

May 19, 2014 Regular Meeting Petersburg Town Board

The regular monthly meeting of the Petersburg Town Board was held on May 19, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Petersburg Town Hall, 65 Main Street, Petersburg, New York.

Present: Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst
Councilperson Jack Barnhill
Councilperson Alan Webster
Councilperson Neil Geary
Councilperson Denise Church

Guests: Deidra Michaels, Tom Berry, Peter Schaaphok, Tim Church, Martin Conboy, Brigitta Schmidt, Dan McCumber, Rory Lynch, Chelsea Jordan, Jeanne Ferland, Sharon Hodges, Craig Surprise, Liz Barnhill, Terry Neaton

Press: Alex Brooks, The Eastwick Press

Supervisor Krahforst spoke to all present about the extra workload and exhausted budgets in the Town offices as well as the successes in Town projects. He spoke in length about gravel and fuel issues. He thanked Tom Berry for bringing discrepancies with fuel purchases to his attention. He responded to accusations and criticisms and said that he wished matters could be brought to him in more of a spirit of cooperation. Supervisor Krahforst ended by announcing that Callie Crisp had just resigned as Town Clerk.

PUBLIC ADDRESS

Peter Schaaphok addressed the Board about the bad condition of the bottom of Potter Hill Road. He realizes that there are no funds available for its repair and suggested that the Town secure a bond for its repair. Supervisor Krahforst said that he was aware of the problem and has spoken with Highway Supervisor Ray Harrison and will contact County engineers for advice.

Tom Berry asked why it takes so long for the Board to look into things. Supervisor Krahforst said that is how government works. He puts in many hours and follows through, and it does take a while. He is in no violation of the law; he spent an afternoon with the Town Attorney who advised him to ignore Mr. Berry, which he has not done. Mr. Berry started to respond, but Dan McCumber commented that he and others were sick and tired of his disrupting meetings and Mr. Schaaphok agreed.

REPORTS

- Town Clerk: Callie Crisp provided copies of Town Clerk's monthly report to the Board. The report showed a total of \$3,030.25 received in revenue for the month of April. She also tendered her resignation, with deep regret, effective immediately. She stated that she will assist in the transitional process of seeking and training a replacement.

- Supervisor: Siegfried Krahforst presented the monthly Supervisor's report to the Board. The report showed receipts \$50,681.53, disbursements \$114,281.51, leaving a balance on hand of \$437,897.14. This report is on file in the Town Clerk's office.
- Highway Department: Supervisor Harrison was not present so no report was made.
- Building Department: Code Enforcement Officer Martin Conboy reported that 8 permits were issued in May for a total of \$499.
- Board of Ethics: Chairperson Deidra Michaels submitted her report to the Board and stated that the bi-weekly meetings were going smoothly. She said that Peter Schaaphok has agreed to serve as an Alternate Board of Ethics member.

On motion made by Councilperson Barnhill and seconded by Councilperson Webster, the Board appointed Peter Schaaphok as Alternate Member of the Board of Ethics. The roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilperson Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilperson Alan Webster	Aye
Councilperson Neil Geary	Aye
Councilperson Denise Church	Aye

- Planning Board: Vice Chairman Timothy Church informed the Board that Jim Bonesteel of the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance was a guest at the last Planning Board Meeting. The Board met with Mr. Yerdon to review changes in his new subdivision request. The Board will also be reviewing a preliminary site plan with Taconic. Since the Planning Board Recording Secretary had resigned, Mr. Church asked that the position be advertised.
- PVMCC: Jeanne Ferland noted that the 2014 agreement between the Town and PVMCC still needs to be ratified. She was informed that the agreement has been prepared and is ready to be signed.
- Dog Control Officer: There is only one ongoing complaint at present.
- Water District: The Water District Supervisor was not present. Mr. Krahforst reported that copies of tools had been made for the department.
- Town Historian: Mr. Schaaphok reported that the Brimmer sign had been placed; one descendent was happy with it and one was not. The unhappy descendent asked for the old plaque and the Board approved giving it to him. Mr. Schaaphok is getting plaques for other sites in Petersburg.

OLD BUSINESS

- 103 Mill Yard Road: Supervisor Krahforst stated that he has been promised by Rensselaer County that this structure will be taken down this spring. The County has been busy filling potholes.
- Members are still needed for the Planning Board.
- Transfer Station: Supervisor Krahforst said that the Board should be ready within two weeks to present their findings to the public in an open meeting. Councilperson Webster stated that the Berlin Transfer Station is a good one and

that Petersburg has contributed much to it. He thought that the Board had made a fair offer to the Town of Berlin and felt insulted and perplexed by their counteroffer. He wonders what the residents of Berlin think and wished that they could be publically urged to readdress this issue. Supervisor Krahforst added that he felt that his intelligence had been questioned; he spoke about Berlin's offer and stated that he will send a letter to their Board.

- Rubin Grant: Further information was requested, which the Town Clerk prepared and forwarded.

NEW BUSINESS

- Appointment of Deputy Town Clerk as Acting Town Clerk: the Board passed the resolution as presented.

