

Minutes of the Smithville Town Board
September 21, 2020

OPENING of Town Board meeting by Supervisor Cammarata
6:30PM

ROLL CALL/PLEDGE/LATE ADDITIONS:

Councilman Mike Evans

Councilwoman Pam Holcomb

Councilman Bob Whitmore

Councilman Karl Ludwig

ALSO:

Alison Owens, Town Clerk

Vince Witkowski, Hwy Sup't.

Jeff Lowe, Assessor

Angelo Cioffi, BAR

Marie Kehl, resident

Sandee Utter, JRC rep, town resident

Irene DeJager, JRC rep, town resident

Steve Paige, JRC Co-ordinator

Adding NB5 to the agenda

CORRESPONDENCE 6:35PM

C1) receipt of Town of Smithville corrective action plan on 2020 audit from the Office of the State Comptroller

C2) webinar October for new governor mandate on Public Employer Mandatory Emergency Plan. Supervisor Cammarata will try to attend

C3) request from Greene Emergency Squad for financial support funding: This was sent to all residents. Board members said there would be no donation at this time.

C4) Notice of Public Hearing for Brisben Fire District Budget for 2021 to be held at the Brisben Fire Station. The proposed budget is up \$37.00 from 2020

NEW BUSINESS 6:45PM

NB1) Jan Mason, resident Winner Rd., comments about Town Hwy employees. Mrs. Mason was unable to attend but called and said she has appreciated the work Hwy employees have done on Winner Rd.

NB2) An approved list by the Hwy Supt. of Snowmobile/Seasonal Roads for 2020/2021 was brought before the Board. After reviewing the list a call for a Public Hearing was made.

RESOLUTION # 22: CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING OCT. 19TH FOR SNOWMOBILE/SEASONAL ROADS

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

AYES: 5 Cammarata, Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore

NAYES: 0

RESOLVED to advertise for a Public Hearing on October 19, 2020 for the Seasonal Highways (6:35pm) and the Snowmobile Roads (6:40pm). Such Hearing will also be advertised on the outside sign.

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NB3) consider approval of Animal Shelter Agreement: This 2021 contract was reviewed by Board members who authorized approval in the following Resolution. There were no changes from the 2020 contract.

RESOLUTION # 23: APPROVE SPCA CONTRACT FOR 2021

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

AYES: 5 Cammarata, Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore
NAYES:0

RESOLVED to approve the SPCA contract for 2021.

NB4) discussion of Christmas lights for hamlet: Mrs. Pat Heisler has written a letter and is willing to donate \$500 toward Christmas lights and flags for the hamlet. Town Clerk Owens purchased one LED 20" Christmas light in the form of a snowflake last year to show Board members what it would look like. They vary in size and cost but the 20" LED's she can find right now are \$34.99-55.00 for one.

Hwy Sup't Witkowski said repair work needs to be done on the interfaces between the pole and the Christmas light in about 3 or 4 poles. The poles are NYSEG's so they would need to be contacted to discuss replacement of the interface. Hwy Sup't Witkowski said there are "bands" available which will help the interface on the mounting bracket and it would work with both the lights and the flags.

Board members were in favor of putting up lights now and waiting until spring for the flags. Town Clerk Owens will contact Mrs. Heisler and make sure that is ok with her. She will also contact the Historical Society and see if they would like to make a donation. If Mrs. Heisler is in agreement with purchasing just the Christmas lights now, then Town Clerk Owens will order 8 white and 8 blue snowflakes to attach to the previous wire frames that held the wreaths. Hwy Supt Witkowski will make sure they are put up. Supervisor Cammarata will call NYSEG.

RESOLUTION # 24: APPROVE PURCHASE OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WITH DONATION FROM MRS PAT HEISLER

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

AYES: 5 Cammarata, Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore
NAYES:0

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RESOLVED to approve the purchase of 8 white and 8 blue 20" LED lighted Christmas wreaths at a cost of \$34.99 each with the approval of Mrs. Pat Heisler who is helping to fund the purchase. WHEREAS Mrs. Heisler also asked for her donation to include flags, the Town Clerk will also contact the Historical Society to see if they would consider making a donation.

NB5) discussion of truck space for County Hwy truck for the winter season: an annual agreement has been received from Chenango County dot for using space in the Town Barn for a County truck this winter. Hwy Sup't Witkowski was ok with this as were the rest of the Board members. The following Resolution was enacted.

RESOLUTION # 25: APPROVE SPACE FOR A COUNTY TRUCK AT THE SMITHVILLE TOWN BARN

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

AYES: 5 Cammarata, Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore
NAYES: 0

RESOLVED to approve space in the Town Barn for a County truck this winter. This allows plowing of County roads to get started earlier.

