

TOWN OF CATHARINE
TOWN BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2017

Members present: Supervisor John VanSoest; Councilmen Glenn Bleiler, Ronald Hoffman; Highway Superintendent William Morgan; Guests: Scott Westervelt, Larry Carlton, Bruce Bruckner, Larry Reynolds, Ricky Bullock (Milton CAT representative) (Board members Wayne Chapman and C. Michael Learn were absent)

Meeting called to order by Supervisor VanSoest at 7:31 p.m.

Public Be Heard:

Scott Westervelt: Wants to know if there is a plan to put road topping on the dirt portions of Oak Hill Rd. Bill said that there is no plan at the current time--Bill explained that there was no cost savings at the time to do that. Scott said that right now the road is really mush--he has to use 4 wheel drive to get through it. Ron asked how long it takes to get it to harden up--because it's a shaded area, it takes longer to dry and harden up. John said that we want to do the most sensible thing when we do things--we aren't sure we are at that point to pave it right now. Bill said that all the dirt roads over the county are in the same condition. Bill said that they will look into putting gravel on it in the spring hoping to help with the problem. Scott asked about saline cover to hold down the dust. Bill said that we can no longer get the saline, nor do we have a way to spread it. Scott asked when we would put Dust Oil on if we were going to put it down--Bill said they do dust oil generally in May. He also asked if they could talk to someone to see if the plows could get out before the buses. Bill said that they go out at 5:00 a.m. and with the soft roads, he can't have the guys push it too fast. John explained that Bill does go out at 3:00 a.m. to check the roads and he usually hits Oak Hill around 4--if he can't drive the road in 2 wheel drive, then he will call them in early, but the day that there was a complaint, the road was good at 4, the snow started at 7. The only place there was snow was on the hills at either end--top of the hill was clear. Ron said that he has tried to get the bus people (both Watkins & Odessa) to get together with the highway departments and see what the conditions are and make decisions that way. All the highway departments are out at 3 a.m. checking roads and would know the conditions. This has been a hard winter because of the soft roads--so it puts them behind schedule.

John said that the context of what we are talking about is that we want to make sure the roads are safe when the buses go on those roads. Until he hears complaints from the School, then he won't get on Bill's case about changing things. If we get complaints about the safety, we will look into it.

Larry Carlton: He hopes that the town doesn't look at the fact that there are no houses on those sections of road that are still dirt--it would be nice to have oil and stone all the way so people that live on either end could travel without getting their cars muddy or dusty. John said that anyone who lives on dirt roads could complain about the dust or dirt--we have made a commitment to make improvements on all our roads. All Larry is saying is that we shouldn't say never on pavement on Oak Hill. John said to wrap it up--what he is hearing is to do something on Oak Hill Rd. Larry said that back to the snow plowing he doesn't agree at all--if you don't put sand or salt down, its one thing to be able to climb the hill it's another thing to make sure the bus stops. He said that if you ask any other highway department--they go out and do the roads before buses--Bill said that he asks other highway departments and they do as we do. John said that we are not putting money ahead of safety! We do the roads for the safety of those who travel them.

The main reason that he is here is because he didn't like the fact that the sheriff's department came to his house and said that he was harassing Bill--he didn't feel he was doing that. Larry felt there were different ways to go about this--he would have preferred to have gotten a call from John or Bill to come

down and talk face to face. He feels he deserves better than a deputy coming to his door. John said there is enough conversation at this point and he hopes that the problem is defused. John apologized and hopes things go better. Larry Reynolds addressed the fact that they crews can't go out earlier to get things done because you still have to have the roads clear in the AM and the PM.

Ricky Bullock--CAT representative: He is here to explain the trade-in program that they offer. He appreciates the business that we have done with them. CAT has a program with municipalities where the municipalities can do a trade-in program--it works this way--there are no contracts that hold the municipality to any trades--it benefits the municipality and the CAT dealers. Certain machines can be traded every year some are every year. it depends on the machine. the pricing is based on the cost of a machine (what we paid) and the current price. The "paid" price is subtracted from the current market price and \$10/hour on the machine. that would give you the trade cost. A new machine would cost \$21,000 this year, and we could again trade for a new machine every 2 years. If we bought a new machine and drove it into the ground, it would cost us approximately \$12-13K/yr. With the trade-in program, CAT guarantees fuel consumption. Warranty is one year unlimited hours. CAT has a good will program with municipalities, so if you have a catastrophic failure in the second year, CAT will cover it. Glenn asked if CAT gets government funding--no, they don't. There are a number of towns around the area that are poster children for this trade-in program. The reason they do this is that they couldn't survive without the municipalities. There are 3 people who win, the Municipality, the dealer and the contractor who wants a low hour machine and the 4th person that wins is NYS because the contractor pays tax on the machine. Glenn said that for us it makes sense--the only thing is that we don't put away that \$10K each year into the capital project. Must make a decision before 5/29/17. Glenn asked how often the program changes--Rick explained that CAT could pull the plug at any time--but they haven't for the past 10 years. If we exceed the 2 year time, we would have to trade at fair market value and pay the municipal rate for the new vehicle.

RESOLUTION 2017-10

RESOLVE that the minutes of the January meeting be approved as submitted by the Clerk
RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Glenn Bleiler
VOTE 3 ayes, no noes

RESOLUTION 2017-11

RESOLVE that the Clerk's report be accepted as presented to the Supervisor and board
RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman
VOTE 3 ayes, no noes

RESOLUTION 2017-12

RESOLVE that the Justice report be accepted as submitted to the State Comptroller and the Supervisor
RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Ronald Hoffman
VOTE 3 ayes, no noes

Supervisor's report: Glenn questioned why the taxes collected didn't show on the first page of the Supervisor's report when others did--Carmella will ask Suzanne. (the two checks in question were not deposited--the receipts had not been signed)

The board chose to hold off on approval until we get the answers to the questions.

Highway Superintendents report: The department has been plowing and had a lot of ice to deal with. The roads are soft as they are in the entire County! They have been doing some patching and the holes

come back as fast as we patch them. Another Spreader went down, the bearings are wearing out because of the wet heavy dirt/salt. The new spreader is installed. Bill ordered 100T salt and are half way through it. They are starting spring maintenance on the vehicles. Larry Reynolds would like to say as a tax payer he feels that Bill is doing a good job as Highway Superintendent.

John said that we don't need to make a decision on the trade in program this month being that we are missing board members. As for the roads, we need to work on those that needs it most at this point in time.

RESOLUTION 2017-13

RESOLVE that the following vouchers be paid G24-44 in the Sum of \$8,653.94 and H17-28 in the Sum of \$30,688.16 within funds according to the totals

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Glenn Bleiler

VOTE 3 ayes, no noes

Unfinished business: Tomorrow (2/22/17) night a hearing on the proposed Cell phone tower on Oak Hill Rd. at 7:00 p.m.

Dumpster Day: June 3rd--no electronics will be allowed this year as we have to pay to get rid of them.

New Business: More workers comp payback came through this week. We will put it in the reserve account on the General Side for Retirement benefits at this point.

Carmella asked if she could purchase some plants to landscape around the Town Hall--the cost is \$30. Board agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m. with a motion by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

Respectfully submitted:

Carmella Hoffman
Town Clerk/Collector