre-opening for 2017.

Park Manager Bond will continue to meet with the Park Committee to review the future plans for the Park and keep the board updated throughout the off season.

Supervisor: Committee Reports

IT Services contract with Southern Tier Regional Planning and Development is up for renewal. Supervisor A. White asked for them to increase the amount of time allotted in the contract for the next year.

RESOLUTION #149 – offered J. Boyette, seconded by J. White
Resolved to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract with Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development at a cost of \$2050.00 for 8 days of service. Ayes 6, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #150 - offered by M. Bergen, seconded by B. Morley
Resolved to re-appoint Matt Schamel as the Hector representative to the Schuyler County Planning Commission effective January 1, 2017 thru December 31, 2018. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Court Clerk

Web Site is moving along; Supervisor A. White and Clerk Jane Ike will get Administrator's training next week; site should be live by the end of the month.

Rabies Clinic: Clerk Jane Ike reported 60 animals vaccinated; \$133.00 in donations received; \$113.00 was paid to Dr. Chaffee to cover the cost of the vaccine; \$20.00 will be turned in to the Town to help defray the cost of advertising.

Court Bailiff Memo of Understanding: Agreement with the Sheriff's Department needs to be updated to cover current wages for officers covering the court.

RESOLUTION #151 - offered by M. Bergen, seconded by B. Morley
Resolved to approve the updated agreement with the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office for Bailiff services for Hector Town Court; and further resolved to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement. Ayes 5, Nays 0; Abstain 1 (W. Preston)

Adjourned at 9:20pm on a motion by M. Bergen, seconded by A. White.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk