

REGULAR MEETING - FEBRUARY 9, 2010

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

PRESENT: Deputy Supervisor Samuel A. Grimone, Councilmen Earl J. Dakin, Jr., Thomas C. Jones, and Paul Woodruff. Town Clerk Cynthia A. Woodson. Highway Superintendent Roger Oliver.

EXCUSED: Supervisor Joyce W. Morency

GUESTS: Sandy Hayes, DeForest & Arlene Tinkler. Nathan Brown, ADE reporter.

Deputy Supervisor Samuel A. Grimone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Town Clerk.

RESOLUTION #18 - ORGANIZATIONAL MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Dakin, and seconded by Councilman Jones to accept the 2010 Organizational meeting minutes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #19 - REGULAR MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Woodruff, and seconded by Councilman Dakin to accept the regular Town Board meeting minutes of January 12. All were in favor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #20 - MONTHLY BILLS

GENERAL: Vouchers #34 - 57, Abstract #2	\$11,132.86
HIGHWAY: Vouchers #18 - 34, Abstract #2	\$25,320.06
WATER & SEWER: Vouchers #17 - 27, Abstract #2	\$ 7,488.58

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

Councilman Woodruff asked about justifying the expenses for some of the bills. Councilmen Jones and Dakin stated that usually they take notes while signing the bills and then ask Roger, or others, who has always provided answers. Deputy Supervisor Grimone stated that maybe there could be more information as to why such expense is needed, and discussed putting it to vote at the next meeting.

RESOLUTION #21 - SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

JANUARY 2010

RECEIPTS:	\$295,034.05
DISBURSEMENTS:	\$144,495.04
CHECKING BALANCES:	\$330,943.52
SAVINGS BALANCES:	\$229,289.80
CASH BALANCES:	\$560,233.32
WATER & SEWER BALANCE:	\$ 10,477.10

A motion was made by Councilman Dakin, and seconded by Councilman Woodruff, to accept the January Supervisor's report, and the Water & Sewer report. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Note The December Supervisor's Report - Checking Account Balances correct amount is \$128,531.97, not \$128,631.97.

WATER & SEWER REPORT

Bart submitted his monthly report. He submitted his Department of Health and the DEC report. His Water and Wastewater Operators licenses have been renewed. On 01/11, the alarm went off at the River Road lift station. He pulled both pumps to the surface and cleared them of rags. On 01/17 the alarm went off at the River Road lift station, both pumps had tripped the thermal overloads; pulled both pumps to the surface and cleared them of rags. Plans are to wait for an engineering report from AES Northeast and go with suggestions such as a “muffin monster.” On 01/29, he was called to check on the level of the water tank, as the fire department was fighting a structure fire. The tank was better than half-full. Bart turned on an additional pump to help re-fill the tank. On 01/30 he came back to check the tank’s re-fill and found it to be better than 3/4 full. Month of January total amount of water pumped was 1,709,000 gallons with average daily amount of 55,000 gallons per day. The sewage treated per day was 29,000 gallons with a total of 895,000 gallons treated. Bart went to Elizabethtown to pick up the annual water quality report of 2009 for the clerk.

Councilman Woodruff asked if Bart is paid for after hours worked, such as coming to the house fire. Deputy Supervisor Grimone stated that Bart is on salary. Councilman Dakin stated that from what he knows, Bart gets compensation time instead of money. Councilman Jones stated that on calls such as this, Bart should be paid for mileage to and from his home.

WATER & SEWER REGULATIONS - AMENDMENTS

Water and Sewer Clerk stated that the regulations have been updated with the water debt service rate increase and asked the board for discussion on the returned check fee.

RESOLUTION #22 - WATER DEBT SERVICE INCREASE

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

WHEREAS A Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand approved a rate increase for the Water Debt Service of \$10.00. The increase is from \$31.25 to \$41.25 beginning with the March 2010 billing. This increase was approved in the 2010 Budget, which was adopted at a Special Board meeting on November 18, 2009.

Councilman Woodruff, duly seconded this resolution, and adopted as follows:

Supervisor Joyce W. Morency	ABSENT
Deputy Supervisor Samuel A. Grimone	AYE
Councilman Earl J. Dakin, Jr.	AYE
Councilman Thomas C. Jones	AYE
Councilman Paul Woodruff	AYE

Dated: February 9, 2010

Cynthia A. Woodson
St. Armand Town Clerk

RESOLUTION #23 - RETURNED CHECK FEE

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

WHEREAS A Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand approved a \$25.00 charge on returned checks to be included under “Miscellaneous Provision.”

