

TOWN OF CATHARINE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2018

Members present: Supervisor John VanSoest; Councilpersons: Glenn Bleiler, Ronald Hoffman, C. Michael Learn, Jamee Mack; Highway Superintendent Martin Vondracek; Code Enforcement Officer Harold Russell; Guests: Bruce Bruckner, Larry Reynolds, Tom Ruocco, Bill Fagnan, Barlow Rhodes, Jason Pauliszak, Bonnie Parsons, Harry Packer, Albert Dean

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor VanSoest

PUBLIC BE HEARD:

Bill Fagnan—Carol is the Town Historian and he came to thank the board for nominating her for a Statewide honor—given by the NYS Historical Society.

Barlow Rhodes—doesn't believe that we need an appointed clerk—when the time comes up elect one.

Harry Packard—want to see about getting the ditches cleaned up on Terry Hill Rd. He said that it needs to be cleaned on both sides of the road from the top/down.

Albert Dean—same thing—wants ditches cleaned—the water rolled over his ditches and made a mess of his new paved driveway. The water rolled over both sides of the road. John said that this latest rain event was out of the ordinary, but ditches can be cleaned up to help prevent damage to personal property.

Marty Vondracek—talked to the guys from Terry Hill Rd. and will get up there as soon as they get caught up—

Jason asked how long it would take to clean up everything from the storm—Marty said probably not before winter.

Larry Reynolds said he agrees with Barlow—the town officials should be elected. Currently the hours are set by the clerk and if the board changes it to an appointed position, then the board could change the hours and the board could at some point make the position a 40-hour week, with full time benefits. John said that it's better to empower the board to make changes and keep things within the budget. If you have someone elected, you are stuck with the elected person until the next election (4 years)—if they are appointed, can be changed as needed. If we are trying to run an efficient town, then we need to empower the board. Larry said that if the people said they wanted more hours and the clerk was appointed, the board could make more hours.

Jamee Mack and Jason Pauliszak both feel that it should be an elected position. John sees the clerk's position as an administrative clerk's position

Larry said that the clerk is community minded and if appointed the clerk could come from anywhere.

Glenn said that what he is hearing is that the clerk should be responsive to the people. In general, to get people to work whether in public or private, he wants the best person to do the job. He believes that the government should be accountable to the people who elect them. Why is elected/appointed important when it should be the best person for the position.

Jamee said that if the town residents knew there was a position available, there would be a larger pool of potential candidates.

Larry said that the voting public should have the voting majority. He said things have been working well. Much more discussion-pros and cons--

John is happy to leave things as it is—Larry said that he would second it.

Julian Tino from Cornell Cooperative Extension is here to explain the Clean Energy Communities Program. Julian is the Clean Energy Intern. This is a program through NYSERDA to help communities save money on energy costs.

Why would communities want to join? We have already done one of the 4 things that needs to be done to qualify for a \$5000 grant. There is a streamlined solar permit that we could do that would give us the second of 4. Must be 25Kw or less capacity. CCE would help with paperwork for any of these initiatives. The LED street lighting might be something of interest to the town. CCE is available to help us out on doing any of these things if we are interested.

Additions to the Agenda: Garage remodel contract, Janet Ramps problem, budget resolution, and what to do with debris from storm

RESOLUTION 2018-50

RESOLVE that the minutes of the July meeting be accepted with the correction noted (“up” to OF) in the discussion of the dumpster.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Ronald Hoffman

VOTE 5 ayes, no noes

RESOLUTION 2018-51

RESOLVE that the Town Clerk’s report be accepted as presented to the Board & Supervisor

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 5 ayes, no noes

Carmella brought to the attention of the board that there are some things that need to be addressed in the Town Hall— (1)-lights in the large pavilion need to be changed—only one of the 6 work. (2) a door in the conference room needs some adjustment as it won’t stay closed as well as the basement door at the bottom of the stairs. (3) outside of building is getting all moldy—needs to be power washed (people are beginning to notice)

John said that the lights could be replaced by Cory or one of the Highway guys, but that building things should be done by a contractor. Carmella was directed to contact Tom Ruocco to see if he can do the doors.

RESOLUTION 2018-52

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 5 ayes, no noes

Zoning Report: Harold left a report for John to read. There is a new mobile home going in on Kayder Rd, the studio on Cottage Rd. is almost done, there is a new place on CR 6, Harold received a file and map from Jim Allen all appears okay. Harold was contacted by Judge Goossen about a mobile home that needs to be moved out of the area it’s in (an eviction proceeding) but that is too old to be placed back in the Town of Catharine, and a new garage being built on Cottage Rd.

