

Town of North Hudson
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday September 15, 2020
6 p.m.

Present were Supervisor DeZalia, Supervisors Deputy Marhall Gero, Maureen Marsden, Robert Dobie, Brian Caza, and Town Clerk Martha M.(Candy) King.
Guests present Tracee and Jake Parent and Will Plumstead.
Supervisor DeZalia called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led in Salute to the Flag.
Approval of minutes from August 18, 2020 as amended.
So moved Maureen Marsden and seconded by Robert Dobie.
All in favor. Ayes-5 Noes-0.

Supervisors Financial Report

As of August 30, 2020

Checking Accounts

Town of North Hudson Checking	(0.10%)	\$506,372.99
General Fund	\$ 473,402.99	
Fire District	\$ 32,970.00	

Highway Fund Checking	(0.10%)	\$483,336.53
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TOTAL ALL FUNDS		\$989,709.52
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Old Business

A. Supervisor DeZalia has previously addressed the board regarding all the work our town attorney, Mr. John Silvestri, has been doing on the Article 15 to clear title for the conservation easement for the campground property. The State has asked the Town attorney to hold off on this litigation as they attempt to get title insurance. The State has spoken to Mountain Abstract to obtain title insurance. If so they will go to Attorney General's Office This was what was suggested first by the Town of North Hudson and Mr. Silvestri last year. Mr. Silvestri will be submitting his bill to date to the town and it is expected to be approximately \$ 12,000.00. The State stated in writing they will reimburse us for this once we have the easement and appraisal

done. They will add this and the cost for the cleanup of this property to the easement. Mr. Silvestri told Supervisor DeZalia if needed he would wait for the State to pay us

B. Supervisor DeZalia has emailed and left voicemails at the DOT inquiring about no littering signs being placed in the Town along the State Highway. She did get a response and it also was cc'd to others that they were looking into things. Supervisor DeZalia also contacted Jim at the county. She asked Jim at the county about the same and he hasn't gotten back to her yet. She has also inquired about stop signs or lines painted on the road at the end of Frontier Town Road and Rt. 9. Since this is a town road it will need to be done at the towns expense. Supervisor DeZalia has also asked the state to look into the shoulders along route 9 as there is some improper shouldering, 3"-4" at some driveways and pull offs and they will look into it. We are waiting on a reply.

C. In August Supervisor DeZalia addressed the board of the possibility of assessment and litigation with SLIC Networking and the possible need for an attorney. SLIC has commenced an action against the Town of North Hudson, Town of Newcomb, Town of Schroon Lake and Town of Minerva are being sued. SLIC states their stations are personal property rather than real property and there for should not be taxable. Dan is very familiar with this type of case as he litigated against the Utility Companies a few years ago and won to set a precedent that made the utility lines taxable real property. This case is important for all of Essex County as the outcome could determine what other Utility companies do in the future. Under advisement from Dan, all four Towns will use the same attorney. It was advised that all four towns will contract with Mark Schachner of Miller, Mannix, Schachner and Hafner LLC to represent us. Dan will work to help Mark and the towns wherever possible. John Silvestri is in agreement that this is the best way to proceed. Mark Schachner was used for the 5-Towns amicus briefs pertaining to the tree cutting and Cedar River Bridge litigations. The Schachner Report was crucial in the winning of the Cedar River Bridge case last year.

Resolution # 54 -2020

Resolution for the Supervisor along with the town of Schroon, Minerva and Newcomb to consult with and contract with as needed with Mark Schachner for the litigation of the SLIC court actions.

Moved by Robert Dobie seconded by Marshall Gero.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes-5 : Caza, Gero, DeZalia, Dobie, Marsden - Noes-0

New Business

Board packets contain the Supervisor's financial report, Vendor payments report, Revenue Summary report, Expenditures Summary Report, monthly Justice, the Town Clerks monthly report, the Towns tentative budget calendar.

A. Department Reports

Supervisor-

Budget request forms have been handed out to all departments.

The Board needs to set a date and time for a special board meeting for the purpose of the Town Clerk to present the tentative Budget to the Board. This will not be a workshop.

Supervisor DeZalia will contact Jim at the County to see if he would meet with Brian Caza, Marshall Gero, Kevin Duntley to discuss the county roads prior to budget meeting.

Resolution # 55 -2020

Resolution setting a special board meeting for the presentation of the tentative budget for October 5 at 3 p.m. at the town hall.

Moved by Marshall Gero and seconded Maureen Marsden.

All in favor. Ayes-5 Noes-0

Supervisor DeZalia received an email regarding some possible funding opportunities under FEMA's FY2020 programs and will be checking on criteria and with Kevin to see if we have the Town has any mitigation needs that may qualify for the funding. She also noted that this is a long detailed process. She is still working on Halloween storm and we have not gotten any money back yet.

Supervisor DeZalia noted that she has been on calls regarding progress at the old Frontier Town Property and the A-Frame site. She also has been in discussions with County colleagues about the High Peaks overcrowding issue and possible solutions.

