

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 12, 2013

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

PRESENT: Town Supervisor Charles Whitson, Jr, Councilperson Donald Amell, Councilperson Jennifer Fuller, Councilperson Earl "Jimmy" Dakin, Town Clerk Davina Thurston, Highway Superintendent Roger Oliver, Code Enforcement Officer Robert Drosdowich, Water Superintendent Jeff Cotter, Supervisor's Clerk Connie Willette

GUESTS: Sandy Hayes, Bucky Willette, Joe Bates, Sandy Aery, Paul Aery, Brett Clark, and Chris Knight from the Adirondack Daily Enterprise

Notice was sent to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise regarding this meeting.
Town Supervisor Charles Whitson, Jr. called the board meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
Councilperson Fuller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilperson Dakin and seconded by Councilperson Fuller to accept the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2013 and the Special Board Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2013. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

Councilperson Amell made a motion to accept payment of the monthly bills. Councilperson Fuller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 22 OF 2013- CONTACT INFORMATION FOR VACANT STRUCTURES

SUPPORT FOR NYS-CONTACT INFORMATION FOR VACANT STRUCTURES

This resolution was offered by Councilperson Amell who moved its adoption:

WHEREAS the Town of St. Armand Town Board Let it be Resolved to support New York State regarding the proposed laws concerning contact information for vacant structures; and
WHEREAS, vacant, abandoned and foreclosed homes and structures have proliferated throughout New York State over the last five years; and

WHEREAS, vacant structures that are not maintained for months at a time degrade and depreciate the value of the vacant structure as well as the value of surrounding properties; and

WHEREAS, lending institutions that hold mortgages on said vacant structures do not always provide the contact information of a responsible party; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill A.88 and Assembly Bill A.824, currently pending, would make it mandatory for lending institutions to provide contact information of responsible parties regarding vacant structures; and require good faith in obtaining a foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, the Town of St. Armand Town Board supports the passage of said Bills.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the town of St. Armand hereby supports the passage of said Bills and respectfully requests that the State Representatives who represents constituents in the Town of St. Armand support the passage of said Bills.

Copies of this resolution will be forwarded to Senator Elizabeth Little, Assemblyman Daniel Stec, Senator Kristen Gillibrand, and Assemblyman Michael P. Kerns.

This resolution was duly seconded by Councilpersons Fuller and Dakin and adopted as follows:

Supervisor Charles Whitson, Jr.	AYE
Deputy Supervisor Samuel Grimone	EXCUSED
Councilperson Earl J. Dakin	AYE
Councilperson Donald Amell	AYE
Councilperson Jennifer L. Fuller	AYE

I, Davina M. Thurston, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution passed by the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand at its regular board meeting held on March 12, 2013, and members of the Town Board had due notice of said meeting, and further that such resolution has been fully recorded in the Town Clerks books.

Davina M. Thurston
Town Clerk

March 12, 2013

RESOLUTION 23 OF 2013- CONTRACT WITH ESSEX COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS PROGRAM TO THE YOUTH OF ESSEX COUNTY

This resolution was offered by Councilperson Dakin who moved its adoption:

WHEREAS the Town of St. Armand Town Board Let it be resolved to allow Town Supervisor Charles Whitson, Jr., sign the contract with Essex County for the Youth Conservation Corps Program for the Town of St. Armand.

WHEREAS the amount to be paid by the Town of St. Armand is four-thousand five hundred dollars, (\$4,500.00), for the term of the contract, January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

This resolution was duly seconded by Councilperson Fuller and adopted as follows:

Supervisor Charles Whitson, Jr.	AYE
Deputy Supervisor Samuel Grimone	EXCUSED
Councilperson Earl J. Dakin	AYE
Councilperson Donald Amell	AYE
Councilperson Jennifer L. Fuller	AYE

I, Davina M. Thurston, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution passed by the Town Board of the Town of St. Armand at its regular board meeting held on March 12, 2013, and members of the Town Board had due notice of said meeting, and further that such resolution has been fully recorded in the Town Clerks books.

March 12, 2013

Davina M. Thurston
Town Clerk

HIGHWAY MONTHLY REPORT

Superintendent of Highways, Roger Oliver, informed the Board that the Highway Department has been working diligently to clean up the ice flow problem on Rockledge. Roger has asked Essex County Engineer Tony LaVigne to look into the problem and find a solution to the water leakage. Roger will report back to the Board with the findings.

Roger informed the Board that the 2001 International has recently had the rear spring on the driver's side of the vehicle repaired.

Roger then asked the Board of their decision on the new Highway Personnel Policy and Highway Manuals. Some changes were made to the draft. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Dakin to accept the Highway Personnel Policy and the Highway Personnel Manual, with changes. Councilperson Amell seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion carries.

Roger discussed the desperate need for a new plow truck for the Town. Warranty and payment issues were discussed. Councilperson Amell made a motion to go forward with the purchase of a new 2013 Ford for the Highway Department. Councilperson Fuller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Roger informed the Board of an electrical fire that occurred at the Highway Garage on Thursday. The fire was extinguished quickly, and repairs were made later that day to rectify the electrical problem that created the fire.

SUPERVISORS MONTHLY REPORT

Supervisor Whitson reviewed the Supervisor's Monthly Reports for February 2013. A motion was made by Councilperson Dakin to accept the Supervisors Report. Motion was seconded by Councilperson Amell. All were in favor. Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Town Clerk Davina Thurston provided the Board with a copy of the Town Clerk's Monthly Report for February 2013.

