

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 13, 2017

At the Regular Meeting held on Monday, February 13, 2017 at the Hopkinton Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk French, Assessor & Code Officer Allen Fukes, Deb Rust, Kelly Charleson, Lorena Charleson, Christina Snell, Jessie Bonno, Harold Phippen, Dan Murdie, Scott McDonald, Kelly Pullano, Larry Drake, Michael Walter, Bob Emmett, Amber Lindsey, Laura Murphy, Fred Nicholas, Beth Rosenbarker, D. Rice, Leslie Hickman, Brenda Butterfield, Duane Butterfield, Richard Eakins, Janice Pease, Joe Pease, Luke Martin, Rachel Martin, Lori Witherell, Luke Dailey.

ABSENT: Councilman Sochia and Highway Supt Steven Green.

Supv. Wood called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Privilege of the Floor: Supv. Wood addressed the audience by stating that she would like to apologize for the Wind Advisory Board meeting not being advertised it was an oversight and they were not trying to hide anything. The Concerned Citizens Group spoke to the Board in regards to what they feel will be decreased real estate values, health issues, exemptions vs. Pilots if a wind farm is located within the town. They also presented the Board with several handouts on the negatives of a wind farm.

Mr. Fukes reported what he had found out when he contacted some of the other counties in towns in regards to Pilots or tax assessments. He stated that if the town does not go with a PILOT they can file for exemptions through the IDA.

Luke Martin told the Board that he would like to be a service to the town and he would like some direction for the Town Board. He would like to talk personally with them or the Supervisor.

Amber Lindsey asked how it was decided who would be on the Wind Advisory Board. Supv. Wood explained the process to her.

They asked when the proposed revised wind law would be available for review. Supv. Wood stated that it has not gone to the County Planning office or the Town Attorney as of yet for review. When it is received back from the Town Attorney the Board will review it and then it will be made public.

Richard Eakins stated that he is a lease holder with Iberdrola and that many years ago when this first came about he met with the previous Supervisor and at that time it was felt that this was a good project for the town. He stated that if he leased 40 acres for a solar farm the town would receive no revenue.

Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lyon to accept minutes of Public Hearings on Proposed LL A & B, Organizational Meeting, and Regular Meeting held on January 09, 2017 as presented. Adopted unanimously.

Mr. Parker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lyon to accept Supervisors Financial Report for December 2016 as presented. Adopted unanimously.

Supv. Wood reported that the January 2017 report is not available. There were some issues with the computer program when closing the end of the year and starting the new year. It will be available next month.

Voucher Nos. 18 to 47 General Fund Abstract 2 in the amount of \$9,258.33 were audited and approved by the Board.

Voucher Nos. 6 to 20 Highway Fund Abstract 2 in the amount of \$47,866.10 were audited and approved by the Board.

Voucher Nos. 2 to 3 BHLS Health Center Fund Abstract 2 in the amount of \$480.47 were audited and approved by the Board.

Voucher Nos. 1 to 2 Building Account Abstract 2 in the amount of \$14,000.00 were audited and approved by the Board.

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

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Correspondence:

St. Lawrence Central High School: parents of the senior class asking the town to make a donation for the all night graduation party.

The Board discussed this and felt that it would not be proper for the Town to make a donation.

NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets: assessing surcharges on the licensing fee of dog licenses. The town currently assesses \$1.00 on altered dogs and \$3.00 for unaltered dogs. Those fees are passed on to the Department of Agriculture and Markets monthly.

Pat Walzer: regarding the proposed wind farm.

Association of Towns: regarding the Governor's plan to require counties to develop new, voter-approved efficiency plans. The Governor is attempting to make AIM funding contingent upon the Legislature's approval of the aforementioned proposed efficiency mandate. They are asking the Board to contact their state representatives and ask them oppose this proposal.

Old Business:

Quote on wiring at Museum: Mr. Crump stated that he did not have a quote as of yet.

Audit of Annual Reports: The Town Board audited and signed the Annual Reports, and bank statements for the Town Justice, Town Clerk and Tax Collection.

Committee Reports:

Supervisors Report: Supv. Wood reported that she had received a letter requesting permission to enter property owned by the town to do a boundary survey. The property is the Catherinsville Cemetery. The Board discussed this and Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Mr. Parker to allow them to enter the Cemetery for determining boundaries for surveying purposes.

She also reported that during the process of adopting a Local Law on Wind Energy Facilities in 2011 did not include the wind overlay zone map, therefore we do not currently have a wind overlay zone and it will have to go to the Wind Advisory Board to include in the revised Local Law being worked on.

The County has a committee to prepare for the wind project.

Supv. Wood reported that the revised wind law has been reviewed by the County and went to the Town Attorney. Mr. Linden referred it to Mr. Melewski and he has found some issues with the wind revisions.

She received the first sales tax check for 2017. It is down \$3992.00 from last year.

She went over the results of the wind survey that was mailed out.

There was 263 responses, 29% response rate. Persons supporting were 95, Opposed 129, Neutral 39. She read they survey results aloud.

