

Town of North Hudson
Regular Board Meeting
July 21, 2020
6 p.m.

In attendance Supervisor DeZalia

Town Council Deputy Marshall Gero, Maureen Marsden, Robert Dobie, Town Clerk Martha (Candy) King.

Excused Brian Caza.

Also present were residents Tracee and Jake Parent, John Caza, Donna Moses and Sun Reporter Tim Rowland.

Supervisor DeZalia called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led in the Salute to the Flag.

Supervisor DeZalia welcomed everyone back.

Approval of the minutes of the June 16, 2020 meeting as amended.

So moved Maureen Marsden seconded by Robert Dobie.

All-in favor: Ayes-5-Noes-0

Supervisor's Financial Report

As of June 30, 2020

Checking Accounts

Town of North Hudson Checking (0.10%)	\$ 582,847.47
General Fund	\$ 549,904.47
Fire Dist.	\$ 32,970.00
Highway Fund Checking (0.10%)	\$ 557,381.23
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$1,140,255.70

Old Business

A. Essex Countywide EMS Program has been discussed numerous times in the past that is running this year and next year on a State Grant. Essex County is contracting with each EMS and the towns the service for their Ambulance Emergency Services. Supervisor DeZalia has received an Ambulance Medical Emergency Medical Services Intermunicipal contract to be signed by Town of North Hudson, Town of Schroon Lake Emergency Squad Inc. and Essex County. Because Essex County is contracting with SLEMS and because North Hudson also contracts with them then we need this Intermunicipal agreement.

Resolution # 47 -2020

Resolved that the Supervisor may sign and execute one Essex County Emergency Medical Services Intermunicipal Agreement having Essex County as party of the first part, Town of North Hudson as

party of the second part, and Schroon Lake Emergency Squad Inc. as EMS agency bearing contract term of May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021.

So Moved by Maureen Marsden and seconded by Marshall Gero.

Roll Call Vote Ayes-4 Noes-0

B. Message Board

Information placed in Board members' packets.

Town of Newcomb has just had a message board installed at a considerable less cost than we had quoted. About half of anticipated cost. Supervisor DeLoria had a problem with it last week and Supervisor DeZalia is waiting to see how issues were resolved before proceeding.

The purchase of the sign is on hold right now pending how well Newcomb's sign works, service, and how efficiently technical issues are resolved.

New Business

In the Board packets are copies of Supervisor's financial report, Vendor payments report, Revenue Reports, Expenditures Summary Report, The monthly Justice report, The Town Clerks Monthly Report, the Monthly Bank Reconciliation's as well as a number of informational sheets.

A. Departmental Reports

Supervisor- Supervisor DeZalia informed the board that the County Ways and Means committee meetings are in person now with the allowance of public guests. All County committee meetings are being held between the Department heads and those Supervisors assigned to that department. Supervisor DeZala , Highway Superintendent Duntley and Supervisors Clerk Cassandra had a phone conference with FEMA on June 29th and have starting submitting reports. Pepper Hollow is the last project to be completed. The Town Board needs to decide if we are going to go ahead with the completion of the blacktopping so it can be submitted as completed as well. Supervisor DeZalia has called SLIC multiple times as the customer service depart was giving wrong information to residents who were eligible to receive the SLIC service were being told they were not in the service area when in fact there were. Those situations were taken care of. Residents are encouraged to contact Supervisor DeZalia if they are told they are not in a serviceable area for SLIC services. She will contact them to make sure this is the case. Supervisor DeZalia receives numerous daily updates from governor's office on the ever changing Covid-19 orders. Per Executive order 202.45 until July 26 and may be updated at that time depending on conditions. Gatherings only allowed for up to 50 or fewer individuals that are in a phase 4 region. Social Distancing and face masks and cleaning and disinfecting protocols required by the Department of Health must be adhered to. It also provides if an employee voluntarily travels to one of those countries or states with positive test rate more than more than 10 per 100,000 (31 states right now with 10 new ones added today) and travel was not part of employee's employment, the employee shall not be eligible for paid sick leave benefits. Schools and colleges must submit opening plans by end of July for approval. These plans will be reviewed by the State Health Dept.

Highway-Superintendent Duntley is concerned with the shoulder drop off the Route 9 South bound lane and is going to contact NYSDOT to see when they are going to finish beveling it. Estimates are in the Town Board Packets for the repair of the '03 Tandem. This is a need and must be done before winter and plow season. 0.