Jamee asked if Carl States had been contacted yet about the races that get run at his place. John and Jamee will meet with him to discuss the process again and remind him that the Town needs the insurance papers BEFORE the event and also that he needs to get permission from the town to run the second race as he was approved to run one race/year. Jamee will need the paperwork to read through before going to meet with him.

Supervisor's report:

Things still look good on the General side of the budget. On the Highway side, the DA is close but looks worse because of the amount for the truck. DB is behind but that is because of CHIPS and Sales Tax that is yet to be received. (need to change name of DB5130.2 as it is noted as a piece of equipment that has already been purchased.

RESOLUTION 2018-53

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

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman

VOTE 5 ayes, no noes

RESOLUTION 2018-54

RESOLVE that we rescind Resolution 2018-39 and replace it with the following:

RESOLUTION 2018-54

RESOLVE that the Town reclassify voucher #50 for the 2018 Silverado Truck expense to DA5130.2 for \$9,000 and DB5130.2 for \$25,762.39 as well as resolving to transfer \$9,000 from DA9950.9 and \$26,000 from DB9901.9 to DB5130.2 to reflect the board's plan for funding purchase of the 2018 Silverado

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 5 ayes, no noes

Highway Superintendent's report: Had a little flooding last week—there was over 9" rain over the 2-day period. Charles Rd was flowing over onto Steam Mill Rd. Marty spent most of the day unplugging pipes and still has more to do. Cory was evacuated from his home in Rock Cabin Trailer Park. The worst road was Hosenfeld Rd. There is still a pipe that needs to be done. The mower came and he didn't want to turn it away so they have been fitting in mowing as time allows. Beardsley Hollow Rd had 3 plugged pipes and one house was flooded up to the floor joists. The day of the flood the retired guys called to see if Marty needed help and they took the pickup and put out cones in dangerous spots. MacDowell Rd was again a problem—the rocks flowed across the road and into yards. The road was closed for 2 days. Jerry Verigini came up and talked about putting something different on MacDowell Rd., but it won't be done immediately as Soil and Water is busy with projects. Beardsley Hollow Rd is eroding toward the road.

What can we do with materials that deposited on private property? Jerry Verigini will work with it, but not until it dries up some. Jamee Mack said that there is a meeting put on by Emergency Management office for people with problems. We need to keep track all our time/expenses in case we get FEMA or SEMA money. The County is doing a meeting at the Hector Fire House at 6 p.m. on Wednesday the 22nd for people who had damage to their homes/property.

Marty said that the excavator is leaking again and if it goes down it will be down 10 weeks at least.

One of the trucks had a busted rim and had to get that repaired. As soon as he gets caught up, he will hit Terry Hill Rd. ditches.

Jason asked what we would have done if Larry and Bill hadn't come in to help. Larry would like to see the town put on another person in the Highway. It can be discussed during budget time. Larry said that Marty is running equipment, being the highway superintendent and being a mechanic—he can't be all—maybe we need to hire a garage mechanic and keep him there working. Larry sees the guys every day and knows that we are behind and won't be able to get caught up without the resources.

Jamee said that we have more office staff than we do highway staff—and at the last meeting we approved a second deputy clerk. She always said that the employees need to chip in on their health insurance. Larry said we could talk budget all night, but the bottom line is that we need employees and equipment. Lots of discussion about the budgeting that will be discussed more at a later time.

RESOLUTION 2018-54

RESOLVE that the following vouchers be paid G170-187 in the sum of \$7,160.77 and H84-93 in the sum of \$94,003.50 within funds according to the totals

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, Glenn Bleiler

VOTE 5 ayes, no noes

Unfinished Business:

Garage repair: Jamee went over the bids, and called one of the contractors and asked questions about what his bid included. She can't really approve awarding the bid to someone who's bid is over \$7000 over a much lower bid. We discussed what we saw on the bids and what we wanted. Ron thinks we should rebid the entire project. John said we could send the one bid back and ask them to rewrite the bid with all the details. Glenn asked if we had reference checks—we didn't ask for them—we still have time.

RESOLUTION 2018-55

RESOLVE that the Town of Catharine reject all bids presented for the Highway Garage work.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 5 ayes, no noes

John will look at the bid specs again and make them more self-explanatory and we will rebid in the near future. Carmella will send the bidders a copy of the resolution rejecting all the bids.

Jason asked where he can find information about the ball field grant. There hasn't been anything put out yet as there is nothing new to report.

Budget workshops—Need to get started in September or early October. Glenn & Jamee would be available on October 5th from Noon-2 or October 8th from Noon -2.

Jamee Mack moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. with a second by all in attendance.