She also reported that Allen Fukes, Code Officer is going to retire the end of March. She has two persons that are interested in the position and will interview them.

Code Enforcement: Mr. Fukes presented a written report. He reported that Dollar General has filed a permit along with engineered prints.

Assessor: Mr. Fukes presented a written report. He reported that we received a check for 480A program from Woodwise Forestland. Town share was \$505.06, County \$745.64 and School \$1,278.22. Our equalization rate is at 102%.

Library: Mr. Keller fixed the exterior light. The front door at the Library needs to be replaced and they have a volunteer that will put it in if town purchases it. The trustee group had a meeting. They distributed a survey at the Food Pantry. They would like to thank the Board for the new ramp. The patrons really appreciate it.

Museum: Mr. Crump reported that the old water heater at the museum is not working and has been

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disconnected.

The Board agreed to purchase a 12 gallon heater. Mr. Black will install it for us while working on the foundation and doing some other wiring.

Highway & Safety: Mr. Green presented a written report. He picked up truck 5 from Frenchies in Massena. They had to replace both hi and low volume oil pumps and the fuel control valve.

Fire and Rescue: Mr. Parker reported on the calls. They had one MVA. They had 20 participants for the Fishing Derby. Tri-Town Rescue had 61 calls. Eight were in Hopkinton.

Town Facilities: Susan Lyon reported that there has not been much activity at the Town Hall for January.

BHLS: Copies of the monthly minutes were presented.

Groundskeeper: Snow removal, cleaned the filters for the water fill up to the rest rooms at the Town Hall. Unplugged the toilet in the ladies room.

New Business:

Agreement to Spend Town Highway Funds: Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Mr. Parker to approve the Agreement to Spend Town Highway Funds with the County as presented. Adopted unanimously.

Holding Harmless Agreement with the County: Mr. Parker introduced the following resolution with a second by Ms Lyon:

WHEREAS, the Town of Hopkinton is desirous of St. Lawrence County Department of Highways providing shared services such as paving, shoulder widening, signage, road stripping, blasting and other routine maintenance activities to the Town, and

WHEREAS, both the Town of Hopkinton and the County of St. Lawrence are desirous of promoting partnering efforts for the safety of the traveling public in St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, in this joint cooperative endeavor, the Town of Hopkinton and the County of St. Lawrence desires to be reimbursed for their expenditures, and

WHEREAS, the Town is aware that the County may incur liability in the providing of the services and wishes to indemnify the County in this regard,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that to the fullest extent permitted by law, the Town of Hopkinton will indemnify and hold harmless the County, their officers, directors, partners, representatives, agents and employees from and against any and all claims, suits, liens, judgments, damages, losses and expenses, including legal fees and all court costs and liability (including statutory liability) arising in whole or in part and in any manner from injury and/or death of person or damage to or loss of any property relating to or arising out of any negligent or intentional acts and/or omissions of the Town of Hopkinton or any of its directors, officers, employees, contractors, representatives, or agents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following request for General Liability (GL) coverage is as follows:

General Liability Insurance

On an "Occurrence" basis, with the following limits:

\$1,000,000 Each Occurrence

\$3,000,000 General Aggregate

\$1,000,000 Products Aggregate

\$1,000,000 Personal Injury

\$ 50,000 Fire Damage Legal Liability

\$ 5,000 Medical Payment Expense

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that St. Lawrence County shall be an additional insured on the GL Policy, via ISO endorsement CG 2026.

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

Shared Service Agreement with Hopkinton Fire District: This was tabled until March.

Resignation Wind Advisory Board: Frank Barney submitted a letter of resignation for the Wind Advisory Board effective January 20, 2017.

Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Ms Lyon to accept with regret Mr. Barney's resignation. Adopted unanimously.

Supv. Wood stated that we will have to look for someone to fill his position. John Niles is an alternate. The Board discussed appointing him and tabled the appointment at this time due to the fact that they were concerned if he could be open minded.

Battery back-up: Supv. Wood reported to the Board that All-Tech has recommended that we install a backup in case of power outages. This will also protect equipment from power surges.

Clerk French reported that there was one at Quill for \$198.00 and Amazon \$249.00. Mr. Parker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crump to purchase the battery backup from Quill for \$198.00.

Bulletin Board: Clerk French asked the Board to approve the purchase of a bulletin board for the side entrance. There is currently no place for the public to hand posters of upcoming events.

Mr. Parker made a motion, seconded by Ms Lyon to purchase a bulletin board for the side entrance. Adopted unanimously.

2017 Agreement with St. Regis Falls Adult Center: Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Ms Lyon to approve the agreement with the St. Regis Falls Adult Center for 2017 in the amount of \$750.00. Adopted unanimously.

Historian: Clerk French reported to the Board that she emailed Mary Converse in regards to her reappointment as Town Historian on January 11, 2017. As of February 13, 2017 she has not been in to take her Oath of Office, therefore there is a vacancy. Supv. Wood will contact her to see if she is still interested in the position.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vickie French

RMC