

REGULAR MEETING
August 13, 2008

46 CO RT 11 TOWN HALL
WEST MONROE, NY

Present: Supervisor Gary Ross; Board members Kelley Davis, Michael Hickey and Debra Macdougall
Town Clerk, Christine Shaw, Deputy Town Clerk Louise Herbert
Superintendent of Highways Randall Shaw
Code Enforcement Officer Michael Yerdon
Justice John DeMong
Oswego County Legislator Arthur Gearsbeck
Paul Baxter, Tug Hill Commission
11 people in the audience

Absent: Tim McCarthy

Supervisor Ross called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and everyone pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Mr. Ross then moved to approve the minutes of the July town board regular meeting held 7-9-08 and the special meeting and work shop held 7-24-08, Ms. Macdougall seconded the motion with those board members present all in agreement to approve the minutes.

Supervisor's reconciliation reports were approved on a motion made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hickey and vote was: Ms. MacDougal-yes, Ms. Davis-yes, Mr. Hickey-yes and Mr. Ross-abstained.

Mr. David Hanson, Helinger Rd., requested that the town board consider adopting an ordinance requiring residents to have their house number posted/visible from the road, using a minimum of 3" numbers. Also on the private drives, sometimes there are 2 or 3 houses on it and there is no indication of what the street numbers are, especially for emergency situations, this is a matter that needs to be addressed. Oswego County presently has a law that requires house numbers but it seems that there is no enforcement, as many homes do not comply. Mr. Hickey responded that if the town was to adopt an ordinance, that would leave the same problem, who in the town will enforce the law? It seems that the code enforcement officer would be responsible however he has so many other responsibilities. The board will address this at next months' meeting.

Ross LaCombe, Morey Rd. asked what the result of the water survey was and what the costs were to the taxpayers. The clerk submitted the results sheet and reported that approximately 400 were sent out at 41 cents with less than 10 being returned do to incorrect addresses. Therefore the cost was approximately \$200.00.

Art Gearsbeck asked if the town was going to lower taxes with the extra sales tax money the County has voted to give to the towns? Mr. Ross responded that since he has been on the board, at no time were expenses increased because of additional revenue that was to come to the town. The board members takes a look at every budget line to make the determination as to what is absolutely needed every year. With the rising costs of fuel, along with everything else, there is almost no way the town board can lower taxes but they take every opportunity to hold the expenses without jeopardizing the future of the town.

Ms. Macdougall asked about the recreation program, explaining that she was told that the recreation director didn't inform the parents of a cancellation. Also Ms. Macdougall asked why the recreation staff is paid for days that recreation is not held. She suggested that this be discussed at budget time.

Norma Jean Howard asked if Tim McCarthy would be attending any more board meetings, is he still deputy supervisor or should he be replaced? Doug Fuegel also expressed his displeasure of Mr. McCarthy's absence. Mr. Ross explained that unfortunately Mr. McCarthy's job has him temporarily unable to attend meetings, however Tim notified everyone that he had every intention on being at this meeting however something must have come up. As an elected official, the town board cannot just replace him, Mr. McCarthy is still Deputy Supervisor, if there was the situation that both Mr. Ross and Mr. McCarthy were not able to attend the meeting, any board member could run a town board meeting. The only power, per say, that the Deputy Supervisor has is to sign checks in the absence of the Supervisor. Ms. Macdougall asked if there is compensation for being Deputy Supervisor and the response was no.

Dan LeClair addressed the board explaining that he is running for office in the 115th Assembly.

Mr. Ross moved to pay the bills as audited:

GENERAL FUND, abstract #8, vouchers #218 to #249 in the amount of \$10996.49

HIGHWAY FUND, abstract #8, vouchers #170 to #186 in the amount of \$88,498.03

BIG BAY SEWER FUND, abstract #8, vouchers #63 to #77 in the amount of \$29,115.65

Ms. Davis seconded the motion and the board members voted unanimously to pay the bills as audited.

Mr. Ross moved to appoint Gary Harrington, Pulver Rd., and James Scott, Woodworth Rd., to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Ms. Davis seconded the motion with unanimous approval of all board members.

