

Regular Town Board Meeting

Tuesday August 17, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Present were Supervisor Stephanie DeZalia, Councilman Marshall Gero, Councilman Robert Dobie, Councilwoman Maureen Marsden, Councilman Brian Caza, Town Clerk Martha (Candy) King.

Guests in attendance were Brian DeZalia, Tracee Parent and Jake Parent.

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

Approval of the July 20, 2021 minutes as amended.

Moved by Maureen Marsden and seconded by Robert Dobie.

All in Favor

Ayes-5

Noes -0

Supervisor DeZalia read the following statement *“Before getting to business I wanted to quickly address the new recommendation by the CDC, NYS DPH and Essex County Public Health as it pertains to the reinstatement of the wearing of masks indoors. Things are a bit different this time around as we are not under mandate but under recommendation. I want to state clearly, that through this pandemic we were always relying on the advice and recommendations of those that have the science and knowledge to make these decisions and recommendations. I have consistently followed them and I will continue to do so in the best interest of everyone. We saw proven decrease in cases when masks were worn and even higher decline earlier this year when vaccinations were administered. Being there is still a portion of the population that is not eligible to vaccinate and another portion that chooses not to vaccinate for various reasons, we must all do what is best for all... put our masks on while inside. The variant has proven more contagious and seems to be effecting our youth under 12 that are unable to vaccinate at this time. We wore them once before; we can wear them again. In my opinion, it is, as was getting vaccinated just a small sacrifice to possibly help save a life. All Town employees will be required to wear masks while in common areas of our buildings or while interacting closely with public or other employees no matter their vaccination status. To further help slow the spread, I would recommend other public buildings and businesses to implement the same recommendations to their patron.”*

Supervisors Financial Report

As of July 31, 2021

Checking Accounts

Town of North Hudson Checking	0.10%	\$ 648,554.47
General Fund		\$ 6125,584.47
Fire District		\$ 32,970.00
Highway Fund Checking	0.10%	\$ 701,474.99
<u>Total All Funds</u>		<u>\$ 1,350,029.46</u>

Old Business

A. Bessey Easement

Supervisor DeZalia gave the Board a brief update on the Bessey easement. The utilities have marked the underground line and Surveyor, John Deming, will in the next few weeks (weather pending) to do the survey and mark the Town's northern boundary. He also was unable to provide maps of the survey he had done for the cell tower company to Supervisor DeZalia. It was not authorized by Crown Castle. She noted that the Town acquired the Spencer lot (17.5 acres) in 2010 for a cost of \$30,000.00. Supervisor DeZalia stated "I give you specific numbers so as to put this into some prospective for you"... "that the easement that Town had done previously with Colburn and Fox, the prior owners to that lot, granting them easement to the 17.25 acre lot we gave them at no fee to the Town."

B. Health Insurance

Supervisor DeZalia briefly spoke of the correspondence from Attorney John Silvesti, regarding the resolutions giving and rescinding insurance benefits to three individuals. She signed and submitted the paperwork for HR Consulting and will start meeting with Ronni. She will keep the Board updated on the progress and hopes to have the recommendations by Open Enrollment in December.

C. Broadband

Supervisor DeZalia is continuing to work with a few groups for possible broadband access. She indicated some areas in North Hudson will be submitted into the multi county Federal Grant Application. (Clinton, Essex, Franklin Washington and Warren Counties) The towns impacted the most in Essex County are Essex, Keene, North Hudson and Schroon. The areas being included in the Grant application in North Hudson were Blue Ridge Road, Pepper Hollow Rd. and Ensign Pond Road. If the joint efforts are awarded this fall the providers would need to complete installation within 2 years with SLIC being the provider. She will also be reaching out to Frontier Cellular to see where they are with their progress.

D. Speed Signs

Supervisor DeZalia has spoken with DOT and has the application required for the electronic flashing signs. The Town needs to submit the application before work can begin. The Town will also need to purchase the poles for the signs. She asked the Board to come to a final decision on the speed lights for the northern end of Town as this has been the topic of numerous conversations for a very long time. Supervisor DeZalia asked the Board members if they had read the letter she gave them last month from Tom at Underwood regarding the placement of speed signs. She stressed that he makes some very valid points including increase in traffic with the pending World Games and the increased number of visitors to the area. The speed signs qualify for an appropriate use of the ROOST Funds. Underwood Club would like the Town to help with a solution. Councilman Caza had recommended a study be done at this location by the Sheriff's department. The letter indicates that the Sherriff had place a portable sign placed there with some success. Councilman Caza stated he would be in favor of the Town and the Underwood Club each paying 50% of the cost.