Supervisor DeZalia to date had only received one board members budget request.

Highway-

Highway Superintendent Duntley has handed in a few quotes on finishing Pepper Hollow that will be used for submission to FEMA for remediation and reimbursement for the Halloween Storm. He also has quotes for finishing pavement of Duntley Rd. and Wonderview Rd. as well. Supervisor DeZalia advised him to include those on his budget request form for next year. The Town received a copy of the Appraisal from SCA Appraisal Company of the amount of damage done on the Bobcat Mini excavator in the amount of \$ 9,079.37.

Transfer Station-

Our garbage poundage went up for the months of July and August. This is most likely a reflection of there being more people in town and the amount of time camps were being opened up and being used.

Supervisor DeZalia stated that the attendant, Tony, did a great job with keeping the beach and park clean this summer and wished to Thank him for taking on those additional duties. The Beach and Park are now closed for the season.

She also thanked Tracee and Jake Parent for their opening and closing the Beach daily and keeping her informed of any issues.

Codes Dept.-

John Senecal has handed in his Budget Request. He noted that he has been putting in additional hours for inspections and permitting when the need is outside of his scheduled hours. There appears to be a definite need for his services if he were here more often as people need him to inspect things, issue permits, etc. and jobs often cannot be held up a week until Jon returns on Thursdays. Jon has never asked for mileage and an increase in pay would help make up for the mileage. The Supervisor and Town Board will be looking at his position, hours and our needs during the 2021 Budget process.

Supervisors Clerk-

Cassandra has been working on end of year budget reports. She also is going to be working on some new timesheets for employees. Currently the time sheets being used are not an accurate reflection of time accrued or sick days. Usually it is just a photocopy of a time sheet that is being signed and handed in. Time clocks are being looked at and will be discussed when reviewing the budget. There are three (3) reasonably priced options being looked at.

Courts-

The judge handed in her 2021 Budget request form.

Court House Porch repairs.

We have received one quote out of many requests for quotes.

We have done our due diligence to meet the requirements of our Procurement Policy by attempting to secure multiple quotes. The Board received one quote from Mountain Hollow Masonry & Chimney LLC. For \$ 6,675.00.

The following 9 contractors were contacted:

Todd Wilson of Mountain Hollow Masonary & Chimney LLC. looked at job and submitted quote on project.

John Podmore, did not return calls.

Dylan Sayville, did not return calls.

Walter Porter, did not return calls.

Lou Gallub, did not call return calls.

Norm Persons, did not return calls.

Terry Perkins looked at job. No bid.

Gary Olcott, called but never came to look at project.

Vic Scuderi, his mason was to come look at project but called and cancelled.

Discussion followed about the need to replace some posts and the extra cost involved.

Resolution # 56—2020

Resolution for the supervisor to contract and hire Mountain Hollow Masonry & Chimney, LLC to do the Courthouse porch repair this fall for the amount of \$6675.00 as quoted with a contingent amount for replacement of railings.

Moved by Brian Caza and seconded by Robert Dobie

All in favor. Ayes-5 Noes -0

Town Clerk-

Candy is continuing the work on the cemetery maps and policy.

The Town Clerk has submitted a resolution for consideration that needs to be passed before the new year excepting and adopting the new NYS Retention and Disposition Schedule.

Pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law we must maintain minimum retention of all records and dispose of them at the described established legal minimum periods.

Resolution # 57--2020

Resolved, By the Town Board of the Town of North Hudson that Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records, is hereby adopted for use by all officers in legally disposing of valueless records listed therein.

Further Resolved, that in accordance with Article 57-A:

(a) only those records will be disposed of that are described in Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), after they have met the minimum retention periods described therein;

(b) only those records will be disposed of that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal or historical value to merit retention established legal minimum periods.

Moved by Robert Dobie and seconded by Maureen Marsden.

Roll call: Ayes 5, Noes-0

Caza:Y

Gero: Y:

DeZalia: Y

Dobie:Y

Marsden:Y

Reminder that there will be a Rabies Clinic held Thursday September 17th at the Firehouse from 5-7 pm. Due to COVID it will be done differently this year. It will be a drive up type clinic. You will be directed to stay in your vehicle and then be given directions to pull up and the Vet will come to your car.

Supervisor DeZalia has a call out to our DCO, Sarah Potter about future training being offered for DCO's and about appointment of an alternate DCO in the event she is not available.

B. County Reports-

1. Linda Beers, Director of Essex County Public Health continues to report daily and to the Board of supervisors regarding the COVID status in the area. The DOH reported on Monday that upon completion of the initial investigations there will be a Federal Task Force going into the Essex Center to do a thorough look at the operations and procedures of the facility. This may have already started. Supervisor DeZalia placed a copy of an article pertaining to this in the board packets.

