

REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 10, 2009

The regular meeting of the Town Board of St. Armand was held on the above date at the Town Hall, Bloomingdale, NY.

PRESENT: Supervisor Joyce W. Morency, Deputy Supervisor Samuel Grimone, Councilmen Charles Whitson, Jr., Councilmen Earl J. Dakin, Jr., Thomas Jones, Highway Superintendent Roger Oliver, and Town Clerk Cynthia A. Woodson

GUESTS: Sandy Hayes, DeForest & Arlene Tinkler, John Jones, and Sue Abbott-Jones

Deputy Supervisor Grimone called the meeting to order at 7: 00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Grimone

RESOLUTION #26 – MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Jones, and seconded by Councilman Dakin, to accept the Regular Town Board meeting minutes of February 10th. All were in favor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #27 – MONTHLY BILLS

GENERAL: Vouchers #61 - 83, Abstract #3	\$57,136.24
HIGHWAY: Vouchers #49 - 66, Abstract #3	\$ 7,554.04
WATER & SEWER: Vouchers #26 - 36, Abstract #3	\$ 6,381.73

A motion was made by Councilman Dakin, and seconded by Councilman Grimone, to accept and pay this month's bills. All were in favor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #28 – SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

RECEIPTS:	\$562,685.59
DISBURSEMENTS:	\$177,079.04
CHECKING BALANCES:	\$179,899.06
SAVINGS BALANCES:	\$583,987.63
CASH BALANCES:	\$763,796.69
WATER & SEWER BALANCE	\$ 43,653.82
TAX COLLECTOR – FEB.	\$454,837.84

A motion was made by Councilman Grimone, and seconded by Councilman Whitson, to accept the Supervisor's Report, the Water & Sewer Report, and the Tax Collector's Report. All were in favor. Motion carried.

AUDIT

Supervisor Morency stated that an audit of the Town Clerk's books on receipts and disbursements was done by Connie Willette and found no irregularities.

ASSESSED VALUATION

Supervisor Morency stated she has received many phone calls regarding their proposed property assessment. She stated that Donna has to do what New York State tells her to do with assessments. Councilman Jones stated that he doesn't believe that; she makes the decisions in assessments. Supervisor Morency stated that she can ask someone from real property to come up and talk to the town board.

LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2009

Supervisor Morency stated that one of the highway workers has worked for the town for twelve years and has his medical insurance from his wife, and this is saving the town a lot of money. He approached the Town Board and asked for a buy-out of the medical insurance. Supervisor Morency stated he would get the buy-out of 15% of the family plan which is \$2,500. The Local Law is only for non-elected full-time employees. No appointed or elected officials are eligible for this plan.

RESOLUTION #29 – LOCAL LAW NOTICE PUBLICATION

Councilman Whitson, who moved its adoption, offered the following resolution.

WHEREAS A Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand to put a notice in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise for a Public Hearing on Local Law No. 1 of 2009 of cash payment in lieu of medical insurance for full-time employees excluding elected or appointed officials. There will be a Special Board meeting following the Public Hearing.

This Resolution was duly seconded by Councilman Jones, and adopted as follows:

Supervisor Joyce W. Morency	AYE
Councilman Charles Whitson, Jr.	AYE
Councilman Earl J. Dakin, Jr.	AYE
Councilman Samuel Grimone	AYE
Councilman Thomas C. Jones	AYE

Dated: March 10, 2009

Cynthia A. Woodson
St. Armand Town Clerk

SEWER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

Supervisor Morency stated the cost of the proposed improvements will cost approximately \$2,264,249.00 to improve the operating efficiency of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) has sent her a letter dated March 4, 2009 stating the Order on Consent for the Town, with the violations on the wastewater treatment plant.

The initial fines from a letter dated April 8, 2008 for a penalty of \$50,000 of which \$25,000 was payable and the remaining \$25,000 was suspended. After the meeting between DEC and the St. Armand Town Board, this current letter provides a penalty of \$25,000 of which \$7,500 is payable and the remaining \$17,500 is suspended on the condition that the Town complies with the terms and conditions in the Order.

Supervisor Morency stated that she has spoken to Todd Hodgson from Architecture, Engineering, and Land Surveying Northeast (AES) and he will review the Consent Order to see if there can be a reduction in the fines. She stated a letter dated January 19, 2009, AES has submitted a proposed Agreement for the evaluation of the wastewater treatment plant for the Comprehensive Performance Evaluation (CPE). Mr. Hodgson is expected to be at the Wastewater Plant on March 11th to meet with Bart for evaluation of the pump station and install flow meters. Councilman Whitson stated he will be available to meet with them.

