

February 24th, 2014

Regular Meeting

Petersburgh Town Board

Present: Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst, Councilman Jack Barnhill, Councilwoman Denise Church, Councilman Neil Geary, Councilman Alan Webster, Library Director Sharon Hodges, Judge Amy Manchester, Board of Ethics Chairperson Deidra Michaels, Judge Amy Manchester, Highway Superintendent Ray Harrison, Supervisor's Secretary Ann Crisp

Guests: Jane Wesley, Scott DiGeorgio, Terry Neaton, Steve Bowman, Mrs. Bowman, Gene Kluck, Sherry Kluck-Bowman, Kim Gundrum, Bill Gundrum, Tim Allen, Sean O'Donovan, Priscilla Maxon, Joe Dunlop, Peter Schaaphok, Brian O'Donovan, Craig Levesque, Rebecca Wolfe, Charles Guntner, Cecelia Guntner, Jeff Knight, Rossie Knight, Elizabeth Barnhill, Bill Preston, Neil Daus, Michael Holms, RCSD Sheriff, April Owen, Zach Clyde

Press: Alex Brooks, The Eastwick Press

Call to order: Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Krahforst called the meeting to order at 6:58 PM.

PUBLIC ADDRESS

- **Thomas Berry:** acknowledge a letter to the Editor he'd recently submitted to the Eastwick Press entitled, "Transfer Station Agreement Unfair;" and the following newspaper edition which included the Berlin Town Board Meeting action labeled as, "Garbage Wars." Mr. Berry stated that his main intention was to peak interest within residents to support the Town Board in their attempts. The latter newspaper article included some very negative comments made against Petersburg, and Mr. Berry explained that his initial publication was not meant as a strike against Berlin; ideal negotiations involve unity. Mr. Berry recognized that the Petersburg Town Board had been researching the matter as well as exploring other options, and reiterated the need for community support. He then addressed the Town budget situation; though he was not present for the budget workshops, he'd read the meeting minutes and recognized the Town Officials for their labors to reduce the tax increase. Mr. Berry suggested that the Town be proactive in making general information available to public pursuant to Open Meeting Laws and Freedom of Information Laws; stating that if budget deliberations were on the Town's website the public may have a better understanding. Mr. Berry then referenced the Highway Dept. workers lack of receiving a raise last year due to financial restrictions, inciting that the minutes he'd read led him to believe that the Town employees are underappreciated. If the Town can reduce spending and get its finances back of track, he hopes to see the Highway crew receive additional compensation and recognition it deserves. Forming the Highway Liaison Committee, eliminating amounts being overspent in repairs to outdated equipment, and other recent actions have shown that the Board is working towards a solution, and Mr. Berry expressed thanks for efforts spent thus far. Supervisor Krahforst stated that he is working to implement a five-year plan relating to highway finances, and thanked Mr. Berry for his informative clarifications.

- Sherry Bowman-Kluck: said that in keeping with Mr. Berry's sentiments, she was also requesting the Board to do a few things. Mrs. Bowman-Kluck asked that the previous meeting minutes be reviewed and approved at the beginning of each meeting for the public in attendance. It was also pointed out that the most recent meeting minutes available online were from 2012, and that this is an inconvenience for residents. Mr. Bowman-Kluck was informed that the meeting minutes were in fact available electronically, just not on the site. Supervisor Krahforst explained that due to the extensive workload currently left to the Town Clerk's responsibility, many smaller tasks were unable to be addressed. Mrs. Bowman-Kluck stated that her intent was to make the government transparent and open to its citizens, and also requested that departmental reports are made available as well. Although the documents submitted to the Board are read aloud during meetings, she stated that these written reports should be provided for the public's information, as these are paid public officials and it would let people know things are being done. Supervisor Krahforst clarified that the meeting minutes, reports, and any information discussed is in fact public knowledge, and available to anyone upon request. Mr. Berry added that the unavailability of online records and the like may be causing false assumptions to be reached. Supervisor Krahforst stated that minimal financing and an extremely small staff contribute to difficulties in office productivity, but ensured those present that attempts would be made to ensure compliances according to Open Meeting Laws.
- Michael Holms: exasperatedly stated that this was a waste of time. Mr. Holms explained that creating extra work was only causing additional frustrations, and residents should have faith that their Town Officials have the best intentions. Supervisor Krahforst added that he was available within the Town Offices almost every day, and if anyone has questions, to please ask.
- Elizabeth Barnhill: concluded the public address by stating that everyone present loves their Town and want it to work more efficiently, and should therefore work together.

