

Minutes
Smithville Town Board
January 20, 2025

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

ROLL CALL/PLEDGE/LATE ADDITIONS:

Supervisor John Cammarata	ALSO:	Alison Owens, Town Clerk
Board members: Dakota Warren		Vince Witkowski, Hwy Sup't
Shane Butler		Marie Kehl, PB Chair
Russell Wark		Bob Whitmore, Ken Whitmore, Hwy employees
Fred Heisler		Mace Moody, Pirk, Residents

CORRESPONDENCE 6:35PM

C1) NYSDEC letter: attempting to acquire 140 ac. land off Fry Rd. Starlight Forest 177.-1-2.1, Starlight Forests/Bruce Edwards owns the property and would like to sell the land to NYS. The Board can write a letter to rebut it but the final decision will be up to NYS whether they buy it or not. NYSDEC could still buy the property using different funds.

C2) A Conditional Renewal of Insurance from Tokio Marine has been received. Initially Supervisor Cammarata was told it would be a 16% increase but that lately has been revised down to 10%. The Town insurance renewal comes due in March with proposals generally presented to the Board at the February meeting. Supervisor Cammarata has also received an email from Dave Craine of Mirabito Insurance who would like to bid on Town Insurance for 2025.

NEW BUSINESS 6:50PM

NB1) Item of business from Supervisor Cammarata regarding the well for the proposed water system.

- Supervisor Cammarata received a call from Brandon Becker of Lamont Engineering who was trying to get in touch with a well driller to drill a test well for the Town of Smithville proposed water system. This would be the Town's responsibility to pay for the test well, about \$20K.. NYS has told him that a decision has to be made by September or the funds the Town of Smithville was allotted will be put back into the pool. An affidavit has to be filed with NYS for the grant money
- The Low income grant was not honored so it would need to be done again.
- Supervisor Cammarata said the Town would still be short \$ to complete the project even with the grant and then the Town would have to try and find another \$5 mil to complete the project. The opinion is that a lot of people in Town do not want a water system.
- Mr. Wark said he was not in favor of drilling the well; Mr. Heisler felt a personal system for each home in the community would be useful and less expensive. Many people in the community have already purchased home filters.
- Highway Employee Whitmore says the water table is getting lower because of all the drilling being done
- Mr. Butler said there were some new maps available he would like to review and asked to table a decision until next month so he would have a chance to review them.

RESOLUTION # 5 (2025): TABLE DECISION ON WATER SYSTEM UNTIL THE FEBRUARY MEETING

On a motion by Mr. Warren, 2nd by Mr. Wark, the following Resolution was ADOPTED

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

RESOLVED to table a decision on the water system for the hamlet until next month's meeting to allow Mr. Butler time to review additional, new maps.

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NB2) Request from licensed Physical Therapist Talitha Purdy to use Community Center part-time (a few times a week) for physical therapy for patients local to the area. She can provide insurance and a contract. Board members questioned the insurance and a contract but then also questioned whether it was right to house a business at the Town Community Center. Town Clerk Owens asked if the Presbyterian Church might be able to take this request. Planning Board Chair Marie Kehl said she would provide the Session Chair's phone # and Town Clerk Owens will contact her. Town Board members felt this would be a better option for the Physical Therapist.

OLD BUSINESS (UPDATES IF ANY)

7:00PM

OB1) update on Code Enforcement Officer for Junk/Refuse Local Law. Supervisor Cammarata has been in contact with the sub Code Enforcement Officer from Preston, Nancy Cody, who has questions yet regarding Smithville's new Local Law. Has the Att'y reviewed it and are there prepared forms for her to use? She would like to see the contract and would like to be paid mileage. Questions were asked about the amount Preston pays their Code Enforcement Officer and what the Code Enforcement forms looked like.

There was continued discussion on the enforcement of this new proposed Local Law, the amount of time the Planning Board has spent creating it. The old Local Law is over 50 years old and has not been enforced. Mr. Wark would like to see this Local Law move forward. It was suggested to bring in both Nancy Cody and our Town Justice Jordon Lilley to have questions answered and find out how the Town of Smithville Judge would handle tickets for this proposed Local Law. The next Board meeting is February 17th.

OB2) consider RESOLUTION to adopt the new Junk/Refuse Local Law

- This was not brought up for business this month.

OB3) report on addition:

- Mr. Heisler has not heard anything from the group preparing a design. Mr. Butler said he would ask them.

REPORTS

7:20PM

R1.) Highway: report submitted

Supervisor Cammarata reported that the new Highway truck ordered 2 years ago cannot be sold until an electric truck can be sold 1st because of a NYS mandate to move toward electric vehicles. A used truck from Triangle was considered but it went to auction.

