

TOWN OF CATHARINE  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
May 15, 2018

Members present: Supervisor John VanSoest; Councilmen: Ronald Hoffman, C. Michael Learn; Deputy Highway Superintendent Martin Vondracek; Guests: Larry Reynolds, William Morgan, Bruce Bruckner, Barlow Rhodes, Kelly Field

Barlow Rhodes came to ask if the town can do something to his road—it's bad enough that it's tough to get down the road right now—it could use some gravel and the ditches need cleaning. Marty indicated that they will be grading tomorrow, so that will help some.

He also asked about the tower that was supposed to be coming in on Oak Hill Rd.—no one heard anything at this point. Carmella will check with the company.

Kelly Field came to update the board on the progress of the Adult Softball leagues work. Their teams are working on the field plans. They have someone doing signage for sponsor billboards on the fences, and someone will draw up a diagram of the two fields. She has a committee starting up and they are working on construction agencies to see what they will do to help. She has people looking for grants—their season has just started, so they should be getting the petitions back that they have put out to show interest in this project. Charlie has all the drawings and will be getting them to the committee. Their goal is to have the fields up and running by April next year. They won't drop it once it's started—they will make it happen. Our Town committee would be charged with who will pay for what, the maintenance work, etc. (the softball league is a non-profit organization). Initially John envisions sitting down and see how things will work and the back and forth. Right now they are all driving to Horseheads this year for their games. John thinks the softball committee should be people who are willing to meet with a board committee on a regular basis. At the next meeting John envisions having a full board and we can start moving forward. John said that it's not like the fields are owned by the softball teams, they are owned by the taxpayers so it will require some public input and probably hearings.

Additions to agenda—Historian years of service

RESOLUTION 2018-29

RESOLVE that the minutes of the April meeting be accepted as presented to the board

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 3 ayes, no noes

RESOLUTION 2018-30

RESOLVE that the Clerk's report be accepted as presented to the Supervisor and the board.

RESOLUTION by C. Michael Learn, seconded by Ronald Hoffman

VOTE 3 ayes, no noes

RESOLUTION 2018-31

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

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 3 ayes, no noes

Zoning Report: Harold wasn't present, so Carmella gave a brief report of what she knows is going on. Harold has issued some letters of violations and has been driving around checking more closely for violators.

Supervisor's Report: John went over the line items. CHIPS will be \$132,680 for 2018 including the roll over from 2017. Some of that money can be used for equipment. John will continue to look for "creative" ways to MAYBE be able to afford an excavator.

RESOLUTION 2018-32

RESOLVE that the Supervisors report be accepted as presented to the Board by the Bookkeeper and Supervisor

RESOLUTION by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 3 ayes, no noes

Suzanne had given a list of resolutions that she needed but John didn't understand them so we will look at them again after he has a chance to talk to her.

Highway report: The department traded all the millings that they stockpiled. They have moved the mixed salt/sand so that Jerry Verigini can get his work done. Both graders went down at the same time—minor repairs. Did their mine safety training. There is a tree down in the cemetery in Catharine that they will pull the root ball on. Barlow Rhodes said there is also a dead spruce tree in Laurel Hill cemetery that might need to be taken down. Marty said if it comes down they will help take care of it. All 3 are signed up for Highway School in June. John calculated that there might be \$117,000 that could be used to purchase an excavator, but that is before the 1 ton truck purchase. There is a fund balance in both the DA and DB, but that would put us below the "safe" mark. We could use the extra CHIPS funds toward the new excavator—but that would still put us \$100,000 under the cost. Bill suggested that we fund it over a two year payment plan. John suggests that we find an option that could get us through at least 5 years. Maybe used, maybe borrowed, etc. Back to the drawing board for another month.

RESOLUTION 2018-33

RESOLVE that the following vouchers G103-121 in the sum of \$5929.59 and H51-59 in the amount of \$5773.28 within funds according to the totals.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 3 ayes, noes

Unfinished business:

Ball field = once the softball people are ready, we are ready to move forward on that.

RESOLUTION 2018-34

RESOLVE that the Town Board appoint Martin Vondracek as the Interim Highway Superintendent for a period of up to 6 months at his current hourly rate. After the required probationary period, the salary will change to a "salaried" position.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 3 ayes, no noes

Generator—Charlie will come up on Monday to see if he can cut the price of a generator for the town hall. We really don't need the entire town hall covered if we have a power outage—just the Clerk's office and heat.

Highway Barn renovations: John wrote up the specs for the outside upgrade of the highway barn. We will put the notice out for bids and expect them back June 18<sup>th</sup> and opening will be at 7:30 p.m. June 19<sup>th</sup>.

RESOLUTION 2018-35

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine Board adopt a resolution nominating Carol Fagnan for an award through the State Historian's Association for her over 30 years of service to the Town of Catharine as our Historian.

RESOLUTION by John VanSoest, seconded by Ronald Hoffman

VOTE 3 ayes, no noes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m. with a motion by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn—accepted!

Respectfully submitted

Carmella Hoffman