Prior to the regular meeting commencing, Supervisor Krahforst asked public to sustain from commenting during the business portion of meeting. If any matters discussed were to raise questions or concerns, he asked that it be put in writing to be addressed at the next meeting.

REPORTS

- Town Clerk: submitted a report for the Board's review, showing a total of \$1,761.69 for the month of January.
- Superintendent of Highways: Harrison reported the truck that had lost a wheel was back in commission, and the Highway crew has been busy plowing snow, unplugging culverts due to recent heavy rains, and sanding the now icy road conditions. Mr. Harrison also stated that the old Volvo has died, and Rensselaer County has let the crew borrow a machine in anticipation of hazardous weather.
- Supervisor: submitted the Supervisor's monthly report to the Board. It showed \$120,582.93 received, \$142,780.69 dispersed, leaving a total of \$55,980.37 as of February 24th, 2014. This report is on file in the Town Clerk's office. Bookkeeper Charles Guntner, who was present, stated that it was an unusual report being that nothing was received in month of January, but accounted for in February. Mr. Guntner further informed mentioned that detailed breakdowns by fund were attached, and advised the Board to inform him of any questions or concerns.

- Board of Ethics: submitted a monthly report for the Board's review. During a recent meeting held it was decided to change hours, but are still available to the public. The members have been researching a complaint in regard to the Planning Board and potential nepotism issues within departments. A resignation letter has been received from member Craig Levesque; therefore, with two remaining members not meeting a majority, the Board of Ethics could not take actions until a replacement could be found. Interested volunteers were invited to contact the Town Clerk or Ethics chairperson.
- Historian: Peter- addressed the Board in regard to two matters. Mr. Schaaphok referenced the regular meeting last November, in which a discussion took place regarding a historical marker for Brimmer Farm in need of repair. It was reported that the repairs had been completed and would be reinstalled within the next few weeks. Mr. Schaaphok also stated that several additional permanent historical marker signs were missing and should be replaced. Locations include the original site of hamlet in North Petersburg, and also on Head of Lane where the former Worthington Tavern. As the permanent markers cost approximately \$1,000 each, he was applying for grant. Mr. Schaaphok had also been researching the New York State Cemetery Laws, in which it states that all cemeteries are the Town's responsibility. As Petersburg has over 45 rural cemeteries located throughout the Town, this mandate is unreasonable to accommodate. Several locations, including Moses Cemetery, Stillman Village Cemetery, and Reynolds Cemetery have 150+ burial sites; however, others are in more need of repair. As various Town cemeteries are cared for by the property owners or decendants, he suggested forming groups of volunteers from the public to help with this extensive project.
 - Mr. Schaaphok then addressed the Transfer Station discussion; as it is a historical matter well explored in the past; remembering what was known as the "garbage wars" in the 1990's. Mr. Schaaphok was the Petersburg Town Supervisor at that time, and recalled being under pressure to come up with solution when landfills were being closed. He worked closely with then Berlin Supervisor Ross Bentley, and in October of 1992 the first agreement was arranged between the Town Boards. The Town of Berlin Board was to own the property and building, and both Towns would use the facility. After the agreement was initially passed it became controversial, as the public was irate and didn't want to combine services. However, researching the construction of a transfer station quoted an average cost of \$150,000, which was an extreme financial burden to be undertaken by either Town alone. DEC wouldn't issue second permit as the two neighboring localities were in such close proximity, so the most logical decision was a shared facility. Mr. Schaaphok stated that the arrangement has worked well for many years, and people have been happy. However, now many factors have changed since the agreement was initially agreed upon. The rental fee in particular was established to contribute to Berlin's building costs; being long paid off, it now makes the rental unreasonable. Discussions were amicable when first set up with Berlin, and the time has come to renegotiate. Supervisor Krahforst responded that both he and new Board members had been attempting to further discuss the matter with the Town of Berlin beginning in November; the intent is to work towards a solution, but numerous correspondences sent in regard went unanswered. Only recently had contact been made, but Supervisor Krahforst stated he was flatly refused. The previously mentioned "Garbage Wars" newspaper article indicated Berlin's willingness to schedule a meeting,

(HISTORIAN'S REPORT, Continued)

and attempts would be made yet again. Supervisor Krahforst then asked that the public have patience, and ensured that if any changes were to be made, it would be brought forward for public consideration.

