

Minutes of the Smithville Town Board
March 21, 2022

OPENING of Town Board meeting Supervisor 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

Brendon Becker, Lamont Engineering
Bruce Kinney, Enforcement Officer

The agenda being used for this meeting has been further revised to accommodate other individuals during the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE 6:35PM
C1) none

ARPA FUND PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION (with Brendon Becker of Lamont Engineering) 6:35PM

There is approx.\$128K available in ARPA funds to the Town of Smithville to use in 2022/23

- **1. Water system for hamlet:** Brendon Becker of Lamont Engineering gave Board members Lamont's proposal for an engineering study for a hamlet water system. The \$43K proposal includes a \$5K hydro-geology study, and a \$5K SEQR (Environmental review) process. NYSDOH will do water quality testing taken from outdoor hose spigots of up to 12 sites. The study will include the preliminary engineers report, preliminary district map of water lines, identify test well site and seismic testing for ground water site. If a well site is chosen, a property owner would initially lease the property to the Town and then the Town would purchase it.

It was asked if Round Pond water could be used but Brendon recommended against it as it would then become a Class A water system which comes with higher O&M costs. Brendon also explained it would be recommended to have a back-up or 2nd well in case anything happens to the first.

Councilman Whitmore was concerned about future O&M costs, empty houses, decreased population and figuring out the water district. Brendon Becker responded these questions would be considered along with the location of the prime well.

After additional discussion the motion was made/2nd to move forward with the water study agreement and have Supervisor Cammarata sign the agreement

RESOLUTION # 12 (2022): MOVE FORWARD WITH \$43,000K WATER STUDY AGREEMENT FOR THE TOWN OF SMITHVILLE HAMLET;

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

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

RESOLVED to spend \$43,000K to LAMONT ENGINEERING for a water study/engineering report which will determine if there is a need for a water system within the hamlet of Smithville Flats. Supervisor Cammarata will sign the paperwork for such study and payment would be made in one lump sum at the end of the project.

Supervisor Cammarata did speak with LaBarge Engineering as there was Board authorization to spend \$3K for them to do a loss/ratio report for the Town in consideration of perspective ARPA funds to be used. He was told verbally if the Town did not receive more than \$9,999,999. for ARPA related projects and except for budgetary items or pay off loan then there would not be a need to do the loss/ratio report. Supervisor Cammarata also spoke with another Att’y who said something similar but emphasized the need to file reports by April 30th.

- **2. Sluice piping under Town roads:** There are several locations in Smithville where the sluice piping under the roads has been or continues to be a problem. These locations include Waldon, Hammerle, Stone Quarry, Buckley Hollow, Winner, Pollard and Carr Rd. Brendon Becker from Lamont Engineering will also work on this project with Supervisor Cammarata/Superintendent Witkowski.

Board members were asked to identify in order the most important of the following additional identified ARPA projects: a radio system for the existing tower on Fred Wilcox Rd; stand-by generators for the Town Barn; LED replacement message board sign at the Community Center; mainframe computer system for the Community Center; new phone system for the Community Center and Town Barn; possible purchase of the Hansmann’s Mill property for a park. Board members rated them in the following order after the water study and sluice piping:

- **3. Standby generators at the Town Barn:** The current generator at the Town Barn only operates the older section of the barn; the new section does not have a generator. This is problematic if the electric is out and the Town Barn doors do not open. Barnes Electric can supply a 400 amp standby propane, installation, transfer, NYSEG inspection, and with John Tracy of Central Plumbing & Heating installing the propane piping at a cost of \$30K. A \$5K down payment would also be needed. Board members moved approval of this proposal in the following resolution:

RESOLUTION # 13 (2022): MOVE FORWARD WITH \$30K PURCHASE OF A STANDBY GENERATOR FROM BARNES ELECTRIC FOR USE AT THE TOWN BARN, \$5K DOWN PAYMENT

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

Holcomb: aye
Butler: aye
Wark: aye

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Whitmore: aye
Cammarata: aye

RESOLVED to spend \$30K for a standby generator at the Town Board, price to include installations, inspections, materials, etc, and additional propane piping work by Central Plumbing and Heating. A \$5K down payment will also be needed.

- **4. Radio system for existing tower.** The current repeater the Town has been using on the CO RD 3 tower is the wrong size. The Fred Wilcox Rd. tower can hold a repeater if it is a certain height. Supervisor Cammarata is in touch with tower owner American Tower and will continue communications with them. Vince will make contact the vendor for a price quote on the correct size repeater.
- **5. Phone system at the CC and TB:** The current system the Town uses through Frontier has had nothing but problems since it was installed. Supervisor Cammarata would like to see a different company provide phone and internet service. Spectrum can do a survey; Point Broadband is also available. This will be an ongoing project
- **6. LED replacement message board sign at the CC.** Supervisor Cammarata has spoken with 3-4 vendors, all but one of which comes back to TV Liquidators who sold the current message board to the Town. One of the vendors is from NYS. A price quote from them for a replacement sign of 63" wide would be \$5,570K, while a smaller 53" screen could be purchased for \$4570. The larger unit would require modification of the current housing. It was also recommended to put in a surge protector in the housing unit to prevent some of the problems. Board members decided to hold off on the sign as other items were of more importance. Town Clerk Owens suggested making the replacement message board a "fund raiser" project as there are people in Smithville who would like to make a contribution to a worthy cause.
- **7. Possible purchase of Hansmann's Mill property for park.** This was discussed as a possibility but Board members were not in favor at this time of moving forward to see if purchase could be possible. Whoever owns the property would own on both side of the Genegantslet Creek. If no action is taken on the dilapidated dam, then the Army Corp of Engineers would be allowed to come in and remove the dam. The property is **not** coming up for sale on the County list next month.
- **8. Mainframe computer system for CC:** This was not discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

