

TOWN OF CATHARINE  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
February 20, 2018

Members present: Supervisor John VanSoest; Councilpersons: Glenn Bleiler (at 8:00), Ronald Hoffman, C. Michael Learn, Jamee Mack; Highway Superintendent: William Morgan, Deputy Highway Superintendent: Martin Vondracek; Code Enforcement Officer Harold Russell; Guests: Legislator David Reed, Larry Reynolds, Bruce Bruckner, Tom Ruocco

Public be Heard:

Tom Ruocco asked if we were going to talk about the work on the garage—added to the agenda

RESOLUTION 2018-9

RESOLVE that the minutes of the January meeting be approved as submitted to the Board

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Jamee Mack

VOTE 4 ayes, noes

RESOLUTION 2018-10

RESOLVE that the Clerk's report for January and the Annual report for 2017 be approved as presented to the Supervisor

RESOLUTION by C. Michael Learn, seconded by Jamee Mack

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

RESOLUTION 2018-11

RESOLVE that the Justice report be accepted as submitted to the State Comptroller and the Supervisor

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Jamee Mack

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

Zoning report: Harold indicated that he took care of a complaint on Cottage Rd. about a chimney that appeared unsafe. He indicated that it is okay and even if it falls, it will not touch any surrounding buildings. He will have training all day in Bath next week. He would like to have a complaint form printed out that would include the name and phone number of the person reporting and the reason for the complaint. This will protect both him and the town from law suits. He works hard to avoid court—he gives chances, and then sends a letter requesting a response with a plan of action to correct the problems and indicating a date by which this should be done. Last week he spent time on the phone with Avon regarding Flood Plains. He got a big packet from NYSERDA regarding solar installations. Jamee asked about the zoning violations on Swan Hill Rd. The house on the corner is now a feral cat house and has broken windows. Tom Ruocco also spoke of that place being a hazard. John got a letter from a former business owner in our town who would like to reopen her business. There have been numerous violation on the property in the past few years. It was decided that it should go to the Planning board for discussion as to whether or not she can reopen that business.

RESOLUTION 2018-12

RESOLVE that the Supervisor's report be accepted as presented by the bookkeeper and supervisor to the board.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

Highway report: The new truck won't be in until late March. They helped the Town of Cayuta out when they blew a pump on their main truck—we loaned them one of our trucks. The "Bridge NY" Grant cycle is open. Bill started the paper work, but Jerry Verigini is going to finish it up. If it's a pipe replacement, it's funded 100% if it's an actual bridge it's a 95% grant. He had the CAT dealer come and give them an estimate for a new excavator as ours is getting tired. A new one would be approximately \$200,000. If we don't have an excavator, we can't put in pipes across roads, couldn't clean out ditches or clean out things when there is flooding. The one we have is in really poor shape and getting hard to get parts for. They figured what roads they would work on for summer. They will plan on 7.5 miles of road with oil and stone. Servicing trucks for spring. Today they got rid of a beaver dam on Pertl Rd. that was causing some problems. The gravel pit on Odessa hill is slated for closure this spring.

#### RESOLUTION 2018-13

RESOLVE that the following vouchers G19-52 in the total sum of \$85,743.66 and H19-28 in the sum of \$12,332.05 within funds according to the totals

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Ronald Hoffman

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

Ball field: John thinks we need to have a committee of 2 or 3 from the adult league and 2 from the Town to meet and go forward from there. There wasn't anyone here from the league (Kelly is sick and Charlies sister is sick). He thinks there needs to be community support. If it's good for the town, then the board is interested.

Larry—unfinished business—the code enforcement issue. When he was Highway Superintendent-he went to the county and suggested that the County should come to the town before putting a property up for tax sale. If the building is not up to code, it should be either torn down or brought up to code before it goes up for sale. Jamee has talked to the county and they think it's a town issue and the town thinks it's a county issue. Dave Reed said that the county wants to get rid of the liability, so they don't care about what is underground or above the ground. John reminded the board that we do have an unsafe buildings law on the books and we could demolish that one particular building based on it's unsafe condition. It has to be decided if the town wants to be in the business of tearing down houses. Dave Reed will bring this up in committee meetings at the county to see if something can be done. It's not just an isolated issue in the Town of Catharine, it's county wide—there are issues everywhere. The issues would be how to pay for the demolition and removal. John said that we can do something about it, other entities deal with it and so can we.

Work on the highway barn—John thinks that the work proposed would have to go out to bid, but that would require specs. The men will make a wish list and bring it back to the next meeting. (the bid we received from Ruocco has most of the wish list (except for the insulation and to gut the shed additions, rewire, lighting) John will start the process by coming up with a list of the specs as the project stands right now.

Real Property Tax Service has asked us to pass a new local law to remove the time frame on the Cold War Exemptions on taxes. Currently there is a 10 year limit and the exemption would have to be reapplied for. We will schedule a public hearing for March 20@ 7:15 p.m. to hear comment.

Website updates: Carmella got a proposal from a company who works with Towns and Schools. The cost is high, but the resulting website is good. The Board feels that there has to be someone out there

who can do a website for less, so we will continue to search to see what we can come up with. Carmella can check with other clerk's to see what they do. Town of Montour has Randy Deal do their site, but they cannot make changes themselves, they have to email them to Randy and he does the changes. Town of Hector has Virtual Town/Schools do theirs website (that was where the estimate was from) and they can make changes themselves.

The Town Board would like to recognize Colin Marsh for the beautiful job he did on the benches he built as part of his Eagle Scout project. We will make up a Certificate of Appreciation and present it to him at the March Board meeting (if he can come).

Glenn Bleiler moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. seconded by Jamee Mack—all agreed

Respectfully Submitted:

Carmella Hoffman  
Town Clerk/Collector