

December 11, 2017 the regular Town Board meeting and Public Hearing for Town Law #2-2017 was held in the town hall beginning at 7:00 p.m. and all board members were in attendance. Sup. Gang led the pledge to the flag. A motion was made to accept the previous month's minutes by Coun. Greenough and was seconded by Coun. Wilbur and all were in favor. A motion to pay the audited bills was made by Coun. Raymond and was seconded by Coun. Barber and all were in favor.

**Public Hearing:** Town Law #2-2017 titled **A Local Law Providing For the Real Property Tax Exemption For Cold War Veterans Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law 458-B** was introduced. The town assessor has been deducting a percentage right along and it was supposed to last for 10 years but there was never a town law supporting the deduction. It now will become indefinite and permanent and the town needs to adopt a town law for the exemption. Town Law #2-2017 has been put forth by Coun. Wilbur and seconded by Coun. Greenough and all were in favor. A copy of the law will be made available for Laura Chadwick and June Maniacek and also filed with the Secretary of State by the Town Clerk.

William Brown, a biological researcher, attended the meeting to address the board about educating the public about rattlesnake awareness. He has been involved in rescuing endangered timber rattlesnakes over 30 years. The snakes are venomous but are considered non aggressive and there is no reason to cause harm to them A list of contact numbers have been given to the board in case of a sighting. The folks listed are willing to cooperate with local towns to come and remove the snakes and return them to their dens.

**Old Business:** The financials were given to the board and are on file in the town clerks office.

**New Business:** George Ferguson will be leaving the area for his winter home as of December 31, 2017. Dr. Mack will no longer be harboring "at large" dogs and we still don't have any place to surrender them to. Mr. Ferguson will assist the town by writing out a job description and all the credentials necessary to become an animal/dog control officer to replace him. Mr. Hobus brought up during Old Business about his intent to purchase an AT&T cell phone so that he can be reached while clearing the snow covered roads for the winter. He is proposing that the town cover 4 months of the billing and a resolution will be written for the close-out meeting.

**Highway Superintendent's Report:** Since the last meeting the crew has finished hauling in the winter sand. We have hauled 1250 yards to backfill the stock pile from Pat Armstrong's pit in Ticonderoga. The crew also finished this past week working on the wood pile and over the weekend the wood boiler was fired up for this winter season. Mr. Hobus and Jim Brown finished hauling in the sediment catch basins from Utopia Inc. in Harford. These basins are part of a grant from Washington County Soil and Water that we got from working with Corrina Aldridge, the director of WC Soil and Water. This grant is worth approximately \$15,000 and all we have to do is install them. In fact 2 have already been installed, one is on North Road and one is on Pike Brook Road. The rest of them will be installed this coming Spring. Most of the efforts from the crew have been spent getting the equipment ready for the winter season. Six new tires will be placed onto the Cat Grader this month. New lights have been purchased for the highway barn and will be put up. The bathroom project has begun and a new hot water heater was installed. The new bathroom will have new plumbing and wiring as well as new fixtures and a new concrete and tile floor. And finally the crew brought scrap steel to M&B in Granville and \$190 was given to Supervisor Gang.

After Thanksgiving a call came in from the Union and a message was left on the town answering machine. Sup. Gang returned a call back to the union representative but was only able to leave a phone message, therefore there is nothing new to report. The meeting was adjourned until 6:30 p.m. on December 29, 2017 for the close out meeting.

December 29, 2017 the board met for a close out meeting and to audit and pay the final remaining bills for the year. Councilman Raymond was absent. Sup. Gang called the meeting to order and led the pledge to the flag. A motion to pay the audited bills was made by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Greenough and all were in favor.

**Old Business:** The Financials were handed to the board with only a few outstanding bills remaining. As of the meeting all the monies on hand were reported for each account. A complete 2017 cash balance will

be available at the next meeting. Sup. Gang reported that the Transmission Developer will be running power through town hopefully beginning by 2019. A portion of the tax money will be given to the town in around \$120,000 so that should help offset the tax burden on the town residents.

**Resolutions:**

**Resolution #29-2017** titled **Budget Amendment, General** to move monies around to cover expenses. It was put forth by Coun. Greenough and was seconded by Coun. Wilbur and all were in favor.

**Resolution #30-2017** titled **Budget Amendment, Highway** to move monies around to cover expenses. It was put forth by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Greenough and all were in favor.

**Resolution #31-2017** titled **Budget Amendment, Sewer** to move monies around to cover expenses. It was put forth by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Greenough and all were in favor.

**Resolution #32-2017** titled **Cell Phone Needs for Highway Superintendent** authorizing to pay the cell phone bill for Mr. Hobus at \$35/month. It was put forth by Coun. Greenough and was seconded by Coun. Barber and all were in favor.

**Resolution #33-2017** titled **Health Insurance for Full Time Non-Union Employees** whereas the town has traditionally offered assess to the Highway Superintendent and the Town Clerk and has been handled along with the union members through the Teamsters Health and Hospital Fund, be it resolved the Town continue to offer the choice to join the health insurance plan with the option to opt out and accept a buy out from the Town to be determined by the town at the time of the offer. For those employees who chose to participate in the health care plan will pay a share of the cost equal in percentage that is paid by the union employees and the town shall pay the difference of such coverage for those of the above employees that opt in to the town insurance plan. This will take effect as of January 1, 2018 or at the signing of the new 2018 union contract. It was put forth by Coun. Greenough and was seconded by Sup. Gang. A roll call was taken: Councilman Greenough-AYE; Councilman Barber-AYE; Councilman Wilbur-Abstain; Supervisor Gang-AYE; Councilman Rayomd-Absent.

**Highway Superintendent's Report:** Since the last meeting there have been 7 snow/ice events. A resident called in a complaint to the Washington County Sheriff about property damage done by the town plow to their driveway. The crew has installed 6 of the LED lights in the town garage. There were multiple repairs for the month as well as 3 small trucks are not running. TD-9 is gelled up and an antifreeze leak, TD-24 is having injector problems, and TD-14 is at Hometown Cheverolet. As for the AUD's being done by an outside accountant, Mr. Losaw is still working on 2013 and has taken time off from completing them. Newly elected Supervisor Paul Ferguson will need to contact him to either complete the 2013 audit or surrender all the paperwork to get someone else to do them. Finally, Sup. Gang gave his final thoughts about the last 4 years he has been acting as the Town Supervisor from his early month's until the last few days. It has been such a pleasure to work with him and he will be greatly missed but the board is hopeful for the continued efforts to the efficient operation of the day to day business of the town. There were no further discussions and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted Marcinda Wilbur, Town Clerk.