

**2021 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MAY 10, 2021  
IN PERSON MEETING**

Present:

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

Supervisor Smith called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Britton to approve the minutes from the meeting held on April 12, 2021. Unanimously passed, carried.

Privilege of the Floor: Zachary Intorcia, Lynne Intorcia and Dean Bent spoke regarding a personnel issue, but being of a private nature, no notes were taken.

Mickey Dietrich, Circuit Rider for RACOG was present and noted that the next RACOG meeting will be May 18, 2021 however, there will be no speaker. Regarding the Black River Trail expansion, there is to be no removal of the railroad tracks from Carthage to Lowville, so most likely there will be no new trails going through that area. There is a new group being formed called the Friends of the Black River regarding recreational projects along the Black River Blueway. Mr. Dietrich met with Mr. Trottier regarding the improvement of the railroad, specifically the Lowville to Croghan Section, however Mr. Trottier does not have a long term lease as of this time. Mr. Dietrich is still working on the Town website.

Community Development Director Report: Sarah Bullock reported that there are funding opportunities through the Northern Border Regional Commission, and a possible project for this would be further work on the Herrings Park (Crown Cleaners Site). The maximum grant amount would be \$350,000, with \$70,000 in matching funds and/or in-kind services. It was suggested that perhaps the County Highway Department along with the Town of Wilna and Town of Champion could help with the in-kind services.

**Resolution #10-2021-** Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Storms to apply for the \$350,000 grant amount and match with \$70,000 in funds and/or in-kind services. All voted Aye, carried.

Regarding the Herrings Wastewater Disinfection Project, Mr. Smith is looking into taking core samples of the sand to see if it would be feasible to only add more sand rather than to replace the entire amount, thus keeping the total cost down. He is working with Bernier & Carr on this matter.

Town Highway Superintendent Report: Michael O'Shaughnessy noted that the highway crew has assisted Village of Deferiet and Village of Carthage, winter road markers put away and trash pickup is complete, all county and town roads are swept and county bridge wash is done, cemeteries and town lots all picked up, York raked on two roads, cold patching is being done, also routine maintenance is being done on the machinery. Mr. O'Shaughnessy noted that the

2017 Case Tractor continues to have serious mechanical issues. He has been working with a dealer who has agreed to trade out this tractor for a brand new 2021 Case/Farmall 100C with full factory warranty for the sum of \$4,000.

**Resolution #11-2021** – Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Gerber to trade the defective tractor for a new 2021 tractor for the agreed sum of \$4,000. All voted aye, carried.

Dog Control Officer Report: Justin Hall has requested that the Town contract with the Jefferson County SPCA for the harboring of dogs until redeemed by the owners instead of the Lewis County Humane Society, due to the distance he needs to travel and wear and tear on his vehicle for trips to Lewis County. In researching the matter, it was noted that the Jefferson County SPCA is paid \$14,000 per year for this service in addition to charging \$15.00 per day per dog. Since this is a prohibitive amount, the matter was denied. In the alternative to the Jefferson County SPCA, it was noted that the Town could pay Mr. Hall approximately \$750 per year for mileage and wear and tear on his vehicle.

**Resolution #12-2021** Motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Storms to pay approximately \$750.00 per year to Mr. Hall for the mileage and wear and tear on his vehicle for duties performed for the Town of Wilna. All voted Aye, carried.

Town Clerk Report: Water district collections for April were \$15,380.10. Town Clerk fees for April were \$988.50. Transfer site fees collected for April were \$3867.00. It was noted that Robert Amell has fixed the defective fence.

Code Enforcement Officer Report: Terry McKeever noted that he has issued several permits and violation notices. He has been in contact with some people relative to certain condemned premises, and they have agreed to clean them up. There is one property on NYS Rt. 3 in which the septic system is right next to a well and is seeping. The matter was referred to Public Health.

Assessor's Report: Robert Ball, Assessor reported that there are 23 new sales/transfers since last month. He has 61 open site visit/permits for the 2021 Assessment Roll and has closed out 31 permits last month. The 2021 Tentative Assessment Roll has been finalized and filed with the Town Clerk and has been placed on the Town's website. There were 106 change of assessment notices mailed out. \$3,981,503 of taxable value has been added to the 2021 Assessment Roll. Grievance day is May 25, 2021 from 4-8 p.m. at the Town offices.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Burrows noted that the assessment challenge of WDC Associates is completely done and resolved by mutual agreement. Regarding the Carthage Energy matter, the Judge has set 9/1/2021 as a date for the appraisal to be done and filed. The Local Law regarding the Unsafe Buildings & Structures was filed with the State on 4/16/2021. The first step in utilizing this law is to appoint an Enforcement Officer to be the contact person for all issues regarding the unsafe structures.

**Resolution #13-2021** – Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Storms to appoint Terry McKeever, the current Code & Zoning Officer, as the Enforcement Officer for the Unsafe Structures Law. All voted Aye, carried.

Regarding the Cannabis law, it was noted that the Governor has legalized the possession and use of cannabis for persons over 21 years of age, up to three ounces and in restricted areas and use. Mr. Burrows noted that the Town has the option to allow (opt in) or deny (opt out) the retail marijuana stores or bars before December 31, 2021. He further noted that it is best to schedule a public hearing on the matter.

Motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Britton, to schedule a Public Hearing on the matter for June 14, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. All voted Aye, carried.

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

Vouchers: Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Gerber, to approve the vouchers in Abstract #5 in the amount of \$59,073.26. Unanimously passed, carried.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Storms to approve the budget transfers as requested. Unanimously passed, carried.

Regarding the updates for Code360 for the logging of the Local Laws, the quote to add the three newly passed local laws to the existing binders and the supplements is between \$750 and \$880.

Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Storms to accept the quote for the updates to be done. All voted Aye, carried.

Regarding Bridge and culvert work grant application, the application was sent in to the State by Matt Cervini of GYMO and they have submitted a bill for \$1800 for the application work. This is \$200 less than was quoted.

Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Britton to pay GYMO the sum of \$1800 as invoiced for the work on the grant application for the bridge and culvert work. All voted Aye, carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Gerber to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Lori Borland, Town Clerk