

REGULAR MEETING – MAY 11, 2011

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 A. Grimone, Councilmen Earl J. Dakin, Jr., Thomas C. Jones, and Paul Woodruff. Town Clerk Cynthia A. Woodson. Water & Sewer Superintendent Bart Crary, and Code Enforcement Officer Robert Drosdowich.

GUESTS: Sandy Hayes, Arlene & Deforest Tinkler, Georgia Murphy, Tonya Board, Mike Cassavaugh, Tim Woodruff, Jon Houghton, Ian Swirsky, Austin Swirsky, and Rich Stavenhaven.

Supervisor Morency called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sandy Hayes.

RESOLUTION #51 – MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Grimone, and seconded by Councilman Dakin, to accept the Regular Town Board meeting minutes of April 13, and the Public Hearing minutes of April 26 and May 3, and the Special Board meeting of May 3, 2011. All were in favor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #52 – MONTHLY BILLS

GENERAL:	Abstract #4	\$32,491.11
HIGHWAY:	Abstract #4	\$21,025.82
WATER & SEWER:	Abstract #4	\$12,879.37

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.

RESOLUTION #53 – SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

RECEIPTS:	\$ 94,153.33
DISBURSEMENTS:	\$187,851.94
CHECKING BALANCES:	\$662,707.48
SAVINGS BALANCES:	\$258,656.43
WATER & SEWER ACCTS RECEIVABLE	\$ 20,870.67

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

UNPAID WATER & SEWER BILLS

Supervisor Morency stated that of the approximately \$14,000 of unpaid bills, as of today, only \$4594.00 has been paid; still leaving approximate balance of \$11,000. She suggested sending another letter. Councilman Woodruff stated that the penalty waived was a one-time only

deal. Councilmen Grimone, Dakin, and Jones agreed. Supervisor Morency stated that another letter is to be sent giving them only two more weeks to pay or there will be further action.

RUGBY GAMES

Tim Woodruff, Chief of the Bloomingdale Volunteer Fire Department, stated that Jay Annis approached him regarding the rugby championship games on July 31, 2011 to be held again at the St. Armand field. Jay would like to put up a beer garden on the other side of the field and that will be roped off to minors. Supervisor Morency stated that in the past they did not allow any alcohol on the premises. Tim stated that if the Town Board is uncomfortable with this; they won't have the beer garden. They will just have the one down below next to the firehouse. Supervisor Morency said they will need the insurance from Jay for the rugby games.

Councilman Dakin stated that the rugby workers did great in cleaning up and everyone got along with little problems. Councilman Grimone asked Tim to check out the school district to see if they could use buses to help with the transportation and parking. Supervisor Morency will check last year's resolution for the games.

FIRE HYDRANTS

Chief Tim Woodruff asked if they are being flushed. Bart said yes; he has done several. Supervisor Morency stated there may still be repairs to be done.

WATER & SEWER REPORT

Bart submitted his monthly report to the town board. He ran the generator once a week at the well field and water plant. Read several remotes. Attended the water and wastewater training in Potsdam on April 20. Pumped out a basement. The water and sewer truck needed new tie-rod ends put on, aligned, and brake service done. He found the aeration system at wastewater plant off; checked inside blower building and found that the drive belt had broken from wear. He started the other blower and took the drive belt to NAPA to order replacement. On May 10, he flushed hydrants on East and West Main St., Union St., River Rd., and Mill St. On May 11, he flushed the hydrants on Maple Ln., Whiteface Ln., Prospect St., St. Regis Ave., Poplar St., and Oregon Plains Rd. On May 12, he will finish flushing the hydrants on Saranac Ave., School St., and Roosevelt Lane. The month of April average amount of sewage treated per day was 62,000 gallons with a total of 1,874,000 gallons treated. The total amount of water pumped was 1,773,000 gallons with average daily amount of 59,000 gallons per day.

PUMP SERVICE & SUPPLY

Bart stated he had to call Pump Service to fix the problem at the sewer pump station. The cost is \$2829 for a rebuilt pump versus \$4,443 for a new one. There was a second discharge going out of the pump two ways, he will have to de-co activate and put new items in. There will be additional costs because he has to have someone who is experienced using the equipment, as the hole is very confined to do the repairs. Councilman Woodruff asked about the confinement of the hole and understands the need for experienced plumber and people on top to monitor it; but what is the cost and do they have the equipment. Bart stated he didn't know. Councilman Woodruff knows of some people that could do the work at a much lower costs. Supervisor Morency suggested that Bart and Paul meet and discuss it.

CDBG – Community Development Block Grant

Supervisor Morency gave an update on the surveys. Of the 47 mailed out, 34 of them are back to the Essex County Planning Development for the grant application. She will call the others to mail in their survey. She provided the April 2010 quotes to install the sewer infrastructure on five streets and it was \$2,479,529. This quote is outdated and will cost more.

FLOODING

Supervisor Morency stated that all of Essex County is trying to get State of Emergency funding from FEMA and other agencies. The forms are for homeowners who do not have flood insurance. She put an ad in the paper and has forms to give out.