2. Mike Mascarenas, Commissioner of Social Services, spoke to the Board of Supervisors about the holding back of the Federal Grant money by the State. The Board of Supervisors passed a resolution requesting the release of our money. Just in Social Services grant money this is over \$ 3 million. If it isn't released soon it could cause a cash flow problem in the coming months. Not just for Essex County but every County in NYS.

3. Krissy Leerkes, Director of Office of the Aging is working diligently with HEAP applications. Anyone over 60 and in need is encouraged to contact them. Supervisor DeZalia has the calendar, the deadlines, household size and income guidelines. The income guidelines are higher than she expected and she encouraged people to look into it.

If you are under 60, HEAP applications are available through DSS.

They still have some farmers market coupons available. Please contact the Office of the Aging for delivery of them.

Open Enrollment for Medicare is October 15-December 7 if anyone needs to make changes or sign up.

4. Anna Reynolds, Director of Community Resources is encouraging everyone to please answer the Census questions by the end of this month. It is a very important tool used to determine the funding we get in the coming years. North Hudson is still only at 26.6 % counted. If you already have done it and a census worker comes around to verify, please just take 10 minutes to answer the questions again to make sure they have everyone. If any residents need assistance in doing this online, they are encouraged to contact the Town Supervisor.

5. Board of Elections reported that our early voting location will need to be moved next year from the centrally location of Lewis as the Law that recently went into effect stating next year says early voting needs to be held in the most populated area of the County. That is North Elba. Which will be quite a trip for those in Ticonderoga, Crown Point, Moriah as well as the southern Essex County towns. The County could do more than one but it would be at a huge cost.

C. Supervisor DeZalia received our advertising renewal for 2021 from JMF printing that does the Adk. Paddling, Adk. Hiking and Adk. Fishing. We need to reserve our spot and contract now. Deadline is today, September 15. But we don't have to pay until 2021. The total to have our ¼ page ad in all three would be the same as 2020 at \$ 1363.

Resolution # 58—2020

Resolution for supervisor to contract with JMF for advertising in the ADK Paddling, Hiking and Fishing guides at a rate of \$ 1363.00.

Moved Robert Dobie seconded by Maureen Marsden.

All in favor Ayes-5 Noes-0

D. Supervisor DeZalia addressed the Board regarding the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. All relays were cancelled this year due to COVID. She is requesting permission to use the parking lot at the Town Hall for a small luminary ceremony the evening of September 26. Supervisor DeZalia plans to still walk along Route 9, perhaps the campground or laps around the parking lot and plans to inquire about placing a donation container at Paradox Brewery. She will maintain social distancing policies and keeping the numbers below required levels. She is requesting the Boards permission to use the parking lot for this purpose. All are invited to participate in the Relay for Life. The Board was in agreement on granting this request.

Resolution # 59—2020

Resolution of Condolences to Cassandra and Dan D'Agostino on the loss of Dan's mother Kathy who passed away on 09/02/2020. Kathy resided in North Hudson next to Cassandra and Dan.

Moved by Brian Caza and a unanimous second.

9. Motion to approve abstracts for General and Highway funds,
Moved by Marshall and seconded by Maureen Marsden
All in favor. Ayes -5 Noes-0

10. Audit Judges Financial report.

Moved by Maureen Marsden and seconded by Robert Dobie
All in favor. Ayes -5 Noes-0

11. Privilege of the Floor

Tracee Parent asked when the North Hudson Website is going to be updated.

Supervisor DeZalia replied to her question. She is waiting for a few more elected official's photos to be taken. She will check it over again and update it accordingly. At present she has an email out to the person who does the website.

Mrs. Parent also inquired about the Highway Department using a time clock when they are on the road to punch in and out for lunch. She asked if the Board was trying to get rid of the Highway Department or cut their pay. Supervisor DeZalia assured her absolutely not. It was explained that there are many factors to consider when doing the budgeting. Repairs on the equipment, the maintenance of town and county roads, number of employees and numerous other costs involved. Also discussed was the Highway Departments work based on contracts with the county. We are at a point we need to make some decisions. Purchase new trucks, continue all roads or give up county roads. Lots to look at. Time clocks are being looked at for payroll auditing purposes.

Maureen Marsden remarked how nice the Military Flags look in other towns she has been in. She asked if this was a possibility in North Hudson. The cost to do so will need to be taken into consideration and the suggestion will be looked into. It could fall into Marketing and Tourism funds.

Mr. Plumstead asked about the digital sign. Supervisor DeZalia stated that the new revised quote is \$ 35,000.00, it is in the plan but if the money is being held back we may want to consider a hold on it. The Town would have to pay up front for this and hope for reimbursement from the State in a timely fashion. It is grant money and at this time it is being held up by the State. It is being looked at while budgeting.

Mr. Plumstead also discussed the Nationals Car Show and it not being held in Lake George anymore. He suggested the possibility of 5 local towns consider looking into this event. Keeping it in the Adirondacks would help generate more tourism dollars. This probably would be a project done through the fire department.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Robert Dobie seconded by Maureen Marsden.
Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Martha M. King
Town Clerk

