

# REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2013

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the Supervisor, Ronald Moore, who led the assembly in the Salute to the Flag.

Present with the Supervisor were Board Members Donald Dresser, Jean Gokey, Marshall Gero and Laureen DeZalia. Also present was the Town Clerk, Sarah Vinskus.

Guests present were April Bessey and Claire Moore.

The Clerk read the Minutes of the January 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

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

The Supervisor then went over the contents of the Board Members' packets.

The Supervisor's Financial Report as of January 31, 2013 is as follows:

**Checking Accounts:**

General Fund (due to Fire Dist. \$13,614)	.2%	\$585,214.12
Highway Fund	.2%	\$746,521.20
TOTAL ALL FUNDS		\$1,331,735.32

Last month a meeting with Civil War re-enactors was held and it was decided to have the event in the North Hudson Town Park on July 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. Earlier this evening an organizational and planning meeting was held with members of the Schroon Lake –North Hudson Historical Society, the North Hudson Town Board, the North Hudson Fire Department and the North Hudson Ladies Auxiliary.

A second Recreation Strategy committee meeting was held here on January 23. Supervisors from Newcomb, Minerva, Long Lake and Indian Lake attended with several attendees from agencies such as the Roost, TNC, DEC, DOT and the APA. The group's focus is to utilize our recreational opportunities, taking advantage of the State's land purchases, to boost our economies. The next meeting is to be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> with the place and time to be determined.

Mr. Moore met with Mark Carpenter of the Upstate Insurance Agency to review the Towns policies and options. Selective remains our best option with rates remaining pretty flat with no more than 2 % of our present payment.

The Petroleum Bulk Storage Permit finally came through.

Creating Healthy Places seems to be managed differently and thus our request for a pavilion was denied. However grant funding may be able to help with a barbecue pit. We need to provide an itemized list of materials, an agreement from the Town to provide all labor for the installation, and, if we are interested, Tobacco Free Rec. and Park areas.

The Attorney for the Town, John Silvestri, has sent the Town his recommendations for the proposed Unsafe Buildings Law. If you wish he will draft the law and, if we decide to proceed, he will attend the next Board meeting.

**Resolution #26 of 2013**

Resolved to have the Attorney for the Town draft a local law in regard to unsafe buildings.

So moved by Donald Dresser and seconded by Marshall Gero. On roll call:

- Laureen DeZalia.....Aye
- Marshall Gero.....Aye
- Ronald Moore.....Aye
- Jean Gokey.....Aye
- Donald Dresser.....Aye

There were some heating problems at the Highway garage and some circulators and thermostats were replaced. The wood furnace itself developed a water leak, which was repaired by Chris Clark and the manufacturer will inspect it this summer.

The assessors have begun to work on the annual maintenance of properties. The State feels that our assessments for State owned land are 15% high. Between 2011 and 2013 the total taxable value went from \$144,774,472 to \$139,429,190, a decrease of over \$5,000,000 and a large impact on the Town Tax Rate, which in turn means to keep the Tax Rate the same more fund balance must be used.

The Town Clerk and the Code Enforcement Officer both report that things are going well.

The Court also reports things going smoothly. The printer problem has been resolved. The Judge and the District Attorney have decided to hold court just one day a month. If volume increases they will return to the two (2) days a month schedule.

A new Republican Commissioner of Elections has been appointed.

The union contract was not ratified and once the problems are identified new negotiations will be held.

The Schroon Lake Senior Citizens will not be able to hold luncheons in our firehouse until the DOH has tested the water and deemed it suitable .

Mr. Moore spoke with DOT’s Regional Director, Sam Zhou, in regard to the proposed 2014 bridge replacement. He estimates a temporary bridge would exceed \$500,000, which he does not have in his budget. He also estimates that it would take two and a half to three months to complete the project. After Mr. Moore expressed his concerns Mr. Zhou said they would probably schedule a visit later this year to hear the public’s concerns. Mr. Moore said that he believes that only by the townspeople contacting Assemblyman, Senator and Congressman will the Town get a response and an understanding of the consequences of having that bridge closed for three or maybe more months.

Essex County is having its annual tree and shrub sale. Mr. Moore has the information.

Mr. Rod Boula of the Elizabethtown Community Hospital has requested to come on July 11<sup>th</sup> to update the Town on the Hospital’s news.

**Resolution #27 of 2013**

Resolved that the Supervisor sign the contract with Essex County for the maintenance of county roads.

So moved by Donald Dresser and seconded by Laureen DeZalia. All voted “Aye”.

**Resolution #28 of 2013**

Resolved that the Supervisor sign the Lease Agreement with Essex County to use the North Hudson Town Hall meeting room for the purpose being a polling site in which to conduct Primary and General Elections.

So moved by Donald Dresser and seconded by Marshall Gero. All voted “Aye”.

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

General Funds.....	\$89,035.93
Highway Funds.....	\$44,046.10
TOTAL.....	\$133,079.03

Donald Dresser moved and was seconded by Laureen DeZalia to accept the Judge’s report. All voted “Aye”.

April Bessey had some questions in regard to the water in the firehouse and what it could mean to other functions held there.

**Resolution #29 of 2013**

Resolved that Mr. and Mrs. Parent again this year be the gate keepers at the beach/park.

So moved by Donald Dresser and seconded by Laureen DeZalia. On roll call:

Donald Dresser.....Aye

Jean Gokey.....Aye

Ronald Moore.....Aye

Marshall Gero.....Aye

Laureen DeZalia.....Aye

Laureen DeZalia moved and was seconded by Jean Gokey to adjourn the Meeting at 7:43 PM. All voted "Aye".

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sarah Vinskus, Town Clerk