

**2021
MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING &
REGULAR MEETING HELD DECEMBER 13, 2021
IN PERSON MEETING**

Present:

Paul H. Smith	Supervisor
Susan Storms	Councilman
Patrick Britton	Councilman
Frank Skvorak	Councilman
Shari Gerber	Councilman
Lori Borland	Town Clerk
Jim Yuhas	Bookkeeper
Terry McKeever	Code Enforcement Officer
Michael O'Shaughnessy	Highway Superintendent
James Burrows, Esq.	Town Attorney
Robert Ball	Assessor
Mickey Dietrich	RACOG Circuit Rider
Rebecca Shultz	Deputy Clerk

Supervisor Smith called the Public Hearing to order at 6:48 p.m. regarding amending the Unsafe Structures Law. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There was no one present that spoke regarding the amendment, and Attorney Burrows clarified the amendment, so the public hearing was closed at 6:51 p.m. on motion by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Gerber.

Supervisor Smith called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:51 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to approve the minutes from the two public hearings and the Regular meeting held on November 4, 2021, and the special meeting held on November 16, 2021. Unanimously passed, carried.

Privilege of the Floor: Mickey Dietrich, RACOG Circuit Rider, noted that the Local Government Conference will be held at Turning Stone Resort on April 19, 2022. He further noted that the new website for Wilna is nearly complete and is live now. He announced that New Bremen wants to be added to RACOG and the intermunicipal agreement will be sent around for signatures.

Communications: A request was received from the Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce asking for contribution to Winterfest in February. It was noted that because of the increase in the contribution for the Sounds of Summer Concert Series, and the amount allocated for the Fireworks Festival, that we are already at budget for the Chamber. Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Storms to NOT contribute to Winterfest 2022 because we are already at budget for the Chamber, and that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, whether or not Winterfest will actually be held next year. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Community Development Director Report: Mrs. Bullock provided a written summary of what she's been working on. She noted that the Railroad Depot site study has been submitted to the state funder for review and feedback. She noted that because of the integrity of the structure, we are in a good position to apply for funding through NY Main Street or Restore NY if the owner is interested. She is working on Downtown Revitalization Initiative, NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Grant and general community work. She is expecting announcements for previously submitted grants any time now.

Town Highway Superintendent Report: Michael O'Shaughnessy noted that the new roof is complete and the cameras have been reinstalled. Christmas lights in Carthage, West Carthage and Natural Bridge are completed. Shoulder work was done on County Rt. 36 and 37. Boyd Road and Alexandria Streets have had ditches dug and cutting of shoulders. Hillside Cemetery first driveway entrance was widened and the highway will now use this as a plow turnaround. There

has been ongoing plowing and sanding. Clean up was done due to the recent wind storm. General maintenance was done on the equipment. It was clarified for the record that Edgar Countryman is on the payroll at \$18.00 per hour; Karl Blair is at \$18.00 per hour and Paul Fuller is at \$16.00. This was approved by motion made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Storms. Motion passed unanimously, carried. Regarding the mask mandate, that if vaccinated, no need to wear a mask, if unvaccinated, a mask is necessary, but overall it would be recommended that masks be worn.

Dog Control Officer Report: Very light work was done in the past month. Two dogs were stolen and the matter was looked into. Mr. Hall continues to struggle with the misconception of what the public thinks his job entails.

Town Clerk Report: Water district collections for November were \$0 due to the relevy. Town Clerk fees for November were \$603.91. Transfer site fees collected for November were \$3791.00. Total collected for the month was \$4394.91.

Code Enforcement Officer Report: Mr. McKeever reported that the clean up of the Gill property in Natural Bridge is now complete. He has photos in the file. Hajdaz property was sold to William Mono and he is in process of cleaning it up. Bruce Fuller cannot be removed by the State Police, as the complaint has to come from the property owner. Mrs. Wilcox will need to make the complaint. She can be cited for enforcement of the Unsafe Buildings Law for clean up.

Assessor's Report: Mr. Ball noted that he has received a new computer and is in process of setting that up with the County. 89/148 property sales and transfers were arm's length transactions. He had 119 open site visits/permits for the 2021 Assessment Roll. He has attended a seminar on the valuation of Solar Farms and has attended an online edition of the NYS Assessors Assoc. Conference. He has prepared and mailed out the Senior Citizens Exemption Renewal Forms for the 2022 Assessment Roll.

Attorney's Report: Mr. Burrows noted that the Carthage Energy Assessment contest is close to getting a proposal. Regarding the Gill property, he is waiting to hear from the insurance company. Mr. Burrows announced that the Conboy Law Firm will be dissolving over the next few months.

Regarding the amendment of the Unsafe Structures Law,

RESOLUTION #44-2021 – Motion was made by Susan Storms, seconded by Councilman Skvorak for a resolution to amend the Unsafe Buildings and Structures Law Section 11 to clarify when a lien arises. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

It was noted that funds for the joint mowing of the Hillside Cemetery are already in the budget.

Town Supervisor's Report: Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Storms to approve the November Supervisor's Report. Unanimously passed, carried.

Vouchers: Motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Britton, to approve the vouchers in Abstract #12 in the amount of \$127,717.16. Unanimously passed, carried.

Old Business:

Regarding the Opting In or Opting Out of the Cannabis sales within the Town,

RESOLUTION #45-2021 – Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to Opt Out at this point, knowing that we can always Opt In later on when we get more information and regulations. This is subject to a Permissive Referendum of 45 days. If, after the 45-day period, there are no petitions filed, the Law can be sent to the State for filing. Motion passed unanimously, carried. It was noted that there may be zoning issues associated with Opting In.

New Business:

Budget Transfers: Motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Gerber to approve the budget transfers as presented. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

The final meeting of the year will be held on Friday, December 31, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Town Offices.

Supervisor Smith noted that Charlie Terry will be working on Friday, December 24 and Sunday, December 26 at the Transfer Site, and he will be paid for the Christmas Day Holiday. He will also be working on Friday, December 31 and Sunday, January 2, 2022.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Storms to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Borland, Town Clerk