

Minutes of the
Smithville Town Board
March 17, 2025

OPENING of Town Board meeting Supervisor Cammarata 6:29PM

ROLL CALL/PLEDGE/LATE ADDITIONS:

Supervisor John Cammarata	ALSO:	Alison Owens, Town Clerk
Board members: Dakota Warren		Vince Witkowski, Hwy Sup't
Shane Butler		Mindy Eldred, Playground
Russell Wark		Bruce Kinney, Smithville CE, arrived late
Fred Heisler		Jim Driscoll, Hunt Engineering
		Smithville Justice Jordon Lilley
		Mindy Eldred, Faline Ward

CORRESPONDENCE 6:35PM

C1) none

NEW BUSINESS 6:35PM

NB1) Jim Driscoll: Introduction of Hunt Engineering, Binghamton NY

- Jim Driscoll introduced himself and gave the Board a synopsis of his employer Hunt Engineering. A licensed professional geologist, Mr. Driscoll had noticed a lot of grant seeking and engineering help needs from reading the minutes on the website. Hunt Engineering works with many situations, environment services and contracts but they would like to branch out into smaller municipalities in the area of water, utility infrastructure, broadband, grants for buildings, highway equipment. The grant division of Hunt Engineering also provides financial services. Mr. Driscoll, who is a resident of Smithville, considers this as an opportunity for the Town of Smithville and as a possible alternative to what is available now.
- Supervisor Cammarata explained that Lamont Engineering is currently our Engineering Services provider and had been working with the Town on a water grant. An answer is required to NYS by September on whether the Town will accept the grant.

NB2) Mike Harrington: candidate for the Board of Assessment Review had submitted a letter of intent and was recommended by Assessor Faline Ward.

RESOLUTION # 10 (2025): APPOINT MIKE HARRINGTON TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

On a motion by Mr. Heisler, 2nd by Mr. Butler, the following Resolution was ADOPTED

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

RESOLVED to appoint Mike Harrington to the Board of Assessment Review to replace Brian Phetteplace. The appointment will run until 12/31/2029.

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NB3) Historian Alison Owens has had repeated communication from Gerald Wilcox who would like maintenance work done on the Wilcox Cemetery, both for mowing and fixing the fencing in the front. Mr. Wilcox has an ancestor buried in the cemetery who was a Revolutionary War soldier. The group "Sons of the American Revolution" will be authorizing a sign to be put in the cemetery recognizing the veteran soldier and Mr. Wilcox would like the cemetery to look appropriate. Board member Fred Heisler will take a look at the fencing and make some suggestions.

"Abandoned Cemetery" maintenance for 2025

Historian Alison Owens spoke of the Town's responsibility to keep Class 2 cemeteries mowed twice a year and to provide fencing along the front of the cemetery. These "abandoned cemeteries" are generally not places for active burials. The Town's new insurance company had asked about cemetery maintenance last year but it was not completed. Mrs. Owens has obtained a quote from a local business for the 2 cuttings for 2025 for 7 Class 2 cemeteries in the Town. There are other cemeteries but they are an Association or are located on private property. The quote is from Stage's Seasonal Impact for \$4500, \$2500. for the 1st cutting and \$2000. for the 2nd cutting with the 1st amount being paid in full before the project is undertaken.

Board members were reluctant to spend the full amount as there had been no provision for it in the 2025 Budget. It was mentioned by Mrs. Owens that Mr. Wilcox would be willing to help with the maintenance of the cemetery and that perhaps others who have ancestors buried there would also be willing to help with expenses. It was also suggested perhaps the Highway employees would be able to help weed whack for a required 2nd cutting. After further discussion it was decided to accept Stage's Season Impact for the initial cutting only (in the spring) for \$2500., half down to be paid before work begins and to request the Highway employees to provide the second cutting in the summer. It was further decided to pay for this cutting from the unexpended balance on the General side of the budget.

RESOLUTION # 11 (2025): AUTHORIZE A 1ST CUTTING OF THE 7 CLASS 2 CEMETERIES IN THE TOWN OF SMITHVILLE

On a motion by Mr. Butler, 2nd by Mr. Warren, the following Resolution was ADOPTED

AYES: Butler, Wark, Warren, Cammarata,
NAYES: Heisler **

RESOLVED to authorize a 1st cutting of grass by Stage's Seasonal Impact of the 7 Class 2 Cemeteries in the Town of Smithville, and to pay for ½ of 1st cutting (\$1250.) before the work begins, Further resolved to pay for this from the unexpended balance in the General side of the budget.

NB4) Bond approval on Highway Equipment:

Supervisor Cammarata distributed a sheet specifying a list of new equipment needed by the Highway Dept. He has worked on this list with Hwy Supt. Witkowski for the specific details and with NBT bank in Greene for financing. The proposed list includes

- New Ford F600 (Chenango Ford sales) for \$75,630. with separate chassis of plow, wing and dump box (Palmer's) for \$52,000. for a total of \$126,630.
- New Milton CAT Grader for \$254,755.00
- Replace the 2015 Volvo box with a new one for \$65K (Binghamton Truck)
- New 10 wheel Western Star truck (pre-ordered from Tracey Road Equipment) for \$331,083. This was approved at the January 20th meeting.

