

MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING – APRIL 13th, 2015

Supervisor Richard Keaveney opened the monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

PRESENT: Supervisor Richard Keaveney
Councilperson Alan Miller
Councilperson Brenda Adams
Councilperson Carrie Bither
Councilperson David Patzwahl
Superintendent of Highways, Bernhard Meyer
Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Charlotte Cowan

ABSENT:

AUDIENCE: 8

MINUTES:

MOTION: Councilperson Brenda Adams made a motion with second by Councilperson Alan Miller, to accept the minutes of the March 9th, 2015 minutes.

Roll call showed: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – abstained.

Motion carried.

BILLS:

MOTION: Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Brenda Adams, to approve the payment of the General Fund Bills: #76-#111 in the amount of \$15,478.10 and the Highway Fund, #28-#42 in the amount of \$59,431.39.

Supervisor Keaveney noted that Voucher #75 is to pay the contracted Town Hall cleaning people the gross amount they previously had been paid as employees. The change was made at the mandate of the NY State Retirement System and is budget-neutral.

Roll call showed: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – abstained from bill #85 all others - yes.

Motion carried.

Supervisor’s Monthly Finance Report

Town Clerk	\$ 264.88
Highway Fund:	\$511,707.27
Highway Fund – Capital:	\$233,505.76
Lighting Districts:	\$ 4,030.48
Ambulance Districts	
And Fire District:	\$.59
Building Inspector:	\$ 732.00
Planning Board:	\$ 0
Recreation:	\$ 7,720.63
General Fund Balance:	\$383,950.93
Court Revenues:	\$ 6,282.00 (Feb.2015)
Zoning Board of Appeals:	\$ 0
Tax Collector:	\$ 75,189.02

RESOLUTION #50 – 2015 Budget Transfer – (Town Hall Maintenance from Salary to Contractual)

MOTION: Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion, seconded by Councilperson David Patzwahl, to adopt resolution #50.

Roll call showed: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Resolution #50 adopted.

RESOLUTION #51 – Approving Youth Swim Program Positions, Hourly Rates and Standard Work Day for the NYS Retirement Reporting.

MOTION: Councilperson Carrie Bither made a motion with second by Councilperson Alan Miller to adopt Resolution #51. 5-eyes

Roll call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes
Councilperson Alan Miller - yes
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes
Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes

Resolution #51 adopted.

RESOLUTION #52 – Recreation Commission Appointments – Alex Long and Liz Legere

MOTION: Motion by Councilperson Brenda Adams with second by Councilperson Alan Miller, appoint Alex Long and Liz Legere to serve on the Recreation Commission. 5-eyes

Roll call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes
Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes

Resolution #52 adopted.

RESOLUTION #53 – Appointing Deputy Chairman of Planning Board Pierre Gontier

Tammy Flaherty, secretary for the Planning Board said that the Planning Board appoints the Deputy not the Town Board. This resolution was withdrawn.

RESOLUTION #54 – Appointment of Jens Braun to the Town of Canaan Planning Board.

MOTION: Councilperson Brenda Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Carrie Bither to adopt Resolution #54. 5-eyes

Roll call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes
Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes
Councilperson David Patzwahl –yes.

Resolution #54 adopted.

Supervisor Richard Keaveney said that our Town process of advertising is not a legal binding process. Supervisor Keaveney asked if there was a motion to appoint Ian Hooper, no motion was made. Supervisor Richard Keaveney “Thanked” Mr. Hooper for his years of service.

Councilperson Brenda Adams said she was in favor of making our process of advertising a “Good faith” effort for anyone who applies for a Town position.

RESOLUTION #55-Instituting a 10% Healthcare Premium Deduction from New Employees Salaries as of June 1st, 2015.

MOTION: Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion, seconded by councilperson Alan Miller, to adopt Resolution #55. 5-ayes

Roll call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes
Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes
Councilperson David Patzwahl –yes.

Resolution #55 adopted.

Resolution #56 – Tobacco Free Stoddard Field

Motion: Councilperson Brenda Adams made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Richard Keaveney, to table this resolution. 5ayes

Roll call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes
Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes
Councilperson David Patzwahl –yes.

Resolution #56 tabled.

Health Care Plan – Supervisor Richard Keaveney discussed the different health plans available, for Full Time Employees, and the cost. The Town current Health Plan used is CDPHP. Comparing CDPHP, MVP, Health Republic and Blue Shield NENY, MVP offers the best Health Plan.

Motion: Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Carrie Bither, to have the Town go with MVP Health Plan. 5-ayes

Roll call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes
Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes
Councilperson David Patzwahl –yes.

Motion Carried

Councilperson David Patzwahl “Thanked” the Supervisor for the annual analysis showing the differences in the different plans. 5-ayes

MOTION: Councilperson Brenda Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to cover co-pay’s/out of pocket expenses from \$8,000.00-*\$12,000.00. 5 ayes

Roll call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes **\$12,700.00**
Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes
Councilperson David Patzwahl –yes.

Motion Carried

Local Law #1 of the year 2015 – establishing income levels for real property taxes for citizens sixty-five years of age or over –

Motion: Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to hold a Public Hearing at the May Town Board meeting and proceed with this annual income and % of exemption Local Law.

Motion: Supervisor Richard Keaveney said that the Town Clerk office, on Thursday nights, will have Town Hall Security when there is no Court in Session. 5-ayes

Roll call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes
Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes
Councilperson David Patzwahl –yes.

Motion Carried.

Board Discussion

NYSEG Poles and Lights - Supervisor Keaveney reported that the poles are not installed yet but the projects are in the works.

