

A Work Session was held December 6, 2016 at Hutchinson Hall, Newark Valley at 7:00 P.M.
The following were

PRESENT:

Stuart Yetter, Jr., Supervisor
Warren Smith, Councilman
Joseph Tomazin, Jr., Councilman
Daniel Cheresnowski, Councilman
Timothy Dalton, Councilman

Also Present: Charlie Morgan; Charlie Meade, Highway Superintendent; Sue Meade; Tom Larson, Code Enforcement Officer.

Meeting Called to Order

Supervisor Yetter called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Yetter led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Village Services

Supervisor Yetter updated the Town Board on the status of negotiations with the Village concerning snow removal on Village roads. The Village Mayor has requested an official statement of the Town Board's position on the Town taking over this service. The Mayor has proposed that the Town take over this service under the existing budget with no compensation.

Superintendent Meade provided the following list of concerns and costs to the Town Board, titled 'Hazards and costs on taking over the plowing and sanding of Village Streets':

1. Low shoulders and plow hazards where the new water lines were put in.
2. Water shut offs are too high, which will be a plow hazard.
3. No or hazardous turn arounds on:
 - a. Lawrence Ave - mud.
 - b. Elm and Cook Streets - nothing there and can't back up safely - OSHA.
 - c. Mill Street - will not be able to use private property and can't back up safely on Route 38.
 - d. Silk Street - the turn-around is mud and not gravel; getting stuck would be likely because the Town trucks are much heavier than the Village garbage truck.
4. Mail boxes: Village responsibility? They are not the correct height of 44" and some posts are rotten, bad, and weak.
5. Who will monitor the Village Streets when they need to be plowed or sanded? Note: with the slower traffic it will be glazing over quicker with ice than the Town roads.
6. Sidewalks?
7. Cost: Material used, sand/salt mixture - 2 ton loads @ \$80.00 per load. We will be using approximately 4 loads (2 ton truck size) each storm. If ice, could be using 8-12 loads per storm. \$960.00.
8. In the event of an ice storm and old trees fall on Village roads, who cleans them up?
Town roads would be cleaned first.

9. If snow gets high, who cleans the snow around the fire hydrants and pre-marks them?
10. To do all of the above, the Town Highway Department will need another plow/sander vehicle and another full time employee with benefits, including medical, workers compensation, uniforms, and overtime pay.
 - a. Plow truck: \$183,000 approximately.
 - b. New employee: \$80,000 with overtime, approximately.
11. If we use what we have currently, it is going to run us 4-5 hours of more overtime to handle the additional work. The Town roads will be done first, with the Village roads last. That means hard packed snow and filled driveways after they most likely have already been cleared by residents. Who handles complaints?

The Town Board reached a consensus that it is not in the best interests of the Town and Village taxpayers, plus there are too many issues, extra costs, possible liabilities and differences in the type of service provided in the Town versus the Village, to justify the Town being the provider of this service. Supervisor Yetter will send a letter to the Village Mayor with the Town Board's position including the concerns as outlined by Superintendent Meade.

Street Lighting

The Town Board discussed Town street lights, whether they should be converted to LED, which may not be cost effective because of the small number of lights, and can the number of turned on lights be reduced to save costs. There could be as much as 30% savings by turning off lights that are not lighting areas such as major intersections. Supervisor Yetter will look at the current number and cost of turned on lights and report back to the Town Board.

Wilson Creek Speed Limit

A Berkshire resident living on Wilson Creek Road approached Supervisor Yetter to present to the Town Board his request to have the speed limit on Wilson Creek Road lowered to 40 mph. Wilson Creek Road spans Newark Valley and Berkshire, so both Towns would need to petition the NYSDOT to have the speed limit changed. The Town Board reached a consensus to not pursue a speed limit change at this time because other residents on Wilson Creek Road are not seeing a pressing need to have the speed limit lowered, and accidents due to speed along this road are not a common occurrence.