OLD BUSINESS (UPDATES IF ANY)

7:00PM

OB1) JRC discussion—Smithville JRC reps Sandee Utter and Irene DeJager were present as was Steve Paige, co-ordinator for the JRC.

The Town of Smithville had requested verbally and by written letter information from the JRC but it was not answered. The Town was also concerned there was not a reduced payment for 2020 since a full summer program was not provided (due to COVID).

The representatives stated almost 40 people are hired to represent the # of children in the program. CIT's are not paid and senior counselors are paid \$20 per day. There was no bus transportation this year, no swimming, no softball program. Money was spent in other areas. Responsibility for bookkeeping has rotated between the contractual towns: Village of Greene, Town of Greene and the Town of Smithville. Currently it is the Town of Greene who holds the bookkeeping responsibility.

Each Municipality receives \$1000 from the County for help with the JRC each year but it was not clear if the funds were sent directly to the administrator (Town of Greene) or to each municipality to help offset the Town expenditure. Supervisor Cammarata will check on that. Supervisor Cammarata also warned that extreme budget cuts will be coming in 2021 due to the financial impacts of the Corona

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virus in New York State. The representatives understood but asked the Town Board to consider all options.

The representatives indicated the request from the Town for information would be fulfilled. A copy of the 2019 and 2020 Budgets will be emailed to Town Clerk Owens, also the # of students participating.

It was also questioned if funds from the Bottle Fund could be used to help with the JRC but Board members said that was set up to help with Town of Smithville activities only.

OB2) 993 CO RD 3 discussion (SR3)—owner not present. Owner Tina Miller and husband Tim Miller were not available to attend the meeting. It was noted in a conversation with Supervisor Cammarata that while efforts began last year to clean up the burned buildings and house the family has since suffered financial and health issues which has prevented them from continuing with it. The house and barn both have asbestos in it and it will cost about \$60K to clean it up. The DEC will have to be consulted because of the asbestos. The odor is the main problem.

Due to COVID not many organizations are holding fundraisers or doing benefits this year. It was mentioned that if someone would like to sponsor a financial contribution or a Facebook “Go-Fund-Me” account, maybe something could be done. Supervisor Cammarata will talk to Shawn Fry to see if County would donate a dumpster and perhaps someone would donate time/machine to scoop it up. Unfortunately, due to economic restraints on the part of the Town, County and family, action on this Service Request will be slow

OB3) response from Olive Marlin re: Shipton property: A response was received from Olive Marlin, last surviving member of the Shipton family living in the Town of Smithville. It was a collective agreement among the surviving children to turn the property over to the NYSDEC, which has been done. Town Clerk Owens will write a letter to Mrs. Marlin thanking her for her response.

OB4) replacement of windows in Town Clerk, Assessor and Justice office. This is being done to replace a cracked window in the Judge’s office and to improve the efficiency of the windows in the Assessor’s and Town Clerk’s office. The original windows are over 20 years old.

- Supervisor Cammarata said ordering through Lowe’s would take too long, another company would not come to Smithville due to distance.
- Madison Windows and Doors in Bainbridge quoted a price of \$2175.00 to replace the 3 above 36x62” mentioned windows with a true line 6800 series with grids between the glass w/full screens, lifetime warranty of 20 years.

RESOLUTION # 26: PURCHASE REPLACEMENT WINDOWS AT A COST OF \$2175.00

On a motion by Councilman Whitmore, 2ⁿ by Councilwoman Holcomb, the following Resolution was ADOPTED.

AYES: 5 Cammarata, Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore

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NAYES:0

RESOLVED to approve space in the Town Barn for a County truck this winter. This allows plowing of County roads to get started earlier in the day.

OB5) Cincinnatus Lake Watershed District/Dam update: the dam will have to be inspected every 4 years at a cost of about \$4K with a split of \$3000/1000 between the Town and the owner, assuming the cost of the inspection does not increase. Supervisor Cammarata said unless the Cincinnatus Watershed Protection District comes up with a way to provide help with the cost, it is likely to continue to be a burden to the Town and the dam property owner. He asked Assessor Lowe if there is a way to levy a tax on the residents around the lake so that monies would be available to help pay for the costs involved in maintaining the dam.

- Assessor: It's called a special district and it can be added as such on a property tax bill. Assessor Lowe can find out more information
- John can ask the County Att'y how legally setting up a special district would work. This could also pull in the properties in Cortland County, Town of Willet.

SERVICE REQUESTS SINCE LAST MEETING

7:40PM

SR5) request for land use enforcement on Genegantslet Horse Farm covenants: The vacant land adjacent to Mr. Cioffi was being used as a campground with no sanitary respect and no respect for the subdivision covenants which forbid camping. Supervisor Cammarata reiterated that the complainants would have to be handled by an att'y hired by the complainant.

