

Regular Town Board Meeting January 23, 2018

Supervisor Votra opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00M.

Roll Call: Supervisor Votra, Councilwoman Tremper, Councilman Cook, Councilman Sweeney, Councilman Demo, Highway Superintendent Hart, Assessor and Code Enforcement Officer McGill, Superintendent of Public Works Woods, Town Clerk Maguire

Others Present: Dolores Rice, Lester E Gale Jr., Gloria Sweeney, Elbridge E. Randall, Yvonne Cook, Doug Witherell, Lori Witherell, Gary P Snell Jr., Legislator Rick Perkins, Eric Alan, Geri Lynn Wilson, Rick Wilson, Luke Martin, Linda Downing, Julia Bump, Ed Bump, Ken Hammel, Sue Wood, Joe Snell, Tina Wright, Ellen White, William Collins (PHCS), Milt DeGraw, Fred Wilhelm, Mike Tremper, Levi Zook, Jeff Yette

Minutes from the previous meetings were tabled until the February meeting.

Supervisor Votra introduced John Charamella, representing APEX Solar Power. Mr. Charamella will make brief presentation to the Town Board about the proposed project at the old landfill site on the Rutman Road. This is informational only and there will be no public comment this evening.

Mr. Charamella presented each Board member with a packet giving some detail and a map of the proposed project. The proposed site is a good fit because it is within the area approved by New York State and National Grid. The 106,200 watts is the size of the proposed solar project, which will cover all the power bills currently paid for by the Town. The panels will cover approximately 1 to 1½ acres of land. The panels are 40” wide by 65” long and will put out 295 watts of power each. They come with a 25 year warranty and a third party insurance coverage that will insure coverage even if the manufacturer should go out of business. The initial cost would be \$292,050. There would be New York State incentives to help fund this project which would make the final cost approximately \$258,000. Over a 25 year period, the Town would save roughly \$700,000 in energy costs because we would be making our own electricity and would not be buying from National Grid. There is financing available to pay for this project at an interest rate of approximately 4.119% which would be close to the current power bills being paid now for the next 5 years. This rate is what is available right now and may change going forward. The solar panels that are currently being quoted are made in China. The ones made in the USA may be more expensive and do not come with the third party insurance.

Supervisor Votra and the Town Board thanked Mr. Charamella for his presentation and time.

Code Enforcement Officer Report:

Code Enforcement Officer McGill reported a slow month for permits and inspections as usual for this time of the year.

A motion was made by Councilman Cook and seconded by Councilwoman Tremper to accept the written Code Enforcement Officer report as submitted and to be filed with the Town Clerk.

All in favor.

Assessor's Report:

Assessor McGill reported the Assessor's Office has been busy with calls about taxes and STAR exemption applications and questions.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Tremper and seconded by Councilman Sweeney to accept the Assessor's report as given by Assessor McGill.

All in favor.

Water District Report:

Superintendent of Public Works Woods reported there have been a few repairs this month. They have been mainly due to the lack of adequate heat at the residence. Mr. Woods has checked the homes that have had problems in the past to make sure the bleeder lines are being used.

A motion was made by Councilman Sweeney and seconded by Councilman Cook to accept the Water District report as given by Superintendent of Public Works Woods.

All in favor.

Recreation Report:

Superintendent of Public Works Woods reported a busy month at the rink with the cold weather. No problems have been reported. A \$2,400.00 grant for the recreation program has been received from the St. Lawrence County Health Initiative.

A motion was made by Councilman Sweeney and seconded by Councilman Cook to accept the Recreation report as given by Superintendent of Public Works Woods.

All in favor.

Parishville Hopkinton School Superintendent William Collins said he didn't have anything new to report. He was sorry the school had to close today due to the inclement weather this morning. Supervisor Votra asked if Mr. Collins would consider allowing Parishville resident, Luke Martin, to be involved in further negotiations with the school and Avangrid. Mr. Martin has been involved in the negotiations with the Town of Parishville and Avangrid so far and would like to remain involved if possible.

St. Lawrence County Legislator Rick Perkins gave a brief report. The Organizational Meeting left the committee members all remaining the same. The new DA has taken over and seems to be a smooth transition so far. There were 3 grants received so far, 12 positions were filled and rabies clinics were approved. The exemption for the Cold War Veterans has been extended. The Legislators are working on the Pistol Permit issue and the solid waste concern as well. Necessary work needed on roads and bridges are also of concern are being addressed. Councilman Cook asked if Legislator Perkins could look

into getting a street light installed on County Route 58 at the intersection of the Ashton Road. Mr. Perkins said he would check with Mr. Chambers at the Highway Department for an answer.

