

2022 Regular Meeting MINUTES
February 15, 2022

Present:

Paul H. Smith	Supervisor
Frank Skvorak	Councilman
Shari Gerber	Councilman
Michael O'Shaughnessy	Highway Superintendent
James Burrows, Esq.	Town Attorney
Lori Borland	Town Clerk
Rebecca Shultz	Deputy Town Clerk
Terry McKeever	Code Enforcement Officer
Jim Yuhas	Bookkeeper
Mary Ann Yuhas	Outgoing Clerk to Supervisor
Mickey Dietrich	RACOG Circuit Rider
Emily Phillippe	CPA

Excused:

Patrick Britton	Councilman
Susan Storms	Councilman

Supervisor Smith called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: Motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on January 10, 2022. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Privilege of the Floor: Mickey Dietrich, RACOG Circuit Rider, announced that the next RACOG meeting will be in March. LED Lighting is wrapping up in all communities. The Shared Services Fund between Jefferson and Lewis Counties is looking favorable. Black River Group will be meeting on February 17. There will be an Economic Visioning Summit meeting scheduled soon. Regarding the website maintenance fee of \$1500 for RACOG, he will be exploring this more carefully before anyone makes a decision, and that will be tabled for now.

Communications: Request was received from American Legion Post 789 for funds to help the Legion Family and the Memorial Day Parade and events. Motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Gerber to contribute \$100 towards the Legion activities. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Community Development Director Report: Railroad Depot study has been completed and will be submitted to the State for reimbursement to the CIDC, the grant recipient. Brownfield Opportunity – no contract has yet been received. Water Quality Improvement Program for Herrings – BCA will be contacting Supervisor Smith as to next steps. The Town has been awarded funds for the WQIP. Several phone calls were received from various property owners regarding the rehabilitation of their properties and funding available.

Highway Report: Michael O'Shaughnessy, Highway Superintendent reported that the 2022 inventory has been turned in to the Town Supervisor. Snow removal has continued along with plowing.

RESOLUTION #2-2022 – Regarding the controversial street sign for the "Dump Road" placed at the intersection of County Rt. 40 and NYS Rt. 3, a motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to have the County DOT change the name of the road from "Dump Road" to "Avery Road" and have a sign placed accordingly. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

RESOLUTION #3-2022 – Regarding the fact that the bulldozer is in need of a complete undercarriage replacement, a motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Gerber to utilize \$25,000 of the ARPA Funds for the repair of the same, and any additional funds needed would come from the Repair Fund. This is deemed an Emergency Repair, so no bidding will be needed. Motion passed unanimously, carried. This would be in lieu of getting a brand new machine.

Internet coverage is being looked into for the Highway Barn by Supervisor Smith to review quotes that have come in.

Dog Control Officer: Jefferson County has approved April Hall for the Dog Control Officer as a Civil Service Position, to replace Justin Hall, who will no longer be on the Town payroll.

RESOLUTION #4-2022 – Motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to appoint April Hall as the new Dog Control Officer in place of Justin Hall, at the rate of \$16,000 per year to be prorated, with a start date of February 7, 2022. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Town Clerk Report: Ms. Borland noted that the Water District collections for January, 2022 were \$13,072. The Town Clerk fees for January 2022 were \$556.44. The Transfer Site Funds collected for January 2022 were \$3694.00.

Code Enforcement: Mr. McKeever noted that things have been quite slow during the wintertime. There have been a few violation notices given, but come spring, there will be many more. He announced that in 2024 in New York State, any new homes being built will all have to be fueled by electricity, and no propane or fuel oil, etc.

Assessor Report: Marlene Norfolk, the Interim Assessor, gave a detailed report of her activities in the past three weeks. She has processed 12 Enhanced STAR applications; 15 Alternative Veterans Exemptions; 1 Agricultural renewal exemption and 1 Solar Exemption. On the sales reported from Jefferson County, the ones that needed to have exemptions removed the property owners have been sent a letter stating such.

Attorney Report: Mr. Burrows reported that the Cannabis Opt Out Law has been filed with NYS. He is expecting the Sugar Maple Solar application to be completed in the spring or summer of 2022. Carthage Energy Assessment Challenge – he is following up with the attorneys regarding a possible settlement. Regarding the Bartlett Gill property in Natural Bridge, the contract has been fulfilled, and the hydraulic lift was not covered in the contract. DEC is satisfied currently with the steps taken for clean up. There has been nothing received from the NYMIR Insurance regarding coverage on the spill. The main thing that needs to be done is that the Town lien the property in order to be compensated and made whole by the County. Town Clerk will update the spreadsheets of costs. Regarding the Smith/Fuller matter, the demolition can be done on the house structure, but the trailer is a different issue. He is currently awaiting lien searches on the other properties.

Town Board Committees: No report

Town Supervisor's Report: Emily Phillippe, CPA explained the new format for the financial report for January. This format is different than what was previously given by the Yuhas'. Upon explanation of a couple of things, motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Gerber to approve the January financial reports. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Vouchers: Motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Skvorak, to approve the vouchers in Abstract #2 in the amount of \$953,396.06. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Old Business: None

New Business: There was a matter brought up by Robert Oliver of the Highway Department regarding sick pay, but since he did not attend this meeting, the grievance is over.

The Town Council needs to set a date to audit the Town Court's records. After Councilman Britton and Councilman Storms return from Florida, a date will be set. Communication has been made with OSC regarding the time frame, and all is fine until April.

Ian Gilbert, Esq., has submitted his draft Retainer Agreement for his services in assisting Attorney Burrows on the Sugar Maple Solar Project at the rate of \$200.

RESOLUTION #5-2022 – Motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Gerber, to retain the additional supplemental legal services of Ian Gilbert at the rate of \$200 per hour. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Gerber, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Borland, Town Clerk