

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 18, 2017

At the Regular Meeting held on Monday, December 18, 2017 at the Hopkinton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Supervisor Wood, Councilpersons Lyon, Parker, Sochia, Crump.

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent of Highways Steve Green, Clerk French, Allen Fukes Assessor, Annette Green, Deborah Rust, Scott McDonald, Dan Murdie, Luke Martin, Amber Lindsey, Gary Snell Sr., Douglas Witherell, Jeff Snell, Robert Blum, Sandy Maine, Kelly Pullano, Steve Bory, Richard Eakins, Kathy McKay, Scott Hilyard, Taylor Hilyard, Janice Pease, Ronald Morrill.

Supervisor Wood called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Lyon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crump to accept minutes of Regular Meeting held on November 20, 2017 and as presented. Adopted unanimously.

Mr. Sochia made a motion, seconded by Mr. Parker to accept Supervisors Monthly Financial Report for November 2017 as presented. Adopted unanimously

Voucher Nos. 303 to 321 General Fund Abstract 12 in the amount of \$7551.36 were audited and approved by the Board.

Voucher Nos. 137 to 148 Highway Fund Abstract 12 in the amount of \$23,775.55 were audited and approved by the Board.

Voucher No. 25 to 26 BHLS Fund Abstract 12 in the amount of \$472.98 were audited and approved by the Board.

Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lyon to pay the bills. Adopted unanimously.

Mr. Parker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sochia to make the following Transfers in the General Fund:

From A1990.4 Contingent Acct. to A1420.4 Attorney Contractual \$217.00

From A1990.4 Contingent Acct. to A1355.4 Assessor Contractual \$111.00.

Adopted unanimously.

**Privilege of the Floor:**

Kelly Pullano: presented the Board with a map showing a visual of property North and South of 72. She stated that there is a difference in the property, south of 72 has much more forest land.

Janice Pease: commented that putting wind turbines south of 72 would change the habitat. She also asked the Board to appoint her to the Wind Advisory Board, she feels it needs balance.

Sandy Maine: asked to be put on the Wind Advisory Board she has great interest in the wind project, she is a business women and great research skills.

Jeff Snell: stated Mr. Parker said that there would be no difference in fighting a fire on a 500 foot wind turbine vs any other fire. Mr. Parker responded to the comment stating that was a misrepresentation of what he said. He stated that a camp or a wind turbine would both be remote locations they still have to get to both. He stated that it would be easier to get to a wind turbine due to the fact they all have roads that are accessible vs a camp in the woods that might only be accessible by a four wheeler.

Ron Morrill: stated that the Board needs to look at all avenues of a wind farm. It creates jobs, clean energy. He is an electrician and has worked at the Chateaugay Wind Farm. He also knows several persons that live in the Chateaugay area and none of them that he has spoken with have any complaints. He feels the Board needs to keep an open mind. He also understands some of the concerns that people have. Labor Unions are pro wind and pro solar and the creation of jobs.

**Correspondence:**

BHLS: minutes of November 7, 2017 were presented.

**Old Business:**

Request for Proposals for the Proposed Wind Project: Supv. Wood reported that the Superintendent of Schools, Towns and County and School Board attorneys are composing a letter to send to the company to hire for appraisal services. A letter is also being written to Avangrid asking for them to share the cost of this appraisal in the amount of \$30,00.00. It was questioned if this attorney representing Mr. Sansoucy has worked with Avangrid in the past. Supv. Wood stated she would have the attorney check on this.

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Electrical Work at Library: Mr. Crump reported that Mr. Black has completed the electrical work, support beam and a heat run at the Library in the amount of \$900.00. He also repaired the water leak in the bathroom. There was a cracked turn off valve on the toilet. He replaced the line and insulated pipe and installed shut off valves going to the Library and Museum in the amount of \$ 170.00.

Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lyon to approve payment to Mr. Black in the amount of \$1,070.00. Adopted unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

Supervisors Report: Supv. Wood reported that she did not have anything to report this month.

Code Enforcement: Mr. McGill submitted a written report. Supervisor Wood read it aloud.

Assessor: Mr. Fukes presented a written report. The report was read aloud.

Highway: Mr. Green presented a written report. Mr. Green emailed Board Members and the Supervisor on December 8 to report that the 2006 Ford plow truck was in for repairs at Frenchie's. It was determined that the engine had blown up. A remanufactured engine is \$15,000.00 plus \$3,000.00 to put it in (estimate) plus labor we owe them for taking apart the truck. The truck is only worth \$8,000.00 and he put \$5,00.00 in repairs on it this past spring. A new cab & chassis will run between \$35,000 & \$40,000.