Supervisor Morency stated that there will be a Public Hearing for the 2nd grant application. She will talk to Vic Putnam and get a date.

VINE ST. WATER BREAK

Supervisor Morency stated that on February 17th, there was water coming out from underneath the road. Bart shut off the water and Trudeau was called to use the excavator to dig up the road. The water pipe in the ground has been leaking for quite awhile. The compression nut had become loose and the leak was around the nut. This

was replaced and Trudeau put in back fill. Supervisor Morency stated that the McCarty's will have to pay the bill of \$743.00, and can make installment payments.

Councilman Jones asked if there was a trench wall for Bart in the hole. Supervisor Morency stated no, but all workers were there in case Bart needed help. Councilman Jones stated that this is OSHA required, and it wasn't done when he talked to Bart. Supervisor Morency stated that Bart never said anything; or the other workers as they were trying to work fast in getting the problem fixed. She is aware that this is a requirement of OSHA. Roger stated that there were some "walls" used before from Essex County and he thought they may still be at Bart's office. Councilman Jones stated that the town should consider getting one. Supervisor Morency will check with the county.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT

Bart submitted his monthly report to the board members. He called Adirondack Water Works to repair the pump they installed last spring. The pump was dead shorting and tripping the circuit breaker. The pump was pulled out and found the pump had twisted on the pipe causing the lead wire to rub against a reducer coupling and expose the wire inside. They corrected the problem and put the pump back into service.

Bart called Heath's Auto Repair for an update on the W&S truck. He was told they couldn't find a reasonable used transmission for the truck and the next best thing they could do was to have the truck transported to Plattsburgh to have its transmission rebuilt.

Bart has been using his own vehicle for town work. He stated he averages 25 miles a day and the Town needs to compensate for the use of his vehicle. He stated that the Town needs to make a decision to either repair or replace the work truck.

TRUCK FOR WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT

Supervisor Morency stated that the W&S truck is a 1999 and in rough shape. She has checked out with local dealers and with the County for a State Contract on another truck for Bart. She stated that Bart could use the Highway's truck, a 2003 Silverado with 83,000 miles, for him to use around the Town; then the Highway department can buy a new truck. Councilman Jones stated that he is not in favor of taking an old truck to transfer to another department. She stated the problem is that the Water & Sewer Districts has no money to spare. Giving the Highway truck to Bart will be of no cost and the Highway has money in the equipment fund to buy another truck. She stated that Bart is not happy about this.

Councilman Dakin stated that with the Water & Sewer District having a tight budget, along with having to pay for the DEC fines, paying for the CPE of \$10,000, doing repairs to the Treatment Plant, and other expenses; you can't ask the taxpayers to pay for a new truck we need to look out for the taxpayers also. Councilman Whitson stated that initially he thought a new truck for Bart would be good, but they need one for the Highway. Bart can use the Highway truck and he can take care of the smaller areas for plowing such as the Reservoir, Shuttle Station, etc. Bart should get another 3 or 4 more years out of the Highway truck and then maybe get a new truck for Bart. Councilman Dakin stated that the W&S truck has over 160,000 miles on it. Councilman Whitson stated that maybe the truck could be sold as auction. Roger stated he didn't think it would sell without a working transmission.

Councilman Jones stated he prefers that the Highway keep their truck and buy a new one for Bart. Councilman Grimone stated he is more inclined to buy a new truck for the Highway Department instead of a new truck for the Water & Sewer Department. Councilman Jones asked Roger that if the truck is used for everything and how long will the truck last. Roger stated about another three to four years. Councilman Jones stated that the Highway can use the truck and we buy a new truck for Water & Sewer; then Highway can get a new truck in three years. Roger stated that if for continuous use for the Highway, no, but if used for the Water & Sewer, yes. Supervisor Morency stated that

Bart will not be having his dog in the truck or at the workplace. Councilman Jones stated that she is spending more money by passing the old truck to get a new one.

RESOLUTION #30 – HIGHWAY TRUCK TO WATER & SEWER DEPT.

Councilman Grimone, who moved its adoption, offered the following resolution.

WHEREAS A Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand to take the Highway pickup truck and give it to the Water & Sewer Department for Town use.

