

Town of North Hudson
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
Tuesday JANUARY 21, 2020
6 pm

In attendance Supervisor Stephanie DeZalia.

Town Council members Maureen Marsden, Robert Dobie, Marshall Gero and Brian Caza.

Also in attendance Martha M. King, Town Clerk.

Guests present were William Plumstead, John Caza, Tracey and Jake Parent.

Supervisor DeZalia called the meeting to order at 6 pm. And led in the Salute to the flag.

Minutes from January 2nd year end meeting and the Organizational meeting will be approved at next month's meeting.

The Supervisors Financial Report has already Been Done at the January 2nd Organizational meeting.

Old Business

At Sept 17, 2019 meeting Supervisor DeZalia spoke to the Board regarding drafting a Prior Written Notice law as recommended by Daniel Tedford, assistant County Attorney. After searching in the records Supervisor DeZalia did not find where the Town had previously passed such law. What the law would do is supersede sec65a of Town Law by eliminating liability of the town for certain defective conditions in roadways or walkways in the absence of prior written notice served on the town. A Town or County is not liable for a defect that they are not previously aware of. The County has a Prior Written Notice Law. A drafted copy of the Prior Written Notice Law has been placed in all Town Board members' packets and Supervisor DeZalia suggests they proceed with a public hearing and passage in the near future. Supervisor DeZalia has sent a copy to the North Hudson Town attorney John Silvestri for review and he agrees the Town should enact the law. He reviewed the proposed language and stated it was comprehensive and well written.

The Board will need to have a public hearing before it can become Town Law. A public hearing has now been set for 5:50 pm February 18 prior to next Town Board Meeting. A notice of the hearing is to be published in the Sun.

New Business

Departmental Reports

In Board Packets Supervisor DeZalia has placed the Supervisor's financial report, Vendor payments report, Revenue summary Report, Expenditures Summary Report, the monthly Justice report, Town Clerks monthly report, the Towns monthly bank reconciliation's as well as a number of other informational sheets.

Supervisor-

Supervisor DeZalia will be attending FEMA Briefing meeting on Thursday Jan. 23 at the Essex County Public Safety building regarding the Halloween Storm.

It is recommended that the Supervisor and Highway Superintendent attend. Superintendent Kevin Duntley had not replied yet if he plans to attend. It is to get reimbursement for the town from the October storm damages. There is a February 5th deadline to get the paperwork in to be included in the FEMA funds.

Private nonprofit is entitled for recovery of monies. It was suggested perhaps that possibly the fire department might want to look into this to see if they meet the criteria.

Supervisor DeZalia will be attending NYSAC Conference in Albany from January 27 to January 29, this is paid for by the county.

Highway Department-

Highway asked for approval for another windshield for the 2015 pickup truck. It was noted this will be third (3rd) windshield in less than one year. One was February 2019, and another September 2019.

Insurance on commercial vehicles does not cover windshields. It was noted that twelve (12) windshields have been replace in last seven (7) years on our Town pickup trucks.

Transfer Station

On January 13th Supervisor DeZalia was notified that a particular person was headed to the North Hudson transfer station with a truckload of trash believed to be from out of town. By the time Supervisor DeZalia arrived there to address person they had already left. Same persons from out of town are continuing to bring their household and business trash to the North Hudson transfer station. They were told by transfer station attendant that it would not be allowed again. It is clearly from an out of town business and also their residence. A letter from Superintendent DeZalia is being sent to them addressing this situation stating they are to bring their trash to their own transfer station in their municipality. It will be posted at transfer station the list of rules for residential use. The transfer station attendant can check with Town Hall to verify residency when in doubt. Discussion followed about putting in place some type of system to identify residency. Punch cards and window stickers for vehicles were discussed and other possible proofs.

Also discussed was security system for the gate. Blink Security was discussed as a possibility. Concern over security of Highway Garage and gas pumps. Noted it is difficult for members of highway department to have to lock and unlock gate numerous times when working. No action was taken at this time.

Code Enforcement:

Jon Senecal has handed in his annual report and will be filing it with the State by the April 1st deadline. Town Supervisor spoke with Attorney John Silvestri and he stated Mr. Plumstead responded to his letter dated 12/03/19. He stated they had a long conversation and discussed several options. Mr Silvestri advised Supervisor DeZalia that Mr. Plumstead is willing to do some fencing and a general clean up. Mr. Plumstead requested he be given until May 2020 to complete the project. The original complaint was made in April 2019. A copy of the file will be given to new Board member Brian Caza. Mr. Plumstead stated that he told towns attorney he was looking to put up another building. Discussion on the issue at length on definition of junkyard vs repair shop.

Supervisor DeZalia asked the Board if anyone had any thoughts on this. Mr. Plumstead stated this was not exactly what their conversation was. He plans to apply for a building permit in April to construct another building. Mr. Plumstead stated that Code Enforcement has never been there to inspect

anything. Mr. Plumstead stated the only time code Enforcement has been there is when he stopped him in front of the house. Lengthy discussion followed regarding subject of repair shop vs. junkyard. Also stated things on the porch are personal items and not part of this issue
Supervisor DeZalia will request something in writing from town Attorney as to what his advisement was. Mr. Dobie suggested that Jon Senecal, Mr. Plumstead and the board meet to try to resolve issue at hand.

