

TOWN OF NORTH HUDSON
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

This Board Meeting was held on a Wednesday rather than the regular Thursday because the Primary Election was moved from Tuesday to Thursday due to the Jewish Holiday falling on that Tuesday.

The Meeting was opened 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 and William Plumstead.

The Town Clerk read the Minutes of the August 13th Meeting.

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

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

The Supervisor's Financial Report as of August 31st is as follows:

Checking Accounts:

General Fund (Due to Fire Dist. \$24,227)	.10% int.	\$ 632,402.03
Highway Fund	.10% int.	\$ 585,800.80
Total All Funds		\$1,218,202.83

Mr. Moore met with Meg Parker and Chris Maron, Executive Director of the Champlain Area Trails group (CATS) and they discussed their potential involvement in helping to establish and maintain trails. He also mentioned some members have an interest in horseback riding. Mr. Moore also had a call from Nancy Lindquist who is an avid horseback rider and they met on the 1st to walk some of the trails. She seemed very excited and interested in our system.

On Wednesday, August 19th, the Schroon Lake Senior Citizens held a picnic at our park which was enjoyed by all who attended. The possibility of having them once again at the firehouse was mentioned.

The plan to establish a 40-mile community connector multi-use trail system between the communities of Minerva, Newcomb and North Hudson has been approved. Mr. Moore will attend the APA meeting on the 10th in Ray Brook where they will be discussing the Essex Chain Lakes Complex Plan and he will seek Board authorization to Proceed to Public Comment.

The work on Greenough Road has been completed. It went very well and is another step in improving our roads. More work is being discussed on Greenough, Duntley and Elk Lake Roads for next year. Mr. Moore has asked Mr. Dobie to meet with Mr. Gero and Mr. Duntley and provide recommendations and cost estimates of consideration in the 2016 budget. Wells Communication was on site and repaired our security system. We asked for estimates to add the landfill and the park to the system.

Mr. Moore reminded the Board that the Schroon Lake Central School Board invited them to a meeting on September 15th for a presentation on the outlook of the school in coming years and the challenges of declining enrollment and financial restrictions imposed by the state.

The courts ruled in favor of Essex County in the lawsuit filed by George Moore in regard to his bid for Frontier Town property. The Moore family chose not to appeal the decision.

The Highway Department will be concentrating on getting the wood for the winter over the next weeks.

The assessors continue to collect data for the reval with county support and John Wilson has completed the requirements for designation of State Certified Assessor. Congratulations John.

The next County tax sale is expected to be held in October. A Local Law was introduced having to do with the occupancy tax. A Public Hearing will be held on September 28th at 9:30 AM. If passed, it expands the definition of Hotel and Motel to include vacation rentals, personal residence, campgrounds and condominiums. Also passed was a resolution to convey hurricane buyout properties acquired by the County to the various towns where the properties are located with a reservation of a conservation easement to the County.

The skidder rolled over and there were no injuries. The skidder was righted and there were no apparent damages with the exception of the seat which had to be replaced.

Resolution #67 of 2015

Resolved to authorize the Supervisor to sign an agreement authorizing payment of \$300.00 to the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board for services of the Review Board in representing the in matters relating to the Adirondack Park.

So moved by Robert Dobie and seconded by Marshall Gero. On roll call:

Lauren DeZalia	Aye
Marshall Gero	Aye

Ronald Moore	Aye
Robert Dobie	Aye
Donald Dresser	Aye

Resolution #68 of 2015

A RESOLUTION SEEKING STATE ASSISTANCE WITH THE NEW YORK STATE TAX CAP

Councilwoman DeZalia offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, in 2011 , New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature adopted what is commonly referred to and known as New York State’s Property Tax Cap to address New York’s ever increasing property taxes; and

Whereas, the property Tax Cap set in place a cap on the growth of property taxes in New York whereby real property taxes are capped to two percent per year or the rate of inflation, whichever is less; and

Whereas, the focus of the tax cap has been on the laudable goal of driving down costs of government services through cuts and consolidation in services and heightened economic development aimed at alleviating the pressure of the tax cap; and

Whereas, while increasing economic development everywhere in New York State is an important and laudable goal, New York’s town and counties within the Blue Line of the Adirondack Park face particular hardships when seeking development projects due to additional government regulation and hurdles; and

