

**TOWN OF NORTH HUDSON
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2015**

The Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM by the Supervisor, Ronald Moore, who led the assembly in the Salute to the Flag.

Present with the Supervisor were Board Members Laureen DeZalia, Marshall Gero, Robert Dobie and Donald Dresser. The Town Clerk, Sarah Vinskus, was also present.

Guests present were Stephanie DeZalia, William Plumstead, Brian Caza and Bruce Caza.

The Clerk read the Minutes of the July 9th Meeting.

Laureen DeZalia moved and was seconded by Donald Dresser to accept the Minutes as amended. All voted "Aye".

The Supervisor's Financial Report as of July 31, 2015, is as follows:

CHECKING ACCOUNTS:

General Fund (due to Fire Dist. \$24,227)	0.10%	\$ 657,792.57
Highway Fund		\$ 611,528.07
Total All Funds		\$1,269,320.64

Mr. Moore said that he met with Meg Parker and they walked some trails on the east side of Route 9 with which she was unfamiliar. Ms. Parker mentioned that the Champlain Area Trails group (CATS) might have an interest in helping us establishing and maintaining the trails. This group creates and maintains hiking and cross-country ski trails in New York's Champlain Valley that link communities, connect people and promote economic vitality. So far CATS has created and maintains 35 miles of trails and its goal is to extend its trails throughout the Champlain Valley and connect them to trails in the Adirondack Mountains, Vermont and Quebec.

The Schroon Lake Senior Citizens Club will hold their picnic at our park on Wednesday, August 19th.

The plan to establish a 40-mile community connector multiple-use trail system between the communities of Minerva, Newcomb and North Hudson has been approved. The final plan will allow for construction to begin immediately on 18 miles of new trail between Newcomb and Minerva. The entire trail is expected to be completed by 2018, with portions of the trail being open to the public next year. Next year work will begin on the trail connecting Newcomb and North Hudson, starting with a bridge over the

outlet of Palmer Pond near the hamlet of North Hudson. The whole trail system is expected to be completed by the year 2022, with new segments becoming available for the public every year until the completion date. The trail system connects the Forest Preserve units of the Vanderwacker Mountain Wild Forest, the Camp Santanoni Historic Area and the Lake Harris Public Campground as well as the Hudson River Hyslop and Blue Ridge Road Conservation Easements. The design of the system includes efforts to minimize impacts of residents along the route and to natural and cultural resources of the area.

Kevin Duntley and the Highway Department have spent nearly a month working on Elk Lake Road. This was greatly appreciated by John Ernst. Bell and Flynn is still behind schedule but hopes to be here around the first of September. We will continue to work on a long-term plan for road maintenance and improvement.

Last month the Supervisor asked Board Members Dresser and Gero to look into the ways to solve the issue of non-residents using our landfill. They concluded that the best is to use the gate but the Highway Department must make sure the gate is locked. This is a real problem in the winter when the weather is bad and the trucks are going in and out frequently. A new control arm has been delivered and will soon be in place.

The application for the 5 Towns, One Goal project has been submitted to the New York State Park and Recreation for review. Mike Macarenas also completed a Priority Nomination for the Regional Council.

The Highway Department has completed repairs on Elk Lake Road and also have been working on Ensign Pond Road as requested by the County, and soon will be starting cutting wood for the winter. Work on Greenough is now expected to begin in the first week of September.

The assessors continue to collect data for the revaluazation with County support. We have received a certificate of the final State Equalization Rate for the 2015 assessment roll of 100%.

This year the Primary Election will be held on Thursday, September 10th, the same day as our regularly scheduled Board Meeting. Therefore the Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30 PM.

Beach inspections were completed without any violations being observed.

Mr. Moore received a call from Doug Arnold of the 46'ers regarding a possible grant they may be awarding and asked if we had any needs that we might consider an application for. He mentioned something to do with trails, the

continuation of the essay contest and so forth. They will send an application along with more information when they receive it.

Mr. Moore contacted Wells Communication to repair the security system at the Highway Garage. They expect to here around 9:00 AM on Thursday, August 19th.

The new pagers for the Fire Department are not receiving well. Emergency Services is working to resolve the issue. Don Jaquish feels that it might be necessary to relocate the antenna to higher ground with the control box, if realigning the antenna does not fix the difficulties.

Mr. Moore was informed that the gas station has not met Health Department guidelines in respect to the water supply and septic system. Messers. Dobie, Dresser and Moore met with gas station owner, Muhammad and Susan Kennedy of Public Health to discuss those issues. It will take some work, but hopefully, it will not require any modifications.

Mr. Moore received notification from the Department of Taxation and Finance that we may not be able to be eligible for property tax relief because we voted to override the tax cap. In order to be considered freeze compliant we must repeal the original override law. This was discussed before and after discussion, now all still agreed.

The property –tax limit will be 0.73 percent next year as a low inflation rate has led the allowable tax-levy growth to drop in recent years. The tax-cap limit for 2016 will be the lowest since the cap was installed in 2011. The cap each year limits the growth in property taxes to 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower.

The Local Government Conference at SUNY Potsdam will be held on October 13th. Registration is \$40.00.

Lucas Wilson, our lifeguard, has informed the Supervisor that Monday, August 17th, would be his last day.

The Schroon Lake School Board has invited the board to attend a meeting on September 15th, at 7:00 PM. There will be a presentation on the outlook for the school in coming years and challenges with declining enrollment and financial restrictions imposed by the State.

Marshall Gero moved and was seconded by Donald Dresser to pay the audited vouchers. All voted “Aye”.

The Judge’s financial report audit has again been postponed.

Brian Caza said the furthest he was able to be and receive emergency call the pagers has been three miles. He also feels the antenna needs to be relocated.

Robert Dobie moved and was seconded by Marshall Gero to adjourn the Meeting at 7:17 PM. All voted "Aye".

Respectfully submitted

Sarah Vinskus, Town Clerk.