

MINUTES OF THE SMITHVILLE TOWN BOARD
BUDGET WORK SESSION
31 July 2024

OPENING of Town Board meeting
ROLL CALL/PLEDGE/LATE ADDITIONS:

6:30PM

ATTENDANCE:

Supervisor John Cammarata
Board members: Bob Whitmore
Shane Butler
Russell Wark
Fred Heisler

ALSO: Alison Owens, Town Clerk

later: Bruce Kinney, Enforcement Officer

A special meeting of the Smithville Town Board was called to order by Supervisor John Cammarata. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Oxford Fire Contract, to call for a Public Hearing, to discuss a Resolution to change the elected Town Clerk/Tax Collector position to appointed and other items of importance before the next Town Board meeting.

Oxford Fire Contract:

The Village of Oxford Fire Dept has taken over the remnants of the Brisben Fire Dept which has resulted in 12 additional properties switching to Oxford. The new 5 yr contract with Smithville originally called for a 19% increase to properties serviced by the Village of Oxford Fire Dept. Board members earlier asked Supervisor Cammarata to offer 10% for the first year, to which Oxford countered with 13% and subsequent modest changes to the four remaining years. Board members were still concerned about the amount of the 1st year increase but after discussion, decided to accept the proposal of the 5 yr contract and call for a Public Hearing on the Oxford District 5 yr Fire Contract on August 19th.

RESOLUTION #39 (2024): ACCEPT THE VILLAGE OF OXFORD MODIFICATIONS TO THE PROPOSED 5 YR CONTRACT FROM 2025-2029 WITH A 13% INCREASE FOR 2025.

On a motion by Board member Wark, 2nd by Board member Whitmore, the following Resolution was ADOPTED.

AYES: Butler, Wark, Whitmore, Cammarata, Heisler
NAYES: 0

RESOLVED to accept the modifications to the original proposed Fire Contract with the Village of Oxford for Fire Protection to a portion of the Town of Smithville which includes previous property owners of the Brisben Fire Company. The modifications include a jump of 13% for 2025; 3.7% increase for 2026; 3.2% for 2027; 2.4% for 2028 and 2.2% for 2029. A Public Hearing will be scheduled for August 19th.

Additionally, it was decided to hold a Public Hearing on the Genegantslet and Smithville Center Fire Districts on August 19th as well.

RESOLUTION #40 (2024): TO CALL FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY AUGUST 19, 2024 FOR THE 5 YR CONTRACT FOR THE VILLAGE OF OXFORD FIRE DEPT; THE 1 YR CONTRACT EACH FOR THE GENEGANTSLET FIRE DISTRICT AND THE SMITHVILLE CENTER FIRE DISTRICT. TIMES TO BE POSTED IN THE NORWICH EVENING SUN

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On a motion by Board member Butler, 2nd by Board member Whitmore, the following Resolution was ADOPTED.

AYES: Butler, Wark, Whitmore, Cammarata, Heisler
NAYES: 0

RESOLVED to call for a Public Hearing on August 19, 2024 at 6:30pm for the purpose of a 5 yr contract with the Village of Oxford for fire protection within the Smithville portion of the Oxford Fire District which now includes those who were part of the Brisben Fire District.

RESOLVED also to call for a Public Hearing on August 19, 2024 at 6:40pm for the purpose of a 1 yr contract with the Genegantslet Fire Company for fire protection within the Smithville portion of the District.

RESOLVED also to call for a Public Hearing on August 19, 2024 at 6:45pm for the purpose of a 1 yr contract with the Genegantslet Fire Company for fire protection within the Smithville Center portion of the District.

Resolution to submit to the Board of Elections:

With no person running on any party for the position of Town Clerk/Tax Collector on the November 2024 ballot this year, there is concern over who will be assuming the position on January 1, 2025. There could be a write-in candidate who will do a campaign but that is unknown at this time. It has been suggested to change the position of Town Clerk/Tax Collector from Elected to Appointed as an elected candidate must be a resident of the Town of Smithville, but an appointed Clerk does not need to be a Town resident. This decision would be up to the voters of the Town of Smithville and the question is required to be placed on the ballot this November. There is an August 5th deadline for this Resolution to be turned into the Chenango County Board of Elections.

After discussion, the Town Board decided to move forward with a Resolution asking the voters this question with a term limit of 4 years.

RESOLUTION #41 (2024): TO ALLOW FOR A PROPOSITION ON THE BALLOT FOR TOWN OF SMITHVILLE RESIDENTS TO VOTE ON ASKING "SHALL THE POSITION OF TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR FOR THE TOWN OF SMITHVILLE BE CHANGED FROM ELECTED TO APPOINTED WITH A TERM LIMIT OF 4 YEARS?"

On a motion by Board member Butler, 2nd by Board member Wark, the following Resolution was ADOPTED.

AYES: Butler, Wark, Whitmore, Cammarata, Heisler
NAYES: 0

RESOLVED to place on the Ballot of the Town of Smithville on November 5, 2024, the Proposition for the following, "Shall the position of Town Clerk/Tax Collector for the Town of Smithville be changed from ELECTED to APPOINTED with a term limit of 4 years?"

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Status of the Bookkeeper's internet and equipment

The Bookkeeper still does not have internet and may not for over another week. Supervisor Cammarata has spoken with her about the Town purchasing a laptop and monitor for the Bookkeeper's use, to be kept at the Town Clerk's office. This cost would be in the \$1459. Range with set up extra.

Three other quotes for a bookkeeping service were considered but it was estimated the cost to have an off-site service would be approx \$21K per year. Board members said to move forward with buying the equipment for the bookkeeper.

RESOLUTION #42 (2024): AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A LAPTOP AND MONITOR FOR THE BOOKKEEPER

On a motion by Board member Heisler, 2nd by Board member Whitmore, the following Resolution was ADOPTED.

AYES: Butler, Wark, Whitmore, Cammarata, Heisler
NAYES: 0

RESOLVED to purchase a laptop and monitor for the Bookkeeper's use in the Town of Smithville. Such equipment will be set up and kept at the Town Clerk's office.

Possible Justice Grant items for the September deadline were discussed. Court Clerk Terri Bickford is willing to write the grant.

Attorney Fees: The annual amount for Coughlin and Gerhart Attorney's to work with the Town would vary depending on what the service is and who in the Att'ys office needs to be involved. It ranges in price from \$175 p/h to \$300 p/h. The FedEx bill continues to be a problem since a different amount was quoted than was billed. The Board recommended paying the quoted amount rather than the billed amount.

An addition to the Community Center has a limit of \$114K. Board member Heisler is working on it.

Budget work 2025

Several items of Highway expenses were moved from the General side of the budget to the Highway and a few of the Highway items were combined to simplify expenses. It is not known yet whether the 2025 Budget will come in under the tax cap of 2% or not. More will be known at the August 19th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm by Supervisor Cammarata.

Alison B. Owens

Smithville Town Clerk