

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 15, 2011

At the Regular Meeting held on Monday, August 15, 2011 at the Hopkinton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Ronald Streeter Hwy Supt., Clerk French, Assessor & Code Officer Alan Fukes, Ernest Wood, James Hollenbeck, Richard Schrader, Dianne Schrader, Benny Fairchild Northern New York Newspapers, Jeannie Piekarz, Brenda Nicholson, Wanda Mallette.

Supervisor Rust called the Regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Wood made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sochia to accept minutes of Regular Meeting held on July 18, 2011 as presented. Adopted unanimously.

Mr. Sochia made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jock to approve the Financial Report for July 2011 as presented. Adopted unanimously.

Voucher Nos. 227 to 255 General Fund Abstract 8 in the amount of \$6,033.24 were audited and approved by the Board.

Voucher Nos. 136 to 157 Highway Fund Abstract 8 in the amount of \$27,471.02 were audited and approved by the Board.

Voucher Nos. 24 to 27 BHLS Health Center Fund Abstract 8 in the amount of \$3,172.32 were audited and approved by the Board.

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

Correspondence:

NYS Dept of Taxation & Finance: regarding the town's final State equalization rate of 72.00% for the 2011 Assessment Roll. Mr. Fukes will be doing a reassessment in 2012 hopefully bring the rate back to 100%. He explained how the equalization rates affect the amount of school and county share for residents of the town.

NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation: regarding Mine File# 60895 (Sochia Pit) the town has reclaimed the pit under the Mined Land Reclamation Law.

SLC Youth Bureau: asking the Boards support in keeping the Youth Bureau in the St. Lawrence County Budget for 2012. Funding that is earmarked for St. Lawrence County will go back to the State government in Albany. The Youth Bureau only uses ¼ of the 1% of the county budget, when they have a bus system that only provides service to 100 people annually for \$469,000.00 They provided a petition for those who wish to support them to sign.

Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Bagnato felt that the Board should support them and write a letter of support and also sign the petition.

Mr. Wood commented that he had several youth work for him at the Ft. Jackson Park cutting brush through the Youth Bureau and they did a great job at no cost to the town.

COAX: is a group of members that are against article X that the Governor signed, which they say strips local municipalities of Home Rule. They are working to have it repealed.

Old Business:

MEGA: Mr. Rust contacted them and they faxed the rates that we would pay. He will have more info next month.

Hopkinton Park Lamps: discussion was held on what needs to be done. They also discussed putting more power in the park in the location of the gazebo and where the food tent is located during Summer Fest. They felt hiring a contractor to do this would be very high. Duane French has said that he and a helper would do the job of repair the electrical to the lamps at the same hourly rate that the town now pays laborers. The board discussed this and Mrs. Bagnato made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jock to start the repairs and not exceed \$800.00 this

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year. Adopted unanimously.

2006 Ford Dump: Mr. Streeter reported to the Board that he had contact Van Bortel Ford and they have a 2011 truck in stock but it is not what we would want. It is a three to four month wait on a 2012. He stated that we can list ours on the on-line auction site to see what we can get for it. We do not have to accept the offer and there is no cost to list it. The Board felt this was a good idea.

Committee Reports:

Code: Mr. Fukes presented a written report. He has issued 22 permits to date. We are down eight permits from this time last year.

Assessor: Mr. Fukes presented a written report. He has registered for the NYS Assessors Conference in Buffalo. The conference will offer 12 continuing educations credits towards the State MANDATED 24 credits to stay certified. The town will be eligible for reimbursement this year. The hearing with the County Judge regarding the property owned by MTDW on Circle Road was canceled until further notice. The Judge is still going to hear the case.

Library: Mrs. Nicholson reported that they have finished the Summer Reading Program. They have applied for a grant. It is a 50/50 the Friends of the Library will provide the Libraries share if they receive the grant. She also reported that they have low water pressure in the bathroom. Mr. Jock will check into this.

Museum: Mrs. Wood reported that they are going to hold Croquet in the Park, looking at a way to participate in the Apple Festival, November is the Holly Berry Sale and in December they will hold the children's Christmas Party.

Highway & Safety: Mr. Streeter presented a written report.

Fire and Rescue: Mr. Streeter reported that the Fire Commissioners have agreed to allow the Fire Department to fill pools. An insurance waiver will have to be signed by the individual and they will charge \$30.00/load. They are also writing a grant that is matching funds from the DEC.

Town Facilities: Mr. Jock reported that he will have to purchase two new fans for the Ladies and Men's restrooms at the Town Hall. The ones that are there are beyond repair.

Groundskeeper: Mr. Wood reported that he broke up the cement behind the Town Office where the old storage building was. He is going to chip brush left behind from when he had the youth there cutting.

Seniors: Mrs. Wood reported that they will not have to pay next year to use the facility at the BHLS housing for their meetings.

Food Pantry: Rich Schrader reported that Comlinks has been extremely generous. They applied for a grant from FEMA but did not meet the criteria. Donations are down. Local are donating produce from their gardens.

New Business:

Local Government Conference: The conference will be held on October 11, 2011 at SUNY Potsdam. Mr. Rust will be attending.

Hodgson Russ Attorneys: regarding legal representation to review the proposed local law regulating wind energy facilities.

Mr. Rust reported to the Board that he had sent the engagement letter to the Roger Linden, Town Attorney, for him to review.

Mr. Sochia made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wood to approve the letter of Engagement with Hodgson Russ Attorneys for legal representation in the review process of the proposed local law regulating Wind Energy Facilities. Adopted unanimously.

Winter Maintenance Contract with the County: Mrs. Wood made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jock to enter into a

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one year contract with the County to plow 6.11 miles of roads in the Town of Hopkinton and 2.55 miles of road in the Town of Stockholm at a rate of \$4,234.75 per mile. Adopted unanimously.

SLC Solid Waste: Supervisor Rust reported to the Board that he had received a letter from William Converse, who is a resident of the town and employee of the SLC Solid Waste Department. He stated that the County is looking into privatization of the SLC SWD. They are looking at the possibility of selling the four transfer stations. They employ 15 workers and two administrative staff and provide service for over 50 commercial haulers and residents of SLC at no cost to the taxpayer. They are self funding. The tipping fee that the SLC SWD charges is \$107.00/ton while the only private transfer station in the county is charging \$160.00/ton and no free services and no low volume user program.

The Board discussed this matter and Mrs. Wood made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Bagnato to write a letter to Mr. Scott Sutherland our County Legislator and let him know that the Town Board is against the privatization of the SLC SWD. Adopted unanimously.

2012 Budget: The Board set a date of September 12, 2011 to hold a Special Meeting to start work on the 2012 Budget at the Town Office.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Vickie French