SR6) complaints regarding renovation work on Pollard Rd barn with no visible permits: This was an empty barn which has been converted into living quarters. There were no visible permits. 2 complaints were received concerning the property. Both complaint letters were sent to the County Code Enforcement. There were several infractions which the County will have to deal with.

REPORTS

7:50PM

R1.) Highway: report submitted:

- downed trees
- Finished Hattie Clark, now working on Williams Rd.
- The Highway Sup't recommended that only have experienced people buy equipment for the Hwy Dept. The truck was not built to correct specs. Also, the newest Town truck has a warped frame because it was hauled out of the ditch incorrectly and the frame became twisted. This was not known until just recently.
- Most of the new sand is in
- Parts for the gradall have been ordered
- Tri Cities bill will need some adjustment which is being worked on.

R2) Assessor: report submitted: working on data. Someone had asked about the "Cold War" (1975-1990) exemption similar to wartime or combat signification with the Veterans exemption. Smithville

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does not have this exemption so there may be some people who ask the Town Board to adopt this exemption. Also, does the Town Board want to increase the income limit for disability exemption, currently \$16,700? No action was taken on the Cold War Exemption and the disability exemption was left alone.

R3.) Enforcement Officer: no report submitted. A phone call from a Broome County agency says the septic tank replacement at the house on the creek next to the new bridge is leaking sewage into their well. The Enforcement Officer has an appointment with the people and will continue to work on the problem.

R4.) Planning Board: minutes of August meeting were reviewed.

R5.) DCO: report submitted

R6.) Attorney: no report submitted

R7.) vacant

R8.) Custodian: no report submitted

R9.) Playground Committee: no report

R10) Town Clerk: report submitted

- Since some people have requested a card machine be made available to pay for things at the office, Town Clerk Owens did some research on this. The machines are between \$150-250 each; the bank charges close to 3% for a card transaction which will either need to be paid by the Town or by the person using the card. Additionally, the extra paperwork involved will be costly time wise. Town Clerk Owens is not recommending to move forward with a card reader at this time.
- The door handle on the south outside restroom came completely off. Town Clerk Owens purchased one at Lowe's and then had to purchase a hook and eye for the inside of the restroom as the new outside lock had no locking mechanism for the inside.

R11) vacant

R12) Supervisor's Report: submitted

- Supervisor Cammarata spoke with County regarding the budget for 2021. They said the easiest way would be figure the 1.5% increase, then remove highway and fire dept, and that would be it. Next year the budget increases will be limited to 1% or less. Supervisor Cammarata and Councilman Ludwig have been working with the figures. General Savings will be ok until the end of the year. Any monies not used can be rearranged and moved to an Highway interest bearing account, building account, or unexpended balance.
- A motion to accept the Supervisor's report was made by Councilman Ludwig, 2nd by Councilwoman Holcomb. All 5 Board members: Ludiwg, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL for August 17th

8:15PM

The minutes of the August 17th meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Supervisor Cammarata, 2nd by Councilman Evans to approve the minutes. All 5 Board members: Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

WARRANTS

8:20PM

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General Warrant # 9, Vouchers # 121-131, in the amount of \$ 4,803.14 were reviewed for payment. A motion was made by Councilman Whitmore, 2nd by Councilman Ludwig to approve the minutes. All 5 Board members: Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

Highway Warrant # 9, Vouchers # 96-105, in the amount of \$ 75,384.97 were reviewed for payment. A motion was made by Councilman Whitmore, 2nd by Councilman Evans to approve the minutes. All 5 Board members: Ludwig, Holcomb, Evans, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

Next Board meeting is Monday October 19th @ 6:30pm

OTHER: 8:35PM

2021 BUDGET work: due to the lateness of the evening, further work on the 2021 Budget was suspended. Supervisor Cammarata and Board member Ludwig will meet together to further the effort to completion.

CLOSE by Supervisor Cammarata 8:40PM

Alison B. Owens

Smithville Town Clerk

Addendums: September 28, 2020

Supervisor John Cammarata presented the Tentative 2021 Budget to the Town Clerk's office on Wednesday September 30, 2020. The Tentative Budget was emailed officially to Board members the following day, Oct.1, 2020.

In a conversation between Supervisor Cammarata and Fire Chief Ken Whitmore, it was noted that a new applicant to the Genegantslet Fire Co. would need approval from the Town Board immediately so the applicant would be able to attend training for his new position. Board members were individually polled and approved the addition of Darryl Graves of Cummings Rd., Greene to the roster for the Genegantslet Fire Company. Mr Graves has passed all applicable background checks.