BILL DEMONG

Clyde Rabideau sent an invitation to Supervisor Morency to attend the first “Hall of Fame” for Bill Demong. The reception will be held at the Hotel Saranac on Saturday, May 14. She is unable to attend and asked other board members if they are able to make it. Councilman Dakin said he would but will be attending a funeral; other councilmen were unable to attend.

SARANAC LAKE VILLAGE

Supervisor Morency said that Mr. Rabideau is requesting a meeting with her and the Town Board to talk about the annexation at American Management Association. There are 40 acres on the back of Mt. Pisgah for the water tower. Councilman Grimone asked how we protect the homeowners; Supervisor Morency said she will fight the annexation. She will set up a meeting.

TOWN HALL PROJECT

Councilman Dakin stated he talked to Phil Weidenheimer about the bricks and Phil said that from the second floor up, the grout is powder and needs to be replaced. Supervisor Morency stated that replacing all bricks will cost too much money. Councilman Dakin stated that not all the bricks needed to be replaced; only the ones around the top of the windows and that several bricks need grout in them. Councilman Dakin also checked the basement and found some damp areas where water is coming in from the ground. He asked about the two RFP’s the Town received last year on the project. Supervisor Morency stated she didn’t know at the moment. Supervisor Morency stated that she talked to Sheridan Swinyer and he said to do the drainage first by digging it down about 6 or 8 inches more, put in the pipe then add about 6 inches of stone down to the edge of the parking lot. Councilman Grimone said the RFP (request for proposal) he received from Andy Chary will do a new quote but have some changes. Councilman Grimone stated that he arranged for the sensor light to be put up at the entrance of the Town hall.

YOUTH BUILDING

Councilman Dakin stated that he has been going to the Youth building to check out for water damage and found that some kid(s) broke the light. He took the light down and spoke with Supervisor Morency about it before the meeting and asked if he could get someone to replace it. Supervisor Morency said yes. He received a quote from Greg Walker for \$180 to purchase and replace the light. Supervisor Morency said that water is still coming into the basement, and Councilman Dakin and Bart have been going down to get the water pumped out. Councilman Dakin stated that there was supposed to be a hole in the floor for the sump pump and by not having the hole it is causing more problems.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Robert asked the board that when they all met with the Health Officer; Ray Scollins, Ray asked the board if they want him to make the decisions or come to the board then make the decisions. Robert would like to know as well; as it would make both positions easier to do the work. Robert asked if the positions are to be proactive or does the board want them to come back and get approval of the board to handle the situation.

Councilman Jones stated that Ray and Robert should address the problems and the Town board should back up their decisions. Councilman Grimone stated that the board should step in only if a complaint is filed or when they see a problem with the situation. Councilman Grimone stated that the Town will need to look for another Health Officer as Ray is leaving this Fall.

Rich Stavenhaven spoke to the board in regards to his situation with his neighbors. Since there is no ordinance there is nothing that can be done. He also has tried State laws and nothing can be done. He stated that there should be some type of Local Laws and/or Ordinances for situations like he is experiencing. Councilman Grimone stated that Ray is working on some of that information for us.

BROOKSIDE CEMETERY

Councilman Dakin stated that he went up with Charlie Whitson to check out the sinkhole by the building. Supervisor Morency stated that the highway men will be getting sand and shock rocks and will fix it; since it is on St. Armand's property.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Grimone made a motion to have an Executive Session to discuss a notice of petition on Real Property. This motion was seconded by Councilman Dakin at 8:10 p.m.

Councilman Grimone made a motion to end the Executive Session to return to the regular board meeting. This motion was seconded by Councilman Woodruff at 8:35 p.m.

Councilman Grimone made a motion to return to regular board meeting and seconded by Councilman Woodruff at 8:36 p.m.

TOWN OF ST. ARMAND LAWSUIT

In the matter of the application of Carl Eriksen against Donna Bramer, appointed assessor of the Town of St. Armand and the Town of St. Armand for review of certain tax assessments on the 2010 Town of St. Armand assessment roll.

Supervisor Morency asked for a Resolution to accept the Attorney's proposal of reducing the assessment from 942,600 to 841,000 to be reduced to \$800,000. Supervisor Morency stated that Attorney Noth and Donna Bramer are working on an agreed figure. The Town has to pay for the appraisal if choose to reject this proposal and it could be \$5,000. Councilman Grimone asked Supervisor Morency who said that. She stated it was Attorney Dan Manning. If agreed on the \$841,000 to settle, then there will be no appraisal or court, or go to court and may win or lose. Councilman Grimone is against the \$841,000 to \$800,000 as well as Councilmen Dakin and Woodruff. Councilman Jones is in favor of it.

RESOLUTION #54 – SETTLEMENT ON ASSESSMENT OF C. ERIKSEN’S PROPERTY

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

WHEREAS A Resolution of the St. Armand Town Board does not agree to the sum of \$800,000 as a settlement of assessed valuation for property owned by C. Eriksen.

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

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

Dated May 11,2011

Cynthia A. Woodson
St. Armand Town Clerk

Supervisor Morency declared the resolution defeated and she will notify the Attorney.

END OF MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Grimone, and seconded by Councilman Woodruff, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 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