

Town of St. Armand
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 9th, 2016
6:30 PM

These minutes were approved on March 8, 2016.

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Town Supervisor Charles Whitson, Jr., Deputy Supervisor Donald Amell, Councilperson Jennifer Fuller, Councilperson D. Joseph Bates, Councilperson Dean Montroy

A quorum of the Board was in attendance.

TOWN EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Town Clerk Davina Thurston, Water Superintendent Jeff Cotter, Highway Superintendent Roger Oliver, Sewer Superintendent Stan Ingison

GUESTS: Sandy Hayes, Diane McKeough, Tom Burman, Bryan Munn

Notice was posted regarding the date of this meeting.

Supervisor Whitson called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Supervisor Whitson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Highway Superintendent Roger Oliver gave a verbal report to the Board. Topics included repairs to equipment, purchases of tires for the Ford F550 and salt.

WATER DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Water Superintendent Jeff Cotter gave a written report to the Board. This report will be kept on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and is available to any interested party for review. Discussion ensued regarding the report.

SEWER DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Sewer Superintendent Stan Ingison gave verbal report to the Board. Topics included testing, issues with ice, SCADA, floc, generators and condensation at the WWTP, Prospect Street Lift Station, pager and grit motor.

BASEBALL FIELD AT ROOSEVELT PARK

Bryan Munn requested a donation from the Board for upgrades to the ball fields. Discussion ensued. Supervisor Whitson will attend the next meeting of the Bloomingdale Booster's and will report at the next Board Meeting on his findings.

MOTION TO PAY MONTHLY BILLS

Councilperson Fuller made a motion to pay this month's bills; the motion was seconded by Councilperson Bates. All agreed. Motion carried.

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Councilperson Montroy made a motion to accept the Supervisor Report, seconded by Councilperson Fuller, all approved, motion carried. This report is kept on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and is available to any interested party for review.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

CEO Robert Hammond was excused from the meeting, but did give a written report for review. This report will be kept on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and is available to any interested party for review.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Councilperson Bates made the motion to approve the minutes of Regular Board Meeting January 12th, 2016 and Special Board Meeting January 21st, 2016. Motion seconded by Councilperson Montroy. All approved. Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK MONTHLY REPORT

Town Clerk Davina Winemiller read the Clerk's report. This report is kept on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and is available for review by any interested party.

WATER & SEWER BILLING MONTHLY REPORT

Water & Sewer Clerk Davina Winemiller read the Water & Sewer Receivables Report. This report is kept on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and is available for review by any interested party.

HISTORIAN REPORT

Town Historian Davina Winemiller read the following report:

Town of St. Armand
Historian Report
For the Year 2015

Many changes have occurred in St. Armand in 2015. This year, three people ran for two open positions for Town Council. Don Amell, Dean Montroy and Karen Dekkers all vied for a position on the Board. Don Amell was re-elected for another four year term and Dean Montroy was elected to fill the spot left open by Sam Grimone, who chose not to run for re-election.

The new Waste Water Treatment Plant is nearing completion. The solar panel installation and other minor items remain for completion. As of December 31, 2015, the total amount spent on the project was four million six hundred thirty three thousand seven hundred sixty two dollars and forty eight cents (\$4,633,762.48). This project has been funded through several state agencies. The NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation has awarded the Town a two million dollar grant (\$2,000,000.00), as well as a two million seven hundred ninety thousand two hundred and ninety five dollar (\$2,790,295.00) interest free loan. The Town was also awarded a six hundred thousand dollar (\$600,000.00) grant from the NYS Office of Community Renewal and a four hundred twenty two thousand dollar (\$422,000.00) grant from NYS Rural Development. This is the single largest financial investment that has ever been made by the Town of St. Armand. This project would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the members of the Essex County Planning Department, Mike Mascarenas and Anna Reynolds. With their assistance, and with the invaluable support from the team at AES Northeast, the new waste water treatment plant will serve our community for many years to come. With regular upkeep and maintenance, the plant should last until the year 2050, but we still have a long way to go. Many of our sewer lines are nearly 100 years old, but with diligent effort and fiscal responsibility, we should be able to update our infrastructure to ensure the future economic vitality of our community.

The New Highway Garage was completed this year, with the final paving of the parking lot occurring during the month of June 2015. The total cost of this project was eight hundred nineteen thousand eight hundred seventy seven dollars and eighty four cents (\$819,877.84). With careful planning and budgeting, the Town should be able to go to long-term financing this year for the new garage in the amount of seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000.00).

Improvements continue within the Town. This year, the electricity at the ball field was updated, providing needed lighting and electricity for the pitching machines for the Bloomingdale Boosters for baseball games at the fields on Roosevelt Avenue.

The Clock Tower was painted and restored this year, and in the first weeks of 2016, all four of the Clocks were working together. This was the first time that all four clocks have been in sync in nearly twenty years. The Town thanks our very generous anonymous donor for providing funding to assist with these repairs.

The Town has also received donations from High Peaks Church for the past several years, with these donations, many new outdoor games and indoor art project items have been purchased for the Summer Youth Commission.

The Brookside Cemetery maps have been completely updated and re-numbered. This is the first time in over forty years that every single grave site has been physically visited and the information recorded. This will ensure future preservation of our cemetery records.

The year 2015 marked the passing of Ronald Thomas and Alfred Parker, Jr. They will be missed, may they rest in peace.

This past fall, Norman’s Grocery Store closed its doors. This family operated general store was in business for 112 years. It was with heavy hearts that the Niederbuhl family decided to close the doors. The building is now vacant and for sale. Only time will tell the fate of the historic building that has been the center of Bloomingdale for so long.

How fortunate we are: time marches on, change continues to occur, and the Town of St. Armand remains a place of beauty and peace, where those that live here can feel a true sense of peace and the kinship of community.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 17 of 2016 – DESIGNATING MILEAGE ALLOWANCE

Councilperson Montroy, who moved its adoption, offered the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Officials be compensated at \$0.54 per mile for the use of their personal vehicles in the performance of their official duties from February 9, 2016 until December 31, 2016. This change is due to the reduction of mileage compensation at the county level.

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

Supervisor Charles Whitson, Jr	AYE
Deputy Supervisor Donald Amell	AYE
Councilperson Jennifer Fuller	AYE
Councilperson D. Joseph Bates	AYE
Councilperson Dean Montroy	AYE

Dated: February 9, 2016

Davina M. Winemiller
St. Armand Town Clerk

BROOKSIDE CEMETERY MAPS

Vital Records Registrar Davina Winemiller informed the Board of the process that was done to create the new updated maps for Brookside Cemetery. Discussion ensued.

FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS FOR THE WWTP AND RIVER RD PUMP STATION

Supervisor Whitson led the discussion on the options for the fire alarms. Discussion ensued. Further information required. Supervisor Whitson will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

DOG LOCAL LAW

Discussion ensued regarding the current Local Leash Law. No changes were made.

BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS

Discussion ensued regarding the required inspections for apartments and businesses. It was decided that further discussion is to ensue at the next Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilperson Bates made a motion to adjourn to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, seconded by Councilpersons Fuller. Supervisor Whitson adjourned the Regular Board meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Deputy Supervisor Amell made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the Regular Board Meeting at 8:29 pm, seconded by Councilperson Fuller.

Councilperson Bates made the motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 8:30 pm, seconded by Councilperson Montroy.

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

Dated February 9, 2016

Davina M. Winemiller
St. Armand Town Clerk