

August 14, 2012

The monthly meeting was held at 7PM at the Town Hall.

Present were: Supervisor:	Steve Breneman
Councilmen:	Sharon Eltz
	Jeff Smith
	Riley Closson
	Nancy Elwood
Highway Superintendent:	Jim Smith
Town Clerk:	April Law
Planning Board Chair:	Kathryn Elwood
Code Officer:	Mike Andersen

Also present were: Marie Peri, Accountant Debbie Fisher, Sherriff Lee Price, Legislator David Fuller, Dog Warden Chip Elwood, Dylan Barder, Norm Durand, Justice Rollan Elwood, Historian Beth Hummel, and Denise & Hal Hopkins.

Steve began the meeting at 7PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lee Price, Sherriff for Cortland County, came with a copy of June minutes in hand and wanted to clear up a few comments that were made by David Fuller. He began by saying that Chip Elwood came to him a couple of weeks ago concerned about some things that were said in the June meeting. He talked about 1989 being the hardest time of his career with the radioactive dump and the Siding division. They didn't want to come between Taylor and the Siding division and it was a hard time for the whole department. At that point of time none of the officers wanted to come over here and get between Taylor and the State, but we had to do their jobs. He admitted that comments were made then by him, Lee Price, that they didn't want to come over here but knew they had to and it was a difficult job. He stated that maybe that is still being heard in Taylor, but said that there is no one left on the Sherriff's department that would have been involved in this 23 years ago. Lee said there are a few left like himself that are not on road patrol and repeated that it is not true that they don't want to come out here. Lee Price then addressed the issue regarding dismissed tickets. He said that the tickets that were issued in December of 1989 were dismissed by the District Attorney, not the Judge. He explained that anytime a ticket is dismissed or reduced it is by the District Attorney and is legal. He admitted that in a conversation with David Fuller he stated that the STOP sign tickets were dismissed by the Judge and that was incorrect information. He said that they were not dismissed, but reduced to parking tickets according to the Under Sherriff. Lee told the Board he comes to this meeting "Hat in Hand" and wants them to know the Sherriff's department is not against Taylor and does patrol over here. He stated that they issued tickets over here recently, but he didn't have exact numbers. He moved on to address the statement regarding Budget cuts and said that the road patrol has not seen Budget cuts and they don't sit at Stop signs as much because the Sherriff's are running from call to call. It looks like they are not around as much, but they are still in full force. He said they have dropped some programs such as DARE, to keep kids off drugs, and the Public Relations program and put another Patrol on the road just to keep up with calls. He doesn't know how we go back and change the minutes, but he would like it recorded that he came over to rectify what has happened. He feels very guilty about any notion perceived against a Judge who did a great job throughout his career here in Taylor. He ended saying he didn't know what more to say, but again comes to the Board "Hat in Hand" hoping to rectify this. He believes David got his information

