

A regular meeting was held April 3, 2012 at Hutchinson Hall, Newark Valley at 7:00 P.M. The following were

**PRESENT:**

Stuart Yetter, Jr., Supervisor  
Donald Thomas, Councilman  
Ronald Graham, Councilman  
Joe Tomazin, Jr., Councilman  
Dan Cheresnowski, Councilman

**Also Present:**; Charles E. Meade; Superintendent of Highways, Jim Weed; Dog Control Officer, Hans Peeters; Planning Board Chairman, Tom Larson; Code Enforcement Officer, Charlie Morgan, Del Mock, Sue Meade, and the following Berkshire EMS personnel: Jim Tornatore, Cheryl Galluzzo, Robin Shaver and Lee Virtue.

Supervisor Yetter called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Yetter led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Mobile Home Permit**

This is a replacement for a singlewide mobile home on Howard Hill Rd. The measurements have been checked and everything meets the Town Code. There was a discussion about the dumping and cleanup on Howard Hill Rd.

**Resolution #40-2012**

**Mobile Home Permit – Hilliar**

On a motion offered by Councilman Graham and seconded by Councilman Tomazin, the Town Board approves the mobile home placement at 850 Howard Hill Road as submitted by Donald Hilliar.

Councilman Thomas - AYE  
Councilman Graham – AYE  
Councilman Tomazin, Jr. - AYE  
Councilman Cheresnowski - AYE  
Supervisor Yetter, Jr. - AYE

**Motion Carried**

**Painting Contract**

Councilman Thomas previously suggested after a meeting, the court room and conference room be painted. Supervisor Yetter has been contacting painting contractors but so far no bids. One man was interested but had no insurance. The other man will give us a bid in a week to ten days. Supervisor Yetter said he will make some more calls. The Board discussed painting contractors.

**FEMA**

Superintendent Meade had copies of the last check received from FEMA (a copy is on file in the Clerk's office). He explained that he broke down the amount according to the information he received from FEMA. It was a rough draft. The Board would like to see it

in a spreadsheet or other format so it is easier to read and easier to keep track of the amount of money we are receiving. There was discussion about the breakdown and a better way to track the money. Supervisor Yetter asked Superintendent Meade to have a list of what he needed so they will know where to put everything. Superintendent Meade is to let the Board know what he anticipates he is going to do in the next fifty days.

## **EMS**

The Board of Directors is here to talk about the EMS contract.

Jim Tornatore introduced the EMS personnel. Mr. Tornatore said they were here to request an adjustment from Newark Valley. The original amount is based on the number of calls received by the EMS. It is not based on population. Richford pays the least amount because they have the least amount of calls. Newark Valley has the most calls and is expected to pay the most. The Berkshire EMS reduced the amount owed by Newark Valley, but would like to have the original amount reinstated. Based on the number of calls, Mr. Tornatore explained that the amount was flat. The number of ALS (the most serious calls) calls from Newark Valley has increased significantly. Councilman Tomazin said he is trying to trust them financially. We should probably expect an increase with the cost of everything going up. The service is more worrisome than the financial aspect.

Mr. Tornatore said the call ratio was 64% 10 years ago, now it is 82-84%. He stated 5 or 6 years ago, there were 20 volunteers now, there are 5. Medicare and Medicaid are paying the bulk of the cost of the calls the insurance companies are not. This past year we have hired more staff because the percentage of ALS calls has increased. We are looking for more volunteers.

Supervisor Yetter said we would like to see more accountability and communication from the EMS. He wants EMS to keep a direct line of information coming to the Board so the Board knows what is going on. We want explanations, etc.

Supervisor Yetter said the Board appreciated them coming to the meeting and explaining their position.

Mr. Tornatore also explained they have not been receiving the insurance money. The people get a check but don't pay the EMS. The contract will be looked at each quarter.

EMS will be coming to the first Board Meeting of the month, every three months. Usually the insurance companies and/or Medicare/Medicaid pays up to 80%, the resident is responsible for the other 20%, but we aren't receiving it. He said they have been slack in collecting but will start turning it over to a collection agency.

Supervisor Yetter said he understands that things have changed perhaps the contract needs to be changed as well.

There was discussion about the contract.

There needs to be a discussion about a self-sufficient EMS. Everything needs to be looked at in the contract.

Every three months the Town will put the EMS on the agenda for the work session.

Mr. Virtue stated they want communication between the towns and the EMS.

On a separate note, Mr. Tornatore apologized to the Mock's for the Berkshire EMS not responding to their 911 call.

There was discussion about how the process works.

There was discussion about the changes to EMSs pertaining to protocols and mandates.

## **Department Reports**

### **Dog Control**

Mr. Weed said things are going pretty good.

### **Planning Board**

Hans Peeters said he had nothing to report. He will not be attending the next Board meeting but will send someone in his place.

### **Items of Interest to Board Members**

The Board discussed the painting of the court room and conference room.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM., offered by Councilman Cheresnowski and seconded by Councilman Tomazin.

The next scheduled meeting is April 17, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara S. Mock  
Town Clerk