

September 17th, 2012
Regular Meeting
Petersburgh Town Board

The regular monthly meeting of the Petersburg Town Board was held on September 17th, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Petersburg Town Hall, 65 Main Street, Petersburg, New York.

Present: Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst
Councilman William Seel
Councilman Richard Snyder
Councilman David Alderman
Councilman Duane Goodermote
Highway Superintendent Raymond Harrison
Planning Board Chairman David Miller
Assessor Craig Surprise
Attorney Kevin Engel

Guests: Sharon Hodges, Terry Neaton, Emily Harrison, Denise Church, Timothy Church, Deidra Michaels

Press: Alex Brooks, The Eastwick Press

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Krahforst called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Councilman Seel pointed out a mistake in working concerning the Broken Wheel Bridge discussion of last month's meeting. The minutes were approved with this one correction.

Resolution #63
Approval of Minutes

On motion of Councilman Snyder, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the minutes from the Regular Meeting July 16th, 2012 be accepted as corrected. Councilman Goodermote seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilman Richard Snyder	Aye
Councilman William Seel	Aye
Councilman Duane Goodermote	Aye
Councilman David Alderman	Absent

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

PUBLIC ADDRESS

- David Miller: addressed the Supervisor and Board in regard to the Highway complaint that was discussed in August. Mr. Miller stated that during July's meeting, the Supervisor had indicated that anonymous complaints would not be accepted. However, the complaint received in July was signed by the "Unofficial Petersburg Concerned Citizens Group," which Mr. Miller construed as being anonymous. Mr. Miller stated that he had a problem with this contradiction, and questioned whether or not the Supervisor would address this conflict. The Supervisor acknowledged the complaint, but did not elaborate on his decision.

REPORTS

- Assessor: Craig Surprise provided the Board with informational documents relating to the re-val. Mr. Surprise stated that he is currently researching the possibility of being included in the County's re-evaluation process. Rensselaer County's Bureau of Public Safety will be conducting an aerial fly-over to be used for their pictometry program, which creates high-resolution photographs to be used for re-val purposes in place of data collectors. Mr. Surprise stated that a pay-back may be available through the County for this data to be used for Petersburg's re-val process, and will be less expensive per parcel than the hiring of data collectors. This information will also be presented to the Rensselaer County Supervisor's Association so that other Towns may be given this option as well.
- Town Clerk: Callie Crisp provided copies of Town Clerk's monthly report to the Board. The report showed a total of \$1,914.64 received in revenue for the month of August.
- Highway Superintendent: Raymond Harrison reported that the structural repairs to Broken Wheel Bridge have been completed with the assistance of Rensselaer County DOT. New footings have been installed and the red flag has been removed. Councilman Alderman stated that he had received a complaint regarding the Highway Department, which has been passed on to the Ethics Board.
- Supervisor: Siegfried Krahforst presented the monthly Supervisor's report to the Board. The report showed receipts \$27,052.70, disbursements \$94,372.59, leaving a balance on hand as of September 17th, 2012 of \$360,748.07. This report is on file in the Town Clerk's office.
- DCO: a monthly report was provided to the Board. It showed a total of one call for the month of August.
- Town Officials: Councilman Seel thanked the Highway Department for their work on the Broken Wheel Bridge.

OLD BUSINESS

- Broken Wheel Bridge: Supervisor Krahforst stated that the documents are in the works and all required information has been submitted. He is also looking into the amount that will be required in bonding to fund the project.

- Local Law Revisions: a report has been received from the Planning Board regarding revisions to Local Laws. A discussion took place on the necessity of the proposed changes. Planning Board Chairman David Miller also stated that the final draft of the revised Subdivision Regulations should be ready by the end of the month, and will be circulated to the Town Board. A joint hearing will then be scheduled for the Town Board and Planning Board to discuss the potential changes.
- Grant Writer for the Town: the Supervisor stated that the Town is still looking.
- 2013 4th of July Party Committee: although a Special Meeting was held last week to obtain volunteers for this Committee, no one came or has shown interest in participating.
- Parking Lot Sealing: Supervisor Krahforst requested that the Board approved the soliciting of estimates for sealing the municipal parking lot, which is deteriorated and in need of repairs. The Board questioned whether there were funds remaining in the budget for such expenditure. Councilman Alderman stated that he would prefer to see the handicap lift and sidewalk repaired before the parking lot renovations, since these matters were brought up earlier in the year. After some discussion on budgetary concerns, the Board approved the obtaining of estimates for all projects for informational purposes only, to be taken into consideration for the 2013 budget. Councilman Seel expressed concern over such projects using the budget's unexpended balance, and that it may cause a raise over the imposed 2% tax cap. Additionally, Councilman Alderman stated that he would prefer to see projects such as these put out to bid, regardless of the \$10,000.00 requirement by law. Methods of other publication were then discussed as well.
- USDA Bond: Supervisor Krahforst stated that the bond attorneys were in the process of gathering research at this point.

