

Minutes of the Smithville Town Board
February 21, 2022

OPENING of Town Board meeting by Supervisor John Cammarata 6:30PM
ROLL CALL/PLEDGE/LATE ADDITIONS:

ATTENDANCE:

Supervisor John Cammarata
Councilman Bob Whitmore
Councilman Shane Butler
Councilwoman Pam Holcomb
Councilman Russell Wark

ALSO:

Alison Owens, Town Clerk
Vince Witkowski, Hwy Sup't
Joann Smith, Gates-Cole Insurance
Brendon Becker, Lamont Engineering
Marie Kehl, Planning Board member
Bruce Kinney, Enforcement Officer
Jessica Bixby, resident

PRESENTATIONS: 6:35PM

- 1.) Joann Smith from Gates-Cole Insurance spoke about the Town Insurance renewal policy for 2022-2023. She went through page by page with coverage/changes noted. She will need a list of removable equipment on trucks and a full list of any changes to the equipment schedule for the Highway/Town. The new and current Town insurance policy she is quoting at \$16,499.03 The Crime policy has been quoted separately at \$797.00.
- 2.) Brendon Becker from Lamont Engineering was recognized and spoke about using ARPA funds for a water supply grant study. The Town is not eligible for USDA funding because the Town per median household income is higher than allowed. A private income survey sponsored by RCAP can be done but it will have to be done prior to applying for the grant. This private income survey would only be for the proposed area where the water system will be set up, and would probably be a "door to door" survey.

Two other items items required would be a map of the proposed area for the water system and a well test. A well testing project was done about 20 years ago by the Planning Board. Those results are still available and can be used to supplement a current well test. The NYSDOH is also available to help.

An ARPA preliminary engineers report would cost about 20K. Supervisor Cammarata would like to see this applied for this year. The Town has about 66K in ARPA funds to use before 2024. It appears grant projects involving water supply systems are looked upon favorably for ARPA funds.

Supervisor Cammarata mentioned some roads are in need of serious work. A cost/benefit analysis has to be done 1st which RCAP can help with. The Hwy Sup't will meet with Brendon Becker to go over the list of roads that need work. ARPA funds may/may not be used for road repair.

CORRESPONDENCE

C1) none

7:05PM

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NEW BUSINESS

7:05PM

NB1) consider Resolution for Att’y referred by Association of Towns to navigate ARPA fund monies. This would give the Town access to an Att’y in Syracuse who would do the investigative work to determine if the ARPA grant money could be used for a particular project. The Town would not have to pay for this from their budget but it would be allowable under the ARPA fund monies. It is hoped the radio work and/or roads could be done with ARPA monies.

It was also mentioned that it would be good to have the Town’s loss ratio to debt income ready. After some discussion, it was decided to table a decision until the Association of Towns could be contacted to ask about the use of ARPA monies and doing a loss assessment.

NB2) consider Resolution to create Hwy employee part-time, extra hire

The County has done paperwork to create the position but a Town Board Resolution is required. If a full-time person is hired by the Highway Sup’t, then a part-time cannot be hired. Hwy Sup’t Witkowski is more in favor of hiring a full-time at the moment than a part-time person. It was decided to table action on creating the part-time position until Hwy Sup’t makes a decision.

NB3) consider Resolution to spend \$ 3,000 for an engineering draft of an addition to the Community Center for the Justice Court, to be done as part of the JCAP grant. This was done in 2021 but it was recommended to re-do the Resolution for 2022.

RESOLUTION # 5 (2022): SPEND \$3K FOR AN ENGINEERING DRAFT FOR A JUSTICE COURT ADDITION TO THE BACK OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER

On a motion by Councilman Butler, 2nd by Councilman Wark, the following Resolution was passed.

Holcomb: aye
Butler: aye
Wark: aye
Whitmore: aye
Cammarata: aye

Resolved to spend \$3,000 for an engineering draft for a Justice Court addition to the back of the Community Center. This will be used in the application by the Court for the JCAP grant which has a deadline later this year.