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Total expenditures are estimated at \$777,468.00. It was proposed to use the estimated CHIPS funding for 2025 of \$236,000 against this cost, plus the potential sale of the old grader of \$36K and the potential sale of the 2002 Volvo truck for \$50K, bringing down the total to be bonded to \$456K. Supervisor Cammarata further proposed to bond for 15 years, the first year being a short term bond at 3% interest and a payment of \$31K; then revert to a long term bond at 4.35%. Payments would come from DA5130.2 @ \$25K per year and from DA5130.4 \$32,500 per year against the bond as there would not be a need for many repairs with the new equipment being purchased.

There was much discussion on this with Board members asking if all of this new equipment was needed, if the sale of both the old grader and the 2002 truck would equal the projected amount, and if there was another more ideal way of financing the expenditure. Board members began questioning the purchase of the Ford F600 and what would happen to the current Ford F550 purchased with CHIPS monies in 2017 and technically not eligible to be replaced until 2027. It was questioned whether the current F550 would be able to run for another 2 years. Hwy Sup't Witkowski said he could make it run for another 2 years.

There was no guarantee the sale of the current grader and the 2002 Volvo would bring in \$85K as suggested in the synopsis. Board members recommended perhaps other options in the Budget might be considered first, such as taking monies from the Town of Smithville acc't (#0024) and the Building Reserve acc't (#6557) on the General side of the Budget. It was also mentioned that the CAT grader being purchased is without the extra GPS signalling which saves substantial money and that it has a 7 year warranty. Mr. Witkowski said he could quote a couple of other graders.

It was then asked if the box on the 2015 Volvo could be repaired instead of replaced. Highway Sup't Witkowski replied that he could fix the box which would save the purchase of another one for \$65K.

With these concerns and new options available, Board members discussed the purchase only of the new grader in the amount of \$254,755.00. Since monies from CHIPS would be used to purchase the grader, it was suggested to use initially \$236,000.00 from the major equipment fund (acc't #9638) and \$18,755.00 from the Town of Smithville acc't (ac't # 0024), effectively borrowing against the 2025 CHIPS fund and then reimbursing these accounts after the CHIPS funds are received in the May/June 2025 time frame. No bonding would be required for this purchase.

It was further recommended to stick with the original offer to bond with NBT for the purchase of the Western STAR truck for \$331,083.00, using down payments from 2 accounts from the General side of the budget to bring down the total to **\$231,083.00**. Those accounts would be the Town of Smithville acc't (#0024) and the Building Fund Reserve acc't (#6557), each losing \$50K to reduce the bond amount to the projected figure. This amount would be bonded later in the summer with an interest rate quote given by NBT at that time and potentially after the sale of the 2002 Volvo and old grader. The truck would not be delivered until November 2025.

Board members were more in favor of these options and offered the following Resolution:

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RESOLUTION # 12 (2025): PURCHASE THE MILTON CAT GRADER; DELETE PURCHASE OF TRUCK BOX FOR 2015 VOLVO, THE F600 and DUMP BOX; USE FINANCING & BONDING SUGGESTED BY CAMMARATA & NBT FOR WESTERN STAR TRUCK

On a motion by Mr. Heisler, 2nd by Mr. Wark, the following Resolution was ADOPTED

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

RESOLVED to purchase a new Milton CAT Grader for \$254,755.00; funding for that will be “borrowed against the 2025 CHIPS funding” using first \$236,000.00 from the major equipment fund (acc’t #9638) and \$18,755.00 from the Town of Smithville fund (acc’t # 0024) to fully pay for the truck and be reimbursed from CHIPS funds in the May/June time frame. **RESOLVED** also not to purchase the Ford F600, the box, wing and plow for it; or the replacement box for the 2015 Volvo. **RESOLVED** also to use \$50K in funds each from the Town of Smithville acc’t (# 0024) and the Building Fund Reserve acc’t (#6557) and any monies from the potential sale of the 2002 Volvo and old grader to lower the bond amount for the 2025 Western Star truck. **RESOLVED** also that the bond amount and the interest rate through NBT will be calculated this summer and that bond payments would be made through DA5130.4 and/or DA5130.4.

Hwy Supt. Witkowski will also be checking on grader bids from other vendors.

Discussion with Judge Lilley on Junk/Refuse Local Law:

Supervisor Cammarata indicated the reason the proposed Local Law for Junk had not yet passed was due to Board concerns over enforcement. Last month the Town of Preston CE Officer and her deputy were present to talk to Board members about the process her Town uses. This was explained in the minutes and now to Judge Lilley. The Code Enforcement Officer would visit the property owner and verbally give a warning; if not compliant within a certain time frame, then an appearance ticket would be hand delivered with a court date. Mr. Cammarata asked how Judge Lilley would handle the situation. The Judge replied if a ticket is issued for a court date, the offender comes in and has not cleaned a property up, then he is assessed a fee. If the property is still not cleaned up in 30 days, then another appearance ticket from Code Enforcement is issued and another court date and a higher fee. This keeps going on a graduated schedule. The Judge would have court for these offenses all on the same night. The Town of Preston Code Enforcement and her assistant could begin the process. It was mentioned the Town Supervisor could also write a ticket.