NEW BUSINESS

- Charter Cable: numerous complaints have been received at the Town Hall and Library regarding the poor service of Charter Cable. An advertisement had been circulated recently promoting Charter's new DSL broadband service. Library Director Sharon Hodges stated that while this new service would be convenient, hesitancy exists due to Charter's poor reputation. Mrs. Hodges proposed the request of a trial agreement with Charter, to try the service and test its functionality. The Board mentioned that Charter only has a contract with the Town for cable, and this matter should be further researched. Attorney Kevin Engel stated that a short-term negotiation may be a possibility, but an agreement could not be reached regarding who would test the service.
- Fund Transfer: a resolution was requested to transfer funds from 1220.4 Supervisor's Contractual to 1410.1 Town Clerk Deputy's salary, as previously discussed in the year. A question was raised as to whether a resolution had already been made or not for this transfer. Due to an exact amount of funds not being available at the time of the meeting, the Board tabled the matter.

- 50/50 Raffle to benefit Youth Program: Supervisor Krahforst introduced an idea he'd had to raise funds for next year's Youth Program. He proposed that the Town begin such a raffle for the public to have a chance to win while contributing as well. Attorney Engel stated that he did not think the Town was legally allowed to host such an event, but that an outside group not affiliated with the municipality may be able to sponsor this raffle. Mr. Engel suggested that the State Comptroller's office be contacted for further advice. Fund raising events through PVMCC were discussed as well, and Councilman Seel mentioned that the Board was still not receiving monthly reports as per the agreement between the Town and PVMCC.
- Board of Ethics Report: Deidra Michaels was present to give a report to the Town Board. Ms. Michaels stated that the Board of Ethics (BOE) had received a couple complaints that were being worked out. The BOE has a meeting scheduled with the Supervisor next week.
- Energy Audit: Supervisor Krahforst stated that he has been conversing with NYSERDA regarding a cost and/or grants available for an energy audit for the municipal buildings. All buildings' energy and fuel bills and usages have been submitted to NYSERDA, who is reviewing this information. The Supervisor will follow up next month with more information. The Supervisor also stated that he had scheduled a meeting with Carlton Coon regarding the installation of a bypass for the controls of the Town Hall furnace, which would allow newer technology to be used on the old system to increase productivity.
- Water District: the fire hydrant has been prepared and will be installed in the near future. The Supervisor then stated that Mason Hubbard has recently doused the wells, to discover that the production is lower than it should be. Well #5 is almost nonworking, and #6 has a break in the line and is coming out of the overflow. Highway Superintendent Harrison cleared a path to the pump house so that the line break may be located.
- Audit of Bills #9/12:

Resolution #64

Audit of Bills

On motion of Councilman Seel, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the bills as listed on abstract # 9/12 be paid in the following amounts:

General Fund # 167-184	\$ 8,778.37**
Highway Fund # 163-178	\$12,630.13
Light District # SL1-SL2	\$ 697.63
Water District # 37-43	\$ 890.03
Library Fund # 44-51	\$ 3,545.55

**A discussion took place regarding General Voucher #173, for mowing done by Edward Jones. Mr. Jones had submitted gas receipts and mileage reimbursement, which has never before been claimed in regard to mowing. Attorney Engel advised the Board not to make this payment, as it would set a precedent, but rather determine an agreement and allot such funds into the

budget for future use. The Board agreed to pay Mr. Jones voucher minus the amounts submitted in gas and mileage.

Councilman Snyder seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilman Richard Snyder	Aye
Councilman William Seel	Aye
Councilman Duane Goodermote	Aye
Councilman David Alderman	Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

- Councilman Seel stated that he would prefer to see the proposed budget with the original figures as submitted by the department heads, prior to any changes being made. It was decided to call a Special Meeting so that the Budget Workshops may be scheduled.

Resolution #65

Move Into Executive Session

On motion of Councilman Snyder, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Board move into Executive Session at 8:56 PM to discuss personnel issues. Councilman Goodermote seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilman Richard Snyder	Aye
Councilman William Seel	Aye
Councilman Duane Goodermote	Aye
Councilman David Alderman	Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

The Board resolved to hire Benedict Krahforst as the deputy Water District Deputy Superintendent, and approved Mr. Krahforsts' attendance of the State-required training. They also agree upon a payment arrangement as specified in the below resolution.

Resolution #66

Return From Executive Session

On motion of Councilman Snyder, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Board return from Executive Session at 9:20 PM. Councilman Seel seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
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Councilman Richard Snyder	Aye
Councilman William Seel	Aye
Councilman Duane Goodermote	Aye
Councilman David Alderman	Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Resolution #67

Hiring of Water District Deputy Superintendent and Setting of Salary

On motion of Councilman Alderman, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Board hereby approves the hiring of Benedict Krahforst as the Water District Deputy Superintendent at a rate of \$12.50 as required, not to exceed 30 hours in this calendar year 2012. Be it further resolved that the Board approves Mr. Krahforst's attendance of the State required training. Councilman Goodermote seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilman Richard Snyder	Aye
Councilman William Seel	Aye
Councilman Duane Goodermote	Aye
Councilman David Alderman	Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

With no further business, on motion of Councilman Alderman, seconded by Councilman Seel, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Callie Crisp, Town Clerk