- **Building Inspector:** No report was submitted. Supervisor Krahforst stated that new CEO Martin Conboy had been working to complete the required training, and has been working together with incumbent CEO Doug Hull. Mr. Hull has agreed to continue on an as-needed basis, until Mr. Conboy has received full certifications.
- **Planning Board:** was also holding their monthly meeting this evening, and a report was submitted for the Board's review. An Organizational Meeting was held on January 27th, in which the nominations of officers resulted in Frank Sheldon as the new Chairman, Tim church as the Vice Chair, Brigitta Schmidt as the new Recording Officer, Sue Dawes as Secretary, Lance Yerdon as Engineer, and Stanton King as Planning Board Attorney.
- **PVMCC:** the 2014 Use Agreement proposal was provided for Board's review. Proposed was a figure of \$2,000.00 to be paid to the Town in July, plus 10% of rental income received. In December the Town will be paid a \$1,100.00 reimbursement for cleaning, and a \$500.00 reimbursement for paper goods and supplies.
- **Dog Control Officer:** submitted a report for the Board's review. There were a total of two calls for the month of January, and a Court case scheduled for January 28th for which the defendant was not present.
- **Water District:** a report was provided for the Board's review. A break occurred in the pump house on the main line from Well no. 2 that effected the entire manifold system. A plumbing company from Hoosick Falls has been hired to assist in the repairs. Water District Superintendent Ben Krahforst expressed thanks to the Fire Dept. and Highway crew for their prompt assistance. The report also included information from a Special Town Board Meeting that had been held to discuss matters within the Water District. Well no. 5 has an obstruction and cannot be used; as this is written into the original plans, Clark Engineering has been contacted to determine why the obstruction was left, as well as why a screen was not ever installed. The specifications were also requested, because screen was supposedly purchased and signed-off during the initial construction. Well 6 is the system's primary pump, and currently does not have a backup. An estimate received from Goold's quoted a price around \$4,000.00, which therefore would not require the project being put out to bid. The total billing income has not all been received, but once funds become available the appropriations will be used for the necessary well repairs.

RESOLUTION #15. APPROVAL OF WELL REPAIRS

On motion of Councilman Barnhill, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Board hereby approve the appropriation of funds for well repairs, in an amount not to exceed \$4,999.00, once the Water District finances are sufficient. Councilman Webster seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst

Aye

(RESOLUTION #15, Continued)

Councilman Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilwoman Denise Jacon Church	Aye
Councilman Neil Geary	Aye
Councilman Alan Webster	Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

- Town Officials:
 - Councilwoman Denise Church: attended an environmental meeting last week where the problematic emerald ash beetle was discussed. The destructive species has been confirmed within Rensselaer County, threatening to destroy the population of ash trees. Information was provided for public reference and residents were asked to raise awareness of this important matter. Councilwoman Church also announced that a County-wide trash disposal date was tentatively scheduled for May in North Greenbush, and more information was to come.
 - Supervisor Krahforst: informed the Board and public of his recent actions involving the research of various matters. He has met with the Highway Superintendents of Grafton and Stephentown on separate occasions, to discuss their purchasing procedures and input regarding sand and gravel materials. Supervisor Krahforst additionally had meetings with the Hoosick Falls Mayor, Grafton Town Supervisor, and Waste Manager of Hoosick Falls to discuss garbage removal procedures. Along with Councilman Geary, he also went to a United Way meeting in Albany in regard to obtaining local services, but this avenue was not successful. A meeting of the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (R.P.A.) was another informational event attended; he'd hired and met with a local electrician to correct a dangerous problem with the Town Hall electricity meter; went to the monthly Rens. Co. Officials Association meeting; met with a local realtor, property owner and R.P.A. President Jim Bonesteel to discuss a potential sale and development within Town; had two meetings with County Executive Kathy Jimino; spoken with Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin; and finally with PVMCC Director Jeanne Ferland.

OLD BUSINESS

- 103 Mill Yard Road: no new information has been received. Once the weather breaks, Supervisor Krahforst will be contacting Rens. Co. in regard to the demolition.
- Members Needed: still looking for one Planning Board member and several Board of Ethics members.
- Signor Resolution: a resolution was passed to authorize the Water District Billing Supervisor as a signor for the Water District bank account.