mixed up over many conversations throughout the years. Lee finished telling anyone if they had any questions he would be more than happy to answer them. Jeff said he didn't have any questions and understands that they can't cover everything, but did ask Lee if they could come over in the morning around 7:20 to catch people flying through the STOP sign. Jeff admitted he gets it from both sides being a Board member, people tell him not to get the Sherriff over here, but there is a problem with people who don't let up at all going through that STOP sign and believes that there will be an accident eventually. Lee Price added that if the Board would like him to come to a Town meeting he would be more than available and if he can't make it he will send one of his deputies or the Captain over to the meeting. He just wants the Board to know the Sherriff Department is not against Taylor and he said the Judge must have copies of the tickets that were issued in this area, but he did not have copies so he couldn't report on numbers. Lee said he just really wanted to clear up this problem and wants us to add something to the minutes to clear up any misunderstanding and Jeff said it will definitely be remedied and recorded in this month's minutes. Kathryn then asked Lee to clarify which Judge he was talking about and Lee said he was talking about Wayne Elwood and not Rollan Elwood. Kathryn wanted to make sure everyone understood it was not Rollan but Wayne he was referring to and thanked him. Then David Fuller spoke, first addressing that Legislation was going to vote to pass the Solid waste Management Law at their next meeting. It will be a reiteration of all the Law's that is in effect now and Resolutions that affected that Law. He also reported there will be 2 additional things 1 being they will accept BUD(?) from out of the County and 2 being they will accept recyclables from out of the County. No trash will be accepted from out of the County not even partial loads. He said that the BUD will be approved by the DEC and Legislation and the signing off on it will be done by the broker who has the certification to know what the material is. The BUD receiving rate is 25% of the trash being brought in: If 20,000 tons of trash is brought in they will only take in 5,000 tons of BUD. David then reported that the Cortland County Recycling Center is going to go "Single Stream". They are to going to be taking it to Onondaga County where they have a 30 million dollar machine that will sort all recyclables. This will eliminate the need to separate your cardboard, paper, tin, plastic and glass because the machine will sort, separate and bale them up. Onondaga is looking for more recyclables to come in and it will make it much easier on the garbage haulers. David did report the only thing that will be separate is electronics, but the center in Cortland will not close and will be a middle ground for people to drop recycling. Jeff then asked David what they are doing in Cuyler and David said he wasn't sure. David asked Jeff where in Cuyler and he explained where he was talking about and how they had dug it down and then went back in and brought it back up. Jeff said that it was something you expected to see done on a major highway and they have all their equipment sitting up there. David told Jeff he would have to make a trip up there because he could not imagine what Jeff was talking about. Jeff went on to explain how they cut the shoulders back then had a grader in there and he just wanted to know what was going on. It is a loop and shouldn't be abandoned, but doesn't need thousands of dollars' worth of work done to it. David told Jeff he was not familiar with that project, but Gee Brook and Landers corners job is done and they did a good job. Steve asked David if there was going to be revenue coming into the County to cover the recycling or if there would be a tax increase to taxpayers. David answered they are looking for some people to come in and load the trucks every other day and they will get paid by the ton. Sharon again asked if it will affect taxes to which David replied he wasn't sure and went on to explain the bonds left on the recycling center and the dump. Sharon asked how come they didn't pay it off when they took out the bonds and did they plan on taxing us then and David didn't really have an answer. Jeff added that he was pretty sure they were planning on taxing us because that's the only way they would get money. David said the only way they can make money is to take trash in from out of County or every single piece of trash in Cortland County to be taken to the dump. David said while talking to a sanitation worker in New York City the other day he found out they send trucks to Virginia, New Jersey and a few trucks go north. They make an awful lot of garbage and we could take in as much as 44,500 tons, but Cortland County won't

participate. The Dump is considered an enterprise and taxpayers should not see an increase to support them. Tompkins County charges every taxpayer a certain amount of money for this purpose, but if you have an apartment building and such it is 10 times higher because it is not a single residence. David ended saying he was not sure exactly how they were going to set it up but it does look like we will pay a little more on top of what he have to pay for collection. Steve asked if it was just landowner's and David responded no it is all residents, he then used an apartment building as an example. You would pay for all residents in that apartment not just one fee. Jeff then asked David how come they are not taking it from other Counties to which David replied he did not know, but it went down by 1 vote.

Prior to the meeting the Board read copies of the minutes

MOTION: "Accept minutes of meeting as written"

Made by Sharon Eltz, 2nd by Riley Closson

Votes cast:	Sharon Eltz	Aye	
	Jeff Smith	Aye	
	Riley Closson	Aye	
	Nancy Elwood	Aye	carried

MOTION: "Accept Accountant's Report as written"

Made by Sharon Eltz, 2nd by Riley Closson

Votes cast:	Sharon Eltz	Aye	
	Jeff Smith	Aye	
	Riley Closson	Aye	
	Nancy Elwood	Aye	carried