Based on the Judge’s responses in the discussion, Board members felt comfortable adopting the proposed Local Law. Town Clerk Owens asked if a similar procedure could be done for unlicensed dogs.

OLD BUSINESS (UPDATES IF ANY)

7:30PM

OB1) consider RESOLUTION to adopt the new Junk/Refuse Local Law: This was done in the following Resolution

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RESOLUTION # 13 (2025): ADOPT PROPOSED LOCAL LAW # 1 2025

On a motion by Mr. Heisler, 2nd by Mr. Butler, the following Resolution was ADOPTED

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

RESOLVED to ADOPT Local Law # 1 2025 This will be finalized upon receipt from the NYS Dept of State.

RESOLUTION # 14 (2025): ADD NON-COMPLIANCE TRASH AND JUNK LOCAL LAW COURT FEES TO THE TOWN FEE SCHEDULE

On a motion by Mr. Heisler, 2nd by Mr. Wark, the following Resolution was ADOPTED

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

RESOLVED to add the following fees to the Town Fee Schedule for non compliance of the newly adopted Junk/Trash Local Law:
1st offense—\$100
2nd offense—\$250
3rd offense—\$500 (each within 30 day limits)

OB2) further discussion on the water system: there was no new information from Lamont Engineering. A motion to table this until next month was made by Mr. Butler, 2nd by Mr. Warren. All five Board members in favor, motion carried.

OB3) report on addition: there was no new information from the Engineering firm

OB4) further info on NYSDEC Long Pond dam issue: County 911 Fire Co-ordinator Matt Beckwith said the Cincinnati Lake Assoc. has not had any recent minutes and will now be further investigated by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors; contact info for the owner of the property the dam is located on, the owner's Att'y and the Utter's has been given out. Mr. Cammarata will not sign the contract with the DEC.

REPORTS

7:45PM

R1.) Highway: report submitted.

- Did not purchase any more salt, has sand for the remainder of the season
- Repairing Roller , broom and tractor ready to go
- The F550 has had a brake job
- Oil burner parts have been replaced; waste oil is full for heating
- Filling potholes, cutting down leaning trees

R2) Assessor: no report submitted

R3.) Enforcement Officer: no report submitted

R4.) Planning Board: no report submitted. February draft minutes available

R5.) DCO: no report submitted;

R6.) vacant R7.) Justice: no report submitted

R8.) Custodian/Groundskeeper:

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R9.) Playground Committee: no report submitted, Mrs. Eldred said May 3rd will be Work in the Park day; She also suggested the JRC might be willing to do some volunteer work on the ballfield to keep that in shape. She also recommended to turn the guest internet off outside of the building as there have been reports of it being used for questionable purposes. Mr. Cammarata will look into that.

R10) Town Clerk: report submitted.

- Mrs. Owens reported the tax collection as of the end of February has reached 77% of the tax roll. This has never happened before!
- Mrs. Owens will continue to find options for cemetery maintenance to comply with the insurance company and NYS requests and requirements.
- The seasonal flags on the Community Center building, Pavilion and Gazebo should be replaced with something more appropriate. Mrs. Owens asked the Board if she could order different ones. Board members agreed this would be ok.

R11) vacant

R12) Supervisor's Report: submitted

- *No Admittance* signs will need to be installed at the Town Barn to remind people that the facility is for more employees only.
- Social Security is going up 13% in June
- A motion to accept the Supervisor's report was made by Mr. Butler, 2nd by Mr. Warren. All five Board members were in favor, motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVAL for February 17th

8:10PM

The minutes of the February 17th meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept these minutes was made by Mr. Warren, 2nd by Mr. Butler. All five Board members in favor, motion carried.

WARRANTS

8:15PM

General Warrant # 3, Vouchers # 27-37 in the amount of \$25,295.17 were submitted and reviewed for payment. A motion to pay these claims was made by Mr. Butler, 2nd by Mr. Heisler. All 5 Board members in favor, motion carried.

Highway Warrant # 3, Vouchers # 34-42, in the amount of \$7892.29 were submitted and reviewed for payment.

Voucher # 42 was corrected to read the account # to be DA5130.4. A motion to pay these claims was made by Mr. Heisler, 2nd by Mr. Butler. All 5 Board members in favor, motion carried.

Other: Mr. Butler announced that Cornell University will do an improvement survey and study of Cook Park, both online and at the County Clean-up day at the Chenango River on May 3rd.

Also mentioned was a Chenango County Amnesty Day on May 3rd. The County sponsored day will allow clean-up along the Chenango River. The Town of Smithville could have, on its own, one or more dumpsters brought for residents to bring junk for disposal. The Smithville Valley Grange is planning a park clean-up day May 3rd which could be combined with this

No EXECUTIVE SESSION was held.

8:30PM

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No further business was discussed.

CLOSE: by Supervisor Cammarata

8:34PM

Alison Owens
Smithville Town Clerk

** corrected 4/21/25 to reflect Mr. Heisler's accurate vote