

PUBLIC HEARING

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 10, 2011

At the Public Hearing held on Monday, January 10, 2011 at the Hopkinton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Supervisor Rust, Councilpersons Wood, Bagnato, Sochia.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ronald Streeter Hwy Supt., Clerk French, Assessor & Code Officer Alan Fukes, James Hollenbeck, Brenda Nicholson, Georgia Macy, Daniel Murdie IBERDROLA Renewable, Jenny Burke IBERDROLA Renewable, Robert Phippen Jr., Walter Bishop, Barbara Bishop, Andrew MacAdoo Slick Network Solutions, Adam Britton, Sabrina Britton.

ABSENT: Councilperson Gordon Jock.

Supervisor Rust called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Rust explained the reason for the Public Hearing was to hear input for or against Slic Network Solutions and the Town of Hopkinton entering into a franchise agreement for the service of cable TV.

Andrew MacAdoo explained the project and the area of coverage to those present. They hope to beta test in May of 2011 and be ready to provide service in summer of 2012.

All persons being heard for or against the franchise agreement were heard and Mrs. Wood made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bagnato to adjourn the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Supervisor Rust called the Organizational Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Records, bank statements, cash account books and annual reports of Justice Tebo and Clerk French were presented, audited and signed by the Board.

A copy of all appointments and fiscal resolutions are attached.

Mrs. Bagnato made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wood to adjourn the Organizational meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Supervisor Rust called the Regular meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR:

Jenny Burke and Daniel Murdie, IBERDROLA Renewable spoke to those present on the possibility of constructing wind turbines in the Town of Hopkinton. They will be looking at building 50 towers between the Town of Hopkinton and the Town of Parishville. They will provide 100 megawatts of power.

Robert Phippen questioned the effect they have on hearing impaired persons. Ms Burke stated that they have not come across any problems with that in the past. They would be 50 decibels or less. Maps will be available later this year.

Adam Britton asked what the set back was from residences. Ms. Burke commented that currently they are at 1500 feet from residence.

Supervisor Rust told those present that the Town is working on a Local Law to regulate wind turbines.

Mrs. Wood made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bagnato to accept minutes of Regular Meeting held on December 20, 2010 and Special Meeting held on December 29, 2010 as presented. Adopted unanimously.

Supervisor Rust told the Board that the accountant did not have the Financial & Budget Report ready for the meeting. They will be presented at the February Meeting.

Voucher Nos. 1 to 30 General Fund Abstract 1 in the amount of \$12,173.74 were audited and approved by the Board.

Voucher Nos. 1 to 11 Highway Fund Abstract 1 in the amount of \$14,534.50 were audited and approved by the Board.

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Voucher Nos. 1 to 3 BHLS Health Center Fund Abstract 1 in the amount of \$748.59 were audited and approved by the Board.

Mrs. Bagnato made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sochia to pay the bills. Adopted unanimously.

Correspondence:

Association of Towns: regarding the 2011 training school and proposed resolutions.

Old Business:

Lamp Post: Supervisor Rust reported that he has found a vendor that can provide the exact same lamp post that we currently have in the park to replace the one that was broken. The vendor is Tuscumbia Iron Works and he has placed an order. The lamp post should be here in four to six weeks.

Committee Reports:

Code: Mr. Fukes presented a written report. We are down 11 permits from last year. We had three new homes and three new camps in 2010. He will be attending the Code Enforcement Conference in Lake Placid.

Assessor: Mr. Fukes presented a written report. Enhanced STAR renewal applications have been mailed. He will be starting the revaluation in mid July. Darren Colton has been named the new SLC Real Property Director.

Library: Mrs. Nicholson reported that the number of patrons in 2010 was 2,189. 1096 Adult books were checked out, 1661 children's books, 1095 videos. The computer was used 478 times.

Museum: Mrs. Wood reported that they are planning the Maple Fest. They are trying to set up a new inventory system. There are two new members John and Cindy Niles.

Highway & Safety: Mr. Streeter presented a written report. He also presented a fuel usage report for 2001-2010. He reported that he is trying to set up a date with SLC Highway Supt. on a safety workshop in regards to violence in the workplace.

Fire and Rescue: Mr. Streeter reported that the Elections of commissioners were held. Frank Barney was elected to a five year term, Michael Opal four year term, Gerald Goldsworth three years, James Hollenbeck two years, Dale Nicholson one year, Susan Wood Treasurer.

He also reported that they are continuing in house training.

He also presented a Man Hour report for 2010.

Mr. Streeter said they are going to burn the LaPage house, currently purchased by the town. Supervisor Rust asked him to make sure that anything that is salvageable is taken out.

Town Facilities: Mrs. Wood reported that the lamps along SH 11B and Church St are not lit. Supervisor Rust stated that in the spring we need to look at what the problem is and get it corrected.

Seniors: Mrs. Wood stated that they have the 2011 budget set.

Food Pantry: Mrs. Macy reported that they had \$3,000.00 in donations during the Holiday Season. They are still in need of a permanent set up.

New Business:

2011 Quad Town Senior Contract: Mrs. Wood made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sochia to approve the contract in the amount of \$1500.00. Adopted unanimously.

