

2022 Regular Meeting MINUTES
January 10, 2022

Present:

Paul H. Smith	Supervisor
Patrick Britton	Councilman
Susan Storms	Councilman
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
Robert Ball	Assessor
Jim Yuhas	Bookkeeper
Mary Ann Yuhas	Outgoing Clerk to Supervisor
Mickey Dietrich	RACOG Circuit Rider
Emily Phillippe	CPA
Franz Phillippe	CPA

Supervisor Smith called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Minutes: Motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Gerber to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on December 31, 2021. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Emily Phillippe and Franz Phillippe introduced themselves and they will be the new firm for the Town of Wilna's bookkeeping and payroll services, which will replace Jim and Mary Ann Yuhas.

Privilege of the Floor: Mickey Dietrich, RACOG Circuit Rider, announced that the next RACOG meeting will be January 18, 2022 virtually. New Bremen has joined RACOG as a new member. LED Lighting crews have completed Carthage, Croghan and are working on Wilna. Wilna and Denmark have new websites that are up and running. He noted that a Shared Service Plan is being looked at by Robert Haggeman. Fort Drum Intern will be with us for four months starting in Mid-January.

Communications: None

Community Development Director Report: Railroad Depot study has been completed and signed off. Building is prepared for the winter. Brownfield Opportunity Area project was awarded for the Village of Deferiet in the amount of \$180,000. This funding will be used to conduct a Phase I ESA of the Deferiet Mill property together with a plan for revitalization of the area. The town of Wilna and Village of Deferiet have agreed to split the 10% match that is required through either cash or in-kind services.

Highway Report: Michael O'Shaughnessy, Highway Superintendent reported that his fuel and building key list has been turned in to Supervisor Smith and he should have the 2022 inventory done by February. Work performed for Jefferson County totaling \$46,005.63 has been billed for the 2021 fiscal year. He is further asking the Board to consider providing internet service and a fax number for the Highway Barn as soon as possible. Christmas lights have been taken down. Snow removal and tree clean up and cutting has been done as well as plowing and sanding. Regular maintenance is being done on the equipment.

Dog Control Officer: No report

Town Clerk Report: Ms. Borland noted that the Water District collections for December, 2021 were \$12,271.46, with an annual report of \$114,089.71. The Town Clerk fees for December, 2021 were \$1057.25, with an annual report of \$13,406.29. The Transfer Site Funds collected for December, 2021 were \$3106.00 with an annual total of \$44,553.00.

Code Enforcement: Mr. McKeever was not present but previously noted that he has only issued two permits this month.

Assessor Report: Robert Ball reported that 89/192 property sales for 2021 were Arm's Length transactions, and that of that total, 44 were new sales since the last meeting. They have all been processed and sent to the State for review. He has 50 open site visits/permits for the 2021 Assessment Roll. He has closed out 76 permits and added 7 permits this month. He has requested an Executive Session for personnel matters.

Attorney Report: Mr. Burrows reported that the Sugar Maple Solar Project will be gearing up in the Spring. He has now separated from the Conboy Law Firm, but Ian Gilbert, Esq. who has assisted him on past matters, will continue to assist him on current pending matters. Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Gerber to have Ian Gilbert, Esq. assist attorney Burrows on pending matters for the Town. Motion passed unanimously, carried. Mr. Burrows further noted that the Carthage Energy Assessment matter has new information expected within the next 60 days. He has learned that the Hajdasz property was sold to Mr. William Mono on a Tax Foreclosure Sale, but the County had not recorded the deed, so that brings new light to the code enforcement issue. He further noted that regarding the Bartlett Gill property, that the DEC is pleased with the steps taken for clean up, and that NYMIR has provided no written notice yet regarding coverage over and above the main insurance.

It was noted that masks and home COVID test kits have been obtained through Joe Plummer at Emergency Services.

Town Board Committees: No report

Town Supervisor's Report: Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Gerber, to approve the audited 2021 Supervisor's Report. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Vouchers: Motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Britton, to approve the vouchers in Abstract #1 in the amount of \$334,129.07. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Old Business: None

New Business: Supervisor Smith noted that he would like to be able to provide new Christmas lights for Natural Bridge and Herrings, and will look into this when the prices come down in the springtime.

Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Gerber to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Executive Session began at 7:41 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 7:44 p.m. Robert Ball, Assessor, has requested a 9 month leave of absence from January 21, 2022 through November 1, 2022. Roll Call Vote was taken, and all voted Aye.

RESOLUTION #1-2022 - Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to appoint Marlene Norfolk as Acting Assessor with a hire date starting on January 18, 2022 at the \$31,000 yearly rate, to be prorated. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

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 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Borland, Town Clerk