

**TOWN OF NORTH HUDSON
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019**

The Meeting was called to order by the Supervisor, Stephanie DeZalia, who led the assembly in the Salute to the Flag.

Present with the Supervisor was Board Members Maureen Marsden, Robert Dobie, Marshall Gero and Ronald Moore. The Town Clerk, Sarah Vinskus, was also present.

There were no guests present.

The Town Clerk read the Minutes of the January 15, 2019, Organizational and Regular Town Board Meeting.

Ronald Moore moved and was seconded by Maureen Marsden to accept the Minutes as amended. All voted "Aye".

The next item of business was the Supervisor's Financial Report as of January 31, 2019.

Town of North Hudson Checking	0.10%	\$ 1,022,764.58
General Fund		\$984,599.58
Fire Dist.		\$ 38,165.00
Highway fund Checking	0.10%	\$ 300,174.42
Total All Funds		\$ 1,322,939.00

Kevin Duntley, the Superintendent of Highways, said that he has the lumber to repair landfill steps but is waiting for better weather.

There was an issue with the County coming this past week and not taking our containers. The Supervisor spoke with Jim Dougan at DPW who said he would look into the reason why this happened.

The Supervisor said that the Board has spoken several times about combining the Tax Collector and Town Clerk positions. With the earlier political calendar that was caused by the passage of the Early Voting Legislation, it is necessary for us to pass our Resolution to abolish the tax collector position this month. It must be passed 150 days prior to a biennial town election. She continued that to be fair to all that might seek this position, she feels that we must decide on this before the petition process starts at the end of February.

Resolution #31 of 2019

Resolved to abolish the position of Tax Collector.

So moved by Ronald Moore and seconded by Robert Dobie. On roll call vote: 5 –Ayes; 0 –Noes, 0 –Absentees.

The Supervisor said that the Town has received the deed and map on the Schroon River Cemetery and now we can get it signed over to the Town. It is signed by Joseph Provoncha and Marshall Gero as officers of the Schroon River Cemetery, Inc. This is necessary in order for them to turn over any funds left in the cemetery's account . We are waiting on John Silvestri to get the mylar copy of the map. She also said that she left a message with Jim Hughes. Then it can be recorded at the County Clerk's office.

Resolution #32 of 2019

Resolved that the Town Supervisor sign the appropriate papers for the recording of the cemetery deed.

So moved by Ronald Moore and seconded by Robert Dobie. On roll call vote: 5 –Ayes; 0 –Noes; 0 –Absentees.

The Supervisor said the town had received a phone call from Todd Story saying our Tax Cap Review was in compliance and all good. We will be receiving a letter in approximately 30 days.

The Town has met with DEC and they have drawn up the final draft of the NYS Conservation Easement for the Campground area. Mrs. DeZalia said that she had received word from John Silvestri that they made the requested amendments and he is all set and we can go ahead with the signing of the document.

Resolution #33 of 2019

Resolved that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign the NYS DEC Conservation Easement over Town property that covers the campground and other surrounding areas.

So moved by Marshall Gero and seconded by Ronald Moore. On roll call vote: 5 –Ayes; 0 –Noes; 0 –Absentees.

The Supervisor said she had received a letter from NYS DEC in regard to them wanting to acquire 9 parcels of land on the Blue Ridge Road. They are owned by Upper Hudson Woodlands ATP. The Supervisor said that she spoke with Carolyn Wiggin, the Regional Real Property Supervisor, and she advised the Supervisor that these are needed for the Community Connector Trails that we have been diligently working on getting built and up and useable. If they do not hear from us in 90 days with the Board approval, they will assume that we approve. She continued that she would like to do a letter next week one way or another so they can proceed and not wait 90 days for the Board-approved support.

The Highway Department has been busy with snow removal and dealing with lots of ice. There were some issues with the pellet stove and Andy Boutin came to look at it. It is running right now.

Kevin Duntley, the Highway Superintendent, assisted the Supervisor in getting replacement value of our insured vehicles for our insurance renewal review. He is also working on getting the Hazardous Materials report done for the Fire Dept.

We received notification from National Grid that they have applied for an APA permit to replace and add power poles on the Blue Ridge Road. Jon Senecal filled out the necessary Notice Form and returned it to them. We also received notice from the APA of the Major Project.

The only thing we are waiting for in order to complete the AUD is the assets from the Fire Department. Hopefully, we will be getting that from them this week when we give them their check.

Cassandra went to an Archives Class and will be working on some records retention clean out and possibly a grant for those purposes. The woman from NYS Archives is coming to meet with her on February 27.

The Supervisor said that she had spoken with the Board last month about a letter she had received from the New York State Unified Court System. They want a copy of our Annual Review of Justice Records and a copy of the Board Resolution Acknowledging that the required examination was conducted. We did the Standard Review of the Books on December 27, 2018 at our Year End Meeting. And acknowledged the review but did not do a resolution. Therefore, we will do a resolution today.