Prior to the meeting the Board reviewed, discussed and signed vouchers

MOTION: Pay Highway Vouchers for a total of: \$56,770.63

Made by Sharon Eltz, 2nd by Jeff Smith

Votes cast:	Sharon Eltz	Aye	
	Jeff Smith	Aye	
	Riley Closson	Aye	
	Nancy Elwood	Aye	carried

MOTION: Pay General fund Vouchers for a total of \$1,130.60

Made by Sharon Eltz, 2nd by Nancy Elwood

Votes cast:	Sharon Eltz	Aye	
	Jeff Smith	Aye	
	Riley Closson	Aye	
	Nancy Elwood	Aye	carried

Total Funds disbursed was: \$57,901.23

INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE:

Debbie, Town Accountant, began by telling the Board that she had contacted the State regarding the Employee Retirement System on a couple of things. The Town of Taylor is a Municipality and can choose to opt into the ERS although we have not so far. There are 2 costs associated with this system; 1 being the initial startup cost to which Debbie couldn't get an exact figure because they would have to have all the information and calculate it all up. Debbie was guessing and said that she would expect that figure

to be a few thousand dollars. The 2nd expense would be a couple thousand dollars per full time employee. The ERS runs on a Tier setup to figure the cost for the Town and the cost for the employee.

Tier 3 or 4 would cost the Town 18% of Employee salary

Tier 5—15%

Tier 6—10%

Each employee would have the option of contributing 3%, but does not have to. If the employee does not wish to contribute the Town must still contribute according to the Tier setup. Debbie did some figures and reported that if we go this route the Town would have to contribute \$5,040.00 a piece (Tier 4), \$4,200.00 (Tier 5), and \$2,800.00 (Tier 6) each year. If an employee does choose to contribute 3% they will only pay for 10 years after that the Town must still continue to contribute to the ERS. Right now the Town is giving \$1000.00 contribution towards each employee's retirement each year. Norm asked Debbie if that 15% was his total and Debbie said no that is the Town's total every year and the rates will most likely keep going up. Sharon asked Debbie what she said and Debbie explained that the rates will keep going up because they are tied into the market and explained that Tier 6 came in 2011 and the other Tiers were at 5-6% 10 years ago. David Fuller asked Debbie about buying back time and Debbie told him she did not inquire about that. He then discussed that they have the option to buy back time but at a tremendous expense. He stated that to buy back 10 years would cost an employee something like \$50,000.00 and most people choose not to. He gets this figure from using Tier 3 or 4 costs at \$5,040.00 X 10 years, this is if the town has made all contributions. Jeff said there are some issues as we speak involving the State's retirement plan and agrees that this is a small number compared to in a few years. Nancy added that the Board needs to think that Jim and Elroy are not getting any younger and if we do not have a good retirement or 401K we will never get younger guys in to work. Jeff made the statement that if we do decide to go this route we will have to cut back to a 2 man garage. There was no way the budget could support 3 man garage plus these contributions. Debbie added that if we decide this is something we want to do any existing employees have the choice to opt into this system giving 3% and any new employees would have to contribute the 3%, no choice. Jeff asked Debbie about the 3 employees and she said they would have the choice to put in the 3% but the Town will still have to give the 18% and all new employees would not have a choice. Steve added that if Jim didn't want to give the 3% we the Town would still have to contribute on his part and would he get that money even without opting in. Debbie said Jim would get that money upon retirement that the Town contributed he just would not have been putting in the 3% on his part making it 100% taxable once he tried to take it out. Nancy again stated that we have to do something to get the young guys in unless Jim wants to work until he is 100. Jeff agreed but said if we add \$15,000.00 on top of the budget we already have you won't like the tax increase. Nancy said no she would not like that part but we do need to figure out something down the road. Norm Durand then suggested the option of the Town paying 100% of the Health Insurance or making the employee contribute 25%. Debbie said the last inquiry from the Town was in October 2006 and will continue to look into it and Jeff asked Debbie if she knew what was going to become of the Insurance changes because where his wife works they are totally changing the way the Insurance works. Steve stated that Blue Cross Blue Shield is changing their whole system and we are going to discuss it as per the agenda. Steve is aware they are changing things but the only thing he has received said that they were changing their name to Simply Blue. His wife also got something, in the mail and anyone with Blue Cross Blue Shield will experience a revamping of their health coverage. Jeff talked briefly about Suit Kote changing theirs as well and explained it seems to be a good plan and something's that were taken away are coming back in one matter or another. He talked about the deductible for each policy and how Suit Kote will help to cover the costs by placing money on a debit card and he just wondered how it was going to affect us in the long run. Debbie spoke a little about the system and said she has the same thing where she works. She has the option to have the high deductible plan or a regular one like the Town carries. In the long run she said the companies are just