Councilman Dakin, duly seconded this resolution, and adopted as follows:

Supervisor Joyce W. Morency	ABSENT
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Deputy Supervisor Samuel A. Grimone	AYE
Councilman Earl J. Dakin, Jr.	AYE
Councilman Thomas C. Jones	AYE
Councilman Paul Woodruff	AYE

Dated: February 9, 2010

Cynthia A. Woodson
St. Armand Town Clerk

SALT

Councilman Dakin asked Roger how much salt has been used so far this winter. Roger stated that he used 300 tons less than last year at this time. Last year there were 10 or 11 loads and right now, it is seven loads.

CORRESPONDENCE

Deputy Supervisor Grimone informed the board and audience that there is a toboggan run being held on Saturday, February 20 at 2 pm in Lake Placid. It is for local politicians and there will be prizes. They are asking for four-man teams to participate.

CENSUS

Deputy Supervisor Grimone said that Bernie Cushman is the person who is giving the test and training for people wanting to do the census. Bernie will be available at the town hall on Saturdays, February 13, 20, and 27. Deputy Supervisor Grimone asked the Town Clerk if Bernie has a key. Cindy said yes and that she met with Bernie last Saturday and discussed ways to get it better advertised. Cindy e-mailed information to the Enterprise on Monday, and Bernie will contact the radio station.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Deputy Supervisor Grimone said that Rick Heath turned in his resignation due to health reason. Deputy Supervisor Grimone stated that at the last board meeting, he was given the old job description to review and make some changes. Deputy Supervisor Grimone gave it to the Supervisor and she, in turn, gave it to Town Attorney, Dan Manning. Deputy Supervisor Grimone asked the board if they want to accept his resignation. Councilman Dakin said that if Rick wants to come back after taking care of his health, he should have the opportunity. Councilman Jones stated he would accept the resignation. Councilman Woodruff stated that he wanted the people to know that he is related to Rick by marriage, and that he opposed accepting the resignation.

RESOLUTION #24 - CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S RESIGNATION

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

WHEREAS A Resolution of the St. Armand Town Board accept the resignation of Rick Heath, St. Armand Code Enforcement Officer, effective April 1, 2010.

Councilman Dakin, duly seconded this resolution, and adopted as follows:

Supervisor Joyce W. Morency	ABSENT
Deputy Supervisor Samuel A. Grimone	AYE
Councilman Earl J. Dakin, Jr.	AYE
Councilman Thomas C. Jones	AYE
Councilman Paul Woodruff	ABSTAIN

Dated: February 9, 2010

Cynthia A. Woodson
St. Armand Town Clerk

HIGHWAY

Roger said he has received two estimates on tearing down the Barnard building. One from Trudeau Sand and Gravel for \$6,800.00 and another one from Whiteface Construction Corp. For \$8,750.00. Trudeau will leave the slab and foundation in place, whereas Whiteface Construction will take away the concrete and foundation. Roger said he would try to get more estimates.

COMPACT TRACTOR BIDS

Deputy Supervisor Grimone asked the Town Clerk to pass the two bids for the board members to see that they are sealed. The reading of the public notice was waived. The public notice as it appears in the newspaper is as follows: PUBLIC NOTICE - NOTICE TO BIDDERS. Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 103 of the General Municipal Law the TOWN OF ST. ARMAND will accept sealed bids for one new 2010 Compact Tractor with one mid-mount mower - 60-inch width rotary sweeper and one 60-inch front blade. Specifications may be obtained from the Town Clerk, Town of St. Armand. TRADE-IN: John Deere Tractor - 755, 4WD with 60-inch mower, 47-inch snow blower, front blade, and cozy cab. SEALED BIDS must be filed in the office of the Town Clerk on or before 5 P.M. February 9, 2010, after which the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the next Board meeting. The successful bidder will be notified promptly by letter and must be prepared to enter into a contract to furnish the required material or services. The Town of St. Armand reserves the right to reject or to waive any informality in all bids if in the best interests of the Town of St. Armand. Bids should be clearly marked BID ENCLOSED:2010 Compact Tractor. Roger Oliver, Town of St. Armand Highway.

