

MINUTES OF THE SMITHVILLE TOWN BOARD
February 19, 2024

OPENING of Town Board meeting by Supervisor John Cammarata

6:30PM

ROLL CALL/PLEDGE/LATE ADDITIONS:

ATTENDANCE:

Supervisor John Cammarata

ALSO:

Alison Owens, Town Clerk

Board members: Bob Whitmore

Vince Witkowski, Hwy Sup't

Shane Butler, Russell Wark

Stan Emert, Resident

Fred Heisler

Bruce Kinney, Enforcement Officer, arrived 7:15pm

PRESENTATION OF INSURANCE POLICY by Joann Smith

CRIME POLICY RENEWED THROUGH UTICA MUTUAL

The current policy is held by Glat Feltner, whose projected policy comes in at \$25,509.09 for the upcoming renewal.

A competitive policy by HCC Public Risk (Tokio) is coming in at \$19,951.03.

A Cyber policy is not now included in packages and is being quoted separately at \$1150.00; a separate Crime policy is \$787.00. The HCC policy has more coverage on the buildings but has higher deductibles.

Differences:

Glat/Feltner

HCC

flood/earthquake 25K ded; \$50K deductible

Full glass on all vehicles only on pickup trucks

comp/coll deductible \$ 500. \$1,000

Public Official \$1M coverage \$5K

Umbrella policy \$1 Mil \$5 Mil

The list of equipment/vehicles/buildings was reviewed with some changes being noted. Mrs. Smith will take these changes back for re-calculation and will be in contact with Supervisor Cammarata. No decision was noted at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

6:55PM

C1) Long Pond Dam inspection report reviewed

C1) NEW BUSINESS

7:00PM

NB1) Request from Stan Emert (in person) re: visibility at end of his driveway on Tarbell Rd/Pearl St. He feels his options are limited as NYSEG will not do anything to move the poles so he can have the bank dug back; the smaller pole is Frontier Communications. It was mentioned that the best solution would be to put a mirror up on the bridge across from the driveway to help with viewing up the road. Hwy Sup't Witkowski will purchase and install the mirror.

Mr. Emert also mentioned that water comes down from the solar farm property to the ditch next to the bridge, comes out of the ditch but can't go under the road or onto the bridge and so runs into his driveway. Hwy Sup't

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Witkowski mentioned that is so because of the way the roads are, there is not much that can be done, maybe a flat top swale. He will work on that as well.

NB2) Concern from residents and neighbors on Hammerle Rd regarding rats from Smithville Center corner property now filtering onto adjacent properties. Supervisor Cammarata mentioned a couple of years ago a letter was sent to the corner property and it was cleaned up. Supervisor Cammarata will review the properties and write another letter to the CO RD 3 property.

It was also mentioned that a similar situation is occurring at the property near the intersection of Engard Rd at Stone Quarry. Supervisor Cammarata said he would also write a letter to that resident.

NB3) Consider Resolution updating the Senior/Disability Exemption *

Assessor Faline Ward addressed the Board

The senior citizens low income and disability income was changed by the Governor, then a Local Law by Chenango County was created to support it. It is now up to the Town Board if they will change the low income level for the senior and disability exemptions and then decide whether to add any pension/IRA amounts received as income by the Senior/Disabled person back into the exemption calculations or not. This can be done by Resolution, the specific form of the Resolution has been added to the last page of the minutes. There are currently 8 people in the combined exemption program. After discussion the following Resolution was voted upon.

RESOLUTION #9 (2024): CHANGE THE LEVEL OF LOW INCOME SENIOR CITIZEN/DISABILITY EXEMPTION AND TAXABLE IRA'S OR PENSIONS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE CALCULATIONS OF THE EXEMPTION

The above Resolution was ADOPTED at the February 19, 2024 meeting of the Smithville Town Board with the Town Board voting to change the levels of the low income Senior Citizen/Disability levels currently \$11,000. -\$16,700. to the new levels of \$15,000.-\$23,400. This was so moved by Board member Butler, 2nd by Board member Wark. Voting was consistent with 5 AYES: Board members Heisler, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata voting.

An additional part of this Resolution also included adding back in the statement that taxable IRA's/Pensions will be included in the calculations of these Exemptions. This was so moved by Board member Butler, 2nd by Board member Heisler. Voting was consistent with 5 AYES: Board members Heisler, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata voting.

The above Resolution was declared duly adopted.

The full Resolution is provided in a separate document.

NB4) Consider appointment of a Custodial Worker

2 applications were reviewed for the position of Custodial Worker. After a brief discussion the following appointment was made:

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RESOLUTION #10 (2024): APPOINT RACHEL HEISLER AS CUSTODIAL WORKER

On a motion by Board member Wark, 2nd by Board member Butler the following Resolution was ADOPTED

AYES: Butler, Wark, Whitmore, Cammarata
NAYES: 0
ABSTAIN Heisler

RESOLVED to appoint Rachel Heisler as the Custodial Worker for the Smithville Town Community Center

NB5) Consider appointment of Court Clerk pending approval by Chenango County Personnel Office.