2011 St. Regis Falls Adult Center Contract: Mrs. Bagnato made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wood to approve the contract in the amount of \$1500.00. Adopted unanimously.

North Country Life Flight: Mr. Sochia introduced the following Resolution with a second by Mrs. Wood:

WHEREAS: North Country Life Flight, Inc. is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation which is responsible for all aspects of patient care by providing medical equipment, training medical personnel and administering the

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medical portion utilizing the New York State Police helicopter based in Saranac Lake and private fixed-wing aviation resources; and

WHEREAS: the New York State Police and private fixed-wing aviation resources do not provide a medically trained team or medical equipment for patient transports; and

WHEREAS: The people of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and St. Lawrence Counties receive a vital emergency medical service which is free of charge to critically ill and seriously injured patients, and, therefore municipal governments are asked to pledge monies for this worthwhile program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Hopkinton hereby authorizes the Supervisor to enter into a contract with North Country Life Flight, Inc. for the purpose of operating the medical component of the medevac program, which will serve its residents and visitors, and paying the amount of \$500.00 which represents the Town's share for 2011; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the sum of \$500.00 is hereby appropriated to Account No. A4540.4 for payment to North Country Life Flight, Inc.

VOTE: Supv. Rust Aye, Councilpersons Wood Aye, Sochia Aye, Bagnato Aye, Jock Absent.

Tax Cap Resolution: Supervisor Rust reported to the Board that he had received an email from Jeffrey Haber, Association of Towns in regards to a 2% property tax cap. Due to the fact that health care costs, pension costs are predicted to eat up more than the 2% cap in the coming years towns need to pass a resolution asking the State Legislature to provide mandate relief rather than a state mandated tax cap.

Mrs. Bagnato introduced the following resolution, with a second by Mrs. Wood:

WHEREAS, towns provide services to more than eight million New Yorkers, yet account for less than 15% of the overall real property tax burden; and

WHEREAS, towns are uniquely dependent upon the real property tax to fund town services, more so than counties, cities and villages in that towns do not have the authority to levy sales taxes, occupancy taxes, gross receipts taxes or income taxes; and

WHEREAS, non property tax revenues (e.g. mortgage recording taxes (fell by \$164 million from 2006 to 2008), sales taxes (declined by \$30 million from 2008 to 2009), and state/federal aid/grant programs (State AIM decreased by 5%) are subject to market fluctuations and the ability of the federal, state and county governments to share revenue with towns; and

WHEREAS, the costs to provide town services and to fund town operations continue to increase despite declining revenues, such as

Health care in 2011 for six employees will be \$88,986.56.

Transportation cost to maintain roads will be \$708,126.00

Pension Contributions will be \$34,500.00 in 2011 and estimated at \$46,000.00 in 2012.

WHEREAS, many town expenses are dictated by compliance with federal and state mandates, most notably: storm water management, prevailing wage, procurement requirements, collective bargaining procedures, and the administration of real property exemptions; and

WHEREAS, New York State has primarily provided real property tax relief through ad hoc property tax exemptions rather than comprehensive property tax reform, resulting in a tax shift rather than a tax reduction as well as additional administrative and litigation costs; and

WHEREAS, simple capping property taxes will not reduce the cost of health care, mandate compliance, pension contributions or the public's expectation of governmental services; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hopkinton have taken initiative in lowering property taxes through staff and salary reductions and program cuts; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that based upon Home Rule principles the Town of Hopkinton has traditionally opposed state mandated property tax caps; and Be It Further

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RESOLVED that the Town of Hopkinton calls upon the Governor and Members of the State Legislature to fund and/or eliminate state mandates reform the real property tax system and address cost drivers in the provision of Local government services/operations before implementing a property tax cap; and Be it Further

RESOLVED that in order for a real property tax cap to lower property taxes while ensuring the delivery of essential services the program must include at a minimum:

- Exemptions for structured costs such as pension contributions, debt service, contract obligations, reductions in state or federal aid and emergencies and costs associated with unfunded and underfunded mandates;
- Hardship relief on a case by case basis;
- Mandate relief and reform;
- Increased and predictable state revenue sharing and aid formulas;
- Additional locally generated revenue streams;
- A defined floor of four percent with the possibility of an increased cap based upon a percentage of inflation; and
- Local override by supermajority vote of the town board.

VOTE: Supervisor Rust Aye, Councilpersons Wood Aye, Bagnato Aye, Sochia Aye, Jock Absent.

Pay loader: Mr. Streeter told the Board that we still are in need of a new pay loader. The state contract for 2011 is not official as of yet. He hopes to have some facts and figures for the next meeting.

Supervisor Rust also asked him to check into the value of the 2006 Ford 450. It may be in our best interest to update that truck also.

Cable Franchise: Mrs. Wood made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bagnato to enter into a cable franchise Agreement for the provision of cable services between the Town of Hopkinton, County of St. Lawrence, State of New York and SLIC Network Solutions, Inc.

VOTE: Supervisor Rust Aye, Councilpersons Wood Aye, Bagnato Aye, Sochia Aye, Jock Absent.

Mrs. Bagnato made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wood to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Vickie French

RMC

\*CORRECTION: Abstract 1 General Fund in the amount of \$12,427.26.