Resolution #48-2020

Resolution for Superintendent Duntley to repair the '03 Tandem Mounts and Tires by Clarks Truck Center in the amount not to exceed \$4,000.00. Moved by Marshall Gero and seconded by Robert Dobie.

Roll call vote Ayes -4, Noes 0

Transfer Station

Transfer attendant Tony states all is going well cleaning position at the beach and at the transfer station. He is tracking his time spent cleaning at the beach. He has replenished his cleaning supplies as needed.

Codes Mr. Senecal has handed in his quarterly report which is also in the board packets.

Supervisor DeZalia noted that as of the meeting the town has not received any follow up reports on the open property maintenance complaints.

Supervisors Clerk- no new reports

Courts- Plexiglass has been installed between the Court Clerks space and Judge Duntley's space and the public as per the requirement. It is possible another section may have to be added.

Town Clerk-In Board packets there is also a copy of the letter received from the NYSDEC discontinuing our DEC Licensing Agent contract due to too few licenses issued in the last three(3) years. According to the letter this was done across the state and reviewed. If less than 100 licenses were sold per year, the contracts were not being renewed.

The Town Clerk has been working on the cemetery records and is finding things are not in order. The Clerk has met with Mike McKee and he is willing to help us determine some of the needed information.

There is a need for an accurate ledger of assigned lots and marked on the cemetery map. There doesn't seem to be any written cemetery By Laws, regulations or rules. Supervisor DeZalia has discussed this with the clerk and believes the Town needs to adopt one. Marshall Gero and Maureen Marsden are on the Public Service Committee that includes cemeteries. Supervisor DeZalia requested the committee and the Clerk to work on this and come up with a policy and present it to the board for approval. Also there is a need to put up a back barrier at the Pepper Hollow Cemetery to separate it from the Koller property. There is a need to adjust the roads in the cemetery to match the survey map. As well as marking out walkways, lots and marking them prior to using the cemetery for burials.

Assessors- Our final equalization rate came in at 111.76. We were at 112.39 last year. North Hudson is the only reported Town over 100% and it is the result of the difference between Assessed Value and Market Value of State own land. Our locally assessed properties are at 100%

B. County

The DMV is open again by appointment only. Supervisor DeZalia encourages residents to use the Elizabethtown office for renewals, registrations and DMV business rather than the pink envelope that can be sent through the mail. Essex county would thereby receive a portion of those fees.

County Auditor Laurie DeZalia handed in her letter of resignation and has stepped down from her position as the County auditor. Laura Carson her deputy will be filling the auditor position. Laurie will be staying on in that department.

C. SPCA Shelter Inspection Supervisor DeZalia received a letter and a copy of Municipal Shelter Inspection Report from New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Division Animal Industry.

The dog shelter services were rated “Unsatisfactory” as the current shelter services contract with SPCA excludes dogs that have “attacked or caused bodily harm to an individual” (“Dangerous Dogs”). Another inspection will occur approximately 30 days after the date of this inspection (July 7) to be sure the Shelter services are in compliance. North Hudson along with 14 other towns received an email from the SPCA board saying they will look at changing the wording in the contract to allow for dangerous dogs but there is question as to compensation and the details of them needing to alter the facility to be able to allow for them. Shaun Gilliland, EC Chairman of the Board would like for us to discuss the matter at the Ways and Means meeting on July 27th.

D. Diversity Resolution #49-2020

Supporting Diversity

Resolution Supporting Diversity

WHEREAS, all humans are possessed with unique, rich cultural histories, backgrounds and personal experiences deserving of universal respect and acceptance; and

WHEREAS, recent events in the United States remind us that prejudice, injustice and inequality are embedded in our society-its social structures, its institutions and its very culture. Decades of civil rights legislation and education have not obliterated racism. Racism’s breadth affects the safety, health and well-being of individuals, families and communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York in the public and private sectors, continues to control these challenges, to develop timely and practical solutions, and move our society forward into common fellowship; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North Hudson identifies itself as an independent-minded rural and caring community but is not immune from the challenges facing our society today; and

WHEREAS, THE Town Board of the Town Of North Hudson is saddened by and condemns the recent overt incidents of racial intolerance in our Adirondack region;

THEREFORE RESOLVES that the Town Board of the Town Of North Hudson is a community that does not tolerate expressions of hate and exclusion; and the Town will energetically support efforts to eradicate these expressions, to promote racial equality and goodwill; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of North Hudson welcomes all people regardless of race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, veteran status or age; and

FURTHER RESOLVES, to work with our community organizations, school officials, religious leaders, business owners, and all individuals to do the same.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of North Hudson, condemns racism and social injustice. We will endeavor to be proactive and consistent in dealing with issues of racism and social injustice. The town of North Hudson will continue to honor its historical roots and we as a community will welcome and accept anyone living in or visiting our Town with true North country inclusive spirit.