The Town Clerk opened the two bids. Giroux Bros. Equipment, LLC has a final bid for \$33,998.60. Equipment total is \$37,498.60 and trade-in total is \$3,500.00. Dragoon's Farm Equipment, Inc., has a final bid for \$28,900.00. Equipment total is \$43,175.00 and trade-in total is \$14,275.00. Deputy Supervisor Grimone asked the Town Clerk to make a copy for Roger. Roger said he will come the next day to pick them up, and he wants to compare the specifications he asked for. Councilman Jones stated that this one should last for quite awhile. Councilman Dakin asked Roger if the tires are between turf and road, and Roger said yes. Deputy Supervisor Grimone stated that this one should last more than ten years.

FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

Councilman Dakin stated that he has talked to Larry Miller, and there will be a meeting in the next two weeks. On February 15, Vernon James will be submitting the paperwork to Mountain Lake REMAC for certification on the rescue squad. Councilman Dakin said he would keep the board informed.

TRANSPORTATION PREAUTHORIZATION PROJECT REQUEST

Councilman Dakin stated he would like to have a resolution for the support of a four-lane highway connection near Plattsburgh and Watertown. Councilman Dakin said there were samples of resolutions that have passed. Councilman Woodruff stated that he would rather have the town draft a resolution. Deputy Supervisor Grimone asked Councilman Dakin to do a resolution and bring it to the next meeting. Councilman Dakin withdrew his motion. Councilman Jones stated that he is not in favor of it as there Routes 11, 11B, and 3. Deputy Supervisor Grimone stated that he is not sure if this will help the area.

ENERGY AUDIT

Town Clerk stated that when she spoke with Supervisor Morency from Albany, she asked Cindy to e-mail the two energy audit reports to Vic Putnam. The grant deadline is February 17.

MORIAH SHOCK INCARCERATION CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Town Clerk stated that Supervisor Morency had called her from Albany and asked her to submit to the Board a Resolution for the Moriah Shock facility. Cindy presented copies of the resolution to the board. Councilman Woodruff said he would excuse himself from voting due to his position at work. Councilman Dakin stated that it would not hurt Moriah by signing this. Councilman Dakin stated that the shock camps are saving the state a lot of money and the jobs that the inmates do in the community. Councilman Jones stated that he is not in favor of it as the State needs to cut the budget deficit. Deputy Supervisor Grimone asked Councilman Jones why he favored Camp Gabriels staying open. Councilman Jones stated that it is down the road. Deputy Supervisor Grimone asked him if this is a “not in my backyard issue”.

RESOLUTION #25 - MORIAH SHOCK INCARCERATION CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

STATEMENT OPPOSING THE CLOSURE BY NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OF MORIAH SHOCK INCARCERATION CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN ESSEX COUNTY.

The following statement was offered by the Board members of the Town of St. Armand, Supervisor Joyce W. Morency, Deputy Supervisor Samuel A. Grimone, Councilmen Earl J. Dakin, Jr., Thomas C. Jones, and Paul Woodruff.

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Corrections has announced that the minimum-security prison located a Moriah Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility is slated for closure in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the closure of Moriah Shock Incarceration will result in the loss of 102 jobs and the displacement of the employees and their families from the area and surrounding towns; and

WHEREAS, Moriah Shock Incarceration is an integral part of the Town of Moriah economic and social infrastructure and, if closed, will have a devastating impact upon the families, the economy, the community, the schools and the businesses in and around the Moriah Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility; and

WHEREAS, Moriah Shock Incarceration has, over the years, provided invaluable community service to the various towns surrounding the Moriah Shock Incarceration and it is estimated that approximately 61,000 hours of community service was done regionally by inmates of Moriah Shock Incarceration in 2009, which spared Town work crews roughly \$500,000.00 worth of minimum wage work. It saves the State millions dollars in care and custody costs for every 100 shock-incarceration graduates; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand hereby strongly opposes the closure of the minimum-security prison located at Moriah in Essex County and requests the Moriah Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility be removed from the closure list and that it continue to operate as a minimum-security prison and to provide the Town of Moriah and surrounding communities with the economic, social and community benefits and security which it has for so long given, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this statement be sent to Governor David A. Patterson, Senator Elizabeth O’ C. Little, Assemblywoman Teresa R. Sayward; and Assemblywoman Janet Duprey.

