

MINUTES OF THE SMITHVILLE TOWN BOARD

APRIL 15, 2024

Present:

Supervisor John Cammarata

Board members: Bob Whitmore, Fred Heisler, Shane Butler, Russ Wark

Other Townspeople

The April 15th meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Supervisor Cammarata.

**Correspondence**

**C1:** Sup. Cammarata received word from the Genegantslet Fire Company that we need to sign the 2024 contract. There were no major changes from previous years. Mr. Whitmore asked if there was any additional language about the town plowing the driveway. Sup. Cammarata stated there was not. Hwy Supt. Witkowski stated they had an agreement, but it should be in writing to say there will be no liabilities for slips or falls. Mr. Heisler recommended creating a contract which has this in writing.

**RESOLUTION # 19 (2024) Motion by Mr. Wark to sign the agreement and work on an agreement for plowing the driveway, seconded by Mr. Heisler. Members voted all ayes, motion carried. Mr. Whitmore abstained.**

**New Business**

**NB1:** Sup. Cammarata received a request from the Joint Recreation Committee (JRC) to use the ballfield. Mr. Whitmore asked why the address on the park is listed with McDonough post office address instead of Smithville Flats. Mr. Heisler asked if we were going to waive the \$100 fee.

**RESOLUTION # 20 (2024) Motion by Mr. Heisler to approve the JRC request to use the ballfield with no fee, seconded by Mr. Whitmore. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.**

**NB2:** Sup. Cammarata has worked on the request for water at the pavilion and asked Ms. Eldred if we could run water in through a hose to the sink connection. No permit would be needed in this case, and we could just go ahead and do it. We would just need to make sure the water is locked when they are done. Mr. Heisler asked if this was basically a temporary fix. Sup. Cammarata agreed.

**NB3:** Sup. Cammarata asked for a motion to advertise fuel bids for the year.

**RESOLUTION # 21 (2024) Motion by Mr. Heisler to advertise fuel bids, seconded by Mr. Butler. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.**

### **Old Business**

**OB1:** Sup. Cammarata stated the company is no longer in business and there would be no perceived value to the stock. He will work with our Town Attorney to send a letter in response.

**OB2:** Sup. Cammarata was in contact with the contractor to install more cameras at the Community Center. He plans to meet with them in the beginning of May to discuss the additional cameras which would tap off of existing cameras.

**OB3:** Sup. Cammarata took pictures and drafted a letter to the five property owners across the town regarding junk storage/garbage complaints. He will have the Town Attorney send certified letters to each of the property owners which allows 30 days for them to clean up the property. There will be a \$100 fine if nothing is done and they will need to appear in court. The City of Norwich has a policy where if property owners do not clean up their property, the City goes out and cleans it up and charges back the bill to the property owner. One of the property owners did come into the town hall with concerns they could not afford a cleanup.

### **Reports**

**R1:** Hwy Supt. Witkowski stated it only took 15 days before some of the road and stop signs were stolen. He is looking into special poles to prevent this in the future. The 2024 truck is in Sherburne and will be done in a couple of days. The 2002 Volvo is done. The new mulch head on the tractor was working well but started to overheat when it was used for longer periods of time. The culvert on Stone Quarry where the beavers routinely plug it up was unplugged again. The hydraulic cylinder on the Grader was shattered and replaced with a new one. It's the third time we've had to fix it. The 550 had the oxygen sensors replaced.

They have been working to patch and fill potholes on various roads. The next project is to head to North Tyner Road to get started with ditching and preparing. Hwy Supt. Witkowski would like to purchase a 10 foot tank sprayer so that they can get the roads graded and spray them right away to prevent dust. Estimated cost is \$5400.

**RESOLUTION # 22 (2024) Motion by Mr. Butler to purchase a 10 foot tank sprayer, seconded by Mr. Whitmore. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.**

**R2:** No assessor report submitted. Ms. Owens stated there was concern with the heat in her office. Mr. Butler stated the Clean Energy Communities grant was submitted but there had been no word on any awards.

