

York Town Board Meeting
January 14, 2010

Present: Supervisor Gerald L. Deming, Council Members: Lynn Parnell, Frank Rose Jr., Norman Gates and David Deuel

Absent: None

Others: Norman Barrett (Senior Water & Sewage Treatment Plant Operator), Carl Peter (Zoning & Code Officer) and George Worden Jr. (Highway Superintendent)

Supervisor Deming opened the Town Board Meeting at 7:32 p.m.

MINUTES

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mrs. Parnell to approve the minutes of the December 29, 2009 Town Board Meeting and January 4, 2010 Organizational Meeting. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

HIGHWAY

1) Salt:

Highway Superintendent, Mr. Worden reported, to date the Town has used over 600 ton of our contracted 1600 ton of salt from American Rock. Mr. Deming added he has dispelled several rumors in the community that the Town of York does not purchase salt locally, which is untrue.

Supervisor Deming stated after reviewing the County salt bid documentation , the larger towns in Livingston County (Livonia, Avon, Caledonia and Geneseo) purchase a bit more salt each year, but overall the Town of York's contracted purchase is quite substantial as well.

2) Equipment:

Mr. Worden informed the Board that the loader we recently purchased continues to be used frequently and is running very well.

Mr. Worden stated he spoke with Kenworth a few days ago and the new cab and chassis we bid for in December of last year might be available at the end of this month or early into February.

3) Chandler Road sign:

Mr. Worden asked the Board if they wanted him to purchase larger size letters for signs in areas throughout the town, or was Chandler Road an isolated area.

Supervisor Deming replied that the original request came at the December 29th meeting, from the Livingston County Traffic Safety Board to have larger size letters for the sign intersecting at Route 63 & Chandler Road for better visibility. Mr. Deming added, the Board believes the remaining signs are adequate.

4) Retsof Avenue:

Supervisor Deming informed the Board and Highway Superintendent, Mr. Worden that residents continue to contact the office stating that salt trucks are still being mis-directed by GPS up Retsof Ave., in route to the salt mine. Mr. Deming stated he contacted the Mine to let them know what the residents and truck drivers have been experiencing and was told that it is not their problem to deal with.

After a brief discussion...

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mr. Deuel to post Retsof Avenue for a 5 ton weight limit. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

OTHER

1) Holiday wreaths:

Mr. Worden stated he and the men removed the holiday wreaths from the poles yesterday. After a brief review of the decorations, replacement of bows should be done before next season and upgrading a few wreaths each year would help keep things current.

WATER/SEWER

1) Backhoe:

Supervisor Deming brought up the issue of renting vs. ownership of a backhoe once again. Mr. Deming stated, the money we spend renting the equipment from Mr. Flynn, could be put toward one of our own to be shared between the Water & Sewer and Highway Departments.

Mr. Barrett replied we have actually made out very well with the current agreement. We only pay for the number of hours used, we are not servicing the backhoe or fueling it, Mr. Flynn handles those details.

The Board asked if leasing the equipment from a company might be an avenue to look into. Mr. Barrett stated he feels leasing would not be the best option for the town. Either continue the current contract with Mr. Flynn or buy one outright (new or used). The Board agreed that a new model would give us less issues plus a service agreement and/or warranty.

2) Bolts:

Mr. Barrett informed the Board of the ongoing issues with rusting of water main bolts. Mr. Barrett stated every hydrant on Retsof Road, Route 36, Fowlerville and Mt. Pleasant Roads do not have stainless steel bolts as was specified when installed, which could get very expensive when they begin to rust and create water breaks.

Mr. Deming asked Mr. Barrett and his staff, when spring comes to do routine digging around the hydrants, if they can verify that stainless steel bolts were not installed, he will contact Clark Patterson Lee directly because they were the inspectors on the job(s) when the water projects took place.

3) Liv. Co. Water Authority:

Mr. Barrett stated he met with Cathy Van Horne today of the Livingston County Water Authority to discuss our water system and will be preparing additional documentation for her shortly to review.

4) Personnel:

Mr. Barrett informed the Board that Jim Hodge's surgery is scheduled for Monday the 18th and Roger McCracken will be returning to work on Tuesday the 19th.

5) THM's:

Mr. Barrett stated he continues to seek ways to reduce THM levels in our system, and understands the Village of Geneseo is having the same discussions and concerns.

Mr. Deming asked Mr. Barrett to contact Ryan Colvin in the morning to set up a meeting with the Village and their Chief Operator to look at the options available to us in order to make a decision on what avenue to proceed with. By waiting, we are not addressing the issues quickly enough.

OLD BUSINESS

1) David Peck:

Mr. Deming stated that David Peck, Employment Coordinator for Livingston County Department of Social Services contacted him regarding three applicants to be interviewed for the position available to assist at the Town Hall and with Mr. Worden & Mr. Barrett as needed. The position is strictly part-time and was initiated through the OTDA "Green Jobs Program".

After a brief discussion the Board agreed the interview committee will consist of, Councilman Frank Rose, Senior Water & Sewage Treatment Plant Operator, Mr. Barrett and Highway Superintendent, Mr. Worden.

