

REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 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 Charles Whitson, Jr. Town Clerk Cynthia A. Woodson, and Historian Don Amell,

GUESTS: Sandy Hayes, Connie and Gabriel Willette, Carol Techman, Sue Abbott-Jones, DeForest and Arlene Tinkler, Joe Garso and Jeff Cotter.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Grimone.

RESOLUTION #79 – MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Dakin, and seconded by Councilman Grimone, to accept the Regular Town Board meeting minutes of August 10, and the Special Board meeting of September 6, 2011. All were in favor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #80 – MONTHLY BILLS

GENERAL:	Abstract #9	\$35,334.23
HIGHWAY:	Abstract #9	\$25,024.96
HIGHWAY OUTSIDE:	Abstract #9	\$13,128.48
WATER & SEWER:	Abstract #9	\$ 9,725.84

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

RESOLUTION #81 – SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

RECEIPTS:	\$ 7,295.21
DISBURSEMENTS:	\$ 89,391.08
CHECKING BALANCES:	\$581,249.97
SAVINGS BALANCES:	\$151,408.25
WATER & SEWER BALANCE	\$ 12,118.73

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

WATER & SEWER

Jeff Cotter prepared a report stating that:

1. On September 6, he collected the monthly Coliform sample from the Town Hall kitchen sink and sent it to Life Science Lab for testing.
2. He purchased a Fluke Multi Meter with Amprobe to use to troubleshoot both water plant and sewer plant equipment.
3. He troubleshoot Well Field pump #3 to see why the pump has been blowing fuses. The amperage reading on the pump was approximately 18 amps on each phase. This is a normal reading for this HP pump. There may be a short condition in the pump. The startup amperage was 30 amps, however the fuses that have been blowing are time delay fuses so the start up amperage should not cause the fuses to blow. He will continue to troubleshoot and monitor this pump closely.
4. He went to the Pump House responding to a power outage in Bloomingdale. The Pump House Generator came on line automatically as designed. He monitored and adjusted the generator voltage. The Well Field Generator must be manually started and connected to the Well Field Pumps. He also noticed that in the event of a power outage there is no transmission signal from the Stand Pipe Tower level indicator to the Pump House Chart recorder. No battery backup. Level in the Stand Pipe can only be monitored by the system pressure during a power outage.
5. He spent time cleaning up the basement in the Pump House.

6. On a daily basis, he completed daily lab tests and Health Department paperwork along with Well Field and Pump House checks. He will issue lead and copper bottles next Monday and have the testing done at the Health Department State Lab.

#### WATER & SEWER TRUCK

Councilman Grimone asked why the truck was taken to Darrah Body Shop. Councilman Dakin stated that the hinges needed to be replaced on the driver's side. Supervisor Morency stated that Darrah Body Shop also checked out the frame work under the truck, and the seat needed to be replaced as it is worn out. They are looking for a used seat.

#### TOWN HALL DESIGN

Mr. Joe Garso provided copies of the upstairs design to the board members. He stated there is room for five or six offices upstairs, improvements to the downstairs conference room and other offices. Elevator is a type that is for a limited use facility. Supervisor Morency asked what kind and he stated that a full elevator has a capacity for 1500 pounds and a limited one has a capacity of 900 pounds. The cost is less and only goes a few floors. Councilman Jones asked how much one cost and was told it would be approximately \$50,000.

#### HIGHWAY

Supervisor Morency stated that the 2009 Mack truck is in Albany for repairs; engine power unit problem is fixed, made changes in computer on engine speed.

Supervisor Morency stated that Dean Montroy has a small forklift for sale and she asked Roger to look at it.

#### FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

Supervisor Morency stated that the next meeting is on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. She stated that in 2012 there will be two separate bills; one for the fire department and another for the rescue. Councilman Dakin stated that he will know tomorrow what the costs will be at the meeting.

#### JUDGE'S OFFICE

Supervisor Morency stated that John Schwartz will begin doing the electric work in the basemen and Judge's office to separate his computer electrical hookup from the furnace hookup.

