

**2021
MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARINGS &
REGULAR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 4, 2021
IN PERSON MEETING**

Present:

Paul H. Smith	Supervisor
Susan Storms	Councilman
Patrick Britton	Councilman
Frank Skvorak	Councilman
Lori Borland	Town Clerk
Mary Ann Yuhas	Clerk to Supervisor
Jim Yuhas	Bookkeeper
Terry McKeever	Code Enforcement Officer
Michael O'Shaughnessy	Highway Superintendent
James Burrows, Esq.	Town Attorney
Katherine Harringer	(new attorney to observe)

Excused: Shari Gerber Councilman

Supervisor Smith called the first Public Hearing to order at 6:45 p.m. regarding Overriding the Tax Levy. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There was no one present that spoke regarding the tax override, so the public hearing was closed at 6:46 p.m. on motion by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Skvorak.

Supervisor Smith called the second Public Hearing to order at 6:46 p.m. regarding the 2022 Budget. There was no one present that spoke, so the public hearing was closed at 6:46 p.m. on motion by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Britton.

Supervisor Smith called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:46 p.m.

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

Privilege of the Floor: None

Communications: A request was received from the Carthage Lions Club and the Carthage Elks Lodge requesting a contribution to the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

RESOLUTION #34-2021 - Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to contribute \$200 to the Carthage Lions Club and the Carthage Elks Lodge to help offset the cost of the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

A request was received by Ernie Prievo (Carthage Water Superintendent) to replace three main water meters in WD#1, at a total estimated cost of \$8674.88.

RESOLUTION #35-2021 – Motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Britton to agree to replace three main water meters in WD#1 at a cost of \$8674.88. Motion passed unanimously, carried. It was noted that a firm price should be obtained prior to starting the replacement.

A request was received by the Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce to increase the contribution for the Sounds of Summer Concert Series from \$2500 in the past, to \$3000.

RESOLUTION #36-2021 – Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Storms, to contribute \$3,000 to the Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce to offset the cost of the Sounds of Summer Concert Series. There was no contribution in 2020 due to Covid and this is within the budget. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Community Development Director Report: None – Mrs. Bullock is in Florida

Town Highway Superintendent Report: Michael O’Shaughnessy noted that the crew has helped various other municipalities with different projects. Sand hauling is done. Plows are ready. Road markers are 90% complete. General repairs on equipment has been done. Temporary repairs were done on the dozer. Replacement of the roof on the Town Barn is coming along well and is ongoing. This should be completed in the next couple of days.

Dog Control Officer Report: None

Town Clerk Report: Water district collections for October were \$15,707.70. Town Clerk fees for October were \$1317.19. Transfer site fees collected for October were \$3043.00.

Code Enforcement Officer Report: Mr. McKeever reported that on the Gill property in Natural Bridge that was deemed an emergency for cleanup is complete to the extent that was agreed upon with ICC. He has issued some building permits and more violations.

Assessor’s Report: None

Attorney’s Report: Mr. Burrows noted that the Carthage Energy Assessment contest is still pending; The Teamsters contract has been finalized and final signatures are being obtained by the Town Clerk; Regarding the Cannabis sales in the Town, this matter needs to be addressed at the next meeting for the Town to either opt in or opt out by December 31, 2021. Mr. Burrows further noted that a Public Hearing needs to be set for a resolution to amend the Unsafe Buildings and Structures Law Section 11 regarding the time frame for relevies to attach to the properties.

RESOLUTION #37-2021 - Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to schedule a Public Hearing for the purpose of amending the existing Unsafe Buildings and Structures Law Section 11. Public hearing is to be held on December 13, 2021 at 6:45 p.m. with the regular monthly meeting immediately following. Motion unanimously passed, carried. Mr. Burrows requested an Executive Session following this meeting to discuss pending litigation.

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

Vouchers: Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Skvorak, to approve the vouchers in Abstract #11 in the amount of \$110,308.89. Unanimously passed, carried.

Old Business:

LED Lighting Status – construction to begin shortly, to be complete by 12/31/2021

New Business:

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

RESOLUTION #38-2021- Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Britton to approve the Tax Cap Levy Override. Motion passed by roll call vote, all voted Aye. Carried.

RESOLUTION #39-2021 – Motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Britton to adopt the 2022 budget as presented. Motion passed by roll call vote, all voted Aye, carried.

RESOLUTION #40-2021 – Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Britton to have Supervisor Smith attend the Association of Towns meeting in NYC in February, 2022. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

RESOLUTION #41-2021 – Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Britton, to delegate Supervisor Paul H. Smith as delegate to vote at the annual Association of Towns meeting in February in NYC. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

RESOLUTION #42-2021 – Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Britton to have Deputy Supervisor Susan Storms as the alternate delegate to vote at the annual Association of Towns meeting in February in NYC.

Supervisor Smith announced that Mary Ann Yuhas and Jim Yuhas, Clerk to the Supervisor and Bookkeeper, respectively, will be retiring at the end of the year. The positions have been advertised, interviews were conducted, and Supervisor Smith has decided on a CPA firm in Lowville called Lawrence & Philippe (North Country CPAs). The cost would be \$15,000 - \$20,000 to be paid quarterly. This is actually less than is being expended currently.

RESOLUTION #43-2021 – Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to hire North Country CPAs (Lawrence & Philippe) as Clerk to the Supervisor to replace Jim and Mary Ann Yuhas after their retirement. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. Executive Session began at 7:34 p.m. Regular session resumed at 8:20 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Borland, Town Clerk