

Minutes of the Smithville Town Board
November 16, 2020

- Assessor Lowe explained the Cold War Exemption has less of a benefit than the regular Veterans exemption, and can be used for service from 1945 – 1991.
- Using \$12,000 as the limit which is in the Town of Hamburg example would save about \$300 for the 5 or 6 residents from Smithville who might apply, on an average of a \$6900 assessment reduction. This exemption does not apply to taxes collected for the County, only the Town tax.
- After some additional discussion, Board members decided to move forward with the Cold War Exemption, using the Town of Hamburg's example for exemption for \$12,000. This will need to be drawn up by Att'y Berger, then publicized for a Public Hearing. Board members chose December 21, 2020 @ 6:25pm for the Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION # 35 (2020): APPROVE THE COLD WAR EXEMPTION DOCUMENT FOR FINALIZATION BY THE ATT'Y AND ADVERTISE IT AS LOCAL LAW # 1 (2020) FOR PUBLIC HEARING DECEMBER 21, 2020

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 approve the Cold War Exemption to become Local Law #1 2020, using the Town of Hamburg's example, having it finalized by the Town Att'y and then advertising for a Public Hearing on Dec. 21st @6:25pm.

OB2) Cincinnatus Lake update: property has been sold and will close before the end of the year. One of the parcels has the Cincinnatus Lake Dam on it which will require owner to maintain it. Supervisor Cammarata is still in communication with the Association of Towns with legal help in maintenance issues down the road.

OB3) Tallet/Lance septic tank: NYS wanted to re-place the new septic tank to where the old septic tank was. Code Enforcement Officer Kinney said he would not recommend that move. Board members were in agreement with this as it would not solve any problems. NYS would like to have a new well in the back yard but it is unclear how it can be accomplished with other septic systems in the immediate area.

OB4) Service Request updates: Stone Quarry Rd: road taken care of; County Rd 3 situation: the garage on the property has been taken down and buried but nothing else will be taken care of until spring. The property on Pollard Rd now has a building permit from the County

NO NEW SERVICE REQUESTS SINCE LAST MEETING 7:15PM

REPORTS 7:15PM

R1.) Highway: report submitted late:

- 2 trucks down; 1 will be prepared soon
- Batteries for the grader
- Finished Krupp Rd, working on Fred Wilcox
- Storm has taken down trees
- Met with FEMA and they will pay on an estimate from October 31, 2019 damage to many Town of Smithville roads.
- 2 trucks are ready to run if there is bad weather

R2) Assessor: report submitted

- There has been a lot of difficulty getting updated assessment and other information to the County because the County system was hacked. Things are taking a long time in being resolved.

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R3.) Enforcement Officer: no report submitted

R4.) Planning Board: tentative Nov meeting minutes reviewed. Water system was referred back to the Town Board. Putting in a water system would be difficult and expensive.

- Councilman Whitmore emphasized the importance of having better water with more people from outside the community buying houses for sale. Town water is not getting any better. He emphasized the Town needs to look to the future.
- Supervisor Cammarata said he would contact person in Oneonta who is working with this right now in his area, get some information, and give the information back to the Planning board.
- Town Clerk Owens said the prior Chair of the Planning Board, Tim Hanna, who did a lot of the groundwork for the water system is willing to share what he found.

R5.) DCO: no report submitted

R6.) Attorney: no report submitted

R7.) vacant

R8.) Custodian: no report submitted. A note received from her asked if she can paint the bathroom/kitchen white, repaint blue and green. The Board was ok with this. She was asked to check with Fred Heisler on color as the current blue/green colors were chosen for Historic purposes because the building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

R9.) Playground Committee: no report

R10) Town Clerk: report submitted. The Frontier phone lines are still confusing. Town Clerk Owens will call again tomorrow to get a bottom line figure for the Town Offices.

[In a later email to Board members Town Clerk Owens shared 2 options for Frontier service:

Option 1 is to revert back to single business line services/internet to the Town Barn and the Town Offices at a total cost of about \$330-335. Per month.

Option 2 is to use VOIP, an internet for service with rental phone and an upgrade to fiber optic internet. Taxes and surcharges are reduced. It would require a separate firewall on the switches/router for security purposes. The total cost here would be about \$235.-240. Per month.]

R11) vacant

R12) Supervisor's Report: submitted.

- Bookkeeper says things are looking ok for the end of the year.
- The annual NYS Retirement check is ready to be sent in to Albany.
- See if there are loose funds at the end of the year that can be changed over to one of the savings account which will help in 2021.
- \$36,000 for truck repairs will come out of Highway major equipment fund, currently with \$35K in it. Vince will contact the Volvo dealer to see if some of the expense for repair of the 2002 Volvo can be split into 2 payments, 1 this year and the other early next year.
- Hwy savings balance is \$221K out of which will come \$29K for black topping.
- Vince has been looking at free equipment from the Federal Gov't
- Teamsters court lawsuit: Hwy employees are back at 40 hrs a week, PERB charges against Town, Vince and John have been dropped.
- A motion to accept the Supervisor's report was made by Councilman Whitmore, 2nd by Councilman Ludwig. All five Board members: Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

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MINUTES APPROVAL for October 19th and November 5th

8:00PM

- The minutes of the October 19th and November 5th meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve both sets of minutes was made by Councilman Whitmore 2nd by Councilman Ludwig. All five Board members: Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

WARRANTS

8:05PM

General Warrant # 11, Vouchers # 144-156, in the amount of \$6,796.41; includes 2 previous vouchers to Hancock-Estabrook for \$1797.50 were reviewed by the Board. The Board questioned vouchers #145 and 153 to Portable John and asked that they be checked on for accuracy. A motion was made by Councilman Whitmore, 2nd by Councilman Ludwig to pay the vouchers from General Warrant # 11 except for Vouchers # 145 and 153, to put a hold on them until further checking. All five Board members: Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Evans and Councilman Whitmore then moved and 2nd to pay vouchers # 145 and 153 after satisfactory checking for accuracy. All five Board members: Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

Highway Warrant # 10, Vouchers # 123-136, in the amount of \$40,080.51 were reviewed for payment. A motion to accept and pay these bills was made by Councilman Ludwig, 2nd by Councilwoman Holcomb. All five Board members: Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

OTHER:

8:15PM

Supervisor Cammarata asked if the Board would be interested in sending a donation to the Congregational Church in Greene in the memory of Josh Brooks. Board members were in favor, the following Resolution brought forth:

RESOLUTION # 36 (2020): APPROVE DONATION OF \$75. IN THE MEMORY OF JOSH BROOKS TO THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN GREENE

On a motion by Councilman Whitmore, 2ND by Councilman Ludwig, the following Resolution was ADOPTED.

AYES Whitmore, Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Cammarata

NAYES 0

There was no further business to come before the Board. The next meeting will be December 21, 2020

The meeting was adjourned by Supervisor Cammarata at 8:21 pm.

Alison B. Owens

Smithville Town Clerk