Mr. Green reported to the Board that he had found a 2017 Ford F-450 Cab and Chassis in the Albany area for \$38,839.00. We would have to finance \$39,384.00, which includes the underwriting fee. The lease/purchase would be for five years with Ford Motor Credit at a rate of 6.45%.

Mr. Crump introduced the following Resolution with a second by Mr. Sochia;

BE IT RESOLVED, that at a Regular Meeting of the Hopkinton town Board, St. Lawrence County, on December 18, 2017 the Town Board unanimously agreed to purchase a 2017 Ford F-450 Cab and Chassis from Marchese Ford in the amount of \$39,384.00, per municipal pricing and;

WHEREAS, the financing of this purchase will be through the Ford Credit Lease/Purchase Program.

VOTE: Supv. Wood Aye, Councilman Parker Aye, Crump Aye, Lyon Aye, Sochia Aye.

Museum: Mr. Crump reported that they will be having one more meeting then he will be shutting it down for the winter.

Highway & Safety: Mr. Green presented a written report. The report was read aloud.

Town Facilities: Ms. Lyon reported that there were 62 children at the Historical Group Christmas Party. There was also a Red Cross Blood drive held and it was a success.

Rescue: Mr. Parker reported that there were 60 calls and 7 were in the Town of Hopkinton.

BHLS: Mr. Sochia reported on the maintenance they have been doing and will be doing at the Health Center.

**New Business:**

End of Year Meeting: Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lyon to hold the End of Year Meeting on December 29, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building. Adopted unanimously.

Tri-Town Rescue 2018 Contract: Mr. Parker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lyon to approve the 2018 Tri-Town Rescue Contract in the amount of \$12,460.00.

VOTE: Supervisor Wood Aye, Councilmen Parker Aye, Lyon Aye, Sochia Aye, Crump Abstained.

Quad Town Seniors 2018 Contract: Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sochia to approve the Quad Town Senior Contract for 2018 in the amount of \$750.00. Adopted unanimously.

Potsdam Humane Society 2018 Contract: Mr. Parker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crump to approve the Potsdam Humane Society Contract for 2018 in the amount of \$1,800.00. Adopted unanimously.

Resolution regarding Connector Trail: Supv. Wood told the Board that she had been contacted by Deb Christy in regards to a supporting resolution on this matter:

Mr. Crump introduced the following resolution, with a second by Mr. Parker:

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**REQUESTING A COMMUNITY CONNECTOR EAST OF CARRY FALLS RESERVOIR IN THE DRAFT FIVE MILE AND KILDARE EASEMENT, AND AMENDMENT TO THE RAQUETTE BOREAL UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) has released a Draft Amendment to the Kildare and Five Mile Recreation Management Plans, and is accepting public comments, and

**WHEREAS**, the amendment proposes to develop a connector road between the Five Mile and Kildare Easements, but does not address recreational opportunities as outlined in the Raquette Boreal Unit Management Plan (UMP) pertaining to a snowmobile connector on the east side of Carry Falls Reservoir, and

**WHEREAS**, a Study Committee was formed in 2012 requesting the development of a Snowmobile Community Connector Trail per Option 2 of the Raquette Boreal UMP between Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties on the east side of Carry Reservoir, and the NYS DEC was included in this important dialogue, and

**WHEREAS**, the draft amendment to the easements does not currently include plans for a snowmobile route which was requested, and is vital to the snowmobile trail systems in the counties of St. Lawrence and Franklin, and

**WHEREAS**, the Raquette Boreal UMP acknowledged the importance of a snowmobile route on the east side of Carry Falls Reservoir, and listed alternative routes, but took a "no action" approach, and

**WHEREAS**, eleven years have lapsed since the completion of the Raquette Boreal UMP and there is no snowmobile community connector trail on the east side of Carry Falls Reservoir connecting the counties of Franklin and St. Lawrence and the communities of Tupper Lake, Colton, Parishville and points north which provides a connection to Santa Clara and points east, though requests have been submitted for development of a route to accomplish this, and

