

2022 Regular Meeting MINUTES
March 14, 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
Joshua Lumsden	RACOG
April Hall	Dog Control Officer
Justin Hall	Public

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 February 15, 2022. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Privilege of the Floor: US Congress Candidate Lonny Koons was present to speak about his candidacy and any issues that we may have.

Joshua Lumsden was present in place of Mickey Dietrich for RACOG. He noted that the RACOG board meeting will be tomorrow evening with CGI presenting about a potential promotional video for the region. Economic Visioning Summit will be the end of April. Jefferson County has been supplied with what they need for the LED Lighting shared services grant with Lewis County. Local Government Conference is at the end of April at Turning Stone.

Communications: A thank you card was received from the Deferiet Seniors for our contribution. Letter was received from the insurance company on the Gill property in Natural Bridge, that they are not covering any costs related to the fuel spill, which is normal.

Community Development Director Report: Railroad Depot study has been completed and has been submitted to the State for reimbursement. Owner of the property said this is not a priority for him. Regarding Herrings Disinfection Project, we have been awarded \$104,880 from WQIP and are awaiting further word on another grant. We are awaiting a contract for the BOA Grant for the Deferiet Mill site. Continued conversations are being had with various property owners on Main Street improvements.

Highway Report: Michael O'Shaughnessy, Highway Superintendent reported that snow removal has been ongoing. The sand barn is being refilled. Routine maintenance on the equipment is being done. He has requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

Dog Control Officer: April Hall gave an overall report of what she has been doing for the last month. Basically dogs at large, etc.

Town Clerk Report: Ms. Borland noted that the Water District collections for February, 2022 were \$1391.50. The Town Clerk fees for February 2022 were \$560.90. The Transfer Site Funds collected for February 2022 were \$2640. She noted that the tax collection season is over with, and her records balanced to the penny with the County Treasurer's Office. Over \$2.85M passed through during the collection season. Water billing is being learned. She noted that she will be attending the Town Clerk conference in April in Albany, and the Tax Collector conference in June in Ithaca.

Code Enforcement: Mr. McKeever noted that things have been quite slow during the last month or so. He further noted that there has been no activity on the clean up of the condemned properties.

Assessor Report: Marlene Norfolk, the Interim Assessor, gave a detailed report of her activities in the last month. All changes to the Assessment Roll have been completed as of March 1. Cut off date for exemptions was March 1. The Tentative Roll packet has been received from Jefferson County Real Property. Sales for February have been reviewed and exemptions removed from the 2022 assessment roll. Letters regarding the exemption removal are continually being sent to the new property owners with instructions as how to apply for the Enhanced STAR credit.

Attorney Report: Mr. Burrows reported that on the unsafe properties issues, the Hajdasz property was purchased at a tax foreclosure sale and is currently tax exempt. The new purchaser is going to clean up the property. Foy and Helmer and Smith properties need a drive-by inspection to see if there has been any activity for tearing down.

Mr. Burrows noted that the ICC contract for the Gill property was quite vague and there was not much information in it. He has prepared several different clauses that should be included in any proposals and contracts with contractors in the future.

Regarding the Gill property in Natural Bridge, we need to provide written notice to Bart Gill to reimburse the Town in 30 days, and if no response, then we need to lien the property by October 15 with the County. The Eggan bill is possibly not recoverable. NYMIR rejected coverage because of pollution. DEC is satisfied and will be possibly closing out the matter.

Town Board Committees: No report

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

Vouchers: Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Storms, to approve the vouchers in Abstract #3 in the amount of \$80,808.25. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Old Business: Date for Court Audit will be set asap at a mutually convenient time.

New Business: Regarding the Herrings Disinfection Project, the SEQR portion of the project needs a lead agent.

RESOLUTION #6-2022 – Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Gerber to have the Town of Wilna act as the lead agent on the SEQR application for the Herrings Disinfection Project.

It was noted by Supervisor Smith, that David Arnold, overseer of the Herrings matters, will be moving away and leaving in June of this year. Mr. Smith is looking for Pearson & Timmerman to give a quote on monitoring the sewer site and mowing the areas.

Motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Britton, to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Executive Session began at 8:18 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 8:25 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Storms, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Borland, Town Clerk