trying to cut costs. There was a small discussion on getting more figures regarding the Health Insurance and how to contribute for each employee. Debbie will take care of this and get better numbers for the Board. Steve then moved on and brought up an issue with the mail. Jim and Roy's paychecks have been getting held up and there is no reason for it. NYSEG bills were sent in on time but then laid on someone's desk for 2 weeks and when they called about it NYSEG was no help. Debbie is familiar with online bill pay and would like to see the Town move in that direction to help alleviate these mail issues. Steve said we are getting bills at different times of the month from NYSEG and is making things a little more difficult. Sharon added that the Board would be surprised to see how much they save on postage and Debbie also added we would save a lot on the amount of checks we have to order at the end of the year. She will still need to get checks but will not need to buy as many.

MOTION: Approve electronic payment of bills

Made by Sharon Eltz, 2nd by Riley Closson

Votes cast:	Sharon Eltz	Aye	
	Jeff Smith	Aye	
	Riley Closson	Aye	
	Nancy Elwood	Aye	carried

Jeff then asked which bills we would pay electronically, electric, phone, and Insurance, and Debbie said she would pay all bills possible online. She is sure we can pay the majority of them but wasn't sure of Suit Kote. Sharon then mentioned that she can never get an online payment to go through with True Value and Debbie said she wasn't sure why but would try it. Steve then brought up a letter from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Regulation with the information about a meeting if anyone would like to attend. It spoke about a filter in the Chesapeake Bay and David Fuller stated that this meeting it actually to rewrite laws to protect the Chesapeake Bay and Watershed. It starts the other side of Cortland County and goes to the other side of Chenango County then runs down into the Susquehanna. We are one of the cleanest Counties but a lot of the pollution is coming from down below. Jeff added that we had some pretty good lobbyists down there on our behalf. David Fuller will be at this meeting and will give some more info at next meeting. Steve then moved onto a letter from Ken Diaz asking us to support the gas drilling. He said it is kind of ironic that they a year ago made a ban on drilling but now have gone back on it to allow some drilling. Town Laws on this issue really don't matter because the State will super cede any Town Law. David Fuller then explained we could take the County contract and change it to meet our Town law. Steve said he did talk with Chesapeake and they will send him the list of materials used and he was told the mixture they use for drilling is 98% sand and water. He did ask what the other 2% consisted of and they said they would send it to him. David Fuller said it is readily available on the internet and he stated that Cortland County has the highest Radon level in New York State. Steve is aware that people have issues with it, but every time we turn around we hear something to contradict the negative. Denise Hopkins added that it was all lies and people should have the information possible. Jeff then added he did not think it was a great idea to have a public meeting on the issue because you are going to have both sides here fighting and it will get nothing solved. Denise said that the Town does not have to take the pro position and Jeff told her that all the Board has said is we are basically proactive but we have done nothing with it and it still needs to be looked into.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