2) Abstract Program:

Supervisor Deming stated the office staff has inquired about the possibility of purchasing a software program from Williamson Law to prepare the abstract claims. Currently Deputy Town Clerk, Mrs. Geary types each claim for all accounts, every meeting on her typewriter, which is time consuming and redundant. If the program was purchased it could not only reduce the time processing claims, but would be an excellent form of checks and balances.

Mr. Deming stated Mrs. Barefoot obtained a quote from Williamson in the amount of \$ 900.00 (abstract program + Town Clerk and Tax Collector programs) with a yearly maintenance fee of \$ 605.00. Unfortunately all we needed was a quote for the abstract program, because Town Clerk, Mrs. Harris already has the other two programs. Mrs. Barefoot will contact Williamson once again to verify the cost of the abstract software program only.

3) Consolidation Grant:

Supervisor Deming stated we received word recently that we were awarded the Consolidation Grant in the amount of \$ 22,500. The grant encompasses the Towns of York and Leicester and Village of Leicester, with funds to be used between the agencies once a plan has been established.

4) Rental Agreement:

Councilman Deuel and Custodian, Carl Peter informed the Board they recently met to discuss the existing Town Hall rental agreement in order to revamp areas in need. Mr. Peter asked the Board their thoughts on usage of the hall for funeral gatherings and whether or not to charge. Supervisor Deming stated we have not asked for payment in the past and feel it is the least we can do for our local residents and would like to continue not to charge for such events, which the rest of the Board agreed with. A question arose pertaining to liability associated with alcoholic beverages in the building for functions. Mr. Peter asked if we should add to the rental agreement a rider for the day's event, and suggested we contact our Insurance Agent, David Boyce with this issue.

Mr. Peter reviewed with the Board the changes made to the rental agreement and asked if they were comfortable with them.

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mr. Deuel to approve the updates in the rules and regulations for the Town Hall rental agreement, pending item #7 which will be discussed with our Insurance Agent, Mr. Boyce. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Substation:

Supervisor Deming informed the Board that the room previously used in the hall by the Livingston County Sheriff's Department for a substation will no longer be needed and will be available to us once again. The Board discussed the possibility of using the room for additional storage, or enlarge the area and enclose it as a conference room.

2) Representatives:

Supervisor Deming stated he and other Supervisors met with our State, Assembly and Senate representatives to discuss the ongoing financial issues throughout the Counties and filtering into the Towns. The re-occurring theme seems to be all money is ear marked for New York City, leaving Upstate with nothing. Mr. Deming stated the Supervisors expressed their displeasure on the way issues have been handled and how money is dispersed, and do not foresee any major changes in the near future.

3) Youth meeting:

Mr. Deming stated he and Council Member Parnell will be meeting with Youth Director, Pete Robinson before the month is out to discuss youth issues and upcoming procedures.

4) Planning/Zoning:

The Board discussed the need to receive copies of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals meeting minutes. Town Clerk, Mrs. Harris stated Secretary, Donna Falkner prepares the minutes and then puts them in a binder located in the office for anyone to view.

After a brief discussion the Board asked Mrs. Harris to notify Ms. Falkner to see if she could email or copy for each Board member, minutes from the Zoning & Planning Boards in order to remain current on town related issues.

5) Farmland Preservation:

Councilman Deuel prepared a packet of information for the Board to review. The documentation included maps of our current zoning, existing water & sewer service, Ag District #1 and soil classifications, as well as a written outline of the draft version of the Town of York Farmland Preservation Plan.

Mr. Deuel discussed with the Board content of the proposed plan and asked if they thought it was feasible. Supervisor Deming stated before bringing this plan to the public, Mr. Deuel must make sure the agricultural owners are on board with what is prepared. If the majority of the Ag owners are not willing to participate, you will have a very difficult time “selling” the plan to the other residents.

Councilman Deuel stated he will be meeting with the Planning Board on Tuesday evening to review the draft and to receive feedback on the proposed plan. Mr. Deuel added once the plan is in place it is then directed to the Livingston County Planning Department for review and approval. Mr. Deuel stated the purpose of such plan is to create farm conservation and development plans that allow future home sites to co-exist with active farmland, conserve the best agricultural soils and discourage roadside sprawl.

** Mrs. Harris stated to Mr. Deuel she would prepare enough copies of the draft plan for the Planning Board members, for Tuesday nights meeting.

OTHER

1) National Grid:

Zoning/Code Officer, Carl Peter asked the Board if they were aware of National Grid’s plans on Casey Road for additional poles. The Board replied they were not aware of any action from the utility company because we were not notified at all. Supervisor Deming stated he will contact Laurie Mastin in the morning about their upcoming plans.

2) Funds expenditure:

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mr. Rose authorizing the Town of York to expend Highway Funds as per Mr. Worden’s submittal. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

BILLS

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mr. Rose to approve all claims brought before the Board. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

Consolidated Water	# 1-21	\$ 13,590.84
Sewer Districts	# 1-16	\$ 6,594.64
General Fund Claim	# 1-35	\$ 12,702.73
Youth Fund Claim	# 1	\$ 1,446.00
Highway Fund Claim	# 1-13	\$ 30,877.99

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Deuel and seconded by Mr. Gates to adjourn the Town Board Meeting until February 11th. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

Town Board Meeting closed at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Harris, Clerk