So moved by Maureen Marsden and a unanimous second.

Motion Carried

E. Staycation Ad- Denton Publication is doing a Staycation Summer special edition which will publish on August 1st and deadline is tomorrow. It will reach approx. 20,000 homes in Southern Essex County, Norther Warren County and part of Vermont. Brief discussion on ad followed with Supervisor Dezalia and board. Discussion of size and price of ad, and which edition to place it in. All in favor of placing 2"x4"ad for \$ 144.00

Resolution #50-2020

Resolution to place a marketing tourism ad for the Town of North Hudson in the Staycation Summer 2020 edition not to exceed the amount of \$ 150.00

Motion to approve by Marshall Gero and seconded by Maureen Marsden.

Roll call Aye 4-Noes-0.

The Town of North Hudson has received the annual \$300 contribution request from the Schroon Lake Library. This is a budgeted item with a prior resolution passed allowing the payment of budgeted expenses, no resolutions will be required. However, the Town does not appear to have an actual contract with the Schroon Lake Public Library and we are not allowed to give donations. In past years the word contract has been used even though there actually is no contract. This letter needs to be resubmitted to the town as a contracted item and then the check will be sent. We are waiting due to COVID prior to getting the kiosk station from the library for residents to use. Supervisor DeZalia received the renewal of our mining permit for the pit. The permit expires on November 17, 2020 and she will need to submit a renewal application to DEC at least 30 days prior to that date. A resolution is required for this.

Resolution #51-2020

Resolved that the Town Supervisor execute and submit a mining permit renewal application to NYS DEC prior to October 16, 2020 for the North Hudson Highway Mine located on Route 9, North Hudson NY.

So moved Maureen Marsden seconded by Marshall Gero

All in Favor Ayes 4-Noes- 0

Approval of abstracts for General Funds

So moved Maureen Marsden and seconded by Robert Dobie

All in favor Ayes -4, Noes-0

Audit of Judges Financial Report

So moved Maureen Marsden and seconded by Marshall Gero

All in Favor. Yays-4, Noes-0

Privilege of the floor---

Donna Moses addressed the board regarding the broken fence, she presented the Town Board with caps to finish the needed repairs on the fences. Mrs. Moses stated these were purchased by her grandson as he had a part in the broken fence. Mrs. Moses respectfully requested the town place up more signage regarding leashing dogs and trespassing. They have children and animals on her property. If other peoples lose dogs continue to come onto their property she will be forced to call the authorities. Supervisor DeZalia listened carefully to Mrs. Moses comments and addressed them. Mrs. Moses has their beach and riding arenas posted with "No Trespassing "signs. She stated there have been unfriendly looking dogs on beach property and they should be leashed. Further discussion about lose dogs coming on to her property also. The utv's and lawn mower that have been on the beach property do not all belong to the Moses family. Others have been riding there as well as well. Mrs. Moses brought up reading on social media people saying to bring their dogs to our beach to swim. Supervisor DeZalia replied that she is not did this as she is no longer part of those social media from Schroon Lake groups and her life is much less stressful because of it. Supervisor DeZalia stated that she hopes all the families surrounding the town park can continue to be good neighbors. And that the Moses family will continue to use the beach area.

Tracee Parent stated she was considering blocking off the sides of the gate so the utv's and lawnmower couldn't ride around it after gates are locked as it is their property. Supervisor DeZalia asked Tracee to come see her about these plans.

Jake Parent asked about if she Supervisor knew anything about a 3-year early retirement incentive for some state employees. She had no knowledge of this and suggested he go on line to the NYS Retirement system and log into his account.

Marshall spoke of finding a clock for generator

Brief discussion it was decided not to wait until winter to do this and the sooner it is done the better.

Resolution # 52 -2020

Permission from Supervisor DeZalia to purchase and install clock for generator for Court house not to exceed \$650.00.

So moved by Marshall Gero seconded by Maureen Marsden.

All in Favor Aye -4 Noes-0

Also brief Discussion on hold up on steps being done. Marshall will check on it during the week.

John Caza wanted to say that the town highway and county crew have done an excellent job cleaning up trees on Ensign Pond Rd.

Motion to adjourn 7:05 by Robert Dobie seconded by Maureen Marsden

All in favor Ayes 4 Noes-0

Respectfully Submitted
Martha M. King
Town Clerk