This Resolution was duly seconded by Councilman Dakin, and adopted as follows:

Supervisor Joyce W. Morency	AYE
Councilman Charles Whitson, Jr.	AYE
Councilman Earl J. Dakin, Jr.	AYE
Councilman Samuel Grimone	AYE
Councilman Thomas C. Jones	NAY

Dated: March 10, 2009

Cynthia A. Woodson
St. Armand Town Clerk

Councilman Whitson stated that the Highway truck needs to be completely checked out and have the driver's seat replaced. For now, the guys will have to work on sharing the truck until the new one is here.

Councilman Jones asked Supervisor Morency if she was serious about no dog in the truck. She stated yes. She had a complaint that when Bart was not in the office and the dog was there, the dog rushed and barked at the individual.

NORTRAX CONTRACT

Supervisor Morency asked if the board members wanted to continue with the contract for the John Deere 4440 Bucket Loader. The quarterly checkup was \$3,800 and has increased to \$5,500. Roger stated that Bob Besaw could do the work and do it at the Town garage, but he can't check the fluids for contaminations. Roger stated that Nortrax send the fluids to lab and it is always normal. Councilman Whitson stated that maybe it can be sent out, like Bart does with his samples. Roger will check into this.

Roger stated that the pivot pin on the loader needs to be replaced. It should go to Nortrax to take the pin out, put a collar in, and set the pin in correctly. The cost is about \$5,000. Councilman Whitson suggested that they use the \$5,000 to take the truck to Nortrax to get it fixed and then let Bob do the maintenance work. Councilman Dakin suggested getting the pin fixed quickly. Roger said he can't do it now until the snow is gone, and he was told it was okay to continue using the loader. Councilman Jones asked if Supervisor Morency is waiting for a quote from Mr. Besaw. She stated that when she gets it, she will call the board members with his cost.

SHUTTLE STATION

Supervisor Morency stated that the shuttle station has a problem with a frozen water pipe at the little building. She has called for a port-a-pot and it is in place until the other one is working.

CELL TOWER

Supervisor Morency stated she has received a copy of the Amendments, but she already had them. She will call Sara Mayberry from Verizon and check again on the status. Supervisor Morency stated that this will still go forth with the project, and waiting on the Adirondack Park Agency permit. Councilman Grimone asked when they start to pay as they had a time limit on it whether the project started or not. She stated they have not started on time so they should start paying, and she will check into that.

RIVER ROAD

Supervisor Morency stated that down on the River Road there are culverts near Ed Dyer's house. The culverts will be replaced with a bridge. Roger said Essex County will do the work, and he hopes it gets done before they do the paving.

BVFD AUXILIARY

Supervisor Morency received a letter from the BVFD Women's Auxiliary President, Nancy Heath, about doing a clean up on the Bloomingdale Road to Saranac Lake and if the Town would take the garbage. Supervisor Morency had called the State to inquire and an application was faxed for the Auxiliary to do this.

BLOOMINGDALE VOL. FIRE DEPT. CONTRACT

Councilman Grimone asked if the Fire Dept. looked into getting better pricing for the Worker's Compensation Insurance. Supervisor Morency stated she has told them to try to find another insurance company for both the Worker's Comp. and Liability, but they haven't done anything yet. Roger stated that nothing has been done the last time he attended the meeting. Roger also stated the some of the older firemen are upset at the increase that was set for the Town's portion of payment, as the discussion was not to increase it, and some of the firemen were upset that the Town is not paying the full half of the Worker's Compensation.

SARANAC LAKE FIRE ADVISORY

Councilman Whitson asked Councilman Dakin if there has been any more news on another meeting. Councilmen Dakin and Jones both stated no. Supervisor Morency stated she has not heard anything as of yet.

TOWN HALL – UPSTAIRS

Councilman Jones stated that he has been upstairs to see the work that Dean Montroy has been doing. He asked what the impact is on the proposed building project. Supervisor Morency stated that it is on hold due to the economy and we do not need to spend anymore of the taxpayers' dollars. She stated that the land will be good to have for the future, but have not heard yet from the appraiser.

SKATING RINK

Supervisor Morency talked to Gail Bombard and Doug Hazelton about the rink being closed now as the ice is too soft and wet. Doug told her it would cost too much to get it started again for a few more weeks. She stated that there was an excellent turn out by the listing of names given to her by Gail.

END OF MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Whitson, and seconded by Councilman Dakin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

I, Cynthia A. Woodson, Town Clerk for the Town of St. Armand, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the Regular Town Board meeting minutes held on the above referenced date.

Cynthia A. Woodson
St. Armand Town Clerk