Resolution #34 of 2019

Resolved to accept the books and records of Town Justice Duntley for the year 2018 as examined by the North Hudson Town Board on December 27, 2018.

So moved by Robert Dobie and seconded by Marshall Gero. On roll call vote: 5 –Ayes; 0 –Noes; 0 –Absentees.

The chimney at the Court House is in very bad condition. The brick is crumbling to where you can see the flue. The Supervisor asked Mr. Duntley, the Highway Superintendent, to put barrier tape around the base so that no one can walk under. The fill tube for fuel is right below. We need to address the repair of this and the concrete on the front porch before someone is hurt or further damage to the building occurs.

There will be two (2) Public Hearings to be held on Monday, February 25th in the Board Room in Elizabethtown.

At 9:00 AM Local Law #3 providing for additional and related duties of the Office of Essex County Coroner pursuant to authority granted in County Law.

At 11:00 AM Local Law #2 – Imposition of the additional Mortgage Tax in Essex County.

The Supervisor said that she expects a lot of discussion on the Coroner topic as she has received some phone calls already.

There has been discussion of raising the Occupancy Tax another 2%. That additional amount would then be available to municipalities and non-profits for application of those funds. Our area which includes us, Schroom, Minerva and Newcomb would be an additional \$90,000 per year.

The State brought before the Board the final presentation and documentation for Board approval of the Empire State Bike Trail. The trail goes from NYC up to Canada and also crosses to western NY. Within the proposal the County would be responsible for maintaining signs on the trail and other maintenance. There are a few spots on the trail that many feel are dangerous areas for bikers to be invited to bike. So for liability reasons the County did not feel they could support the trail as it is right now until these areas are addressed.

The Supervisor said that she and several other Supervisors attended the NYSAC Conference in Albany and she was very glad that she had attended as she came home with a lot on upcoming legislation and other useful topics – some of these being the Legalization of Marijuana and our crisis in Emergency Services.

Scarlette Merfeld brought a copy of the North Country Living Magazine for review. The deadline for the Spring edition that comes out March 23rd is February 22nd. The Supervisor suggested putting an ad in the Spring edition and adding a “Coming Soon” Paradox Brewery and NYS DEC Frontier Town Campground, Equestrian and Day Use Park.

Resolution #35 of 2019

Resolved to have the Supervisor place an ad in the North Country Living Magazine in the amount of \$290.00 for a ¼ page horizontal ad.

So moved by Robert Dobie and seconded by Maureen Marsden. On roll call vote: 5 –Ayes; 0-Noes; 0-Absentees.

The Supervisor said that she had received notification that the 22nd Annual Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference will be held this year in Lake Placid on April 3rd and 4th, 2019. The early registration cost is \$66.80 if registered by March 20th and an additional \$20 after, plus lodging if need at \$99.00 a night.

Resolution #36 of 2019

Resolved that any elected or appointed official is hereby authorized to attend the Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference to be held in Lake Placid on April 3rd and 4th, 2019. Early registration cost is \$66.80, plus lodging.

So moved by Maureen Marsden and seconded by Marshall Gero. On roll call vote: 5 –Ayes; 0 –Noes; 0 –Absentees.

The 2019 Annual Tree and Shrub Sale from the Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District and the information is on the back table. Anyone interested in purchasing trees, shrubs and flowers will find all the information there and also in the post office.

There will be a Senior Citizens Lunch on February 27th in North Hudson at 11:00 AM. The Schroon Lake Senior Citizens Newsletter can be found on the back table.

The Supervisor said that she had received a phone call from Donna Moses in regard to the access to their lot and road down to the beach. Lydia (Donna’s daughter) is using that area to train her horse for gymkhana. For the safety of Lydia, her horse and others we need to work together with the Moses’ to post signs or a barrier of some kind. Donna said that she did not want to limit our access in the event that we needed to get through there but also did not want people bringing their dogs etcetera down there.

We received a letter from McNamee Lochner Attorney-at-Law regarding the property owned by Mesnard, Notman and Neilsen families on the Upper Ausable Lake. The Supervisor said that she spoke to Michael Marsden, the chief Assessor and he and she have assessed the claim. Everything was sent to Real Property and Dan Manning for review. Mr. Manning will be responding to the letter.

Marshall Gero moved and was seconded by Robert Dobie to accept the Judge’s Financial report. All voted “Aye”.

Marshall Gero moved and was seconded by Robert Dobie to approve the abstracts for General and Highway Funds. All voted “Aye”.

General Fund	\$ 93,948.90
Highway Fund	\$ 23,066.96
Total	\$ 117,015.86

Marshall Gero moved and was seconded by Maureen Marsden to adjourn the Meeting at 7:40 PM. All voted “Aye”.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Vinskus, Town Clerk