

**December 9, 2019** the regular Town Board Meeting was held in the town hall beginning at 7:00 p.m. with Highway Superintendent Hobus absent. Sup. Ferguson led the pledge to the flag. A motion to accept the previous month's minutes was made by Coun. Greenough and was seconded by Coun. Greenough and all were in favor. A motion to pay the audited bills was made by Coun. Raymond and was seconded by Coun. Wilbur and all were in favor.

**Old Business:** The celebration for the 12/8/19 postmark stamp was successful and an amount of \$700 has been collected so far. Jim McMaster was really happy to help with the cause and is willing to help with any further efforts for the Veteran's wall. Packets of postcards available to be stamped are still able to be purchased as 1 packet for \$20 or 3 packets for \$50. The amount raised is in connection with Friends of Hulett's Landing and will be split 50/50 with proceeds being donated for the additional names to be put on the wall but Mr. McMaster would be willing to donate all proceeds for the cause if necessary. He would like to meet with Pat Greenough and Chet Foster to find out how the process works getting the names on the wall.

There seems to be a snag with SLIC and the installation for high speed internet with the Dresden Railroad. It was to begin to be around February but has been placed on hold until the snag can be resolved with the railroad. A map of coverage is available on SLIC's website and only certain parcels will have it offered to them and once it has been established where that coverage will be then Spectrum may come through and pick up the remaining parcels but nothing has been determined at this time. Sup. Ferguson has been unsuccessful in getting ahold of Phoenix Laboratories for the land fill closure testing so he will seek the assistance of Sen. Little. The holiday party held of the children of Dresden had a moderate turnout with 35-40 children attending and all had a good time.

**New Business:** The financials were given to the board and are on file in the town clerk's office. The 2013 AUD has been completed and is on file in the town clerk's office in its entirety. The 2014 is going smoothly thanks in part to the organization of former Supervisor Gang's paperwork and Sup. Ferguson thanked him for his efforts. Sup. Ferguson requested that our thoughts and prayers be extended to the family of Robert Banks for his recent passing. Sealed bids that were received for a new truck chassis were opened during the previous month's meeting. A quote was received from Hometown Chevrolet and Autosaver Ford. The quote for the Chevrolet was the lowest; however, the cost to alter the chassis to accommodate the dump box and all equipment would significantly raise the cost. The box is coming off a Ford chassis so it can easily be placed on a Ford chassis. A motion to accept the bid from Autosaver Ford was made by Coun. Greenough and was seconded by Coun. Wilbur and all were in favor to purchase the Ford.

**County Business:** The Re-val grant that was established earlier this year is on hold currently for unknown reasons and will most likely take place during the next year.

**Highway Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Hobus was not in attendance during tonight's meeting due to illness. There is a meeting scheduled with a representative from NYMER to be held the next morning to go over town policies.

**Public Comment:** Erin Perkins asked Sup. Ferguson about a \$90,000 shortfall on the financials as reported. His reply was that there was still year end monies expected in the next few weeks. She also asked him about when to expect the remaining AUD's will be completed and Sup. Ferguson replied that they will be done by the end of 2020. Sue Ives took an opportunity to thank Linda Barber for her effort in planning the Holiday Party and the assistance of all those who volunteered their time. The same thanks were also extended to Sue by Linda. Anda Stipins-Gang sent a certified letter to the board requesting to be added to the agenda for tonight's meeting. She didn't receive a response and therefore not

placed on the agenda. She took the opportunity to address the board about the underutilized Town Clerk. She is the Record Management Officer for the town and needs to have access to the records in the event that the Supervisor is not in the office to conduct town business. She also recommended that the clerk take advantage of the training that is made available through the Office of the State Comptroller for the audit process and other functions of her duties as Town Clerk. She made this recommendation to the board as an internal check to the state standards of the law. Mark Ives commended Sup. Ferguson for completing the 2013 AUD and then addressed the board about allowing the Clerk to have access to town records and that we should have the town attorney present to answer any questions in this regard. Ed Raymond responded that the Town Clerk has access if necessary and then asked her if she has ever been denied a record. Town Clerk, Marcinda Wilbur replied that she has been denied access to complete a formal Freedom of Information Law request. When she asked Supervisor Ferguson for the record to comply he denied her the document to complete the FOIL. Mr. Raymond also suggested having the town attorney present at a future meeting to be able to answer any questions and would like to see the board solve any issues as a team. A motion was made to recess the meeting until December 30 at 7:00p.m. for the yearend closeout.

**Attendance:** Walt Tupper, Clayton Ryder, Breanne Ryder, Erin Perkins, Gary Scott, Anda Stipins-Gang, George Gang, Mark Ives, Susan Ives, Linda Barber, Paul Diekel, Christine Diekel

**December 30, 2019** the Dresden Town Board gathered for a close-out meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. with Coun. Greenough and Highway Superintendent Hobus absent. Sup. Ferguson led the pledge to the flag. A motion to pay the audited bills was made by Coun. Raymond and was seconded by Coun. Barber and all were in favor. The regular Town Board Meeting will be held in January 13, 2020 as will be the 2020 Organizational Meeting. Financials were given to the board and are on file in the Clerk's office.

A resolution was introduced and put forth by Supervisor Ferguson during the meeting for a Bond Anticipation Note to purchase a 2020 International Truck.

**Resolution #22-2019** titled **Bond Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$196,874 Aggregate Principal Amount of Serial Bonds for the Cost of a Purchase of a 2020 International Truck** was seconded by Councilman Wilbur whereas the board voted as follows: Councilman Barber-AYE; Councilman Wilbur-AYE; Councilman Raymond-AYE and Councilman Greenough was absent.

Upon no further business a request came from the Town Clerk, Marcinda Wilbur to address the board. It was brought to the board's attention that an article recently published in the Whitehall Times where the Supervisor responded a disparaging remark about the integrity of her character. She defended her position as the Town Clerk that she has held for the past 12 years that a level of professionalism has been extended throughout and that a statement made to cause a question of her character could have detrimental consequences to her position as well as in her personal life considering the amount of trust necessary to carry out her duties. The statement was made to the Times in response to a comment made by Ms. Stipins-Gang to allow the Clerk access to town records and that because of the friendship between the Gangs and the clerk, Sup. Ferguson stated that he actually doesn't trust the Town Clerk. She continued that if the Supervisor had a problem with her that instead of making a comment in the paper for family, friends, and neighbors to read that he should have come and talked to her instead and then requested an apology. Supervisor Ferguson apologized for not discussing his concerns with her

and asked the Whitehall Times reporter who was in attendance for the meeting that he could put that in the paper. She concluded that it is her opinion that the town board begin afresh with respect to the duties of the individual assignments to continue to provide a congruent and transparent local government.

There were no further discussions and a motion to adjourn was made by Coun. Wilbur and was seconded by Coun. Barber and all were in favor. Respectfully submitted, Marcinda Wilbur, Dresden Town Clerk

**Close-out Attendance:** Mary Malo, Robert Cucinello, Walt Tupper, Matt Saari-Whitehall Times