

TOWN OF CATHARINE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2017

Members present: Supervisor John VanSoest; Councilmen Wayne Chapman, Ronald Hoffman, C. Michael Learn; Highway Superintendent William Morgan; Code Enforcement Officer Harold Russell; Guests: Larry Reynolds, Bruce Bruckner, Martin Vondracek (Deputy Highway Superintendent), Jamee Mack, Kelly Field, Charlie Friends, David Reed, Julian Thornton, Tom Ruocco, Courtney Erwin

Public Be Heard:

Supervisor VanSoest offered his congratulations to David Reed, Jamee Mack, Glenn Bleiler & Carmella Hoffman on their recent wins in their elections.

Charlie Friends and Kelly Fields came representing the Schuyler County Softball League. They have been working on a proposal for the ball fields. Charlie said he got a good start, but still has a lot of grey area as to what they would like to see at the fields. Things like dugouts, backstops, etc. John explained that he views the proposal as a back and forth between the league and the town. As far as coming up with a \$\$ there are some things that need to be addressed. Charlie asked if they need permits and do they need to go out to bid? We don't think it would have to go out to bid, but aren't sure, this is something that would have to be asked of our lawyer (if the work is being donated, then it wouldn't need to go to bid). There would have to be a SEQR done because they are disturbing more than 5 acres of land. It would go through the planning board who would make a recommendation to the Town Board. There would be some expenses such as seeding, etc. Charlie said that people won't donate if they aren't sure that the fields are actually being built. He will send out letters of intent to see if they can get some commitments from businesses to help defray the costs. Jamee would like to see a wish list of what the League would like to see and go from there. John mentioned that we would need some figures on parking space needed, stuff like that. There would have to be some public input in the form of Public Hearings. John suggested that the League put together a committee of 2 or 3 people who can sit with the Planning Board. The goal is to ultimately be ready to play on the fields in the spring of 2019. Ron wondered if they are looking at stages to work on --goals to reach for each year. Charlie said that he would rather plan big and then go from there. If they fall short of their financial goals, then they scale back their goals. So the next step is to do some back and forth between the league and the planning board first. John suggested that there be a group of the planning board members to meet other than their regular meeting.

John presented Wayne Chapman with a certificate for his 29 years of service to the Town of Catharine.

RESOLUTION 2017-65

RESOLVE that the minutes of the October meeting be accepted as presented by the Town Clerk

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

RESOLUTION 2017-66

RESOLVE that the Town Clerk's report be accepted as presented to the Supervisor

RESOLUTION by C. Michael Learn, seconded by Wayne Chapman

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

Zoning officer report: Harry has had an issue in a mobile home park due to a fire call there and has had trouble getting in touch with the appropriate manager. They will need to update the electric service, as well as some other property maintenance issues. Sgrecci's milk parlor is not complete yet. Harold asked if the Town has a commercial solar status. He wishes that the solar installations weren't put on roofs but on pedestals. Completed week at the fire academy for additional training.

Supervisor's report: all accounts are in good shape except for DB as we are still waiting on CHIPS funds.

RESOLUTION 2017-67

RESOLVE that the Supervisor's report be accepted as presented to the Board

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Wayne Chapman

VOTE 4 Ayes, no noes

RESOLUTION 2017-68

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

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

Budget: The Budget hearing was held on Nov. 8, with no public in attendance. John explained that some of the things that helped in keeping the budget low was that health insurance only went up 2% and there will be some employee changes in the coming year. With the change in employees, it will take the Highway department back to 3 men from 3 1/2. The rates for 2018 are: A (General Townwide) fund is 2.201553; B (General Outside Village) fund is 0.199347; DA (Highway Townwide) fund is 1.590329; DB (Highway Outside Village) fund is 0.891414; SL (Alpine Street lighting) fund is 0.376176; SF (Fire Protection District) fund is 0.812731.