#### PARK AVENUE

Supervisor Morency stated that she attended a meeting at a private home with Park Ave. residents on August 30. The petition to Town of St. Armand and Village of Saranac Lake is as follows:

This petition concerns the proposed annexation of AMA and potential increased traffic on Park Ave. Park Ave. is now a safe, quiet residential street in the Village of Saranac Lake. There are an increasing number of young families with small children that are living on this street because it is such a safe, neighborhood. In the past when the iron gate between American Management Association (AMA) and Park Ave. was open, Park Ave. was a speedway. The traffic from employees rushing to and from work or lunch was heavy and police were unable to control speeding. It was not good for Park Ave. residents, then, and it would not be good, today, if AMA was again open to the public from Park Ave. (According to the 8/5/11 Adirondack Daily Enterprise, "AMA Way would be dedicated to the village, opened to the public and become part of Park Ave.") As residents of the Park Ave. neighborhood, we are opposed to opening AMA to the public via Park Ave.

The reason for this petition is to preserve the residential character of Park Ave and to minimize commercial traffic. (See VSL Master Plan pgs. 56058.) We, the undersigned, are concerned Park Av. Neighborhood residents and are requesting that the iron gate between AMA and Park Ave. remain closed as part of the annexation agreement. Preservation of the residential character of the Park Ave. neighborhood and the minimization of commercial traffic is a stated goal of the Village Master Plan.

Supervisor Morency asked for a resolution accepting such petition.

RESOLUTION #82 – PARK AVENUE PETITION AGAINST AMA

Councilman Grimone, who moved its adoption, offered the following resolution.  
WHEREAS A Resolution of the St. Armand Town Board to accept the petition to be recorded in the official Town’s minutes.

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

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

Dated September 14, 2011

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Cynthia A. Woodson  
St. Armand Town Clerk

Councilman Grimone stated that we (Town of St. Armand Board) have not received the AMA petition yet. Supervisor Morency stated no.

SEPTIC SYSTEM

Councilman Grimone stated that he called Mr. & Mrs. Blaise regarding their septic system and was unable to meet up with them, and asked the Town Clerk to send a certified letter. Supervisor Morency and Councilman Grimone will still try to sit down and talk to them.

DUFFY HOUSE

Councilman Jones stated that he has talked to Robert Drosdowich about the blue house. He stated that Robert told him that Mr. Duffy said he would board up the windows. Councilman Jones stated that it is unsafe for kids. Supervisor Morency asked Councilman Jones if nothing was done. Councilman Jones said yes.

CELL TOWER

Supervisor Morency stated that the electrical and panel box still have work to be done. Councilman Dakin stated that he did go up to check on the progress and not much more was done since the last time he was there; there are a lot of cables around there.

TOWN CLERK REGIONAL MEETING

Town Clerk stated that on Monday, September 19 there is a regional Town Clerk meeting being held in Lake Placid and will be attending.

JOB POSITIONS

Supervisor Morency stated that she is waiting on the job descriptions for the Water and Sewer positions from Dan Manning.

Sue Abbott-Jones asked Supervisor Morency if she advertised for the intern position. Supervisor Morency stated that Bart quit in four days; this was an emergency situation and needed to find someone quickly.

BART CRARY

Councilman Jones stated that he talked to Bart Crary before coming to the meeting and Bart asked about his retainer letter. Supervisor Morency told the board members that Bart wants \$500.00 per month and for one year it is \$6,000. Councilman Grimone stated that he doesn’t think we need a contract; we can send him a letter letting him know. All board members, except Councilman Jones, are not in favor of a contract.

RUGBY

Councilman Grimone asked if the dump fees were from rugby. Supervisor Morency stated that the Fire Department paid for it; and she stated that we paid for the grass seed this year, plus the men’s time. That area should be re-visited and next year asked for a reasonable fee. Sandy Hayes asked how much does it cost for grass seed, and she stated about \$250.00.

## SUE ABBOTT-JONES

Sue asked Supervisor Morency if Don Amell will quit his paid position as Town Historian as he will be elected to the Town Board. She stated that this is a conflict of interest as the same with Councilman Whitson who is on the board and works as the cemetery caretaker. Supervisor Morency stated that she has talked with Dan Manning and the board passed a resolution. Supervisor Morency stated to Councilman Jones that he may want to talk about his letter sent to Town Attorney Dan Manning.

Councilman Jones stated that he did send a letter to Dan Manning wanting comments on specific situations. As far as Charlie (Councilman Whitson) I commend the job he does but still maintain a conflict of interest.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR OPINION ARTICLE

September 14, 2011 at the St. Armand Town Board meeting: Joyce W. Morency Supervisor's response to Opinion Letter in Adirondack Daily Enterprise September 13, 2011 written by Sue Abbott-Jones (Thomas Jones wife).