NB4) consider Resolution to do an audit of the Justice records for 2021

RESOLUTION # 6 (2022): AUTHORIZE AUDIT OF THE JUSTICE COURT RECORDS OF 2021

On a motion by Councilman Whitmore, 2nd by Councilwoman Holcomb, the following Resolution was passed.

Holcomb: aye
Butler: aye
Wark: aye
Whitmore: aye
Cammarata: aye

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Resolved to authorize an audit of the Justice court records from 2021. This is an annual audit required by the NYS Justice Court Administration.

NB5) consider Resolution to spend \$170. for drone pictures over Hansmann's Mill dam for NYSDEC project

This project would entail removing the dam and dredging the area. The dam is in poor condition and is beginning to fall apart. NYSDEC would like aerial drone photos to see exactly what the project would entail. Board member Butler indicated he could provide NYSDEC with aerial imagery from his Chenango County office. It was noted the property on both sides of the creek is going up for tax auction in April 2022 and that the Genegantslet Creek which the dam is on is a NYSDEC trout stream. For the moment, no action was taken on this Resolution

OLD BUSINESS (UPDATES IF ANY)

7:30PM

OB1) wording for Local Law to adopt an Alternative Planning Board member

This was originally brought up to fill in for an absent Planning Board member, but as discussion ensued some Board members felt it would not be a benefit to create another position through Local Law; others said "maybe". There was no action taken on this item of business.

OB2) open Custodial position: Jessica Bixby was present and indicated she would like to continue in the position but would continue to clean until someone else was appointed, if necessary. Supervisor Cammarata said this would be discussed in Executive Session.

REPORTS

7:50PM

R1.) Highway: report submitted.

- The 2010 Loader is having problems and should probably be replaced. The unit has been down since last week even though a Case technician has been working on it. Hwy Sup't Witkowski has been pricing replacements, but the Case loader is the only one which seems to hold up. One that was quoted had 10' broom, tool carrier, 3.5 yard bucket, double arms, model # 721 with trade \$162K. Other brands were also quoted and were less in cost but so was the quality.
- Whitmore asked about leasing one rather than buying; cost might be more to do that for 5 years. What would it cost on a monthly basis to lease?
- Supervisor Cammarata and others suggested leasing and asked Hwy Supt Witkowski to call and get info on a lease.
- 2017 truck from Sherburne is still not available
- Supervisor Cammarata said the building to house sand at the Town Barn will not be finished until spring

R2) Assessor: report submitted. Collecting exemptions. Suggested the Board consider raising the low income Senior exemption to something higher than the current \$16,700. cap. The Ag exemptions are being reviewed; current Soil and Water maps are used.

R3.) Enforcement Officer: no report submitted

R4.) Planning Board: minutes submitted. A burned out site on County Rd. 2 was discussed at the Feb. Planning board meeting.

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R5.) DCO: report submitted.

R6.) vacant

R7.) vacant

R8.) Custodian: no report submitted

R9.) Playground Committee: no report

R10) Town Clerk: report submitted.

R11) vacant

R12) Supervisor's Report: submitted

- ICS zoom meeting tomorrow to discuss cyber security
- New sign for the Justice court needs to be done. The outdoor one is broken and cannot be fixed
- ACH funds automatically deposited into NBT will have a separate savings account set up for the Highway
- A motion to accept the Supervisor's report was made by Councilman Whitmore, 2nd by Councilwoman Holcomb; all 5 Board members: Holcomb, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.
- Pay Town Insurance. It was approved in the following Resolution to pay the annual Town Insurance in the amount of \$16,449.03 + the Crime Policy at \$787.00 to Gates-Cole Insurance.

