

Minutes of the Smithville Town Board
December 21, 2020

OPENING of Town Board meeting by Supervisor Cammarata 6:27PM

ATTENDANCE in addition to Supervisor Cammarata:

Councilman Bob Whitmore
Councilman Karl Ludwig
Councilman Mike Evans
Councilwoman Pam Holcomb

ALSO:
Alison Owens, Town Clerk
Vince Witkowski, Hwy Sup't
PB member Bob Brooks
Assessor Jeff Lowe
Enforcement Officer Bruce Kinney
Don Conklin, Karen Ludwig residents

6:27PM

ROLL CALL/PLEDGE/LATE ADDITIONS: as noted

PUBLIC HEARING FOR COLD WAR EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS

6:28PM

Supervisor Cammarata called the Public Hearing to be opened. Town Clerk Owens read the legal ad as placed in the Evening Sun. Supervisor Cammarata explained the parameters of the proposed Local Law and answered questions regarding eligibility from the Public and referred further questions to Assessor Lowe. There were no other comments and Supervisor Cammarata declared the Public Hearing closed.

Action on Public Hearing: Board members were in favor of approving the Cold War Exemption:

RESOLUTION # 37 (2020): APPROVAL OF LOCAL LAW # 1 2020 A COLD WAR EXEMPTION

On a motion by Councilman Ludwig, 2nd by Councilman Evans, the following RESOLUTION was ADOPTED

AYES Whitmore, Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Cammarata
NAYES 0

RESOLVED to approve Local Law # 1, 2020, a Cold War Exemption, adding it to the list of Local Laws governing the Town of Smithville.

CORRESPONDENCE

6:35PM

C1) Letter of Resignation as Deputy Town Clerk from Christine Buck. A Resolution accepting the resignation was moved:

RESOLUTION # 38 (2020): ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DEPUTY CLERK CHRIS BUCK

On a motion by Councilman Evans, 2nd by Councilman Ludwig, the following RESOLUTION was ADOPTED

AYES Whitmore, Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Cammarata
NAYES 0

RESOLVED to accept the resignation of Deputy Clerk Chris Buck effective December 31, 2020.

- C2) Letter of Resignation as Planning Board member from Adam Whitbeck
- C3) Approved application of Donna Utter as Deputy Town Clerk
- C4) Letter of Intent from Deb Lilley for 5 yr term on Planning Board.

Minutes of the Smithville Town Board
December 21, 2020

NEW BUSINESS

6:35PM

NB1) Consider appointment of Donna Utter as Deputy Town Clerk:

RESOLUTION # 38 (2020): APPOINT DONNA UTTER AS DEPUTY TOWN CLERK EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021

On a motion by Councilwoman Holcomb, 2nd by Councilman Ludwig, the following RESOLUTION was ADOPTED

AYES Whitmore, Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Cammarata
NAYES 0

RESOLVED to appoint Donna Utter as Deputy Town Clerk for the Town of Smithville effective January 1, 2021.

NB2) Consider appointment of Deb Lilley to Planning Board: The Board decided not to appoint anyone for the Planning Board until the Organizational meeting on January 18, 2020.

NB3) Discussion of job requirements of Dog Control Officer: The DCO Civil Service job description was given to the Board read. One of the requirements listed Town residency as a requirement for a DCO, but it was also noted that many other Municipalities use a DCO who is not from that Municipality.

Another request brought up by Supervisor Cammarata was the need for a dog enumeration in the Town. It has been a # of years since the last one. Town Clerk Owens said the Town has less than 200 licensed dogs. A DCO can help with an enumeration but it was unknown whether she would do an enumeration or not. Supervisor Cammarata said he would ask DCO Stark and see what her feelings were.

Board members were also concerned that if an enumeration was done, how would it be enforced if brought to Court?

NB4) Consider approval of Anthony Marconi as a member of the Genegantslet Fire Co. Inc. Supervisor Cammarata said he would check with the Town Att’y on whether the Town Board needs to approve the roster of fire fighters. This item was tabled until later.

