

**TOWN OF HECTOR
REGULAR AUDIT MEETING
December 13, 2016**

Members Present:

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

Absent: Justin Boyette, Councilman
John White, Councilman

Others:

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk
Randy Rapple, Highway Superintendent
Dan Thorpe, Deputy Highway Supt.
Robert Stapleton, Water Superintendent
Barb Kelley Ralph Ward
Mark Taylor, MEGA Richard Bump
Curtis Connelly Cameron Connelly
Van Harp, County Legislator
Steve Williams, VLH Fire Company
Susanne Lipari

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

RESOLUTION #152 – offered by B. Morley, seconded by M. Bergen
Resolved to approve the minutes of November 10, 2016 as written and corrected.
Ayes 4, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #153 – offered by M. Bergen, seconded by B. Preston
Resolved to approve the following Journal Entry Budget Amendments: Transfer \$800 from DA Fund Balance to DA9065.8; Transfer \$4742.50 from A Fund Balance to A1620.4; Transfer \$854.99 from SW Fund Balance to SW8330.4 and Transfer \$529.37 from SW fund Balance to SW8330.43. Ayes 4, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #154 – offered by B. Morley, seconded by B. Preston
Resolved to have audited and further authorize the Supervisor to pay the bills from the following funds: General Vouchers #376 thru #405 - \$11320.25; Highway Vouchers #253 thru #281 - \$29634.87; Water District Vouchers #204 thru #219 - \$10846.90; and Trust & Agency Vouchers #22 thru #23 -0 \$658.17. Ayes 4, Nays 0

Public Comment Period: 7:07pm

Steve Williams – VLH upgrading bathrooms and interior; asked for the permit fee to be waived as they are a not for profit. Supervisor A. White would like to discuss with Public Safety Committee; Code Officer Patterson will process building permit without a fee until decision is made and further proposed that fees for churches be waived also. Councilwoman Morley expressed no problem with waiving the fee for Fire Companies and Churches.

Comment period closed at 7:10pm

Schuyler County Public Health: Chelsea Bailey reported Rabies cases in 2015 included 5 cows; 2 in 2016 of which one was in Hector and one in Catharine; 1 horse in Hector also. Encourage everyone to vaccinate their domestic animals and farm livestock also. The National Forest may have a part in the impact; trapping numbers are down across the state. Schuyler County will have a rabies clinic June 3rd at Hector Fire House.

Lyme disease rates are out of control; ticks are prevalent; flu and pneumonia shots are available.

Department Reports:

Highway: Superintendent Rappleye provided a list of 2016 Completed Road Projects to the Town Board. The 5 year plan for road improvements will be reviewed by the Highway Committee on December 22.

Road Abandonment for Spaulding Road is currently on hold; cannot totally abandon; plan to proceed with a qualified abandonment and keep the right of way as this would allow the one property owner continued access; will be done after the first of the year.

Soil and Water completely repainted excavator; pictures provided for the board to review. Superintendent Rappleye reported plowing and sanding is being done as necessary; ditching as weather allows; brush cutting and clearing in some areas; stockpiling 1b's and gravel.

Met with Chatfield engineers; will be getting engineering done for salt storage building. Personnel Committee to meet Friday at 1pm to discuss filling new position as of January 1st.

Water District: Superintendent Stapleton reported daily average for November; DOH reports completed and filed; all water sample draws for the year are done; 8 remaining meters to be replaced; 1 new service installation; generators operating; 2 fire hydrants out of service; waiting on parts; trainings completed on confined spaces, etc.

Code Enforcement: Officer Patterson reported 157 permits issued to date; inspections continuing on 73 projects; completed 151 permits this year; summary of projects for 2016; \$6.3 million construction value; \$16,330 permit fees collected; 55-60 fire inspections coming up; will be done in the next few months; 2 property maintenance issues in court as yet unresolved.

Public Safety Committee will meet December 22 at 1pm.

MEGA – Community Choice Aggregation for Electricity: Mark Taylor gave a power point presentation on the Municipal Electric & Gas Alliance. They provide aggregation for supply of electric and gas; Schuyler County has used this for approximately 18 years. NYS Public Service Commission has now extended this to individuals and not for profit corporations; competitive bidding process for electric and gas.

NYSEG portion of bill is delivery charge (maintaining wires, poles etc.) Energy supply portion is what can be bid on.