RESOLUTION #11 (2024): APPOINT TERRI BICKFORD AS CLERK TO THE COURT PENDING APPROVAL BY CHENANGO COUNTY PERSONNEL OFFICE

On a motion by Board member Whitmore, 2nd by Board member Wark the following Resolution was ADOPTED

AYES: Heisler, Butler, Wark, Whitmore, Cammarata
NAYES: 0

RESOLVED to appoint Terri Bickford as the Town of Smithville Clerk to the Court.

OLD BUSINESS (UPDATES IF ANY)

7:40PM

OB1) Protection plan for the JD tractor:

Supervisor Cammarata is still communicating with John Deere over this. John Deere is saying any current problems should be covered using the 1035 days left on the Limited (basic) Warranty

REPORTS

7:55PM

R1.) Highway: report submitted

- Storm damage
- '02 volvo still waiting for the ECU unit to come; the truck has very low voltage
- Road signs have been ordered
- Hwy Sup't Witkowski is still considering the purchase of a Brush mower/mulcher and is meeting with one more person this week. The item fitting the purpose which he is hoping to purchase is by Mongo and is similar to a flair mower which will enable the tractor to cut small trees in addition to brush at the sides of the road. A connection using a bracket for the rubber tired tractor, coupler for excavator can be purchased for about \$850. The cost of the Mongo flail mower is \$13,610. plus \$350. shipping. Board members approved the purchase with the following limit:

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RESOLUTION #12 (2024): PURCHASE A FLAIL MOWER WITH ATTACHMENTS WITH THE COST NOT TO EXCEED \$16K

On a motion by Board member Whitmore, 2nd by Board member Heisler the following Resolution was ADOPTED

AYES: Heisler, Butler, Wark, Whitmore, Cammarata
NAYES: 0

RESOLVED to proceed with the purchase of a flail mower and attachments for the Highway Dept. not to exceed \$16K.

- Serviced grader, roller, rake and mowing tractor
- 2 speed signs now are not working. Will be calling them for repair
- FEMA: still on hold but will work on it shortly when reps from Albany come down, about 500-600K to be returned

R2) Assessor: no additional info reported

R3.) Enforcement Officer: no report submitted. Property on King Rd will probably need a Site Plan Review

R4.) Planning Board: no report submitted

R5.) DCO: no report submitted;

R6.) vacant R7.) vacant

R8.) Custodian: no report submitted

R9.) Playground Committee: no report submitted

R10) Town Clerk: report submitted

R11) vacant

R12) Supervisor's Report: submitted

- Budget on the light side due to CD's due May 3rd @ 4%
- The tentative start date for N. Tyner Rd is June 3rd. Midwest Industries is sending out a product truck and a spray truck to re-surface the road with a polymer stabilizer which will last 8-10 years. This will be an approx. cost of \$97,781. compared to 160K to pave it. Suite Kote will do the stone and oil topping later on. This process will be reimbursable through CHIPS.
- There is also a dust product either in place of calcium or in addition of. A tote of solution costs \$3836.25 but the Town will have to purchase the spray system at a cost of \$5500. The product is environmentally safe, dries like calcium; 1 gal will do a 55' long x 10' wide patch which is better than calcium. More study will be put into this process before making a decision.
- Supervisor Cammarata said the Budget will be changed next year so that all Highway expenses will be on the Highway side of the budget; anything with the Community Center will go on the General Side
- A motion to accept the Supervisor's report was made by Board member Whitmore, 2nd by Boardmember Wark. All 5 Board members: Heisler, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

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A motion to approve the January 15th minutes was made by Board member Butler 2nd by Board member Whitmore. All 5 Board members: Heisler, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

WARRANTS

8:15PM

General Warrant # 2, Vouchers # 9-24 in the amount of \$6,354.99 were submitted for payment.

All credit cards, utilities have been changed to a common due date.

A motion was made by Board member Whitmore, 2nd by Board member Wark to pay these claims. All 5 Board members: Heisler, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

Highway Warrant # 2, Vouchers # 8-27 in the amount of \$23,259.57 were submitted for payment. A motion to accept and pay these claims was made by Board member Wark, 2nd by Board member Whitmore. All 5 Board members: Heisler, Butler, Wark, Whitmore and Cammarata were in favor, motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to go into Executive Session was made by Board member Butler, 2nd by Board member Heisler. Into Executive Session at 8:27pm to discuss the Union contract

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Board member Heisler, 2nd by Board member Whitmore. Out of Executive Session at 8:35pm.

There was no other business to come before the Board. Supervisor Cammarata declared the meeting adjourned at 8:40PM

Next meeting is March 18, 2024

Alison B. Owens

Smithville Town Clerk

ADDENDUM 2/22/2024:

In further discussions with Joanne Smith and after further calculations based on the comments at the Town Board meeting, the Town Insurance policy quoted from HCC has come in lower than expected and lower than Glat Feltner. Board members felt the offset of higher deductibles would not impact the Town. A vote was taken by email and/or phone with the following Board members voting in favor of the policy from HCC for a total of \$19,647.11. The Crime Policy and Cyber Policy, quote above, are separate. Board members voted in favor of moving forward with HCC as follows:

Board member Heisler: aye
Board member Butler: aye
Board member Wark: aye
Board member Whitmore: no vote
Supervisor Cammarata: aye

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This will be **Resolution # 13 APPROVE INSURANCE POLICY WITH HCC FOR THE 2024/2025 YEAR**