Supervisor Joyce W. Morency	ABSENT
Deputy Supervisor Samuel A. Grimone	AYE
Councilman Earl J. Dakin, Jr.	AYE
Councilman Thomas C. Jones	OPPOSED
Councilman Paul Woodruff	ABSTAIN

Dated: February 9, 2010

Cynthia A. Woodson
St. Armand Town Clerk

WATER & SEWER COMPUTER PROGRAM AND TOWN CLERK PROGRAM

Town Clerk, Cindy Woodson, has asked the Board to consider purchasing a new, updated Water & Sewer software program and also a Town Clerk basic software program. The Board has received copies of the quotes pertaining to the software programs. The cost for the Water & Sewer is \$1,580.00 and the Basic Town Clerk is \$980.00. She stated that she was able to get discounted rates.

Town Clerk stated to the Board that there is a strong possibility that the dog licensing through the State will cease, and was told it is now before the Legislation. She stated that she spoke with someone in Albany at the Department of Agriculture and Markets and also to a District Director from the New York State Town Clerk Association. She stated that when this program is discontinued, all licensing would be done by hand, as she does not have a Town Clerk program to do the work.

Deputy Supervisor Grimone stated that the current computer Cindy has might not have enough memory for the programs. Town Clerk stated that she had Jim Minnie in her office today to check out the computer with the specifications of the software programs, and to check out the copier for the scanner. She was told that the computer runs very slow, needs to upgrade memory, and overall tuning. Jim said the expense of the scanner is cheaper than running cable underneath the floors.

Town Clerk was asked about the computer and stated that Supervisor Morency would be the best person to ask as she can get computers at State contract price through Essex County, as Supervisor Morency is going to get one for her office. Sandy Hayes stated that Supervisor Morency should take the Clerk's computer and give the Clerk the new one. Deputy Supervisor Grimone stated he would talk to Supervisor Morency and Jim Minnie.

Councilman Jones stated that he wants to make a motion to purchase all three at once. Councilman Dakin suggested doing two separate resolutions. Councilman Jones stated that he would like all three together.

RESOLUTION #26 - SOFTWARE PROGRAM AND COMPUTER FOR CLERK

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

WHEREAS A Resolution of the St. Armand Town Board purchase a new computer and two software program for the Clerk.

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

Supervisor Joyce W. Morency	ABSENT
Deputy Supervisor Samuel A. Grimone	NAY
Councilman Earl J. Dakin, Jr.	AYE
Councilman Thomas C. Jones	AYE
Councilman Paul Woodruff	NAY

Dated: February 9, 2010

Cynthia A. Woodson
St. Armand Town Clerk

Deputy Supervisor Grimone stated that the resolution did not pass. Deputy Supervisor Grimone asked for a motion to purchase the two software for the Clerk.

RESOLUTION #27 - PURCHASE SOFTWARE PROGRAMS FOR THE CLERK

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

WHEREAS A Resolution of the St. Armand Town Board unanimously agreed to purchase a new Water & Sewer software program and the Basic Town Clerk software program that is applicable to the Clerk through review of the programs.

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

Supervisor Joyce W. Morency	ABSENT
Deputy Supervisor Samuel A. Grimone	AYE
Councilman Earl J. Dakin, Jr.	AYE
Councilman Thomas C. Jones	AYE
Councilman Paul Woodruff	AYE

Dated: February 9, 2010

Cynthia A. Woodson
St. Armand Town Clerk

TAX COLLECTOR

The Clerk said that Nancy Heath has asked for two new SanDisk’s for her computer. Deputy Supervisor Grimone said he would talk to Don Amell about the disks.

POPLAR STREET

A homeowner on Poplar Street told the Clerk they are having more problems with their septic; as they are having problems with water run-off and will need to get it pumped out again. They just did it two years ago. Deputy Supervisor Grimone stated that the Board would address the problem before spring.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Jones made a motion to call for an Executive Session on a personnel matter. Councilman Woodruff seconded this motion. The Board went into Executive Session at 8:25 P.M.

Councilman Woodruff made a motion to end the Executive Session, and Councilman Dakin seconded this motion. The Executive Session ended at 8:34 P.M.

END OF MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Jones, and seconded by Councilman Woodruff to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 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

Minutes are posted as “not yet approved by Town Board” per Supervisor Morency.