Mike began by showing the Board pictures of the new home going up on Potter Hill Road, he has been up there to inspect and it is a nice home. He did go up the other day and it was roped off so he didn't go up but reports it is coming along nicely. Mike then joked that although it is a beautiful home it is going to be a little greasy getting to it and the Board laughed and agreed. Mike then said he has had numerous

phone calls with Mr. Wilkins and he has hired one of the contractor's suggested by Mike to go in and clean it up. He is going to remove all the cars and trees within 10 feet of the home, remove all combustible materials and things boarded up (doors, windows). All brush is going to be cut down and all mattresses and such are coming up. Jeff said if we could get him to board up the doors and windows he would be happy with that and wouldn't push the other issues. Mike replied that he has to go by the list for abandoned buildings and he can't pick and choose. He then moved onto the issues we have had with the pools. Unfortunately the Judge became ill and couldn't hold court, but both pools have been corrected and Mike would like to see the charges dropped. Rollan then asked Mike if they were supposed to be here tomorrow to which Mike said "I have no idea, once I turn it over to you it's your business". Rollan asked if Mike was supposed to be there to represent the Town and Mike answered yes but no one told him he needed to be in court tomorrow night. Mike then said he doesn't know if the people know that because he never told them that, once it is turned over to the Court Mike can't go against the Judge. Rollan then said yes they were to be here and when they adjourned it the first time he notified them of the new court date. Mike said okay but once again they are both in compliance and charges should be dropped. Mike then moved onto the stack of books he brought to the meeting with him. He stated that he had to go to the DMV the other day with his grandson and he had to read the book to pass the test. Mike explained that that book explains all the rules of the road and once you read it you are to know it. He then showed his stack of books that is essentially the same thing but pertaining to the Building Codes and once you buy a house these are the books that all the rules come out of just like driving that people fail to read and know. He explained that he has to use these books on everything being built and how he has to follow the rules just like we do when driving. He wants everyone to know he is not trying to be the bad guy the State says you have to have it. He also used the example of a motorcyclist going down the road with no helmet and getting pulled over and feeling like his rights are taken away. Not true because you don't have that right and the DMV book tells you. This applies to building permits, unlicensed vehicles and such we are not taking your rights away you didn't have the rights to start with says the State. If anyone has any questions he would like people to come to him and ask. He will let you know what permits are needed and you can't put up a pool without a fence. He is aware there are pop up pools all over and he isn't sure whether the Code Officer is doing his job but it is State Law to comply. Jeff then asked if a ridged frame pool needs a fence to which Mike responded no because if you have to put up a fence it has to 48 inches tall. So if you have a ridged frame 48 inch pool it does not need a fence but you still need a permit and the inspection done. Mike then used the Town Clerk as an example, she had asked the old Code Officer what was needed to run the pool and was told "Nothing, 25\$ and you can go enjoy your pool". The Town Clerk agreed that is exactly what was said and Mike made a buzzer sound and said wrong. Beth Hummel then asked Mike "If you have a blow up ring pool and it has to have a fence but you have a pond 30 feet away how come it doesn't need a fence?" Mike answered that the State does not regulate ponds only pools. Beth added that people do die in ponds too. Mike said he has asked about that and was told most ponds are tapered and if a child falls in they can most likely get out if they fall in a pool it is straight down and the child will not be able to get out. He is aware that children die in ponds but he has no control over them. He then spoke briefly about the Latta in ground pool needing a fence even though it has been there over 20 years. They were very upset about this and Mike explained to them that the State code says all pools must have a fence and no one is grand fathered in, all existing and new structures must comply. So there is no way around it and if anyone has questions he will answer them and reminded people that he doesn't drive around looking for problems. David Fuller then asked if they are putting new windows in the school house is a permit needed. Mike asked if it was a Historical building and David answered yes and Mike said then it is a different batch of rules and certain things don't apply. Steve joked to Mike to make them apply and everyone laughed. Sharon then asked Mike what qualifies someone for an Ag Permit. Mike said he was glad she brought that up because as it stands right now the Town has no fee on these. He suggests

putting a 25\$ fee in effect because he still has to go there and inspect it. He explained that a pole barn that is used to store hay is considered Agricultural, if it is used for storing tractors or trucks it is a garage and not classified Ag. Sharon understood that if you were under an Ag classification you needed to be in operation and moving product. Mike said that yes you have to prove your income for tax classification but for permits it was a whole different thing. Mike again went over the earlier statement about a barn built for hay is Ag; a barn built for trucks and tractors is not.

