

TOWN OF CATHARINE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2016

Members present: Supervisor John VanSoest; Councilmen Wayne Chapman, Ronald Hoffman, C. Michael Learn; Deputy Highway Superintendent Martin Vondracek; Guests: Barb & Jim Halpin, Bruce Bruckner

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor VanSoest at 7:30 p.m.

Public Be Heard:

Jim Halpin wants to know about the status of the zoning

Barb Halpin wondered if we had heard about the environmental management council. Nothing is changing, but they went off the track a bit and sent a letter that should not have been sent out without County approval. Kristen recommended that the EMC come together with the Planning Commission. The county felt that would be a good thing, but the proposal did not get out of committee--the EMC is coming up with a proposal to address the problems--they have set guidelines and timelines, although they have not met them all yet--from this point out, nothing will go out to the public without County approval. They do have some new members coming on and will make the meetings more important so people don't feel that it's a waste of time. The county just wants to make the committee accountable.

Additions to the agenda: Zoning update under Unfinished business

RESOLUTION 2016-1

RESOLVE that the minutes of the December meeting be approved as presented to the Board

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 43 ayes, no noes

RESOLUTION 2016-2

RESOLVE that the Year End Minutes be approved as presented to the board

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

RESOLUTION 2016-3

RESOLVE that the Town Clerk's report be accepted as presented to the Supervisor and the Board

RESOLUTION by Wayne Chapman, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

Supervisor's Report:

John explained the savings in the budget and where there were surplus. Some of the accounts look loop-sided but that is the account that purchased the truck in 2015 using funds from Highway accounts and also a \$60,000 CD.

RESOLUTION 2016-4

RESOLVE that the Supervisor's report be accepted as presented to the Board by the Supervisor and the Bookkeeper. Next month we will do all the transfers once the year end accounting is done.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Wayne Chapman

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

RESOLUTION 2016-5

RESOLVE that the Justice report be accepted as presented to the State Comptroller and the Supervisor

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Wayne Chapman

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

Highway report: All is going good right now--one salt spreader is in need of replacement, but the guys will try to nurse it through this year. Vince is getting better each day. There have only been some minor snow ordeals. The one ton had a problem with the spreader. John asked about Corey now that we have Vince back to work. How much do we need him and do we see an end in sight for his need. Marty explained that they have cut him back to 26 hours each week at this point and he is still being very helpful to Vince.

Landfill report: meeting canceled due to no business --there is some interest in using the land for a solar farm-but nothing has been decided.

RESOLUTION 2016-6

RESOLVE that the following vouchers be paid General Fund G1-24 in the Sum of \$51,709.04, Highway Fund H1-11 in the Sum of \$33,344.1, TA 1-5 in the Sum of \$15,440.83, SL 1 in the Sum of \$105.99, SF 19 (Fire District) in the sum of \$73,424.02, for a TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS \$174,023.99

RESOLUTION by Wayne Chapman, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

Unfinished Business:

Rental Registration Law--we can't vote on it this month, but are keeping it on the radar. Harold is in favor of the law as are many of the landlords in the Town. We will schedule a public hearing for next month at 7:00 p.m. Barb Halpin thinks that it's a good idea and it will be on the Agenda for the Council of Governments meeting that is going to be held tomorrow.

We were notified by the county that there have been some safety Issues with the retrofitted lights we had installed by NYSERTA. We have checked our lights and they are not the recalled ones. We will keep track of the lights going forward.

Seneca Highland races: Carl States had a special use permit for the one race per year, but now wants to have 2 races one in May and one in June. Both of the races bring in a large number of people (that supposedly helps our economy) Last year they filled the ditches so they could cross the road, and after the races, they dug the ditches back out and left them as they were in the beginning. Only one neighbor has complained about them that we heard. Wayne asked about the vendors that are up there and if we get any sales tax revenue from them? John asked Barb is there is a way to see who pays sales tax. She thought that you could see by "type" of vendor, but not by particular person/vendor. The special use permit states he can have one race per year and with approval of the board may hold a second race.

RESOLUTION 2016-7

RESOLVE that the Board approve Carl States' request to add a second race to the schedule for 2016 contingent upon meeting health department requirements, county mass gathering requirements, and assurance that everyone is collecting the appropriate sales tax. He must also provide us with proof of insurance at the minimum of \$1 million liability

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

Zoning update--there are 4 components to this process--we have a consultant working with us. One is site plan review, bulk requirements, the sub-division rules and septic law for sensitive areas around the lake. John explained each section. Site plan review would require that anyone who wanted to build something would present to the planning board their plans. The bulk requirements are things like the lot sizes, building sizes and set back rules. The consultant is recommending "neighborhood" zones that would have smaller lot sizes and they would be in Alpine, the 4 corners in Catharine and Cottage Rd. The consultant is recommending that the minimum lot size outside the neighborhood zone be 10 acres, we are not thinking that is a good fit for our town. The reality is that the new zoning won't change a lot, but will make it easier for those with small lots to get permits. Jim Halpin said that the larger lot size will slow the economic growth in the town, but John asked if it would really impact. Jim said that in 10 years that might be a big difference. If he has to buy 5 acres, that doubles the price for what he has to pay and then lowers what he has available to pay for a nice house. There is a lot going on right now, so it's not crystal clear just yet. Jim thinks that 2 acres is big enough, but he wants to know what triggers the site plan review. John said that he isn't clear on that as it's been a while since we talked about that. John explained that we don't want to adopt something that we can't enforce, and that makes life difficult for our residents. The last section is a Septic Inspection Law around the lake--Tyrone has a similar law for their 2 lakes. There would be a protection zone of 300' around the lake-if you have any property within the 300' zone you would have to have the septic inspected every 5 years. One of the other things we talked about was house size--the consultant recommended 300 sq ft for minimum size of a home. that is still up for discussion. There will be some public outreach coming up soon.

Mike asked how we prevent illegal subdivisions before they happen. The only way is to be "Legal Eagles" and have a very large legal bills. It's a tough situation to be in.

The meeting was adjourn at 9:11 p.m. with a motion by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Wayne Chapman

Respectfully submitted:

Carmella Hoffman

Town Clerk/Collector