NB5) Consider request by Councilman Evans proposing a “Citizen of the Month” award: Councilman Evans felt there should be ways to increase pride and ownership in the Town. He suggested maybe a framed certificate, and have picture in the paper, but no monetary reward. His thoughts centered around an individual from the Town who was instrumental in plowing out people/driveways during the recent storm 4 days ago. This individual did so without requests and without accepting payment.

Board members expressed concern about holding one person above another, and finding enough people to award. Supervisor Cammarata suggested once a quarter, or as the need arises or perhaps a recognition plaque. Another question surfaced--Who is going to be the committee to make the decision and to do the work? Supervisor Cammarata then suggested perhaps a letter on Town letterhead sent to the individual recognizing their efforts and thanking them from the “Town Board”. This will need further discussion and was tabled for another month.

NB6) Consider Resolution for NYSLRS Standard Workday/Reporting

Minutes of the Smithville Town Board
December 21, 2020

RESOLUTION # 39 (2020): ESTABLISHING FOR THE NEW YORK STATE AND LOCAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM, A 6HR. WORKDAY WITH 5 EMPLOYEES, and AN 8HR WORKDAY WITH 1 EMPLOYEE AS MEMBERS OF THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM BASED ON THE ROA KEPT AND FILED IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE.

On a motion by Councilman Ludwig, 2nd by Councilman Whitmore the following RESOLUTION was ADOPTED:

AYES: Ludwig, Cammarata, Whitmore, Holcomb, Evans
NAYES: 0

RESOLVED to establish for the New York State and Local Retirement System a Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution (RS 2417-A) with the Standard Work Day being 6 hours and the following 5 employees: Alison Owens, Jeffrey Lowe, Bruce Kinney, Pam Holcomb and Jordon Lilley as current members of the Retirement System having filed an ROA to the Town Clerk; also an 8 hours Standard Work Day with 1 employee, Vince Witkowski who has filed an ROA.

Such Resolution will be posted on the Town's website and at the entrance to the Town Clerk's office for 30 days.

OLD BUSINESS (UPDATES IF ANY)

6:45PM

OB1) Don Conklin: was recognized and said he would like to discuss the Community/Grange garden area. This was set up initially many years ago with different people taking responsibility for different areas of the garden space. The timbers have been replaced before, and need replacing again. The flowers planted by people have turned into weeds, and there is an invasive weed which has taken over much of the garden. These plants also need replacing. He was wondering if any funds from the Bottle Fund would be available to help with the project?

Supervisor Cammarata replied the Bottle Youth Fund could be used but the Town Board would need to have an itemized list first of what would need replacing and what the cost might be. He also had a concern about the lack of an official group that would help with the project. It was suggested perhaps the local Boy Scout group might help, perhaps others. Don Conklin said he would get back to the Board and check with the Boy Scouts.

NEW SERVICE REQUESTS SINCE LAST MEETING

7:05PM

There was 1 new service request for Winner Rd. but it was not submitted by the person indicated on the request form. Hwy Supt Witkowski made contact by phone to speak with the individual.

Other updates as needed:

REPORTS

7:35PM

R1.) Highway: report submitted

- The equipment is still holding up,
- The Highway employees stayed with it in the last snow storm. Lewis Hill was the only road that was not completely taken care of
- FEMA request
- The motor job is done on the Volvo and it will be back in the next couple of days
- Fixed and repaired equipment as needed
- Request for regular Hwy/Town Board meetings by Councilman Evans
 - Councilman Evans spoke with 2 of the Highway employees—they used to meet with the Town Board on a regular basis and would like to see that happen again.

R2) Assessor: no report submitted. Verbal report: tax bills may have some problems due to the County being hacked into

Minutes of the Smithville Town Board
December 21, 2020

- Exemptions for low income seniors and those with limited income disability can use 2019 income instead of 2020 to prove their income for the March 1st deadline if the Town Board passes a Resolution. After discussion the following Resolution was brought forth:

RESOLUTION # 40 (2020): LOW INCOME SENIORS AND THOSE WITH LIMITED INCOME DISABILITY EXEMPTIONS CAN USE 2019 INCOME (COVID REASONS) TO PROVE INCOME FOR 2021

On a motion by Councilman Evans, 2nd by Councilwoman Holcomb, the following Resolution was ADOPTED:

AYES: Ludwig, Cammarata, Whitmore, Holcomb, Evans
NAYES: 0

RESOLVED to allow low income seniors and those with limited income disability exemptions to use 2019 income information to prove their exemptions, if needed, for COVID reasons.