**R3:** Mr. Kinney asked for copies of the letters being sent to property owners regarding junk and garbage.

**R4:** Planning Board Chair Kehl stated they had three members at their last meeting. They reviewed the Fire Department Site Plan for the new sign and it was approved. They received the request from the Town Board to review the Junk and Refuse laws. Prior to starting, they want some sort of confirmation the Town Board will do something to show they will enforce it. Based on earlier discussion, it appears they will. Mr. Butler stated he could send some samples and information from the Town of Sherburne.

Mr. Whitmore stated there is no zoning so he questioned whether or not we could do anything. Mr. Butler stated the Town of Sherburne doesn't either.

Mr. Kinney stated the King Road property is still going through the process. The property owners are looking to use a temporary structure to live in while construction is underway. There are some concerns with this going through the proper channels.

**R5:** No DCO reported submitted.

**R8:** Sup. Cammarata praised the new custodian for doing a good job.

**R9:** Ms. Eldred asked if there would be disposal areas for dog feces. Sup. Cammarata is still working on this. Ms. Eldred asked if others could attend the Eagle Scout Park Committee next Monday. May 4<sup>th</sup> will also be a work day in the park. Ms. Eldred agreed there should be a tree for Ms. Heisler, and suggested it be near the walking path.

**R10:** Mr. Butler read the submitted town clerk's report.

**R12:** Supervisor Cammarata read through the report. The five certificates have matured and will be coming back. He will talk to USDA about paying off the new truck. Everything else looks good. Union negotiations are over but he is awaiting the final contract to look over before signing.

Mr. Butler stated we need to be careful when budgeting. The Town of Guilford was audited and dinged by the State because they underestimated revenue and over estimated expenses creating a large surplus.

Hwy Supt. Witkowski stated the FEMA money should be on its way soon. **Motion by Mr. Whitmore to accept the Supervisor's report, seconded by Mr. Wark. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.**

### **From the Floor**

**F1:** Linda Burkhart from the Town of Lisle made a presentation on behalf of the NY Citizens Audit movement. She provided handouts and asked for the town to provide a resolution in support.

Mr. Heisler asked if she had seen how elections operate. From the experience of his wife, it is very hard to believe there would be fraud. Ms. Burkhart stated it is at the higher levels with people hacking into the system.

Sup. Cammarata asked how many towns have signed on. Ms. Burkhart stated there had been 84 statewide including one or two in Chenango County and a dozen in Broome.

## **Minutes Approval for March 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Motion by Mr. Whitmore to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Butler. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.**

### **Warrants**

General Warrant #4 – Town Clerk Owens stated all but Elan have checks. Spectrum is also not included because it came in later. Mr. Butler recommended paying Spectrum as #58. **Motion by Mr. Heisler to pay warrants 44-58, seconded by Mr. Butler. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.**

Highway Warrant #4 – Sup. Cammarata asked how the mirrors worked. Mr. Butler asked if #52 was for fuel or kerosene or both. Hwy Supt. Witkowski stated the mirrors worked well, and yes both. **Motion by Mr. Whitmore to pay warrants 40-52, seconded by Mr. Wark. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.**

### **Additional Discussion**

**A1:** Mr. Heisler is concerned with not being able to find a Town Clerk to fill the future vacancy and for vacancies with other personnel and fire department needs. We need to do something different. We are a small town with a small number of residents trying to fill a lot of positions. We should consider a merger with the Towns of McDonough and German with shared services including Highway Superintendent and equipment. Mr. Witkowski expressed concern regarding sharing equipment.

Mr. Whitmore stated we would need a referendum from voters to approve it.

Mr. Butler stated there are grants available for mergers if this is something we would want to consider.

Mr. Heisler suggested an informal meeting with the other towns to gauge interest.

**Motion by Supervisor Heisler to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm. Supervisor Cammarata declared the meeting adjourned.**

**Minutes recorded and edited, respectively, by:**

**Shane H. Butler, Councilman**

**Allison B. Owens, Town Clerk**