

2023 Regular Meeting MINUTES
October 10, 2023

Present:

Paul H. Smith	Supervisor
Susan Storms	Councilman/Deputy Supervisor
Frank Skvorak	Councilman
Patrick Britton	Councilman
Shari Gerber	Councilman
Mike O'Shaughnessy	Highway Superintendent
Lori Borland	Town Clerk
Kaitlyn Valdez	RACOG Circuit Rider
Rebecca Shultz	Deputy Town Clerk
James Yuhas	Retired Bookkeeper
Emily & Franz Phillipe	CPA's

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 Britton to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 11, 2023. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Privilege of the Floor: Kaitlyn Valdez, RACOG Circuit Rider, noted that the next RACOG Meeting will be on January 24, 2024 at a place to be determined. There will be a Roundtable meeting on November 9 at the Lewis County BOCES. There is CDL training being offered. The Tug Hill Commission is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a banquet on October 19, 2023 at the Tailwater Lodge in Altmar, NY.

Communications: None

Community Development Director – Sarah Bullock, CDD, gave a comprehensive written report on the projects she has been working on, to include the BOA in Deferiet and going door to door to survey the residents of Deferiet, which will be discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting. A NYS Parks grant application was prepared regarding the Herrings waterfront park. Project total is \$380,000 with a 25% match from the Town. Grant awards are expected after December. She has looked into the feasibility of an ice skating rink at the Farmer's Market by reaching out to other communities that have skating rinks. The Villages of Carthage and West Carthage have applied for a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan grant which would allow both communities to plan for the redevelopment of the waterfront. She noted that she has also been talking with West Carthage about a joint Downtown Revitalization Initiative application for next year. The former RR depot project is at a standstill at this point, and the owner is not interested in selling to another party that expressed interest in purchasing.

Highway Report: Michael O'Shaughnessy, Highway Superintendent, noted that the crew helped Town of Diana with their Chip sealing. They did some clean up work at the Transfer Site. They hauled sand and help the Village of Carthage with their paving project and fixed banners. They have hauled sand for about 9 days to include Deferiet, and Deferiet wants to do another cleanup on October 18. The shoulders were completed using the County widener on shared services. Work performed for Jefferson County was billed for \$5958.96. Mr. O'Shaughnessy has requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Dog Control Officer: Nothing new to report – still many calls and working on dogs running at large, etc.

Town Clerk Report: Ms. Borland noted that the Water District collections for September were \$16,113.70. The deadline for payment without penalty is October 13, 2023 and the relevy will be sent in on October 27, 2023 to the County. The Town Clerk fees for September were \$1545.00. The Transfer Site Funds collected for September were \$3438.00. DECALS commissions for September were \$652.41, and that the total DECALS sales for September were a record \$11,649.00.

Code Enforcement: Mr. McKeever was not present, but noted that the Foy property on County Rt. 41 in Natural Bridge is pending demolition by Bronze Contracting.

Assessor Report: Mr. Ball gave a written report that 61 of the 122 property sales/transfers in 2023 were arm's length. All have been processed and forwarded to NYS for their analysis. He has removed 27 exemptions and added 6 new ones. He took an online course on workplace violence. He has 97 open site visits/permits for the 2024 Assessment Roll, none of which has been reviewed due to working on the Reassessment Project. He has finished taking photos of all the properties in the Village of Carthage and has completed the valuation of approximately 2/3 of the Village parcels, and is in the process of photographing the parcels outside the Village.

Attorney Report: No report

Town Board Committees: No report

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

Vouchers: Motion was made by Councilman Skvorak, seconded by Councilman Britton, to approve the vouchers in Abstract #10 in the amount of \$338,804.04, which includes bills for paving. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

Old Business:

Regarding the 2024 Budget, it was noted that the tax rate will increase from \$3.10 to \$3.15 per thousand. The Board had no questions or revisions for the CPA's regarding the preliminary budget, therefore a Public Hearing will be set for 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2023 for the budget. There is no need for a tax cap override.

Regarding the change over of the telephone and internet systems, a quote was received from Spectrum in the amount of \$690.33 per month if we lease the phones over 36 months. If we purchase the phones outright, the cost would be a flat \$2970 for the phones only. There are other one-time costs for installation, etc. Overall, over the 36 month period, we would save approximately \$5,200 from what we are currently paying.

RESOLUTION #27-2023 – A motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Storms to approve the quote by Spectrum, pending some stragling questions being answered. Motion passed unanimously, carried.

New Business: A quote was received from Cummins Sales and Service for the maintenance, etc. on the generator at Water District #2 for \$6,316.70 over five years.

RESOLUTION #28-2023 – A motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Gerber to approve the quote from Cummins. Motion passed unanimously.

There has been a vacancy created on the Joint Zoning Board of Appeals with the resignation of Tina Kight as Chairman. A lady named Mary Vaerewyck has approached the ZBA to be appointed to represent the Town of Wilna. She attended the last scheduled meeting, and in checking with her afterwards, she is still interested. Ms. Borland has checked with Secretary Chris Vargulick, and she would need to be approved by the Town of Wilna Board.

RESOLUTION #29-2023 – Motion was made by Councilman Britton, seconded by Councilman Skvorak to appoint Mary Vaerewyck to represent the Town of Wilna on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilman Storms. Seconded by Councilman Skvorak to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Executive Session began at 7:35 p.m. Regular session resumed at 7:49 p.m.

A new potential hire was discussed for the Highway Department.

RESOLUTION #30-2023 – Motion was made by Councilman Storms, seconded by Councilman Skvorak, to hire Gary Clark on October 23, 2023 at the six month probationary rate as stated in the Union Contract of \$21.05 per hour. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Councilman Gerber, seconded by Councilman Skvorak, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Borland, Town Clerk