Allows Municipalities to aggregate the electricity accounts for residential and small commercial customers within their jurisdiction. The Village of Burdett is going to participate.

Participation must be approved by the Public Service Commission. MEGA has developed an implementation plan; and data protection plan; has a model Local Law available. Once municipality passes local law, residents are automatically in; have a 30 day opt out period.

Questions asked regarding how residents are going to know; communication should come with electric bill including a card to opt out. Small Commercial operations can opt in with municipality permission; outreach and education is available; expect 5-10% savings; can remain with current supplier and opt out of this program; can join this group and opt out at a later time (end of agreement) and return to choices through NYSEG; Mark will get clarification regarding getting in and out of this option and returning to NYSEG choices. Agreements are generally 2-3 years. Town can join the MEGA program on its own. Councilwoman Morley voiced concern with doing anything that forces something on the tax payers even if there is a savings; they should be able to choose to be in or not. Supervisor A. White would like to see more public discussion before making a decision.

Step 1 – choose MEGA as CCA administrator; Step 2 – educate the public; Step 3 – adopt local law; Step 4 – competitive bid process; Step 5 – selection of low bidder; Step 6 – customers can opt out; Step 7 – savings begin with new supplier.

Supervisor:

Mecklenburg Ambulance Municipal Certificate of Need: Supervisor A. White explained the process to begin to get a temporary certificate of need; packet needs to be submitted by the end of the month if possible; once approved by SEMSCO we will have 2 years to complete the full application; board resolution is needed to proceed.

RESOLUTION #155 – offered by A. White, seconded by M. Bergen

Whereas, Public Health Law Section 3008(7) permits a town to establish and operate an ambulance service; and

Whereas, the Town of Hector has determined that it is in the best interest of the town to establish and operate an ambulance service or contract for the operation of the ambulance service pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 122-b; and

Whereas, the Town Board has determined that all property, property owners and interested persons within the town will be benefited by the establishment and operation of an ambulance service;

Whereas, the Town board has determined that a need for such combined BLS and ALS service exists in the town, but outside of the fire protection district served by the Village of Trumansburg;

It is hereby resolved that: The Town of Hector, finding need for ambulance service in the Town of Hector, declare that the town establish and operate an ambulance service, or contract with an ambulance service for operation within the town's boundaries only; and it is further resolved, that the area covered shall be the Mecklenburg Ambulance District within the Town. Such ambulance service shall be a basic and life support service; and the Supervisor of the Town of Hector shall be empowered to take all steps necessary to obtain ambulance operating authority, including forwarding this resolution to the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. This service shall take effect January 1st 2017 and upon approval by the SEMSCO. This resolution has received the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the Board of the Town of Hector, as signed below and such resolution is hereby approved to cover all of the Town of Hector. Discussion – liability?

Roll Call Vote: B. Preston – Aye; B. Morley – Aye; A. White – Aye;
M. Bergen – Aye Ayes 4, Nays 0

Committee Reports: Insurance quotes have been received; once the committee has reviewed a recommendation will be made to the Board.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Court Clerk: Web Site is live as of December 1; Department Heads have the ability to post to their pages. It's still a work in progress; but coming along nicely. Clerk Ike reminded everyone to delete the old site in their favorites and type in www.hectorny.us to reach the new site.

RESOLUTION #156 – offered by M. Bergen, seconded by B. Morley

Resolved to approve and authorize the Supervisor to sign the Dog Control Contract with the Sheriff's Department effective 1/1/2017-12/31/2022. Ayes 4, Nays 0

Haefele TV: Notice of rate increase received. Discussion of \$2.00 increase to \$65.45 and local station fees increasing also.

Empire Access: Public Hearing to be held December 14, 2016 in Watkins Glen at 10am; project footprint includes Town of Hector; however there is no way of knowing where it's running by looking at documents submitted.

Pert Library letter seeking donations to complete the library project discussed.

RESOLUTION #157 – offered by A. White, seconded by M. Bergen

Resolved to enter into Executive Session at 8:48pm for approximately 10 minutes to discuss a personnel issue relating to a specific employee and a potential legal issue. Ayes 4, Nays 0

RESOLUTION #158 – offered by A. White, seconded by B. Morley

Resolved to return from Executive Session at 9:04pm. Ayes 4, Nays 0

Adjourned at 9:05pm on a motion by B. Preston, seconded by B. Morley.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk