

May 13, 2014

The regular monthly meeting was held at 7pm at the Town Hall

Present were:	Deputy Supervisor:	Riley Closson
	Councilmen:	Joey Pudney
		Theodore Law Jr
		Jeff Smith
	Town Clerk:	April Law
	Highway Super:	Roy Eltz
Absent:	Supervisor:	Steve Breneman
	Planning Board Chair:	Kathryn Elwood
	Accountant:	Debbie Fisher
	Code Officer:	Mike Andersen

Also present: Historian Beth Hummel, Marie Peri, Denise and Hal Hopkins.

Riley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Prior to the meeting the Board members read copies of the minutes

MOTION: "Accept minutes of meeting as written"

Made by Tj Law, 2nd by Joey Pudney

Votes cast: Jeff Smith

Joey Pudney

TJ Law

carried

April added that we also had a Public Hearing minutes to approve.

MOTION: "Accept minutes from Public Hearing on local dog ordinance as written"

includes sandblasting and painting of \$2600.00. Roy added that on the 1999 10 wheeler; for the same thing, sandblasting and painting from the cab back, was \$2900.00. Roy said he thought it was a decent price and stated that they cannot sandblast or paint in the garage anymore and Jeff agreed saying not without spray booths. Jeff said unless you do it outside and Riley said you can't even do it outside anymore and explained because of the neighbors, which isn't a big deal over there. Riley asked if Terry was the one who had a shop over Oxford way and Roy replied yes. Roy said this was just a thought he had rather than letting them just rust away and Jeff asked him if he had any ideas on what he wanted to do first. Roy stated that he feels the single axle needs it the worst. Jeff said you are saying that one is having some issues though and wondered if it was worth doing. Roy said that one is having a lot of small issues and he was asked what year the truck was to which he replied 2000. Roy said he thinks a lot of the small issues resulted from Ithaca having it and using straight salt in it. It did a lot to rust it and Riley said it eats the wires as well as everything else. Jeff said he might want to have the check the frame before we go doing that but the 1999 is the one that the Town will be holding onto for a while and Roy agreed. Jeff said he was just running it around in his head as to which one we really want to work on, he didn't know yet. Roy said the 1999 is the truck they depend on all winter time and Jeff agreed. Roy said they give that one a rest in the summer and will use the single axle as long as they can. Riley said we should focus on the 99 then and not the other one if it is used as a backup truck. Roy said we can do only one this year and most likely the price will go up in a year but wondered if we needed to do both and Jeff agreed. Jeff said the only thing he would ask is about the double frame. If it has always been salt on that truck and said with the Western Star the frame ended up splitting on that and Roy said yes, but is all rust. The whole frame and all the pipes under it are rusted away. Jeff said he would stop down and take a look at it sometime and Roy said sure thing, anytime. Riley said he would say to do the 1999 and just use the single axle as a spare. Jeff

said he felt it would be wiser to do it to the truck they continue to use and go from there. Riley said that is one of our plow trucks and he would much rather see that one than the single axle. Riley added that depending on the job he does then we can look at it again next year. Roy said he would have to give him a call and get it scheduled and Riley said fine it is like preventative maintenance in his eyes, like a grease gun. Jeff said he always though they needed washing and painted more than they got it. Roy said he would like to wash them every day but in the winter time you cannot wash them inside it must be done outside. Riley asked him why and Roy said it is because of the containment thing they have to have. Jeff said over at the highway garage there is a 1000 gallon holding tank and the water that runs off those trucks goes into them and the Town has have them pumped out. Roy added that they also do not have the proper covering over the electrical stuff in the garage to prevent water damage. Jeff said he never thought about that but it would be nice to have them washed up anytime they get a chance and Roy agreed. Riley asked the Board how they felt in this matter and they agreed to go ahead and Riley said to redo the 1999, Board agreed. It is cheaper to maintain it than it is to buy a new one. Roy added that they have to have their Board meeting but they still don't have the 10 wheeler yet. April asked who and he said veteran (sp?) and Joey said he was wondering what came of that and Roy said they are supposed to call him back after they have their Board meeting and said he has no idea what is going to happen.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

NONE

PLANNING BOARD:

Jeff said he saw and mentioned to Kathryn over the weekend and she told him there was nothing going on.

DOG REPORT:

Riley asked April if she had anything from Country Acres on the dog report and she said that Steve has it. She added that there was a complaint filed with her as well as Country Acres about 2 unlicensed dogs on a property being trained to be vicious. April said she referred them to Country Acres but has yet to hear anything from them. Riley said then they took care of that.

CLERK'S REPORT:

April reported that she licensed 3 unneutered dogs last month leaving the Town \$33.00 and a check going to Department of Ag & Markets for \$9.00. She received \$44,050.22 in property taxes of that amount \$974.27 was interest which was turned over to Steve. She also wrote a check to Cortland County Treasurer for the amount of \$40,000.00. The total amount disbursed was \$40,974.27. She added that she was in the last month of collecting taxes and Riley asked her how much she lacked. April said May 31, 2014 is the last day she can accept payments and then settlement with the Cortland County Treasurers Department is on June 13, 2104.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Beth said she was there on behalf of the Historical Society and gave a gentle reminder that it is the Towns responsibility to maintain the cemeteries. She handed out a paper to all Board members that described the Town Law and its responsibility for burial grounds. She said last year quite a few people took away truckloads of debris to clean it up and Jeff asked which one she was at. Beth said the one by Taylor Valley Road that sits up on the hill. She said it is spring and according to the Town Law the Town is responsible for the maintenance of these cemeteries. She added that she read somewhere the Town use to accept bids for caretakers, around 1989. Beth said she wasn't familiar with all the laws but morally feels it is the right thing to do for their ancestors and to teach the young people proper care. She

said some of these will need special attention because a mower will knock over fragile stones and a weed eater may be needed in places. She asked that it be put on the schedule somehow at maintained at least twice through the summer. Riley said he could contact Derek Raimo and get a price on what it would cost. Jeff told Beth that he does remember them doing that, taking bids for caretakers, and he thinks they did it when he was first on the Board. Beth said she did not remember exact dates but came across it while reading minutes. Jeff pointed out that whoever they get will have to have liability coverage because of all the old stones and such. Riley said he knows Derek takes care of North Pitcher and Cincinnatus. Beth said another problem is big holes that people can fall into that goes to the knee. She suggested using some of the ditch diggings, dirt to help fill these in before someone gets hurt. She said it is a danger and she has fallen herself while there. She said this is our history and if you read the stones that are legible they are beautiful. Joey asked how many cemeteries and Beth said there are 12 or 13 but some are not maintainable. She used the one on Allen Hill as an example and said it is basically Taylor Valley, Hawley Woods, Phelps field they are asking the Town to take care of. She then added that Phelps field may not belong to the Town but the people that own the land. She could not find where it was deeded to be a cemetery. Beth said the Law even states there should be a fence and there is none. She said it sits very close to the road so it is very easy to take stones and such. She said they even tried to get some high school kids to come in and clean it up as a project but it didn't work out. Beth told the Historical Society that she would come down and address the issue again and thanked the Board for listening. Riley said now that have gotten all the debris and brush out of there it should be relatively easy to maintain it in the summer even if they do them all at once. Riley asked if there was any other Public Comment and Hal Hopkins stood saying he should be addressing the Town Supervisor and Riley said he is not here tonight so that would be him. He asked when they were going to start repairing winter damage done to the roads and Riley referred

him to the Highway Supervisor. Roy said they would start them as soon as the buses stop running up above Bobbie's. He said they intend to grind that and redo it but will wait until after the school buses stop for the summer. Hal said Elwood road is bad all the way to the four corners and down Potter Hill road and he is very concerned about it. Roy asked him where and he said down Potter Hill going into Union Valley and he said his intention there is to widen it. He said where the new house sits to the top of the hill he plans to get a grader or dozer up there and get the ditches cleaned out and get the road built up. Riley said that was what it really needed and Jeff that was good and would help to solve some of the lower problems too. Roy again said it would be later this summer so he didn't have to worry about the traffic but that is his intention for that road. Jeff said he had no idea that he was going to do that but really liked the idea and Roy said it has been in the back of his mind for a while now. He said he can move the ditches 3 feet out on either side of the road which would give him plenty of space to widen the road and Jeff said that was the biggest problem up there, the ditches. Denise Hopkins said she would like to make a couple of comments and said it is hard for Hal to hear and she asks everyone to speak up and Hal said he was okay. Denise said last month's meeting really got bad and said she never came here with any intention of filing a lawsuit against the Town. She said we got to the one question and Jeff and Steve got upset and said they were not going to answer because it sounded like a lawsuit. She then held up a letter saying she received it from Mr. Walsh, Town attorney, and it says that any information is to found through the Public Information Act which she said true, she worked with that. She said what she did was made a little postcard of what has been happening without names and they signed it. They came in to April's office and Joey and TJ were there to get the latest list of dog licenses which is a Public document. She then went to the County and asked for the voter registration and put them together to get mailing addresses. She added it was a lot of work and money on her part. Denise said they are in the phone book under their names and

they have not received one complaint but she thought it was important to let folks know. She said what she was asking for and what she guesses she needs to do is follow more strict guidelines and if it is something that needs to go under the Freedom of Information Act she will do that. Denise said she wanted to add quickly about the Dog Law but first and said she was accosted for being vengeful by someone saying we are going to be here all night. She said she understands that he was sent here by the person she is having trouble with but it was out of line for him to say. She added that this was not out of vengeance but because they have been preeved. She spoke about the Consolidated dog Laws which specifically has sections that pertain to Ag and Markets from where the Towns Law needed to come. She said it is 72 pages and she read all the pertinent sections several times over. Denise said if she read the proposed Taylor Dog Law a dozen times side by side with the Consolidated Law which she did and said well what's the word; she found 15 typos alone. She said to April I am not saying you did it wrong you probably got it from a disk but those are simple mistakes. She said they also found some that were pretty serious. Whether we would have licenses issued with 1 month or 11 months of rabies vaccinations. She said that was a real important thing and it took us about 15 minutes to all come together about it. She said she does not mean to be boastful but she worked all her life as a paralegal doing administrative. She said that applies to taking a Federal Law and making it into a State Law or State Law into a Local Law. Jeff asked her where she was going with all of this because everyone has had long days and if there is something and Denise interrupted him saying yeah because that was a really nasty thing that person said during the Public Hearing and felt the Board should know she is not stupid. Her whole life has been examining the Law and don't think that she is coming from a nasty position and said this is what I have done my whole life. Jeff said to Denise that whatever anyone else has said about her does not pertain to the Board. He added that the Board values her opinion but again everyone has had a long day and Denise obviously upset started to pack her things saying okay

but she knows that all the penalties in this case disappeared and she wants to know why and started reading from some papers he had. Orders to seize a dog this was in 2003 Katherine Elwood had Robert Crowley, as Denise was looking back and forth for the dogs, impound the animals. She her dog Dakota got out and killed a turkey and she offered 4X the amount and a live 28 pound turkey. She began getting loud saying she paid \$48.00 and had her dog impounded plus a court appearance. She asked why has everybody else has allowed this to disappear. Jeff told her that they cannot fix what happened before and they are trying to get Laws in place that an outside source can write tickets under. Jeff added that what's done is done and Denise loudly stated that for 3 years she has had to deal with this. Jeff said to the other Board members let's make a motion to end the meeting. Riley asked if he could get someone to make a Motion to adjourn and Denise screamed that she was not done and if they wanted to call the cops on her then go ahead and started throwing her papers around.

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting was made by Jeff Smith, 2nd by Joey Pudney.....carried

Respectfully Submitted,

April Law
Town Clerk