Supervisors Clerk

Supervisor DeZalia announced Movie night was a success on Saturday January 18 with 12 children in attendance. The movie for the night was Abominable. A Resolution is needed appointing Cassandra as the Chairperson and Jan as the alternate to send to the County Youth Board. This board will be overseen by the Human Services Committee Chairman Maureen Marsden and vice chair Brian Caza.

Resolution # 25- 2020

Youth Board

Resolution appointing Cassandra D'Agostino as chairman of the North Hudson Youth Commission and Jan Talarico as the Alternate, for the the year ending on December 31, 2020.

So moved by Maureen Marsden seconded by Marshall Gero

Roll call vote: Ayes-5 Noes-0

Cassandra will be attending the Association of Towns Annual Meeting in NYC on February 16-19th.

Courts: No Report

Town Clerk: Candy attended the Newly Elected Officials training in Albany in January 15-17. She will also be attending the Annual Association of Towns meeting in NYC on February 16-19th. A certificate of Designation for the purposes casting the North Hudson votes is needed

Resolution #26-2020

Resolved that the town board of the Town of North Hudson duly designates Martha King, Town Clerk, Voting Delegate, and in the absence of said delegate designate Cassandra D'Agostino as the Alternate Delegate to attend the Annual Business Session of the Association of Towns meeting to be held on February 19, 2020 to cast the vote for the town of North Hudson pursuant to sec.6 of Article III of the Constitution and By-laws of said Association.

Moved by Robert Dobie seconded Marshall Gero. Ayes-5 Noes-0

Supervisor DeZalia requested Robert Dobie as Chairman and Marshall Gero as Vice Chairman of Finance & Administration Committee, to look over the final books of the Town Clerk. It was brought to Supervisor DeZalia's attention that Sally did not present her books for the organizational meeting and therefore they were not on back table for audit and approval. Supervisor DeZalia requested they make time in near future for their audit and approval so Board can get approval for Mrs. King to be able to start fresh. Town Clerk will start fresh in ledger and Supervisor DeZalia will go over cash box as well with the Town Clerk.

County Reports

Supervisor DeZalia reviewed the Essex County 2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan and after careful review of the section for North Hudson found a few errors starting with table of contents. North Hudson was not in the document where it was stated to be. There were errors in this report for example stating there were no generators in Town Hall and Fire House. Supervisor DeZalia has emailed Emergency services for corrections. The plan will be submitted to NYS Dept. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for review and then along to Federal Emergency Management for review and then along to Federal Emergency Management agency for approval. Any changes required from the FEMA review will be incorporated. Upon receiving approved pending adoption status from FEMA, the town will then be asked to officially adopt the plan. Supervisor DeZalia has included a copy of resolutions for the town and County in the Board packet. The Mitigation plan can be reviewed at any time.

Supervisor DeZalia chaired her first committee meeting at the County on 1/21/2020. She was also assigned to the Organizational Optimization Task Force to look at every department in the county to make sure they are being run in the best optimal way.

NYCLASS

Lyn Derway spoke at the County on 01/21/2020 about NYCLASS. (New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities Systems) and what a municipality has to gain from investing in NYCLASS. There are currently 600 participants and 45% are municipalities 43% school districts and the rest consist of Fire Departments, Health Insurance and Workers Comp programs. Supervisor DeZalia will look further into this and will come back with numbers for the Town.

Enhance STAR

Terry Northup, Director of Real Property spoke at the county also about it being mandatory for all Enhance STAR Applicants to fill out the RP-425-IVP form, along with the Enhanced STAR application and proof of income, and turn into our assessors.

In the Board packets also is the 2020 Essex County Soil and Water Tree and Shrub order form. Order Deadline is March 12th and pick up is April 24th.

Senior Citizen Dinner is Wednesday February 29th.

Approve abstracts for General Funds

Motion to Approve abstracts for General and Highway fund by Maureen Marsden seconded by Robert Dobie.

Roll call vote 5 Ayes 0 noes

Audit Judges Financial Report

Motion to accept by Maureen Marsden seconded by Robert Dobie Ayes- 5 Noes -0

Privilege of the Floor

There was discussion on the continuation of sanding of driveways and plowing of mailboxes and scraper Bank.

It was brought up that a resident's car was being parked in such a fashion making it a hazard for plow trucks to stay in lanes creating a safety issue. Board discussed that it was almost impossible trying to please all residents in town. Supervisor DeZalia stated the Town Highway department has done this for so long the majority of residents would want it to be continued if it were to be put out there.

There was discussion on developing service plans for Highway vehicles. It was discussed getting rid of surplus vehicles. Also discussed possibility of looking into buying items such as windshield washer fluid by the case. This will be sent to the Highway Committee to come up with a plan.

There was discussion of doing a contract with the State for plowing the 2 parking lots. TRP was already signed for this year, however it was suggested perhaps to do a contract for next year.

Question from Mr. Plumstead to Supervisor DeZalia about North Hudson take on if Essex County decides to become a sanctuary county, Supervisor DeZalia stated she hasn't heard anything at the County about this occurring. She inquired where he was getting his information. If there are County discussions on this issue Supervisor DeZalia will address it if and when it is discussed at that time.

Mr. Plumstead requested that he be copied on the original complaint and he also be copied on all correspondence. He also stated code enforcement is selective enforcement and possibility of code enforcement officer doing longer hours to address everyone's violations. Clarification was made by Supervisor DeZalia of Building and Codes Officials hours, email address, and definition of selective enforcement given by Town Attorney to address everyone's violations.

Meeting adjourned by Supervisor DeZalia at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha M. King
Town Clerk