RESOLUTION # 7 (2022): PAY THE ANNUAL BINDING AMOUNT OF \$ 16,499.03 TO GATES-COLE FOR 2022-2023 TOWN INSURANCE; PAY ADDITIONAL CRIME POLICY PREMIUM OF \$787.00 TO GATES-COLE INSURANCE

On a motion by Councilman Whitmore, 2nd by Councilman Wark, the following Resolution was passed.

Holcomb: aye

Butler: aye

Wark: aye

Whitmore: aye

Cammarata: aye

RESOLVED to pay Gates-Cole a binding amount of \$16,499.06 For Town insurance for the 2022-2023 year;
RESOLVED also to pay \$ 787.00 separately to Gates-Cole for a Crime policy underwritten by Utica General.

MINUTES APPROVAL for January 17, 2022

8:15PM

Councilwoman Holcomb asked to have the "someone" mentioned on page 1 changed to Supervisor Cammarata, then approve the minutes. This was so done in a motion by Councilman Whitmore, 2nd by Councilwoman Holcomb. All five Board members: Holcomb, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

WARRANTS

8:20PM

General Warrant # 2, Vouchers # 12-30, in the amount of \$ 4,981.7 were reviewed for payment. Vouchers paid early were #12, 13, 14, 15, 18. These were either utility claims, previously authorized claims or "of necessity" claims needing immediate payment. A motion to accept and pay all claims was made by

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Councilman Butler, 2nd by Councilman Whitmore. All five Board members: Holcomb, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

Highway Warrant # 2, Vouchers # 12-25 in the amount of \$ 13,393.43 were reviewed for payment. A motion to accept and pay these claims was made by Councilman Whitmore, 2nd by Councilwoman Holcomb. All five Board members: Holcomb, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 8 (2022): ORDER TAGS WITH SERIAL #'S FOR HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT @ A COST OF \$360 +

On a motion by Councilman Whitmore, 2nd by Councilman Wark, the following Resolution was passed.

Holcomb: aye
Butler: aye
Wark: aye
Whitmore: aye
Cammarata: aye

RESOLVED to order additional tags from Lustre-Cal for the Highway Dept and equipment, with serial #'s, at a cost of \$360. plus \$6.00 shipping.

EXECUTIVE SESSION—to discuss the Union contract and employment

Into Executive session motion by Councilwoman Holcomb, 2nd by Councilman Butler at 9:21pm; all 5 Boardmembers in favor.

Out of Executive session on a motion by Councilwoman Holcomb, 2nd by Councilman Whitmore at 9:48pm; all 5 Boardmembers in favor.

RESOLUTION # 9 (2022): OFFER EMPLOYMENT TO NEW CUSTODIAN AT \$11.10 P/HR

On a motion by Councilman Wark, 2nd by Councilwoman Holcomb, the following Resolution was passed.

Holcomb: aye
Butler: abstain
Wark: aye
Whitmore: aye
Cammarata: aye

RESOLVED to offer employment to a new Custodian at \$11.10 p/hr effective immediately. During the Budget review process in July/August this year, an increase in the wage will be considered.

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Next Board meeting is March 21, 2022

OTHER/CLOSE:

9:55PM

Alison B. Owens

Smithville Town Clerk

Addendum:

Purchase of a 2020 JD1025R with side mount mower and quick hitch snow blower was approved in a telephone vote by Supervisor John Cammarata on November 13, 2021.

RESOLUTION #73A: PURCHASE FROM JOHN DEERE (CAZENOVIA EQUIPMENT CO, INC) 1 JD 1025R WITH SIDE MOUNT MOWER, QUICK HITCH SNOW BLOWER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,138.48

Supervisor Cammarata: Aye
Councilman Karl Ludwig: Aye
Councilman Bob Whitmore: Aye
Councilwoman Pam Holcomb: Aye
Councilman Mike Evans: Aye

The older 2007 JD tractor will be traded in at a value of \$7,000 and with the NYS contract bid, the final payment will be \$25,138.48. No action was taken on what account the payment would be made from.