

TOWN OF NORTH HUDSON
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

The Supervisor, Stephanie DeZalia, called the Meeting to order at 6:00 PM and led the assembly in the Salute to the Flag.

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

Guests present Will Plumstead, John Caza and Jake and Tracy Parent.

The Supervisor announced that the Clerk would no longer read the Minutes of the last meeting out loud; that they had been reviewed and corrections that were needed indicated by the Supervisor, returned to the Town Clerk who made the necessary corrections. She continued by asking if there were any other corrections that needed to be addressed and there were none.

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

The Supervisor then went over the Town's Financial Report as of August 31, 2019 and also the contents of the Board Members' packets.

There was only one bid, for a new one ton pickup as advertised. It was hand-delivered, on Monday, September 16, 2019 from De Noyer Chevrolet and this bid was for a crew cab, which was not in the specs. The price was \$35,860 plus \$350 delivery fee. It was decided to discuss this with the Highway Superintendent, Kevin Duntley before deciding anything.

The Supervisor said that she had contacted the attorneys (Woods, Ovitt, Gilman LLP) who are handling the foreclosure of the late James Patrick property. They said that they would speak to the property maintenance department and have someone block off the area to prevent future parking or plowing on the property.

The next item was the Pepper Hollow Cemetery. James Hughes measured and plotted 1,368 plots, each measuring 4 1/2 ' X 10', as suggested by Mike McKee but some of these are not ideal as there are trees or bushes etc. He suggested a change in the shape of the road and also mentioned overhead electric wires which may or may not become a problem in the future and for which he could not find an easement. He also recommended putting some control monument markers every so often as points of control.

Resolution #72 of 2019

Resolved for the Supervisor to contract and pay for services to James P. Hughes in the amount not to exceed \$3,000, for the plotting of the Pepper Hollow Cemetery.

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

The Supervisor continued that there was a need to discuss and think about putting in the budget a back drop barrier of some kind to separate our cemetery lot from the Koller lots behind. She said that she had spoken with Larry Koller and he is willing to help with that in any way we need.

The Gulf Brook Road to Boreas Ponds is completely open to the four corners which is a mile out from the dam. It has been put on the DEC website so the Supervisor is trying to promote it as much as possible.

The Supervisor said that Health Insurance is going to be 5.7% higher. She said that she had sent back our annual group information form to Burnham for them to send to Excellus. They had forewarned us that a larger increase would be coming.

The Annual Regional Salt Summit will be held in Lake Placid on October 3rd from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Kevin Duntley, the Highway Superintendent, and Stephanie DeZalia, the Town Supervisor, will be attending.

Brittany Christianson, the Executive Director of Adirondack Action, has sent copy of a pledge and memo to towns to support their efforts and joining them in reducing road salt pollution in the Adirondacks. It is not a legally binding commitment but a pledge of intent of our municipality to try to implement practices of reducing our salt usage.

Resolution # 73 of 2019

Resolved that the Supervisor sign the memo of understanding and pledge to use less salt on the roads during the winter months.

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

The Codes Officer sent a letter to the Board on property at 114.18-2-7.110 was for weeds and a junk yard at the back of the property. He said that he has spoken to the property owner and listed the remedies that needed to be done and will follow up with the landowner to be sure those have been attained.

The property owner of property at 114.18-3-4.00 will do some black topping next year and in the mean time will fill, patch and seal.

As to the property at 114.18-2-3-4.00, the CEO felt that as of September 14th (which was the completion of the 60-day compliance period) the property

owner has done most of the agreed remedy. The CEO would like a detail of how he plans to “cover” the vehicles in the back yard as the property owner does not want to erect a fence. Once the CEO reports back on the details of this the Board will need to make a determination based upon the Zoning and Junk Yard Laws.

The next item was the crumbling chimney at the court house. We have received three estimates for replacement. After discussion it was decided that Mountain Hollow Masonry and Chimney LLC would do the work.

Resolution #74 of 2019

Resolved that Mountain Hollow Masonry and Chimney LLC would replace the old courthouse chimney with a metalbestos and masonry chimney for an amount not to exceed \$3865.00.

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

The Town Clerk has received the rebound Birth and Death ledger for the years 1914 to 1949.

The Supervisor said that she had received a copy of a Prior Written Notice Law from Daniel Tedford, Assistant County Attorney. He helped Ms. Winemiller drafting it for the Town of St. Armand. The Supervisor said that she looked and did not find where we have one established. Therefore she will be drafting one and presenting it to the Board. Mr. Tedford advised all towns to look at their law or enact one to be safe.

Ms. DeZalia, the Supervisor, said that she had attended the RETHINK Poverty Workshop held in Elizabethtown on August 29th. It was an all day workshop that was very informative and she continued that she would recommend it to all. It talked about the lasting effects of generational poverty, situational poverty and how we can all do our part to make change. The attendees were put into scenarios that made us realize what it was like to need assistance and how difficult it sometimes was to get it.

Essex County has passed Resolution No. 238 of 2019, a Resolution of Appreciation and Support of the NYS DEC and NYS Attorney General’s office for appealing the July 3rd NYS Appellate Division third Departments decision regarding tree cutting within the “Forever Wild” Forestland inside the Adirondack Park and encouraging DEC to place a hold on tree cutting in public lands in the Adirondacks until such time that the courts have defined what the requirements will be.

The Supervisor said that she would like to pass a similar resolution in support of the NYS DEC and Attorney General’s appeal efforts.

Resolution #75 of 2019

Resolution of Appreciation and Support of the NYS DEC and NYS Attorney General's Office for Appealing the July 3rd decision regarding tree cutting.

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

The Supervisor continued that copies of the above resolution will be sent to the appropriate legislators and also to our attorney for the amicus brief they are preparing for the 5-Towns and other organizations.

Resolution #76 of 2019

Resolved that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to place a small ad (2 columns X2") in the fall sports section of the Times for the amount of \$60.00.

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

Constellation Energy pricing agreement will be up in February 2020 and they are offering locking in some new pricing that is available now that is below our current rate. They are suggesting locking in now. The 12 month and 24 month are savings from now but the 36 month is slightly higher. The Supervisor said that she would like to lock in for the 24 month contract.

Resolution #77 of 2019

Resolved that the Supervisor lock in a price of \$0.05708 for the next 24 months with Constellation Energy for our electric supply.

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

Board Member Ronald Moore requested financial accounting from the Fire Department before the Town Budget was finalized. Bruce Caza, President of the Fire Department Board of Directors, questioned our need for the accounting and stated that if it is needed then the Board could pass a resolution requesting it. This generated discussion between members of the Board and Will Plumstead, the Financial Officer of the Fire Department. Finally Will said that he would do a financial sheet showing income and expenses and send a copy to both the Town Board and also to the Board of Directors of the Fire Department. No resolution was offered.

Marshall Gero moved and was seconded by Ronald Moore to pay the audited vouchers. All voted "Aye".

General Fund	\$ 8,071.32
Highway Department	\$72,459.08
Total	\$80,530.40

Robert Dobie moved and was seconded by Marshall Gero to accept the audits of the Judge's financial reports for July and August. On roll call vote: Ayes – 5; Noes – 0; Absentees – 0.

On Privilege of the floor, Tracey Parent asked if there was any news about the Horse Signs. The Supervisor said that there was no word yet.

The Supervisor moved to adjourn the Meeting at 7:21 PM and was seconded by Maureen Marsden. All voted "Aye".

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Vinskus, Town Clerk
Town of North Hudson