

**TOWN OF SMITHVILLE
PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020**

Call to Order: Chair Shane Butler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board Members Present: Chair Shane Butler, Adam Whitbeck, Fred Heisler, Donna Marie Utter, Clerk.

Planning Board Members Absent: Dakota Warren and Bob Brooks

Others in attendance:

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Chair Shane Butler did not distribute the minutes and therefore they were not approved. The February 5, 2020 minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

New Bridge/Dollar General:

- Adam Whitbeck asked if there is any information on when the bridge will be finished?
- Chair Shane Butler stated that he had no information on the bridge, but the Dollar General is on schedule to be completed and open by the end of the summer. He heard that Requests for Proposals have been sent out to construction companies.

Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- Chair Shane Butler met with Supervisor Cammarata and Kenny Whitmore 2 weeks ago to discuss Smithville's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan needs to be reviewed/updated every 5 years and we are in the process of getting signatures. The state has added additional requirements for the plan and hazard profiles. The County applied for a grant and will use Tetra Tech again, who has developed the plan for the past 10 years. The plan includes information on whether or not we have a Planning Board, Public Information Officer, temporary housing for emergencies, training for emergencies and established evacuation routes.
- Fred Heisler mentioned that Penny and Lynn went to an emergency preparedness conference. He also commented that typically the fire department takes the lead in an emergency.
- Chair Shane Butler stated that the plan is a county-wide plan. In Smithville, the emergency contact would be the fire department. Looking at ways to prevent hazards such as renovating the dam at Long Pond, culvert and ditch work. Kenny Whitmore suggested having fire hydrants in town with a possible system that gravity feeds from Long Pond. Fund from the grant could be used with a 50% match from the Town. The possibility of contacting GC Controls to help fund such a project could be explored.

Internet Survey:

- Chair Shane Butler also asked if the board thought it would be helpful to do a town-wide internet survey. There are 2 privately owned companies that are offering internet service: Plexicom which is a satellite company and uses satellites to beam service to your home. Interconnect Wireless has a wireless system which uses Frontier fiber optics lines and then wireless antennas from poles. This system uses a 5 mile line of sight from pole to residence. This type of service could serve Chenango County for approximately 2 million dollars, for Smithville approximately \$200,000. Deposit applied for an ARC grant to do broadband and they have done a study and survey. He suggested getting a copy of their survey and modify the survey and send it out.

Town of Guilford Wind Installation:

- Fred Heisler asked how that process was going?
- Chair Shane Butler commented that responses to an Article 78 were filed last week and are awaiting a judge to hear the responses.

Home & Emergency Repair Projects:

- Chair Shane Butler stated that the County has \$500,000 in a grant to help first-time home purchases for low/medium income purchasers and another \$350,000 for emergency home repairs.

3. OLD BUSINESS:**4. ADJOURNMENT:**

- There being no other business to come before the Planning Board, Chair Shane Butler adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Next Planning Board Meeting is Wednesday, August 5, 2020 @ 7:00 PM.

Submitted by: Donna Marie Utter, Clerk