A new 2025 Western Star truck (tandem axle chassis w/Tenco all season box and plow package installed) from Tracey Road Equipment is available and if ordered tomorrow can be in Smithville in the fall for a cost of \$331,083.00. There is some additional equipment that Hwy Supt. Witkowski would like to have installed.

Supervisor Cammarata said the USDA does not have funding this year. Current financing is 6.75%. NBT told him to keep the 4% loan and buy the truck, then use FEMA monies and CHIPS to finish paying for the difference in the 2 trucks. Supervisor Cammarata is unsure of FEMA funds this year or CHIPS. If CHIPS is used, then repairs to Town roads will be decreased considerably. And another Town truck needs a replacement box which will be about \$50K. It was mentioned this truck really should be replaced but that means the purchase of 2 trucks. Also mentioned was the possibility of applying for a B.R.I.C.K grant but that means researching the grant, having someone write it and waiting for an answer.

Supervisor Cammarata asked the Board's opinion. Should a 2nd truck be purchased. Mr. Warren said to buy one truck now; Hwy Employee Whitmore concurred. There are still financial details to work out. Supervisor Cammarata said he

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would talk to the County Treasurer and see if he had any different ideas. A Resolution to buy 1 truck now was made in the following Resolution.

RESOLUTION # 5 (2025): PURCHASE WESTERN STAR TRUCK FROM TRACEY ROAD EQUIP FOR \$331,083.00

On a motion by Mr. Warren, 2nd by Mr. Butler, the following Resolution was ADOPTED

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

RESOLVED to purchase a new 2025 Western Star cab and chassis with Tenco Plow and Box from Tracey Rd Equipment, East Syracuse for \$331, 083, plus additional equipment to be added. The details of the purchase financing are still being considered and will be forthcoming.

- R2) Assessor: no report submitted
- R3.) Enforcement Officer: no report submitted
- R4.) Planning Board: no report submitted
- R5.) DCO: no report submitted;
- R6.) vacant R7.) Justice: no report submitted
- R8.) Custodian/Groundskeeper: recall on JD tractor has been taken care of
- R9.) Playground Committee: no report submitted
- R10) Town Clerk: report submitted. Town Clerk Owens mentioned the AOT is working on 2 bills, 1 that would reduce the need for Municipal Comprehensive Plans to be re-written every so often and 2) that the mandate for Municipalities to have a .gov website not apply to small Municipalities. Both are expected to pass.
- R11) vacant
- R12) Supervisor's Report: submitted
 - Transferred \$29500, in the Highway 2025 Budget Unexpended Balance.
 - Transferred \$25K into the General 2025 Budget Unexpended Balance.
 - \$106.90 left Hwy 2024 Budget in the total savings account
 - \$22K left in General savings; there is also savings accounts for the truck, the playground and the Town Hall for a total of \$631,600.13
 - A motion to accept the Supervisor's report was made by Mr. Butler, 2nd by Mr. Warren. All five Board members: Heisler, Butler, Wark, Warren and Cammarata in favor, motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL for December 16, 2024, Jan.2, 2025 7:40PM
After review, both sets of minutes were approved in a motion by Mr. Butler, 2nd by Mr. Wark. All five Board Members in favor, motion carried.

WARRANTS 7:45PM
General Warrant # 1, Vouchers # 1-10 in the amount of \$ 5,607.12 were submitted for payment. It was asked what account # voucher # 1 would be paid from. After discussion, it was moved by Mr Butler and 2nd by Mr. Warren to add \$2500 from the unexpended balance to put into A1410.4 in order to pay this invoice. All 5 Board members in favor, motion carried.

A motion was then made by Mr. Butler, 2nd by Mr. Heisler to pay these claims, #1-10 in the amount of \$5, 607.12. All 5 Board members in favor, motion carried.

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Highway Warrant # 1, Vouchers # 1-15, in the amount of \$33,846.15 were submitted for payment. After review, a motion was made by Mr. Heisler, 2nd by Mr. Warren to pay these claims. All 5 Board members were in favor, motion carried.

It was also mentioned that the tower on County Rd. # 3 is not being used and therefore does not need the electric service hooked up. Supervisor Heisler will contact NYSEG and discuss this with them.

General Warrant # 13 2024 Vouchers # 214-224 in the amount of \$ 2,197.29
Highway Warrant # 13 2024 Vouchers # 144-149 in the amount of \$ 4,699.07

There was no EXECUTIVE SESSION

7:55PM

And there was no additional business to be conducted. Supervisor Cammarata declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Alison B. Owens
Smithville Town Clerk