Highway Superintendent's Report

Salt Shed

Superintendent Meade provided quotes received to date for bringing electricity to the Salt Shed, as follows:

1. Tri County Auger and Pole: 2 poles, 2 lights and outlets on the pole next to the salt/sand shed - \$3,100.00. The electric would be 25-30 feet above the top rail of the RR tracks. 20 feet is the minimum requirement. This quote does not include wire down the pole next to the highway garage and into the building (conduit, breaker, etc.).
2. 2 quotes just to bore a hole under the tracks:
 - a. E.E. Root: \$2,500.00
 - b. RB Robinson: \$2,800.00

Supervisor Yetter stated there is enough money in the budget to cover these expenses.

The Town Board discussed the actual work needing to be done, the potential of having only one pole installed with wires all underground, putting the one pole near the building and installing lights on it, etc.

Superintendent Meade will look into quotes for 1 pole, 2 lights and wire going down the pole. This should save the Town money.

Town of Newark Valley 2016 Highway Inventory

Superintendent Meade provided the Town Board with a listing of 2016 Local Highway Inventory (roads covered by the Town), which includes measured mile lengths and revisions based on electronic measurement. There are many differences between the two measuring methods. After some discussion, the Town Board decided to stick with the original measured mile length.

Department Reports

Code Enforcement

Tom Larson discussed the following with the Town Board:

1. Kasmarcik property at 2555 Ketchumville Rd: This property is listed on an online auction site. Mr. Larson will monitor bidding and sale activity.
2. Request to attend training. 3 more hours are needed to complete the required training hours for 2016. A budget transfer will be needed.
3. Tull barn on Settle Rd: The condition of the barn is suspect. Mr. Larson wrote a letter to the owners advising that it would be in their best interest to get rid of or fix the barn before the condition deteriorates further. Since the danger is not imminent at this time, no further action can be taken.
4. Mr. Larson brought to the attention of the Town Board an article in the November/December issue of the **Talk of the Towns & Topics** publication titled, 'New York State Addresses Vacant & Abandoned Properties *New York Demonstrates Intolerance for Property Zombification with Passage of Act*', since there currently is concern about such properties in the Town.
5. The Code Enforcement Report for November 2016 is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Resolution # 130-2016

Code Enforcement Training

On a motion offered by Councilman Dalton and seconded by Councilman Smith, the Town Board authorized Tom Larson, Code Enforcement Officer, to attend training on December 7, 2016 for 6 hours: Southern Tier Building Officials Association, In Service Training, at the Owego Treadway Inn at a cost of \$50 plus mileage to complete the required training hours for 2016.

Warren Smith - AYE

Joseph Tomazin, Jr. - AYE

Daniel Cheresnowski - AYE

Timothy Dalton - AYE

Supervisor Yetter - AYE

Motion Carried

Fire Marshall

Supervisor Yetter advised the Town Board that he received an official resignation letter from Dennis Liebe with an effective date of January 2, 2017.

Items of Interest to Board Members

Supervisor Yetter advised a special year end close out meeting needs to be scheduled and presented the Town Board with possible dates.

Resolution # 131-2016

2016 Year End Meeting

On a motion offered by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Dalton, the Town Board authorized the Town Clerk to advertise a Legal Notice about a special meeting to be held on Wednesday December 28, 2016 at 6:00 PM for the purpose of paying bills and making funding transfers where necessary within the 2016 Town of Newark Valley Budget.

- Warren Smith - AYE
- Joseph Tomazin, Jr. - AYE
- Daniel Cheresnowski - AYE
- Timothy Dalton - AYE
- Supervisor Yetter - AYE

Motion Carried

Supervisor Yetter advised the Town Board the BAR currently has 2 members. It is a 5 member board and at least 3 are needed for a quorum. Mark Painter has expressed an interest in sitting on the BAR.

Resolution # 132-2016

BAR Appointment - Painter

On a motion offered by Councilman Cheresnowski and seconded by Councilman Dalton, the Town Board approved the appointment of Mark Painter to the Board of Assessment Review beginning 2017 for a five (5) year term.

- Warren Smith - AYE
- Joseph Tomazin, Jr. - AYE
- Daniel Cheresnowski - AYE
- Timothy Dalton - AYE
- Supervisor Yetter - AYE

Motion Carried

Councilman Smith stated Tioga County has approved a temporary moratorium on commercial sized windmill farms per their website.

There was a motion made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Tomazin the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

The next scheduled meeting is December 20, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet B. Smith
Deputy Town Clerk