RESOLUTION #16. SIGNOR AUTHORIZATION FOR WATER DISTRICT BILLING SUPERVISOR

On motion of Councilman Geary, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Pioneer Bank Municipal Corporate Depository Certificate is hereby accepted as presented (document on file in the Town Clerk's office), and authorization is therefore given to Water District Billing Supervisor Brigitta Schmidt for the Water District Account (#xxxxxxxxx) with Pioneer Bank. Councilwoman Church seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilman Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilwoman Denise Jacon Church	Aye
Councilman Neil Geary	Aye
Councilman Alan Webster	Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

- Sand & Gravel Purchases: information was still being obtaining info on specifications to be put out to bid. Highway Superintendent Harrison has been working with Rensselaer County to determine correct figures, and meanwhile continue to reference Berlin's contract for sand.
- Town Committee Appointments: forming the new Youth and Recreation Committee was tabled, as only Sherry Bowman-Kluck has expressed interest. Councilman Webster stated his willingness to become involved in this Committee, and Mrs. Bowman-Kluck agreed to confer with the Youth Program Director and ask for her participation. In regard to the Town Law Committee, the only response received was from Vivian Conboy, who referenced the previous determinations made that had not been acted upon. The Town Board was provided with copies of this committee's recommendations for review, and Councilman Geary was to become a member as well.

RESOLUTION #17. WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

On motion of Councilman Webster, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that Alex Brooks, Cynthia Peterson, William Shorter Sr., Joseph Dunlop, Tammy Dunlop, and Robert Griswold be appointed to the Water District Committee for a term ending December 31st, 2014. Councilman Geary seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilman Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilwoman Denise Jacon Church	Aye
Councilman Neil Geary	Aye
Councilman Alan Webster	Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #18. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

On motion of Councilman Webster, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that Jack Barnhill, Siegfried Krahforst, and Gene Kluck be appointed to the Alternative Energy Committee for a term ending December 31st, 2014. Councilman Geary seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Abstain
Councilman Jack Barnhill	Abstain
Councilwoman Denise Jacon Church	Aye
Councilman Neil Geary	Aye
Councilman Alan Webster	Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #19. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

On motion of Councilman Webster, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that Siegfried Krahforst, Charles Guntner, Frank Sheldon, Gene Kluck, and Jack Barnhill be appointed to the Economic Development Committee for a term ending December 31st, 2014. Councilwoman Church seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Abstain
Councilman Jack Barnhill	Abstain
Councilwoman Denise Jacon Church	Aye
Councilman Neil Geary	Aye
Councilman Alan Webster	Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #20. TOWN LAW COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

On motion of Councilman Barnhill, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that Vivian Conboy and Neil Geary be appointed to the Town Law Committee for a term ending December 31st, 2014. Councilman Geary seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilman Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilwoman Denise Jacon Church	Aye
Councilman Neil Geary	Abstain

(RESOLUTION #20, Continued)

Councilman Alan Webster

Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

RESOLUTION #21. HIGHWAY LIAISON COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

On motion of Councilman Webster, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that Neil Geary, Jack Barnhill, and Timothy Church be appointed to the Highway Liaison Committee for a term ending December 31st, 2014. Councilwoman Church seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst

Aye

Councilman Jack Barnhill

Abstain

Councilwoman Denise Jacon Church

Aye

Councilman Neil Geary

Abstain

Councilman Alan Webster

Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

- Transfer Station Agreement: had been already discussed, but Supervisor Krahforst reiterated that hopefully a meeting with Berlin could be scheduled in the near future.
- Historical Photo Scanning: Historian Peter Schaaphok stated that on March 15th from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM a scanning station would be set up within the Town Hall, and residents were invited to bring old photographs to be included with the Town's historical records. Family albums and genealogy related subjects would not be included, but rather landscape scenery, farms, street scenes, public gatherings, etc. were encouraged.

NEW BUSINESS

- Purchasing Policy Revisions: although the bidding requirement amount was recently lowered, two sections of the Purchasing Policy were adopted as not reflecting the changes.

RESOLUTION #22. PURCHASING POLICY REVISIONS

On motion of Councilwoman Church, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Town's Purchasing Policy be revised wherever applicable to correctly list the requirement of a bidding process for purchases over \$4,999.00. Councilman Geary seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst

Aye

Councilman Jack Barnhill

Aye

Councilwoman Denise Jacon Church

Aye

(RESOLUTION #22, Continued)

Councilman Neil Geary

Abstain

Councilman Alan Webster

Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

- Standard Workday Reporting Resolution: as required by the Office of the State Comptroller for employees involved in the Retirement System.