Resolution # 75 of 2021

Resolution to allow expenditure of 50% of the cost of speed signs in the Underwood corridor pending their cost share of 50%.

Motion by Councilman Caza

Roll Call:

Councilman Caza - Aye

Councilman Gero - Aye

Supervisor DeZalia - Aye

Councilman Dobie- Aye

Councilwoman Marsden - Aye

New Business

A. Department Reports

Budget worksheets have been handed out to all departments and are due to be returned by August 30th.

Supervisor-

Supervisor DeZalia informed the Board that the Ambulance contract has been amended by adding the verbiage to allow them to start billing.

Highway Department-

Highway Superintendent Ken Foster supplied the Board with the quote for repairing the '03 EGR Cooler leak for \$ 4,831.34.

Clark Truck Center just fixed the clutch fan in the '03 for \$786.16.

Resolution #76 of 2021

Resolved to have the 03 EGR Cooler leak repaired at a cost not to exceed \$4,831.34.

Moved by Councilman Dobie and seconded by Councilman Caza

Roll Call

Councilman Caza - Aye

Councilman Gero - Aye

Supervisor DeZalia - Aye

Councilman Dobie- Aye

Councilwoman Marsden - Aye

Ken also got a quote on a 2022 HV507 SFA 4x2 that is in stock at Clarks Truck Center of \$ 149,021.71 not including front plow, screen for sander, tarp and lights on the cab. The quote for these items will be sent separately. Ken noted the Town of Schroon has a HX Auto Tandem on order due to arrive in April 2022 that was \$216,000.00 for everything from Clark Trucking. Ken recommending the Town consider a full size tandem for the price difference explaining it can be used to do many more things.

Supervisor asked members of the Highway Committee to meet with Superintendent Foster a few times in next few weeks to help him with the Highway Department budget and make recommendations to the Board for budget time.

The price for repair of the Komatsu Loader by Anderson is going to be \$12,209.91, not including freight. They have begun work and are waiting on some parts.

Resolution # 77 of 2021

Resolved for the Highway Superintendent to contract with Anderson Equipment to repair the Komatsu loader for an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.

Moved by Councilman Dobie and second by Councilman Gero

Roll Call

Councilman Caza - Aye

Councilman Gero - Aye

Supervisor DeZalia - Aye

Councilman Dobie- Aye

Councilwoman Marsden - Aye

Highway Superintendent Foster has asked the Board to advertise again for the HEO position. The list of applicants from last month has been exhausted. The position was offered to a few applicants and they all have declined or pulled their applications. The Board went into executive session at this time for personnel.

Motion to go into executive session for personnel by Supervisor DeZalia at 6:35 pm second by Councilman Dobie.

All in favor Ayes-5

Noes-0

Motion to return from executive session by Supervisor DeZalia at 6:45 second by Councilwoman Marsden.

All in favor Ayes-5

Noes-0

The Board with approval from Superintendent Foster has decided to increase the starting hourly wage from \$16.00 to \$18.00 an hour for the HEO position.

Resolution # 78 of 2021

Resolved to increase the starting salary of HEO to \$18.00 hourly.

Move by Councilman Caza second Councilman Dobie

Roll Call

Councilman Caza - Aye

Councilman Gero - Aye

Supervisor DeZalia - Aye

Councilman Dobie- Aye

Councilwoman Marsden - Aye

The position will be reoffered to the interested applicants and if it is not filled then will be advertised again.

Codes Department-

Supervisor DeZalia indicated to the Board that building permit numbers are up.

The codes/zoning officer, Jon Senecal, has been out of the office due to unforeseen circumstances. Some people have contacted the Town as they have been unsuccessful in attempts to contact Mr. Senecal. Supervisor DeZalia will reach out to him to see how we can help him.

Parks Department-

Emmett Thompson is doing a great job at the Town Beach and the cemeteries. We had some damages from the flooding at the beach that he has corrected. The NYS Dept. of Health had some violations on recent inspection. Ken had the crew mitigate those recommendations. The Town has received the updated beach inspection report and all is good. A rotten maple tree in the picnic area was removed. Jake Parent asked if he could have the wood from this rotten tree, with no objections he was granted it.

B. County Reports

1. Essex County Real Property and the Town assessors will be mailing out Income and Expense Questionnaires to all commercial property owners in Essex County. The assessors are seeking to gather data locally in order to assess all commercial properties uniformly within the county by market value. All data will remain confidential and will only be used for valuation purposes. Supervisor DeZalia has sample questionnaires' available.