7:55PM

NB1) consider Resolution to create Hwy laborer position retroactive to March 7, 2022

Hwy Sup't Witkowski hired a new hwy worker earlier in the month. The individual has had a CDL a few months but according to Civil Service Law he was ineligible to be hired as an HMEO; therefore a new position of Laborer would have to be created for him. Under this position he could work until he was eligible for the HMEO. Board members had questions as to whether the pay scale would be the same, whether there was

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such a position as HMEO/Laborer, and how long he would have to work as a laborer before he could convert over. Board members were reluctant to create the position until there was some clarification.

A motion to **Table this Resolution creating the Laborer position** until after consultation with Chenango County Personnel was made by Councilman Butler, 2nd by Councilwoman Holcomb. All five Board members: Holcomb, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

NB2) consider Resolution to raise income limit of Old Age and Disabled exemption from \$16,700 to \$19,500. The request was made last month from Assessor Faline Ward to consider raising these levels. She had earlier given Supervisor Cammarata a suggested figure to work with. As Board members were considering this Supervisor Cammarata indicated that according to the tax rolls or to the HUD limit, we are not an impoverished Town. Board members decided to await the results of the private income survey by RCAP to be done this year.

A motion to **Table any resolution increasing the disability and old age exemption** until after the results of the private income survey was made by Councilman Wark, 2nd by Councilman Whitmore. All five Board members: Holcomb, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

NB3) consider request by the Genegantslet Fire Co., Inc to have the Town Board approve membership names as the Genegantslet Fire Co. submits them for approval onto the roster of the Fire Dept. Supervisor Cammarata will obtain a copy of original Genegantslet Fire Co. letter in the contract to Att’y Berger to see if he would respond via letter.

A motion to **Table this Resolution to approve membership names to the Genegantslet Fire Co. roster** until a response could be drafted by Att’y Berger was made by Councilman Whitmore, 2nd by Councilman Butler. All five Board members: Holcomb, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS (UPDATES IF ANY)

8:45PM

OB1) CC Board of Supervisor’s letter of determination on Cincinnatus Lake Watershed Protection District Board. The latest communication from the Chenango County Board of Supervisors is that Charles Malmberg is to take over as the Chairman of the CLWPD Board. The Town is no longer responsible for dam maintenance and it now belongs to the CLWPD. Further contact with the NYSDEC will also remove the Town from the “responsible” list.

REPORTS

8:50PM

R1.) Highway: report submitted. Trucks have been breaking down

- International '02 has had the wing ripped off;
- dump box on 2010 International is completely worn out and is leaking anti-freeze. This could still just be used as a dump truck. After further considerations Board members recommended waiting until the Town knows the status of the truck coming from Sherburne and whether the new truck, which will be bonded, will be put back on the “build” list. For now, they recommended to fix the bed chain on the '02.

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- The Sherburne truck will add more to the Town's insurance cost as it is a newer truck. It was recommended to check with the insurance agent to see if all of the equipment on the policy is valued correctly.

R2) Assessor: report submitted.

R3.) Enforcement Officer: no report submitted

R4.) Planning Board: no minutes submitted

R5.) DCO: report submitted late

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.

- 2 complaints on excessive rate of speed of Town Hwy trucks on the road were noted. Three suggestions were made and will be considered: "How's My Driving" signs for the back of each truck; a GPS system on each truck secured by a monthly monitoring service; and an insurance company based GPS speed tracking system. These recommendations will be considered further.
- Propane bill at the Town Barn has been a lot lower because of the waste oil burner but the electric lights are on constantly. It is unknown why the Town Barn is consuming a lot of electricity.

All funds are doing well. After reviewing the Supervisor's report, a motion to accept it was made by Councilman Whitmore, 2nd by Councilman Wark. All five Board members: Holcomb, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL for February 21 & 26, 2022

9:30PM

Town Clerk Owens was asked to correct some typos but both sets of minutes were then approved in a motion by Councilwoman Holcomb, 2nd by Councilman Butler. All five Board members: Holcomb, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

WARRANTS

9:35PM

General Warrant # 3, Vouchers # 31-44 X33, in the amount of \$ 44,586.36 (modified)

General Vouchers paid early were # 31, 32, 34, 35, 36; # 33 was voided

Vouchers added to General Warrant from Hwy Warrant were #'s 32 & 44

Voucher # 40 is being withheld because of unknown # of hours worked

After review of the claims, a motion to pay them, withholding claim # 40 until the confirmation of the # of hours worked during February 2022 by the employee, was made by Councilman Butler 2nd by Councilwoman Holcomb. All five Board members: Holcomb, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

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Highway Warrant # 3, Vouchers # 26-31,33-39 in the amount of \$ 14,302.20 (modified)
After review of these claims, a motion to pay them was made by Councilman Whitmore, 2nd by Councilman Wark. All five Board members: Holcomb, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

9:50PM

Next Board meeting is April 18, 2022

CLOSE:

9:50PM

Alison B. Owens

Smithville Town Clerk