RESOLUTION #23. STANDARD WORKDAY REPORTING

On motion of Councilwoman Church, the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS the Office of the State Comptroller regulates the requirements of Part 315.4, reporting Elected and Appointed Officials, the Town of Petersburg hereby resolves the following:

RESOLVED that the number of hours prescribed as a standard workday for each such elective or appointed office or position is 8 hours;

RESOLVED that the Elected and Appointed Officials reported to the New York State & Local Employee's Retirement System are as follows:

ELECTED (E) / APPOINTED(A)	SSN (last 4)	TITLE	NAME	DAYS/ MONTH	TERM
E	xxxx	Highway Superintendent	Raymond Harrison #35207216	21	1/1/14 – 12/31/17
E	xxxx	Town Clerk	Callie Crisp #50027937	11	1/1/14 – 12/31/17
A	xxxx	Assessor	Jon Craig Surprise #35283183	4	1/1/14 – 09/30/20
A	xxxx	Deputy Highway Supt.	Steven Harrison #38349478	21	1/1/14 – 12/31/14
A	xxxx	Bookkeeper	Charles Guntner #40128857	5	1/1/14 – 12/31/14

RESOLVED that Record of Work-Related Activity Logs currently being compiled for the Elected and Appointed Officials as listed above will be submitted to the clerk of the legislative body within a period of three months, at which time an additional Standard Workday Reporting Resolution will be provided to the Board for adoption;

RESOLVED that upon approval this resolution will be posted on the Town's public website, <http://www.Petersburgh.org>, for a minimum of 30 days.

(RESOLUTION #23, Continued)

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

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilman Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilwoman Denise Jacon Church	Aye
Councilman Neil Geary	Aye
Councilman Alan Webster	Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

- Insurance Workshop Meeting: Lee Pollock of Rose & Kiernan, Inc., the Town's liability insurance carrier, has offered to do a workshop meeting in regard to liability insurance matters for the Board's information. Mr. Pollock suggested that other local Towns may be included for educational purposes as well, and the Board decided to schedule the workshop for Wednesday, March 19th at 4:00 PM.
- Quarterly Review of Town Budget: this matter was added to the agenda at Councilman Barnhill's request, who stated that this procedure would help to better prepare the Board for budget time. Bookkeeper Charles Guntner stated that the monthly reports received contained balances for each budget fund, therefore every third report would show the quarterly results.
- Special Meeting to Discuss Waste Removal: in researching matters relating to the Transfer Station agreement, Councilman Barnhill has compiled information pertaining to trash pick-up, and inquired as to whether or not the Board would like to further explore this process. Supervisor Krahforst replied that the negotiations with Berlin should take priority before other
- Supervisor's Response to Berlin Town Board Action: referencing quotes from the "Garbage Wars" newspaper article, Supervisor Krahforst addressed several specific implications made by Berlin Supervisor Jaeger. Supervisor Krahforst read aloud what he deemed to be an unprofessional statement: "Jaeger said, 'A little bird told me that the Petersburg Supervisor is considering adding \$300 to everyone's tax bill and having their trash removed by a commercial hauler.'" Krahforst remarked that the bird must have been "looney," and voiced discouragement over the innuendo and false reports displayed as factual. The comment Supervisor Krahforst found to be most offensive stated, "They [Petersburgh] are scratching around trying to figure out how to pay their own bills, but that's not our job." Supervisor Krahforst concluded by stating that the Berlin Town Board should correct misinformation and determine the correct numbers, and that amicable negotiations were necessary to proceed.
- Audit of Bills:

RESOLUTION #24. AUDIT OF BILLS 2/14

On motion of Councilman Geary, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the bills as listed on abstracts #2/14 be paid in the following amounts:

General:	# 20 – 50	\$ 25,977.34
----------	-----------	--------------

(RESOLUTION #24, Continued)

Highway:	# 16 - 33	\$ 18,911.32
Light District:	# SL1- SL2	\$
Water District:	# 3 - 4	\$ 560.68
Library:	# 2 – 12	\$ 5,029.75

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

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilman Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilwoman Denise Jacon Church	Aye
Councilman Neil Geary	Aye
Councilman Alan Webster	Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Adjourn: With no further business, on motion of Councilman Webster, seconded by Councilman Geary, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Callie Crisp, Town Clerk