DOG WARDEN REPORT:

Chip Elwood reported that the dog enumeration for Taylor has been completed and he counted 190 dogs but feels once he gets all the papers back in the mail we will be over 200. He will get with the Town Clerk to go over his paperwork. Steve asked April how many dogs we had licensed last year and she reported 179. Chip mentioned that a lot of people have moved and it was hard to know who lived in some of the houses. Sharon asked him when he went to these places and no one was home and he visually saw a dog or they had one licensed previously that he counted it. Chip replied no he didn't, 8 or 9 dogs did not go on the list because he was waiting for these people to get the paperwork back to him. Sharon asked him "Did you see them?" Chip answered that he heard them. Sharon then said you have to count them because if you don't they don't come in and get it licensed. If they don't come in you will have to go back to them and Chip said they are on the paper.

PLANNING REPORT:

Kathryn reported as in previous months they have had no new business so they have had no meetings.

HIGHWAY REPORT:

Jim reported that they have had a good month and they spent a good week and a half down to Willett helping them and they have been here helping us. They cut shoulders on 3 roads, Duke, Doran Hill, and Elwood). They also put gravel down up on Mt. Roderick and Potter Hill. We got Troy Donnelly in to do the crushing for us and has everything done for this year. He also agreed to crush up the stuff for next year and bill us after the first of the year. They had been busy doing that until they got shut down today. Jim will apply for a permit and see how we make out. Jim was originally told they didn't need a permit and now they are saying we do. Jim then said he was told by the guy that someone had turned him in or he never would have come out. Steve joked we have a lot of criminals around here, we all chuckled. Jim will call tomorrow to see how much trouble we are in. Sharon asked if he was going to bring up the generator deal and Jim said that was Steve's deal. Jim then spoke about the spray foam insulation. Blue Ox has the foam done and it took longer than expected. Jim needs to call to see when they are putting the retardant on it. It was supposed to be done yesterday (Monday 8-13) but they weren't able to finish due to problems with the spray nozzle. They only got about a 1/8th of it done and they left a message saying they would be back, but not when they would be back. They left everything covered in plastic and Jim needs them to come back and finish so he can get to his stuff. He will call them tomorrow to see when they plan on finishing it. Jim said that they took off on a Friday and never came back Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday and he finally called to ask what was going on and was told then they had some problems and would be back Thursday to finish the insulation, which they did. Then they were to come back and finish the retardant and that's when they had the problems with the nozzle. This is the same company we used before but a different crew. Sharon then asked Jim if they maintained the road that Buchanan lives on and Jim said no. Sharon wanted to know if we should get that abandoned and Jim said we could. Jeff and Sharon discussed that you have to have a public forum for something like that. There was some discussion about some of the road being Buchanan's and some belonging to John Smith. Jim suggested we ask John Smith first and if he don't care Jim will do up the paperwork. Then we would have to advertise a public meeting. Jeff said if we don't get it done we better tell him he can't

park on that road anymore. Jim mentioned that he built a garage almost out on that road and Steve said it definitely something that needs to addressed.

CLERK'S REPORT:

Town Clerk reported that there were no hunting licenses this month. We only issued one dog license with \$1.00 going to the State and \$6.00 left for the Town. We issued 2 building permits 1 for \$25.00 and 1 for \$116.00 and one renewal of a permit for \$10.00. Total revenues paid to Steve this month were \$157.00 and copies of all checks are on the back of Clerk's report.

MOTION:To adjourn the meeting was made by Sharon Eltz, 2nd by Riley Closson.....carried

Respectfully submitted,
April Law