RESOLUTION #34. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN CLERK AS ACTING TOWN CLERK. On motion of Councilperson Barnhill, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Board hereby appoints Deputy Town Clerk Brigitta Schmidt as Acting Town Clerk until further notice. The Board agreed to support and help Acting Town Clerk Schmidt as much as possible. Councilperson Church seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilperson Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilperson Denise Church	Aye
Councilperson Neil Geary	Aye
Councilperson Alan Webster	Aye

Discussion ensued regarding advertising for the position of Deputy Town Clerk and scheduling a Special Election for Town Clerk.

- Transfer of Funds: the Board passed a resolution to transfer funds as presented.

RESOLUTION #35. TRANSFER OF FUNDS. On motion of Councilperson Webster, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Board hereby authorizes the Bookkeeper to transfer the amount of \$3,000 from the Contingency Fund (#1990.4) to the Town Clerk Personal Services Assistant Account (#1410.1) in order to provide compensation to Deputy Town Clerk Brigitta Schmidt, and to transfer the amount of \$3,000 from the Contingency Fund (#1990.4) to the Supervisor's Contractual Secretary Account (#1220.4) in order to provide compensation to Ann Crisp, Secretary to the Supervisor. Councilperson Church seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilperson Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilperson Denise Church	Aye
Councilperson Neil Geary	Aye
Councilperson Alan Webster	Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

- Emergency Contractors: Supervisor Krahforst presented the Board with a list of local contractors who could be contacted to help in an emergency situation. On Motion by Councilperson Church, seconded by Councilperson Geary, Board members accepted the list of contractors, with instructions to the Supervisor to contact each one on the list to get their consent to contact and their costs on hourly rates and insurance.
- Advertisement of Gravel Bids: A legal notice will be placed in the Eastwick Press stating that the Town will be accepting bids for the purchase of gravel. Bid specifications will be available at the Town Hall.
- Resolution for Lawn Mowing: the Board passed the following resolution.

RESOLUTION #36. MOWING OF LAWNS. On motion of Councilperson Barnhill, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Board hereby authorizes the one-time mowing of lawns by Darel Manchester until bids for the mowing of lawns are in and acted upon by the Board. Mr. Manchester will be asked to mow the lawns prior to Memorial Day. Councilperson Geary seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilperson Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilperson Denise Church	Aye
Councilperson Neil Geary	Aye
Councilperson Alan Webster	Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

- Advertisement of Lawn Mowing: A legal notice will be placed in the Eastwick Press stating that the Town will be accepting bids for mowing of specific areas within the Town.
- Resolution to Support the Endeavor of a Gambling Enterprise in East Greenbush: The Board passed the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #37. SUPPORT OF THE ENDEAVOR OF A GAMBLING ENTERPRISE IN EAST GREENBUSH. On motion of Councilperson Church, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Board hereby supports the Town of East Greenbush in its endeavor to open a gambling enterprise. Councilperson Geary seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilperson Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilperson Denise Church	Aye
Councilperson Neil Geary	Aye
Councilperson Alan Webster	Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

- County Contract for Fuel (Gas and Diesel): It was noted that the Town of Grafton uses the County contract, Stephentown uses local suppliers, and no reply was received from the Town of Berlin. The Board is unaware of any nearby town using the State contract, presumably because suppliers are quite a distance away and their service unreliable. On motion of Councilperson Barnhill, the Board voted to participate in the County contract for purchase of gas, diesel and heating fuel. Councilperson Webster seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilperson Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilperson Denise Church	Aye
Councilperson Neil Geary	Aye
Councilperson Alan Webster	Aye

- Upgrade Lighting at the Highway Department: The Board discussed the feasibility of upgrading the lighting in the Highway garage which would lower electric costs. The proposal from NYSERDA states that everything, including bulbs, removed from the garage will be disposed of properly. Any additional work needed, such as charges for a lift, will be submitted for approval by the Town prior to being done. The total cost of the project would be \$2,828, with \$1,757 paid by NYSEG, leaving a cost of \$1,071 to the Town. Code Enforcement Officer Conboy stated that a building permit is needed for this work. On motion of Councilperson Church, the Board voted to enter into a contract with NYSERDA to upgrade lighting in the Highway garage. Councilperson Webster seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilperson Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilperson Denise Church	Aye
Councilperson Neil Geary	Aye
Councilperson Alan Webster	Aye

AUDIT OF BILLS 5/14

RESOLUTION #38. AUDIT OF BILLS 5/14. On motion of Councilman Barnhill, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Board hereby approves payments of the following:

General #83-#99:	\$12,168.00
Highway #65 - 72#:	\$ 2,750.54
Light District SL1 – SL2:	\$ 1,025.20
Water District #13 - #16:	\$ 645.77

Library #L-28 - #L-37: \$ 1,286.76

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

Supervisor Siegfried Krahforst	Aye
Councilperson Jack Barnhill	Aye
Councilperson Denise Church	Aye
Councilperson Neil Geary	Aye
Councilperson Alan Webster	Aye

Supervisor Krahforst declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

ADJOURN

With no further business, on motion of Councilperson Geary, seconded by Councilperson Church, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Crisp, Secretary to the Supervisor

** Minutes Approved September 15, 2014**