**WHEREAS**, Page 17, Section 4.4-B-ii Specific Plan Guidelines for Snowmobiles and Page 27, Section 4.8-2 New Road, Trails, Parking Lots of the Five Mile Conservation Easement articulate language that provides the NYS DEC with the ability to develop a snowmobile corridor between the Five Mile Conservation Easement and the Lassiter Conservation Easement, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Hopkinton, NY believes such a trail would reap economic benefit and enhance regional tourism for businesses in St. Lawrence County,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Hopkinton requests a Community Connector East of Carry Falls Reservoir in the Draft Five Mile and Kildare Easement, and an Amendment to the Raquette Boreal Unit Management Plan

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Hopkinton supports the road as proposed in the amendment as it would provide improved access for a multitude of recreational purposes, and requests implementation of Option 2 pertaining to the snowmobile trail as outlined in the Raquette Boreal UMP be included in the above draft amendment, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator Patricia Ritchie, Senator Joseph Griffo, and Senator Elizabeth O'C Little, Assemblywoman Addie Jenne, Assemblyman Kenneth Blankenbush, Assemblyman Mark Butler, Assemblyman D. Billy Jones, NYS DEC Commissioner and Region Directors 5 and 6, Director of the Adirondack Park Agency, Director of the NYS Snowmobile Association, and the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages.

VOTE: Supv. Wood Aye, Parker Aye, Crump Aye, Lyon Aye, Sochia Aye.

Resolution regarding Lake Placid Tupper Lake Rail: Supv. Wood reported to the Board that this is also a supporting resolution that Ms. Christy is asking the Board to support.

Mr. Parker introduced the following resolution, with a second by Ms. Lyon:

**SUPPORTING THE LAKE PLACID TO TUPPER LAKE RAIL CORRIDOR AS A NEW YORK STATE RECREATION CORRIDOR**

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WHEREAS, the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor is a railroad right-of way approximately 119 miles long and generally 100 feet wide purchased by New York State in 1974, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Department of Transportation (DOT) completed a Unit Management Plan (UMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Remsen to Lake Placid Travel Corridor in 1996, and

WHEREAS, in 2016 an amendment to the 1996 UMP proposed an Alternative 7, which calls for dividing the Corridor into rail and trails segments in which the rails would be retained within the Corridor from Remsen to Tupper Lake (Segment 1) and the rails would be removed within the Corridor from Tupper Lake to Lake Placid (Segment 2), and

WHEREAS, in Segment 1, tracks would be improved from Big Moose to Tupper Lake, operating rail service would be extended 45 miles from the Big Moose Station to the Tupper Lake Station, connections to existing trail systems on neighboring public lands would be established and facilities such as engine houses

and fueling facilities would continue to be supported where necessary, and Segment 2 would be converted to a multi-use recreational trail with snowmobiling being allowed along the entire length of the Corridor, both within Segment I and Segment 2, and

WHEREAS, an important aspect of the Corridor is recreational opportunities, such as snowmobiling, bicycling, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing which can be accessed seasonally bringing economic development, tourism, and health benefits to areas north of Tupper Lake, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Hopkinton urges New York State to take the necessary steps to expedite the appropriate procedural actions to allow continued construction of the corridor including the appeal of the rail corridor decision,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Hopkinton supports the Lake Placid to Tupper Lake Rail Corridor as a New York State Recreation Corridor, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo; Senator Patricia Ritchie; Senator Joseph Griffo; Senator Elizabeth O'C Little; Assemblywoman Addie Jenne; Assemblyman Kenneth Blankenbush; Assemblyman Mark Butler; Assemblyman D. Billy Jones; St. Lawrence County Recreation and Trails Board; New York State DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos, and New York State DOT Acting Commissioner Cathy Calhoun and Region 6 Regional Director Brian Kelly; and Adirondack Park Agency Chair Sherman Craig.

VOTE: Supv. Wood Aye, Councilmen Parker Aye, Crump Aye, Lyon Aye, Sochia Aye.

On call Maintenance for Buildings: Mr. Crump reported that he had talked with Duane Black about being our on call contact for issues that we may have with the buildings in emergency situations. He would be able to take care of electrical, mechanical, sewer, and water problems and any other issue that should arise.

The Board discussed this further and asked Mr. Crump to check with him on what his rates would be. The Board tabled making a decision on this matter until we have some rate prices.

Kelly Pullano: addressed Supv. Wood in regards to her meeting with representatives from Avangrid in her office. Supv. Wood responded that it was during her public office hours and lots of people stop in to talk with her. Mrs, Pullano told her that she should have councilmen present and be taking notes or recording all conversations she has with them. Supv. Wood responded that she had done nothing wrong it was not a meeting.

Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sochia to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vickie French, RMC