

MINUTES OF THE SMITHVILLE TOWN BOARD
September. 18, 2023

OPENING of Town Board meeting by Supervisor Cammarata 6:29PM
ROLL CALL/PLEDGE/LATE ADDITIONS:

ATTENDANCE:

Supervisor John Cammarata
Board members: Bob Whitmore
Russell Wark
Shane Butler
Pam Holcomb

ALSO:
Vince Witkowski, Highway Sup't

Fred Heisler, Planning Board
Town Clerk Alison Owens

CORRESPONDENCE 6:35PM

C1) email from Pam Holcomb regarding drainage problem on King Rd. at the entrance to her property. The water flows down into her property and across the sidewalk to her residence, making it very slippery. After notifying the Highway Sup't and not hearing a response, she and her husband had applied a homeowner's fix near the road, hoping it would at least temporarily work.

Highway Sup't. Witkowski replied another work-around would be to put a catch basin on the other side of the road but that beefing up the fix the homeowners had applied may work. Highway Sup't Witkowski will have that extra work done; It will be a wait and see action. If more is needed, more discussion will take place.

The only way to fix it is to pave the problem. Could the catch basin be put on the other side of the road? Highway Supt. Witkowski said that was a probability. Board member Holcomb asked if the Town would pay for the expenses or if it would be the property owner's responsibility? Hwy Sup't Witkowski said the alternative method may work but it probably is not going to be big enough to hold the water. Try it first and see how it will hold. Hwy Sup't Witkowski said he would put blacktop further and around the catch basin to help. He also recommended doing some additional work on the driveway

C2) Notice of Public Hearing for Brisben Fire Dept.: closing December 31st; Greene will take care of State Hwy 12 and Oxford will take care of the rest of the properties including the 5 in the Town of Smithville. The Town of Smithville will add the Brisben tax figures to the Oxford Fire Company budget.

C3) letter of 2% budgetary request was received from the Genegantslet Fire Co., moving the budgeted amount to \$110,704.0 for the 2024 year.

NEW BUSINESS 6:50PM

NB1) Snowmobile/Seasonal Roads review; call for Public Hearing. Supervisor Cammarata read over the roads listed for both Snowmobile and Seasonal roads that were approved last year. A question arose concerning a developing property further up on Collyer Rd., past the former Cioffi residence and whether the road would need to be plowed to that driveway. Hwy Supt Witkowski said the residents were not planning on moving in before winter and that section of road beyond the former Cioffi residence would not need maintenance this coming season.

A Resolution was then made to accept the current Snowmobile/Seasonal Road list and to call for a Public Hearing on October 16, 2023 at 6:35pm.

RESOLUTION # 33 (2023): AUTHORIZE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR BOTH THE SNOWMOBILE AND SEASONAL RDS FOR OCTOBER 16, 2023 AT 6:35PM AND 6:40PM.

On a motion by Board member Butler, 2nd by Board member Whitmore, the Town Board authorized October 16th at 6:35pm and 6:40pm for Public Hearings on the proposed list of Snowmobile and Seasonal Roads in the Town of Smithville for the season November 1, 2023 thru April 1, 2024.

AYES: Holcomb, Butler, Wark, Whitmore, Cammarata

NAYES: 0

OLD BUSINESS (UPDATES IF ANY)

7:00PM

OB1) updates on the Highway equipment: see Highway report

OB2) updates on the grant for the purchase of 2026 MACK truck

- USDA should have everything back by October, should be ok but it will also be a waiting game to see when/what year the truck will be/delivered

REPORTS

7:20PM

R1.) Highway: report submitted

- Parts for the transmission on the 2002 Volvo have been ordered
- A complete brake job on 2015 Volvo. The mechanic from TNR Repair was out and personally ordered parts but when they came in they were not the correct ones. Those were sent back and new ones re-ordered.
- The 2017 MACK had a computer problem and would have been \$5-6K for a new one but the mechanic took it apart and cleaned it. So far it is working fine.
- The Gradall is still at Alta Equipment in Syracuse. They can't seem to fix it so he's going to get it back to Smithville. There is a junk yard business in PA that has parts and a mechanic that will help work on it. He would like to get it fixed and then sell it.
- Needs 2 full sets of dump truck tires plus a set for the F-550, working with McKee's in Cincinnatus to get those
- Almost complete with most FEMA projects; starting work on Stone Quarry and Waldon for FEMA

R2) Assessor: report submitted

- Option to grant in maximum amounts for qualifying Seniors by reducing the taxable assessment. Board members reviewed the rest of the Assessor's report but asked, what does the Assessor recommend? Board members decided to wait until the next meeting. A motion was called for to table any further discussion until next month when the Assessor would have had a chance to give her opinion.