R3.) Enforcement Officer: no written report submitted. Verbal report here:

- Inquiries into septic system at Pond Creek but there has been no new developments. It looks like things will not be resolved until winter is over
- Questioning building/repairs on the old Hansmann house next to the Mill. There is no building permit on the building and yet someone appears to be living there. It has required extensive roof repairs.
- Dollar General has septic done and they wanted it reviewed by the Enforcement Officer. That will also have to wait until spring.

R4.) Planning Board: Nov, Dec. minutes were submitted and reviewed by the Board.

R5.) DCO: no report submitted

R6.) Attorney: no report submitted

R7.) vacant

R8.) Custodian: no report submitted, will be at the meeting

R9.) Playground Committee: no report

R10) Town Clerk: report submitted:

- Suitable arrangements have been made with Frontier for fiber optic service to the Community Center, an additional phone at the Town Barn, and separate phone #'s for the Assessor and the Judge. The total cost for the phone service will be in the \$280. range per month. Supervisor Cammarata has signed a contract. Installation will be sometime in January/February.
- Records management has been continuing with Chris Buck working on preparing records for the database and Ben Welch working on transitioning the Lotus database reports to the new MS Access database.
- The tax bills are all set and ready to be mailed out.

R11) vacant

R12) Supervisor's Report: submitted

- The NYS FEMA grant took 48 hrs to complete plus an additional 28 hours on another project \$399,000 on a 10% match Pollard Rd, box culverts. There is a possibility of another FEMA grant on Stone Quarry Rd on a 5% grant. PB Chair Shane Butler has company in NJ that will write the grant, the cost of which will be forgiven if the grant is accepted.
- End of the year General Savings \$70K, Highway Savings \$105K not including start up for next year Chazen and Assoc has been contacted for a preliminary water system for the hamlet which includes; engineering report for treatment and storage of water, annual user costs, establishing the water district and assistance with finding \$ and filing the grant for the system. The Town could expect 50-60% funding from the USDA but would need to repay that back. A final Cost was not estimated. Board members were concerned about the # of people who would be unhappy to participate because of the monthly cost of a

Minutes of the Smithville Town Board
December 21, 2020

water bill. It was also asked about an estimate for the potential cost of a full system. The Town cannot use ground water per the DEC, it has to be in-ground water.

- PB member Bob Brooks spoke about an Amnesty Day for junk, etc. This was discussed further and it was decided to wait until spring to discuss further.
- A motion to accept the Supervisor's report was made by Councilman Ludwig, 2nd by Councilman Whitmore. All five Board members: Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.
- Supervisor Cammarata asked for a Resolution to pay outstanding bills at years end:

RESOLUTION # 41 (2020): APPROVE PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS AT YEAR'S END

On a motion by Councilman Evans, 2nd by Councilman Whitmore the following Resolution was ADOPTED:

AYES: Ludwig, Cammarata, Whitmore, Holcomb, Evans
NAYES: 0

RESOLVED to allow Supervisor Cammarata to pay end of year vouchers.

MINUTES APPROVAL for November 16, 2020

8:30PM

The minutes of the November 16th meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve those minutes was made by Councilman Whitmore, 2nd by Councilman Ludwig. All 5 Board members: Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

WARRANTS

8:30PM

General Warrant # 12, Vouchers # 157-179, in the amount of \$9,319.14 were presented for payment. A motion was made to pay these claims by Councilman Evans, 2nd by Councilwoman Holcomb. All 5 Board members: Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

Highway Warrant # 12, Vouchers # 137-148, in the amount of \$ 8,221.70 were presented for payment. A motion was made to pay these claims by Councilman Whitmore, 2nd by Councilman Ludwig. All 5 Board members: Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

NO EXECUTIVE SESSION
NO OTHER BUSINESS

The next Board meeting is January 18, 2021. There was no other business to come before the Board. The meeting was declared adjourned by Supervisor Cammarata at 8:35pm.

Alison B. Owens

Smithville Town Clerk