Recreation Committee Report:

Councilwoman Tremper reported that the Bidly Basketball Program is underway and the Learn to Skate program is off and running as weather permits. The annual Rock N Skate fundraiser should be scheduled soon.

A motion was made by Councilman Sweeney and seconded by Councilman Demo to accept the Recreation Committee report as given by Councilwoman Tremper.

All in favor.

Business:

1. *A motion* was made by Councilwoman Tremper and seconded by Councilman Sweeney to adopt Resolution 01-2018 as follows:

**TOWN OF PARISHVILLE
OFFICIAL UNDERTAKING OF MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS
RESOLUTION 01-2018**

WHEREAS, we, the Town Board of the Town of Parishville hereby require the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Town Justice, and Highway Superintendent to execute said Official Undertaking as required by said law;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Town Board of the Town of Parishville approve the document entitled "Town of Parishville Official Undertaking of Municipal Officers" as to its form and manner of execution and the sufficiency of the insurance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Official Undertaking containing the notarized signatures of those named municipal officials be filed in the Office of the Town Clerk, as well as the original copies of the insurance policies indicating the sufficiency of the sureties to indemnify the Town against losses which may arise from failure of such officials to properly discharge their duties.

Supervisor Votra- Aye

Councilwoman Tremper- Aye

Councilman Cook- Aye

Councilman Sweeney- Aye

Councilman Demo- Aye

Resolution Adopted.

2. *A motion* was made by Councilman Cook and seconded by Councilman Sweeney to adopt Resolution 02-2018 as follows:

**TOWN OF PARISHVILLE
RESOLUTION 02-2018**

SUPPORTING FORT DRUM, NEW YORK, AS THE PREFERRED SITE FOR AN EAST COAST MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY GROUND-BASED INTERCEPTOR

WHEREAS, The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is preparing a congressionally-mandated Continental United States Interceptor Site (CIS) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate sites for a potential additional ground-based interceptor site, and

WHEREAS, there are currently three locations under consideration including Fort Drum, New York, Camp Ravenna, Ohio, and Fort Custer, Michigan, and

WHEREAS, In August 2014 the MDA held a scoping session with citizens, and local, state, and federal government officials to discuss the scope of the project and timeline for completion of the EIS for the project, and

WHEREAS, On May 9, 2016, the Draft EIS was approved for public release, and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the EIS we recognize that the project will provide significant economic benefits to New York State and the surrounding communities including estimated short-term job creation of 600-800 jobs, estimated long-term job creation of 650-850 jobs, an increase in annual sales tax of \$1.65 million, and overall \$27 million annual long-term economic value to New York State and the region, and

WHEREAS, locating the project at Fort Drum will further distinguish Fort Drum as a strategic federal installation to the nation as well as a vibrant part of the North Country economy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Parishville supports Fort Drum, New York, as the preferred site for an east coast missile defense ground-based interceptor, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator Patricia Ritchie, Senator Joseph Griffo, an Senator Elizabeth O'C Little, Assemblywoman Addie Jenne, Assemblyman Kenneth Blankenbush, Assemblyman Marc Butler, Assemblyman D. Billy Jones, and Fort Drum.

Supervisor Votra- Aye

Councilwoman Tremper- Aye

Councilman Cook- Aye

Councilman Sweeney- Aye

Councilman Demo- Aye

Resolution Adopted.

3. A letter was received from Lori Witherell providing information regarding a meeting to be held in Malone on January 24th with Gary **Abrams** who will be discussing the Article X process. Anyone who is able and would like to attend is encouraged to do so.
4. There was discussion about the amount of hours to be authorized for part-time highway employees. Councilwoman Tremper has contacted St. Lawrence County for some direction regarding this matter. She was told that if a highway employee works more than 30 hours per week over a 3 month period, the Town may have to pay money in employee benefits. There are currently 2 part time employees working at the Highway Department now. More part time employees may be hired if necessary to keep the hours down.
A motion was made by Councilman Cook and seconded by Councilman Demo to allow the two part-time Highway employees to work as needed at the Highway Superintendent's discretion and be paid as worked.
All in favor.
5. *A motion* was made by Councilwoman Tremper and seconded by Councilman Demo to adopt Resolution 03-2018 as follows:

Town of Parishville

Resolution 03-2018

North Country Life Flight Agreement

WHEREAS: North Country LIFE FLIGHT, Inc. is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation which is responsible for all aspects of patient care by providing medical equipment, training medical personnel and administering the medical portion utilizing the New York State Police helicopter based in Saranac Lake and private fixed-wing aviation resources; and

WHEREAS: the New York State Police aviation resources do not provide a medically trained team or medical equipment for patient transports; and

WHEREAS: The people of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and St. Lawrence Counties, receive a vital emergency medical service for critically ill and seriously injured patients and therefore municipal governments are asked to pledge monies for this worthwhile program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Parishville hereby authorizes the Supervisor to enter into a contract with North County LIFE FLIGHT, Inc. for the purpose of operating the medical component of the medevac program, which will serve its residents and visitors, and paying the amount of \$1,000 which represents the Town's share for 2018; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the sum of \$1,000 is hereby appropriated to Account #4010.4 for payment to North County LIFE FLIGHT, Inc.

Supervisor Votra- Aye

Councilwoman Tremper- Absent

Councilman Cook- Aye

Councilman Sweeney- Aye

Councilman Demo- Aye

Resolution Adopted.

6. Supervisor Votra reported that the Town of Parishville received the second round of the J-Cap grant in the amount of \$15,497.00, to continue the work on the court room and interior of the front of the Town Hall to accommodate the mandated requirements.
7. The Planning Board has completed their work on the Local Law 01-2018 –Solar Energy Facility Law. There will be a public hearing at 9:30 AM immediately before the meeting of the regular board meeting at 10:00 AM.

Correspondence Received

1. National Grid- Field audit of street lighting within the Town of Parishville
2. Highway Department Inventory- January 2018

Highway Report:

Highway Superintendent Hart reported his department has been busy with sanding, plowing and water problems. He also reported there was an accident with a plow truck this morning with no injuries reported. The plow truck driver was not at fault.

A motion was made by Councilman Sweeney and seconded by Councilwoman Tremper to accept the Highway report as given by Highway Superintendent Hart.

All in favor.

Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Cook and seconded by Councilman Sweeney to accept the bills and payrolls as follows:

1. General Account Bills – \$31,018.46
2. Highway Account Bills – Abstract 13-2017- \$4,657.38
Abstract 01-2018- \$23,047.64
3. Water District No. 1 Bills - \$1,040.35
4. Payrolls:

All in favor.

Privilege of the Floor:

Rick Wilson addressed the Board and said that after retiring after 36 years, he would like to have his health insurance reimbursement caught up to date. He would like to meet with a few of the board members after the meeting, if possible, to get the issue straightened out.

Geri Lynn Wilson addressed the Board about the annual newsletter. She stated that although most of it was great and was glad that it was on the website, she did not agree with the Supervisor's portion. She was not happy with the accusations of lies and untruths being published on Face Book. She also stated she does not feel Supervisor Votra is available by email, phone or appointment as stated in his newsletter article. Councilwoman Tremper stated she would be the point of contact if needed between the Wilsons in the future since they cannot communicate. Ms. Wilson said she would appreciate that.

Gary Snell Jr. asked about the change in salary for the incoming Highway Superintendent. Councilman Sweeney and Councilwoman Tremper explained that all salaries for newly elected officials were set at a starting amount at the Town Board meeting in November 2015. These changes were made to all incoming elected official offices due to the longevity of all the officials at that time. Salaries will be increased at the discretion of the Town Board at budget time each year. Supervisor Votra advised that Highway Superintendent Hart was aware of this before the election took place. Legislator Rick Perkins stated this was the practice at the County for new employees as well.

A motion was made by Councilman Sweeney and seconded by Councilman Cook to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM.

All in favor.

Members of the Town Board informally met with Mr. and Mrs. Wilson immediately following the meeting. No decisions or motions were made.

Meeting Dates:

Public Hearing for Local Law 01-2018- February 27, 2018 @ 9:30 AM

Regular Town Board Meeting- February 27, 2018 @ 10:00 AM

Next Audit Date: Auditors: Councilman Cook and Councilwoman Tremper

Connie Maguire
Town Clerk