Mr. Ross reported that the Superintendent of Highways, Randall Shaw and Code Enforcement Officer Michael Yerdon attended MS-4 training and learned that as of September 30th, 2008 the State of New York will mandate that the disturbance of 1 acre or more will require an engineers plan concerning the Storm water runoff to be submitted to the town which will need to be monitored weekly by the town's engineer. Mr. Shaw, Mr. Yerdon and Mr. Ross will be meeting with Shumaker Engineering to discuss how this would be handled and costs and this information will be presented to the town board at the September meeting. Mr. Ross asked that the board consider how they would want the costs handled, which would be passed on to the contractor or home owner. Ms. Davis remarked that the board would need to know what the costs would be in order to determine just how it would be passed on.

Superintendent of Highways Shaw explained that the preliminary cost to repair the "Red Flagged" bridge on Smith Road is \$284,000. At this time, he has submitted the proper paperwork that will allow the town additional time to apply for grants before making decisions on these repairs. The school district and fire dept. has been notified, as well as the road posted for limited allowable weight over the bridge and come time for snow removal, the bridge will not be plowed as the plows exceed the allowable weight limit. The residents in the area have an alternative route to take and therefore this bridge could be closed.

Mr. Ross received a petition with 28 signatures requesting lower speed limits for Morey Rd. Mr. Ross moved to submit the request to the County to lower the speed limit the entire length of Morey Rd. Mr. Hickey seconded the motion with unanimous approval of the board.

Mr. Ross explained that the time of year for starting to work on the 2009 budget is here therefore the department heads will be working on their requests for 2009. At the September meeting the board will need to schedule hearings and work shops. The board scheduled September 3rd at 7:00PM for a workshop with the Fire Department.

Monthly Reports:

- Town Clerk's
- Code Enforcement
- Justice reports for June and July
- Planning Board minutes from June
- Superintendent of Highways, where he reiterated that there are problems with the Big Bay Sewer Plant, although it continues to run. The Engineers have been contacted to submit a proposal. Mr. Shaw also reminded the board that the cost for this study will be paid with the help of USDA, who has agreed to pay half the cost.

The Superintendent of Highways also requested that the town board declare the following equipment surplus:

- 2001 pick up truck
- dump box
- generator

Mr. Ross moved to declare them surplus, Ms. Davis seconded the motion, all board members voted yes to declaring the items surplus.

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Ft. Brewerton/Greater Oneida Lake Chamber of Commerce Newsletter
- NYS Public Service Commission regarding Verizon NY Inc.'s Network Review Plan
- NYS Real Property Office notification of the Town of West Monroe's STAR Administrative Aid payment is \$1048.79
- Tug Hill Times
- NorCOG notice of a meeting being held at Central Square Village Offices 8/14/08 at 7:30 PM
- Oswego County Board of Elections notification of 2008 Primary on 9/9/08. The town clerk remarked that she was so surprised to hear that all 3 districts were going to vote at the Fire Dept. The Board of Elections and the Fire Department worked this out. Board of Elections is now in charge of the polling sites, machines and personnel and they made the decision to move all three districts.

Ms. Macdougall addressed to consider closing down the town park. With the vandalism and destruction that is ongoing at the park, Ms. Macdougall questioned if the cost to the residents is worth the benefit the residents get. Mr. Hickey remarked that in his opinion the Recreation Program that is held at the town park is a worthwhile program and the residents really appreciate the opportunity their children have to participate in it. Ms. Macdougall said she was not suggesting that the program be eliminated but with the location of the park it seems that the problems at the park is ongoing.

Ms. Macdougall also stated that the town's planning board needs training. It has been brought to her attention that there seems to be some confusion during the Commercial Site Plan Review process. Ms. Macdougall suggested that the Planning Board do what ever is necessary to work with businesses and homeowners so that their projects can move along as quickly as possible even if that requires 2 meetings per month. Other board members remarked that on some of the bigger commercial site plans it does take longer as there are more things to be considered. It is NYS mandated that the members of the Planning Board and Zoning Board complete a specific number of hours of training each year and that this is being monitored to be sure our members comply.

Mr. Ross then mentioned that Shumaker Engineering firm is working on a proposal for looking at the options for the repair of the Big Bay Sewer Plant as well as the possibility of sewers in the area of the West End District Water District and Toad Harbor area.

Mr. Ross then made a motion to enter into executive session regarding a highway personnel issue, inviting the Superintendent of Highways to join the board. Ms. Davis seconded the motion. All board members voted yes to enter into executive session at 9:05 PM. The Board returned at 9:34 PM Mr. Ross called the meeting back to order and then moved to adjourn the regular meeting.