Such motion was made by Board member Wark, 2nd by Board member Holcomb to table further discussion on the qualifying Senior exemption until next month. All 5 Board members in favor, motion carried.

R3.) Enforcement Officer: no report submitted

R4.) Planning Board: no minutes submitted. An SPR on Tarbell Rd was approved for a used car lot

R5.) DCO: no report submitted. Supervisor Cammarata said the SPCA contacted him regarding coverage for next year, which will remain at \$75.00, to turn in a dog to the SPCA. Supervisor Cammarata told them the Town of Smithville would still use the Chenango County SPCA.

R6.) vacant R7.) vacant

R8.) Custodian: no report submitted

R9.) Playground Committee: no report submitted

R10) Town Clerk: report submitted

- Possibility of a Town credit card to take care of Google and other expenses where a charge card is needed. A couple of suggestions were expressed which Supervisor Cammarata will check on.
- Continued discussion about records management

R11) vacant

R12) Supervisor's Report: submitted

- Charles Malmberg wants to know why the Town canceled the insurance on the Cincinnatus Lake Dam. John has letter from the insurance company saying the Town does not insure property it doesn't own. There is also a letter from the Town's previous Att'y in 2021 stating the Town does not own the dam. The current Att'y will review the paperwork and write another letter to Mr. Malmberg stating, again, the Town does not own the dam or the property it's on, or the lake and that the Association created for that purpose is responsible for supplying repairs and insurance on the dam.
- CHIPS \$ was reimbursed and applied to the balance of the MACK truck and the excavator. After making payments, the truck will have a balance of \$13K.
- Acadia Energy has approached Board member Butler (as the Chenango County Director of Planning) and asked if the County, through a development project, would help them find suitable sites throughout Chenango County for feasibility studies for solar grids. These sites would not necessarily be on private property but on municipal sites. Some sites have been identified already but the County is looking for an additional 400 acres. Some suggestions for sites within the Town were mentioned.
- Brendan from Lamont Engineering has had contact with water drilling experts and will start soon to determine the best location for a source well in the Town of Smithville. Most of the places chosen are on the east hill area or the east side of State Hwy 41. Work on the low income housing grant \$ is still being done. Board member Whitmore is assisting the grant person in collecting income information for the grant.
- \$75K will be added to Hwy Savings to = about \$100K; Major Equipment will become over \$300K; General Savings has \$110K
- According to the Comptroller's Office, all Highway Town Barn expenditures should come out of the Highway and not the General side of the budget. There are DA accounts for many of the utilities, separating them out from each other, electric, different kinds of fuel, etc. This has not been done before and would give a broader picture of the cost to operate the Hwy dept. There should also be a road maintenance budget in the Town Budget
- A motion to accept the Supervisor's report was made by Board member Whitmore, 2nd by Board member Wark. All 5 Board members: Holcomb Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata in favor, motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL for August 21st

7:45PM

The minutes of the August 21st meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve these minutes was made by Board member Whitmore, 2nd by Board member Butler. All five Board members Holcomb Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata in favor, motion carried

WARRANTS

7:50PM

General Warrant # 9, Vouchers # 150-166 in the amount of \$7,877.71 were submitted for payment

Early payments:

150-152

A motion was made by Board member Butler, 2nd by Board member Whitmore to approve these payments. All five Board members Holcomb, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata in favor, motion carried. It was requested to contact Judge Lilley to be at the Budget meeting on the 25th, 6:30pm.

Highway Warrant # 9, Vouchers # 122-135, in the amount of \$33,831.83 were submitted for payment.

Voucher # 121 was previously paid; deducting from total brings Hwy warrant to \$29,231.83.

A motion was made by Board member Holcomb, 2nd by Board member Whitmore to approve these claims for payment. All 5 Board members: Holcomb Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata in favor, motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Board member Butler, 2nd by Board member Holcomb to go into Executive Session to discuss an employee issue. All 5 Board members: Holcomb Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata in favor, motion carried. Into Executive Session at 8:20pm.

A motion was made by Board member Whitmore, 2nd by Board member Wark to come out of Executive Session All 5 Board members: Holcomb Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata in favor, motion carried. Out of Executive Session at 8:39pm.

There was no action taken,

OTHER: Next monthly Board meeting is October 16th. It was brought up that the tractor used to mow the Community Center is in need of a new battery. Several places were mentioned, among them McKee's in Cincinnati. The information will be relayed to Groundskeeper Sabin.

A Budget work session will be held September 25th @ 6:30pm.

There was no other business to come before the Board. Supervisor Cammarata declared the meeting adjourned.

CLOSE:

8:39PM

Alison B. Owens

Smithville Town Clerk