RESOLUTION 2017-69

RESOLVE that the 2018 Budget be accepted as presented by the Supervisor (Budget Officer) and presented to the Public

RESOLUTION by C. Michael Learn, seconded by Ronald Hoffman

VOTE 4 ayes no noes

Highway Report: The guardrail on Newtown Rd is done and they cut the shoulders off (allowing for drainage). Graded all the roads again before winter; all trucks ready for winter. Bill had one call out for a tree down. The salt storage facility is in limbo right now. The concrete floor and sides have been poured, but there has been no movement in the past 3 weeks. Jerry is aware of the this. The guys have been patching holes. The excavator caught fire the other day, (the heater motor seized up) but thanks to Marty quickly shutting it down there wasn't much damage. Bill give the Board the Pickup bids he got by piggy-backing with another entity. A one ton pickup truck is actually cheaper than a 3/4 ton truck. The ones he got bids on were \$34,902.95 for a Ford and \$ 34,762.39 for a Chevy. The lead time is approximately 3 months, so if we ordered now, wouldn't get it until late January or February 2018. John would like to run this by Glenn. The bids are good for 30 days. Bill would like to add a spreader to the box eventually. John explained that if we didn't get it until February, in the 2018 budget there would be approximately \$37,000 that would have been scheduled to put into reserve for equipment. John said that if we buy this, we won't have the money for anything else in the next year. Ron said that with 2 one ton trucks, it will take some of the pressure off the big trucks. That is particularly important when the roads are soft. This truck would also allow the Superintendent to do some plowing when he's checking the roads in the middle of the night. Ron would like to see us move ahead on it. Ron mentioned that the only drawback of getting a 1 ton is that it's a lot of truck to drive for parts, etc., but the old truck is pretty beat so we are in need of something.

RESOLUTION 2017-70

RESOLVE that the Town purchase a 1-Ton Chevrolet for \$34,762.39

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

Landfill report: Wayne brought in the Landfill budget. They are not charging the Towns money now, but they are holding what they have on hand in their reserves for now. They need a secretary to replace the current secretary so if anyone is interested, let Wayne know. David Reed commented that back when he was Supervisor in Cayuta they talked about the entire closure, but John explained that we are close to the end, but now that they still have to test, and do testing for Dug Road, it's not a done deal yet. David said that once the money is gone the Feds and DEC will become the owner of those landfills. We were almost on one of the superfund cleanup plans, but once they found out we had money in the coffers we became the proud owners of a landfill that wouldn't get cleaned up. The Village of Watkins is involved in the Dug Road landfill, where they weren't in the Irelandville landfill. The Dug Road landfill is a don't ask don't tell situation. Larry stated that the Landfill commission should not be involved with the Dug Road landfill as that was not a Commission site when it was operating. John said that the commission has a scope of authority and that is to oversee the Irelandville landfill and not the Dug Rd landfill.

RESOLUTION 2017-71

RESOLVE that the following vouchers be paid G193-209 in the sum of \$4950.73 and H111-122 in the sum of \$1503.07 within funds according to the totals.

RESOLUTION by Wayne Chapman, seconded by Ronald Hoffman

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

Unfinished business:

Tom Ruocco tried to get together with Bill to look at the windows and doors, but didn't meet with him-- he did look around the building and came up with an estimate. The conversation when to whether or not it was really necessary to replace the windows, or just insulate and cover them. They are really just another "access" point and not needed. There are 7 windows that "should" be replaced--and 3 doors to replace--the door frames are about 3 inches shorter than they should be but the frames are poured concrete and would take some work to deal with. Lots to think about--estimate is approximately \$12,000. Larry suggested that they cover up the windows and sheath them up. would probably be about the same pricing. There is currently \$70,000 for building maintenance, etc. will need a new bid.

John talked about the roof on the Town Hall and the fact that it would have to come up on the original roof. It was talked about doing a roof and not the ramp at this point--but it would give us a covered area. If we were to do a ramp, we talked about building a U shaped ramp. There was much discussion about the "mechanics" of this. Larry suggested looking at grants for Accessibility. Carmella will look at it. Jamee asked if Board of Elections grants might be able to help being that it's a polling place. Larry said that a government should look at longevity and not just "cheapest" a ramp should probably be concrete.

Eagle Scout project: The stones are set around the flag pole and the benches are in the process of being built. Tom Ruocco stated that this project will be completed by March of 2018. We want to thank all involved in getting this done for the Town and to Congratulate the Boy Scout for striving to achieve the status of Eagle Scout.

Because John will not be in town for the December meeting, the board decided to try and set the End of the Year meeting date now. The date that was discussed was December 27th, but we need to check to see if Glenn is available on that date. Carmella will email and make sure before the date is set. (after checking with Glenn, it was decided that the meeting can be held on Dec. 27th at 2:00 p.m.)

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. was made by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Wayne Chapman. All approved.