2. The County is moving forward and beginning plans for the County owned portion of Frontier Town property. They are in the beginning stages of the plans but are starting

with the initial conceptual plan that the State had proposed in the beginning. The first area of focus will be the Arena, old rodeo area and building of more equestrian and bike trails. Safety measures will be implemented around the dilapidated buildings in the village but it was indicated that nothing was to be torn down at this time. Supervisor DeZalia will be working closely with the County on this project. She stated she would like the Town to show their support of this project. She reminded the Board they were granted the DASNY grant in 2016/2017 of \$50,000 for the purpose of building a horse stall building adding the Town had tried to get it repurposed for the OSI study but it was not approved. She believes that North Hudson is not in an immediate need of a horse stall on Town property adding that Minerva had one built and was told it has never been used. Anna, from Community Recourses, is confident this could be repurposed for the Arena project as it will support equestrian activities. Supervisor put forth the following resolution.

Resolution # 79 of 2021

Resolution allowing the Town Supervisor to sign and turn over the \$50,000 DASNY Grant that was awarded for equestrian stalls to go towards the improvement of the Frontier Town County property and the said project going forward.

Motion by Supervisor DeZalia Second Councilman Gero

Roll Call

Councilman Caza - Aye

Councilman Gero - Aye

Supervisor DeZalia - Aye

Councilman Dobie- Aye

Councilwoman Marsden - Aye

Supervisor DeZalia announced that she would be giving a tour to some Essex County Supervisors the following day at 1:30 day. It would be starting at the A Frame, include the County property, the state campgrounds and ending at the Paradox Brewery. She invited any interested Board members to participate.

Supervisor DeZalia reminded everyone that the Essex County Fair opens on the 18th and will continue until the 22nd.

C. Advertisements-

Various publications and the placing of advertisements were discussed. Supervisor DeZalia reminded the Board members that Roost revenue can be used for these advertisements.

Resolution # 80 of 2021

Resolved for the Supervisor to place an ad in the fall 2021 North Country Living Magazine for the price of \$267.00.

Moved by Councilwoman Marsden Second by Councilman Dobie

Roll Call

Councilman Caza - Aye

Councilman Gero - Aye

Supervisor DeZalia - Aye

Councilman Dobie- Aye

Councilwoman Marsden - Aye

Resolution # 81 of 2021

Resolved to place an ad in the Fall Sport section of the Sun to be run in September 2021 for the amount of \$44.00.

Moved by Councilman Gero Seconded Councilman Dobie

Roll Call

Councilman Caza - Aye

Councilman Gero - Aye

Supervisor DeZalia - Aye

Councilman Dobie- Aye

Councilwoman Marsden - Aye

Resolution # 82 of 2021

Resolved to contract with JMF for the amount of \$1379.00 for an ad in the three (3) publications Adirondack Paddling, Hiking and Fishing to be published late next spring.

Moved by Councilwoman Marsden Second Councilman Gero

Roll Call

Councilman Caza - Aye

Councilman Gero - Aye

Supervisor DeZalia - Aye

Councilman Dobie- Aye

Councilwoman Marsden - Aye

Supervisor DeZalia requested the date of the September meeting be changed due to schedule conflicts.

Resolution # 83 of 2021

Resolved to change the date of the September Regular Board meeting from Tuesday September 21st to Tuesday September 28th.

Moved by Councilman Caza Second Councilwoman Marsden

Roll Call

Councilman Caza - Aye

Councilman Gero - Aye

Supervisor DeZalia - Aye

Councilman Dobie- Aye

Councilwoman Marsden - Aye

7. General and Highway Abstracts

Motion to approve the General and Highway Abstracts by Councilman Dobie

Second Councilman Gero

All in favor

Ayes-5

Noes-0

8. Audit of Judges Financial Report

Motion to approve the Audit of the Judges Financial report

Moved by Councilman Gero and second by Councilman Dobie

All in favor

Ayes-5

Noes-0

9.Priviledge of the Floor

Supervisor DeZalia asked anyone wishing privilege of the floor keep it to 5 minutes each.

Jake Parent thanked the Board for the wood from the maple tree.

Tracee Parent asked when the Town it was going to do something about the water from the Dump Road running onto her property. Supervisor DeZalia addressed this question

stating it will be done when the backhoe is rented. She will also reach out to DOT to see if a culvert is needed.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:10pm by Councilman Gero Second Councilman Dobie

All in favor

Ayes-5

Noes-0

Respectfully submitted

Martha M. King

Town Clerk