

2022 Regular Meeting MINUTES
December 12, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Paul H. Smith	Supervisor
Susan Storms	Councilman
Patrick Britton	Councilman
Shari Gerber	Councilman
Mike O'Shaughnessy	Highway Superintendent
Robert Ball	Assessor
Lori Borland	Town Clerk
Jim Burrows, Esq.	Town Attorney
Rebecca Shultz	Deputy Town Clerk

Excused: Frank Skvorak Councilman

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

Minutes: Motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Storms to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on November 7, 2022. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Privilege of the Floor: Mickey Dietrich, RACOG Circuit Rider, noted that the University at Albany is looking in to possible funding that could impact RACOG. They are exploring the COG concept and how it could be duplicated in other parts of the state. Regarding the LED lighting, NYPA will meet with each community to go over what is left to do. He further noted that if the communities that received the Smart Cities grant and do not use the grant money for the Smart Cities inventory, that those funds could be used to pay down the entire project. Currently, Town of Wilna has been awarded \$20,000. Digital radar signs are being explored with each community to see what they want and prices therefor. The Shared Services money of over \$19,000 has been received by Jefferson County on the LED lighting. There has been renewed interest in doing a new Comprehensive Plan, and Mr. Dietrich suggested that Matt Johnson from Tug Hill Commission be invited to the January meeting to discuss this matter. Mr. Smith noted that Jon Storms, Planning Board Chairman may be interested to attend also.

Community Development Director Report: Deferiet BOA – RFP has been prepared and sent out to potential bidders. Deadline was last Friday at 4:00 p.m and three bids were received. Mrs. Bullock will be meeting with the various interested parties to review and select the consultant. She continues work on the RR Depot building and the NAPA building.

Highway Report: Michael O'Shaughnessy, Highway Superintendent, noted that the recent large snowstorm was very challenging to his crew, but he is very proud of his crew for the work they accomplished. Hours and materials list have been sent to Dept. of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for potential FEMA reimbursement funds. His crew helped the Village of Carthage with snow removal and putting up Christmas lights, also in Natural Bridge. Snow in the Town Office parking lot was removed. Minor other tasks were performed. Pressure washer is badly damaged, and the insurance company has been contacted, and he is awaiting more word.

Dog Control Officer: No Report

Town Clerk Report: Ms. Borland noted that the Water District collections for November, 2022 were \$0 because of the relevy on the taxes. The Town Clerk fees for November, 2022 were \$585.17. The Transfer Site Funds collected for November, 2022 were \$2856.00. DECALS commissions for November were \$47.11

Code Enforcement: Terry McKeever thanked the Board for the cooperation received for the clean up of the Reginald Smith property. The new owner of the St. Rita's Church in Deferiet has been issued a Special Use Permit for his woodworking business. He noted that Neighbors of Watertown have a program that now helps manufactured home owners, and there are four parcels on Boyd Road that he is targeting for help. He has issued 67 permits. At the Smith property, the issue still stands about the old tires on the National Grid portion of the property. He will look into citing National Grid to have the tires removed.

Assessor Report: Robert Ball reported as follows: 96/197 property sales/transfers for 2022 were arm's length sales. He has 48 new open site visit/permits for 2023 Assessment Roll for a total of 212 so far. He has received four new Senior Aged exemption renewals since last month, and has processed 2 veteran and one enhanced star exemption application.

Attorney Report: Mr. Burrows noted that the Sugar Maple Solar project has a draft permit issued, and is awaiting the application full approval. Regarding Carthage Energy, he advised to wait to disburse the funds until after the new year. He also noted that video conferencing is possible with a local law being put into place to allow video conferencing to take place and be able to vote as if in person. There would need to be a policy in place for excuses for absenteeism in person.

Town Supervisor's Financial Statements: Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Storms to approve the Financial Statements as provided by the CPA's. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Vouchers: Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Gerber, to approve the vouchers in Abstract #12 in the amount of \$111,541.94. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Old Business: None

New Business: The final year end meeting for the Board was set for December 30, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Britton. Motion passed unanimously, carried. There has been correspondence received from Jefferson County Recycling and from Thomas Trash Service regarding increases in the trash pickup at the Transfer Site. Deputy Clerk Shultz will be working on a year end report to compare this year's figures with potential for next year for the possibility of raising the prices of tickets.

Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Britton, to increase the Deputy Clerk's salary from \$16.00 per hour to \$17.00 per hour, effective with the first pay period in January. This was not done during the regular budget process. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Budget Transfers were provided by Mary Ann Yuhas as suggested before year end. Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Gerber to approve the budget transfers as presented. These will be provided to the CPA's for completion.

Regarding the Organizational Meeting for January, motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Storms to hold the Organizational Meeting on January 9, 2023 at 6:45 p.m. with the regular meeting immediately following. Motion passed unanimously, 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 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Borland, Town Clerk