WATER AND SEWER CLERK'S MONTHLY REPORT

Davina Thurston gave the board the following information:

As of March 11, 2013:

Total collected from accounts from last quarter	\$39,725.92
Total billed as of last meter reading	\$55,216.57
Total outstanding bills	\$15,490.65

TAX COLLECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

As Nancy Heath was unavailable for the meeting, she provided the Board with the following information, as read to the Board by Davina Thurston:

Pursuant to section 27, subdivision D, of the Town Law, I hereby make the following statement of all fees and monies received by me from February 1, 2013 to February 28, 2013, in connection with my office excepting only such fees and monies the application and payment of which are otherwise provided by law.

Tax paid to Charles G. Whitson Jr, Supervisor, from February 1, 2013 to February 28, 2013 \$326,058.88.

Signed and sworn to by Nancy M. Heath, Tax Collector, Town of St. Armand on March 7, 2013.

SEWER DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

As Sewer Superintendent Stan Ingison was not in attendance, Supervisor Charles Whitson informed the Board of their recent trip to Essex, NY, to view their 12.2 million dollar water and sewer plant. Supervisor Whitson stated that they toured all of their facilities and have new ideas for construction and grant funding for the St. Armand Water and Sewer Project.

WATER DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Water Superintendent Jeff Cotter reviewed the following for the Board:

- 1) The Annual Water Quality Report was completed and sent to all bill paying customers. A copy of the report is also posted on the Town Hall bulletin board for public information. He will submit a certificate of completion to the Troy Albany Department of Health this month.
- 2) Jeff completed a revised Water Emergency Response Plan. This plan includes directions on how to connect to a spring water source in the Well Field area – the former cross connection that was capped this past fall.
- 3) We have postponed the capping of the Pump House original well until spring. Ron Gill has agreed to do the job for the same price he originally quoted us for. We agreed that this was a dangerous time of the year to attempt the capping due to the potential for water line freeze ups or breaks. During the capping, we will only have three days of water supply in the Stand Pipe. The Clear Wells at the Pump House will need to be drained.
- 4) Jeff has contacted three vendors that were recommended by the Health Department to repair or replace the Stand Pipe level chart recorder in the Pump House. Each vendor gets between \$650.00 to \$950.00 per day just to trouble shoot the current recorder. If the recorder cannot be repaired, the cost for a replacement recorder is approximately an additional \$2,000.00. Jeff has talked with Charlie, and it was decided to wait until after the winter, due to dangerous conditions on the Stand Pipe, before proceeding with the plans to repair or replace the recorder.
- 5) Davina has sent letters to the trailer park owners requesting that they inform her when there are residence changes in the trailer parks. If she is provided with accurate information on the trailer park residences, she will know who to send water bills to.
- 6) Charlie and Jeff will be meeting with Rural Development to discuss the Town's Water System on March 14, 2013.

Plans for this spring and early summer include:

- Provide a water service connection for the Duffy property across from Norman's Store
- Cap the well in the Pump House and save approximately 16,000 gallons of water per day
- Have a service technician troubleshoot the problem with the Stand Pipe chart recorder
- Continue to repair broken water main shut-offs on Main Street
- Have the Stand Pipe internally inspected, with a camera, as recommended by the Health Department

SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

Supervisor Whitson informed the Board of the steps that are being taken going forward with the Sewer Project. We are working diligently with AES and Community Development to obtain further grants for the project.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORT

Code Enforcement Officer Robert Drosdowich stated that he had collected no money for the month of February 2013. Robert informed the Board that he attended the Northern Adirondack Code Enforcement Association Conference on March 4,5,6 and 7th. Robert stated that there are many changes upcoming regarding new laws for Code Enforcement.

Robert discussed the Fire-Proof Room, with the 1 ½ to 2 hour fire rated needs. Robert will provide Davina with the written requirements for this room, so that all bids on the work will meet the same standards. Robert also stated that he needs a copy of the Local Laws regarding building codes. Davina informed Robert that she has those copies, and will provide them to him.

TEDFORD/HUNTER WATER BILL

Discussion ensued regarding the water bill that was sent to Jeff Tedford with regards to Carol Hunter's property. It was decided by the Board that the current bill stands, and is fair.

2009 F250 BODY WORK

Supervisor Whitson informed the Board of one estimate that had been received for body work on the 2009 F250. After discussion it was agreed that at least one, and hopefully two, more estimates should be obtained for the repairs.

REVIEW OF OLD BUSINESS

1) Clock Tower Lights – Connie Willette has found a box of lights upstairs and Robert priced the additional lights at \$1.49 each. It was decided that the lights would be purchased and Robert will install them.

2) The finalized Emergency Response Plan, Water Emergency Response Plan and Employee Policy Manuals were discussed. A motion was made by Councilperson Fuller to accept the plans. Motion was seconded by Councilperson Dakin. All were in favor. Motion carried.

3) The Town website was discussed. It was agreed that Code Enforcement information and dump rates and hours should also be posted on the website.

4) Bee keeping tax exemption was tabled until the next regular board meeting.

5) Town Highway Garage Committee has been appointed and assigned with the task of reviewing four designs for the project: stick-built, ICF, Block and Engineer Steele. The committee members are Paul Aery, Sheridan Swinyer, Chuck Bruce, Tug Duffy and Ollie Burgess. A time-line will be provided to the committee in the near future.

AMA ANNEXATION

Discussion ensued regarding AMA annexation. A Special Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 6:30 PM in the Bloomingdale Town Hall to discuss this issue. Matt Norfolk will not be in attendance. Sandy and Paul Aery stated that they are in support of the annexation.

Councilperson Dakin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilperson Fuller seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

I, Davina M. Thurston, Town Clerk for the Town of St. Armand, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the Board meeting minutes held on the above-referenced date.

Davina M. Thurston
St. Armand Town Clerk

March 12, 2013