Flat Brook Cemetery – a new 25 foot flag pole is needed because the old one has cracked. Request for a small sign for the cemetery is needed. Reilley Sign Company will be contacted.

Town Hall Parking Lot and Septic Tank – the Town received complaints concerning the condition of the Town Hall parking lot. Supervisor Keaveney said that the parking lot can not be paved because it is located in a flood plain. The Highway Department has graded gravel to help with the thawing conditions.

The Septic Tank at the Town Hall is filling up too often and needs frequent pump outs. The Code Officer, Lee Heim, is filing an application with the Army Core of Engineers for a permit to research the problem with the tank.

Transfer Station – the initial agreement with the Town was to expire March 15th, 2015. Three years ago the Town Board met with the owners of the station and made an agreement to no longer receive a “host fee” and extend the contract to December 31, 2020.

Love’s – the project will appear before the Planning Board for site plan approval Monday, April 20th, 2015. They are planning to start said project June 1, 2015.

County Supervisor Report – the September rebate on the total January taxes is about 1.4%. Residents will receive a check which will cost the **New York State Department of Taxation** and *(New York State Association of Towns) Finance around one million dollars to mail these rebate checks.

ASSESSOR’S Monthly Report:

Tentative Roll All processing of exemptions, values etc. has been completed and turned over to the County to produce the Tentative Roll

- Legal notice will be placed in paper the first of May stating the roll is available and what hours the assessor will be available "sitting with the roll"
- As a reminder the assessor or their representative has to sit with the Roll on 4 separate occasions, 2 of those times have to be 10 days after the roll is filed and one must include at least 2 hours after 6pm and other must include a Saturday with 4 hours after 9 am.

Grievance I do not anticipate a busy Grievance this year. Many complaints have been dealt with on an ongoing basis.

- I am meeting with the Bar for an organizational meeting one night this month.
- Most BAR members will be attending this year's BAR training on April 28th.
- It turns out that there is a conflict with Grievance Day and the Court. Both need use of the Court room on the same night. It was decided that this year the BAR hearing will be held in the Assessor's office. After we get through the process we will look to remedy the situation for the following years. We may need to choose a different location away from the Town Hall (such as the firehouse) or change it to another evening. The trouble with changing it to another evening is because I am the Assessor in 2 other towns and that would cause another Town to also change their Local Laws. I would prefer to make it work on the night we already have in place.

Around the office-

- The month of April will be a little slower month and we will use the time to accomplish a couple projects of organization and updates that I have been wanting to get to.
- I have updated the supervisor with some details surrounding the "AGED" exemption. Currently there is no provision to accept AGED applications after March 1 for applicants that may have had a death in the family or a serious health issue which might have prevented them from applying on time. I found an option to the local law which would allow for late exemptions in these circumstances proving there was a Doctor's note. The supervisor will

present this information with follow through with this for you.

Highway Report – Highway Superintendent Bernhard Meyer read the Highway Report. Councilperson Alan Miller mentioned that Bruce Baldwin of New Lebanon passed away while on vacation overseas. Supervisor Keaveney expressed the Town’s condolences.

Councilperson Alan Miller followed up on some of the cost data we had on file regarding Leggett Electricians’ maintenance of lamps from 2012 to the present. The fixtures are the same but we got 16 bulbs and 7 ballasts replaced. We replace bulbs ourselves because a blown bulb creates a fire hazard but we call Leggett if ballasts need to be replaced. Mr. Miller will investigate whether incentive programs are still available.

ACTIVITIES:

The winter mode continues with one storm after another, frigid temperatures and strong winds. This has taken its toll on our resources including shop heat and overtime.

If you haven't experienced the pot hole polka on our state roads you won't appreciate my intense efforts to get more funding from the state government "CHIPS"

Last week we had a surprise Department of Labor inspection and actually we did very well. We were cited for a non-working exit light- one of our new exit lights got water inside from the roof leak and shorted out the circuit board. We were also cited for having the coffee pot on an extension cord. We are required to install a wall outlet

The crew opened up the seasonal road pushing out huge drifts. The loader has been making its way through town opening up culvert inlets & outlets in anticipation of the run off from the melting snow.

The crew has also been repairing excavator buckets, hard facing edges, changing cutting edges and painting the repairs.

We are anticipating a wet spring with sudden snow melt and you know what that means - our gravel roads will self-destruct!

DISCUSSIONS & REQUESTS:

Superintendent of Highways, Bernhard Meyer said that the Highway Department will begin their summer hours April 20th, 2015.

The beavers are very busy at the Town Park and along the railroad. Action will be taken to try to control they dams they are building.

The BOAT that was in the Town Park has been removed.

Superintendent Meyer has been doing annual Town bridge inspection Maple /Goetz Bridge have been flagged. The bridges are aging.

Frisbee Street paving for 2 miles will be done at the bridge in East Chatham for 2 miles to the stone pile on Frisbee

Motion: Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, giving Superintendent of Highway, Bernhard Meyer, permission to attend the Highway conference in June. 5-ayes

Roll call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes
Councilperson Carrie Bither yes
Councilperson David Patzwahl - yes

Motion carried.

Public Discussion:

MOTION: Motion by Councilperson David Patzwahl, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. 5-ayes

Roll call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes
 Councilperson Alan Miller – yes
 Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes
 Councilperson Carrie Bither yes
 Councilperson David Patzwahl - yes

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte L. Cowan, MMC/RMC

**items are amended and correction is highlighted*