Whereas, such government regulation significantly curtails the amount of available acreage within the Blue Line for economic development and imposes additional regulatory hurdles for beneficial development within the Adirondack Park; and

Whereas, recent studies, including the 2009 Adirondack Park Regional Assessment Project sponsored by the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages and the Adirondack North Country Association notes the aging population of the Adirondack Park and the significant decrease in viable economic opportunities for residents within the Adirondack Park; and

Whereas, in addition, the 2009 Adirondack Park Regional Assessment Project also noted that from 1980 to 2006, real property tax as a portion of total revenue within the Park actually decreased in the average Adirondack community; and

WHEREAS, many communities in the Adirondack Park also have aging water/sewer systems which combined with ever increasing regulatory controls from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Health, and United States Environmental Protection Agency, have actually resulted in increased employee hours and financial obligations simply to keep those systems within permit guidelines and limits; and

Whereas, communities within the Adirondack Park find themselves at a significant crossroads: higher regulatory and financial obligations for aging infrastructure versus compliance with the tax cap; and

Whereas, most communities within the Adirondack park have already taken significant steps aimed at cost savings within their communities including significant reductions in highway and DPW staff and other staffing cuts; and

Whereas, most communities within the Adirondack Park now find themselves understaffed to the point where essential public services including road maintenance and the ability to monitor and maintain their water and/or sewer systems simply cannot be performed within the available employee hours given such reductions; and

Whereas, much of the land in the Adirondack Park, with more being purchased every year, is owned by the State of New York and non-profits aimed at curtailing development within the Adirondack Park which only increases the burden imposed on local taxpayers; and

Whereas, the year round residents and taxpayers of the Adirondack Park are at a breaking point with the need for meaningful services and roads and the ever decreasing revenue with which to supply such services and roads; and

WHEREAS, the communities in the Adirondack Park hereby ask Governor Andrew Cuomo and members of the New York State Legislature to help the residents and taxpayers of the Adirondack Park with regulatory relief and financial assistance to help our communities comply with the Tax Cap; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of North Hudson, County of Essex, asks Governor Andrew Cuomo and members of the New York State legislature to help the residents and taxpayers of the Adirondack Park with regulatory relief and financial assistance to help our communities comply with the Tax Cap; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of North Hudson, County of Essex, asks Governor Andrew Cuomo and members of the New York State Legislature to provide funding assistance for the communities within the Blue Line of the Adirondack Park for water, sewer and road infrastructure to

help offset the loss of revenues imposed by New York's Tax Cap, which loss is grossly exceeding the costs of supplying such services, particularly within the Blue Line of the Adirondack Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of North Hudson, County of Essex, asks Governor Andrew Cuomo and members of the New York State Legislature to provide meaningful regulatory relief to communities within the Blue Line of the Adirondack Park so that actual economic development can take place; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution take effect immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator Elizabeth O'C. Little, Assemblyman Dan G. Stec.

The resolution was duly seconded by Councilman Dobie, and adopted, upon a roll call vote as Follows:

Councilman Dobie	Aye
Councilman Dresser	Aye
Councilman Gero	Aye
Councilwoman DeZalia	Aye
Supervisor Moore	Aye

The Supervisor said that he wanted to schedule a budget workshop on Thursday, October 8th at 5:30 PM prior to the monthly Board Meeting.

The Grafton Trail Riders will be coming to town on October 2nd, 3rd and 4th. We will set up along Frontier Town Road leaving one lane open for through traffic and emergency access.

The Town uses RDA Systems for its financial program. For about a year now they have moved some clients to a network referred to as the "Cloud" where data and programs are stored and accessed via the Internet rather than the computers hard drive. This year we will either have to have RDA print our W-2 forms, at a cost of \$150 for set up and \$2.00 per form or we shift to cloud now. Also this year we have to issue a 1095 B form due to the Affordable Care Act.

Resolution #69 of 2015

Resolved authorizing the expenditure of \$895 to shift our OPEN RDA financial systems program to the "Cloud".

So moved by Laureen DeZalia and seconded by Marshall Gero. On roll call:

Laureen DeZalia	Aye
Marshall Gero	Aye
Ronald Moore	Aye