Mrs. Jones, your opinion letter doesn't bother me – you have written so many letters criticizing me and the Town Board members. Of course I find it annoying how you and Tom Jones recall issues, it is unbelievable how inaccurate you recall issues. Your letters are certainly entertaining. Now I can't speak for the Board members who you have insulted, but when five members discuss and deliberate on a Resolution and only one vote no or abstains, that makes a statement.

There's no question I've put my heart and soul into my Supervisor position. As for helping people with problems, I'm proud to say I have done that for many years, being a County Supervisor and having access to programs and information like getting summer jobs for kids with grant dollars and summer lunch program with grant dollars. I never ask anyone what their Party affiliation is. List of items I have helped people with – real property, pistol permits, liquor licenses, DMV errands, Medicaid, HEAP, senior programs, star programs, housing programs, winter carnival, use of County Planning office writing grants, Essex County Attorney, reduce compensation insurance for the Fire Department, and yes, I was an active force electing Randy Douglas, who is a Democrat, from Jay and is Chairman of Essex County Board of Supervisors for two terms, probably three, he does a great job. I have chaired almost every County Committee including Chairwoman of Essex County Board of Supervisors; first woman to ever serve as Chairwoman, also Budget and Finance Officer, Chairwoman of Ways and Means, just a few.

Yes, when I was the Essex County Republican Chairwoman and we had a Republican Governor Pataki – I had access to the second floor and I was proud to help people get jobs in the prison systems and other facilities. Most of those people still have their jobs and many with promotions. Now we have a Democrat Governor Cuomo so Essex County Chairwoman, Democrat Committee, Sue Corey Montgomery can do the same as I did. And I always have access to Senator Little who has never refused to help me or any St. Armand resident.

So, once again “thank you” for your opinion letter. I'm sure other people may have a higher opinion of me and my job ethics. Your letter also gave me the opportunity to talk about a few of my accomplishments for St. Armand. I also want to thank our Town Board members for their assistance. Sam Grimone, Deputy Supervisor, always available ready to share his thoughts and opinions. Jim Dakin has helped me many times on Town Hall issues, Fire Advisory Board, Shuttle Station repairs, etc., etc. Charlie Whitson always was and still is a strong voice on our Board. He is very aware of issues facing St. Armand past and present.

Supervisor Morency stated that this is a good time to read Barbara Tallman's letter. The Town Clerk read the letter. Councilman Jones left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

## TOWN HALL DRAINAGE

Councilman Whitson stated that he is constructing a short wall in front of the building and is going to do the landscaping and finish the drainage system next to the Town Hall. He asked for approval to continue with this project and to purchase 600 blocks of stones and tubes of adhesive; five pallets of stone will cost \$1,402.00 and 25 tubes will be \$98.50. There was discussion of maybe using curb stops instead of grass and dirt, Councilman Grimone will ask owner next door if he will allow it. Councilman Grimone will also make phone calls regarding the flag pole.

## SERIAL BOND

Sandy Hayes stated that the Public Notice on the Serial Bond was confusing and knows that the Attorney wrote it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION was called by Councilman Dakin. It was determined not to be an executive session and therefore back into the regular meeting.

## WATER & SEWER

Councilman Dakin asked if the position will be advertised, as Jeff Cotter had stated that he is only willing to do the work until someone else is hired, as Jeff stated he cannot do this job full time. Councilman Dakin stated that in his opinion, one full time and a backup to the position should be enough; instead of three or four people. Supervisor Morency stated that the cost saving of having several part-time people working is not paying health insurance or other benefits.

## PUMP HOUSE

Councilman Dakin stated that he went to check out the toilet situation at the pump house and it needs to be replaced as it is leaking. The toilet will need to come out and re-do the floor and do carpenter work. Councilman Grimone asked if there is anyone who can do the work. Supervisor Morency stated that Doug Snickles could do it and she will ask him. Councilman Whitson stated that if Doug turns down the job ask Dean Montroy.

Councilman Whitson stated that there are electrical problems with the panel box at the pump house.

Supervisor Morency stated that she has asked Doug Hazelden to read meters, and he said that his daughter, Emily, is willing to do it. Supervisor Morency stated she will meet with Emily for an interview.

## EXCAVATOR

Sandy Hayes stated he is opposed to the purchase of John Deer 50 Excavator.

## END OF MEETING

A motion was made by Councilman Grimone, and seconded by Councilman Whitson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 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.

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Cynthia A. Woodson  
St. Armand Town Clerk