

Town of Hamilton Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Via ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCING

Present: Eve Ann Schwartz, Peter Darby, Shari Taylor, Darrell Griff.

Absent: Mary Dinski. Others Present: Sue Reymers-Town Clerk, Brynley Wilcox-Bookkeeper, Luke Dowsland-Highway Superintendent. Public: Jim Leach, Chris Rossi, Debby & Michael Zahn, Steven & Michelle Skollar.

Call to order & Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Public Comments:

Debby & Michael Zahn and Steven and Michelle Skollar attended to express concerns about internet access to Planning Board meetings for Special Use Permits. They requested a moratorium on the permit process due to accessibility issues. Supervisor Schwartz shared that she and the staff were on the phone today with the town attorney Nadine Bell and took the opportunity to ask her about this request. By the Zoning Law, the town has a certain amount of mandatory time to respond to request for permits. Also, the NYS Executive orders make video only meetings legal. The town is not ignoring the public and it trying to fulfill its duty as best as we can. Further discussion followed. Supervisor Schwartz will follow-up with them in response to their request for a meeting.

Chris Rossi quickly updated on Zoning Update Committee and HCPWG. The Zoning Update Committee met with the Town Council and members of the Planning Board and ZBA to discuss proposed density of development changes and allowing the use Conservations Subdivisions in the new Zoning Law. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for Sept. 22 at 7pm via Zoom with the goal of finalizing our choice for density of development. Question: Does the Sept. 22 meeting include the ZBA and PB in addition to the Town Council and ZUC? The Hamilton Climate Preparedness Working Group is working on a joint municipal Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the Village and the Town. The Plan will suggest actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resiliency for each municipality and suggest places for collaboration. The goals for the plan are aligned with those of NYS. (30% reduction by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050) Andrew will reach out to Sue for data.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Highway Superintendent – Luke Dowsland

GENERAL REPAIRS:

- Patched on Payne, Alexis, Amelia and Rambling Brook
- Put shoulders on Mill and Peterson
- Ditched on Horton and Humphrey

- Swept all the new stone and oil off
- Put a new driveway culvert in on Kelly Road
- Fixed a washout on Wratten
- Cleaned out a stream on Bonney

EQUIPMENT:

- Fixed a broken weld on the mowing tractor
- Got 17's rebuilt hydraulic pump back from Marcy Hydraulics and put that back on the truck

TREE REMOVAL:

- Had 6 trees come down

SNOW REMOVAL:

- Started hauling sand in from Cossitt Concrete

CHIPS

- Hauled in 1A stone for Alexis, Amelia, Payne and Rambling Brook
- Suit-Kote stone and oiled the above roads
- Ulster Paving paved Mill and Peterson while they were here doing work for the County

OTHER:

- Helped the Town of Sherburne for 2 days
- Helped the Town of Brookfield for 2 days
- Moved the town office into the new building
- Auctions International came and took pictures of 19, 24, 25, the old grader and the mowing tractor to be put on their auction site
- Went to the Town of Starkey to look at their Peterbilt plow truck. This is the route I'd like to go for the 2021 truck.
- Mowed the cemetery twice

There was a discussion on the equipment replacement schedule pertaining to the timing of ordering, paying for the truck versus when they receive the truck for usage because it takes up to a year to get a truck after you order it. It would be best to clarify what to do from this point forward. The question is, does the town want the 2021 truck to be in service for 2021 or do you want your 2021 truck to be in service for 2022. Decision was to stick with the plan, buy the plow truck as planned in 2021 and understand that it will be ready in 2022.

Supervisor/Bookkeeper – Brynley Wilcox**2021 BUDGET:**

- The first budget committee meeting was held on Friday, September 4th.
- Looking at ways to keep the budget flat compared to 2020

- Hard to predict where sales tax, casino money and state aid will be next year

38 MILFORD STREET:

- Waiting on final invoices from contractors and then the board will receive an updated cost for the building (Strasser, Ashcraft, Larcher, etc.)

INTEREST & EARNINGS:

- NYCLASS from 02/20 – 02/29: \$ 696.03
- NYCLASS from 03/01 – 03/31: \$ 1,580.93
- NYCLASS from 04/01 – 04/30: \$ 803.01
- NYCLASS from 05/01 – 05/31: \$ 586.83
- NYCLASS from 06/01 – 06/30: \$ 390.75
- NYCLASS from 07/01 – 07/31: \$ 213.29
- NYCLASS from 08/01 – 08/31: \$ 75.86
- NYCLASS year-to-date: \$ 4,346.70
 - CB & NBT in all of 2019: \$ 2,234.41
- Interest rate as of 8/31: 0.06%

ICS ACCOUNTS:

- I have contacted NBT Bank regarding opening up ICS accounts (Insured Cash Sweep)
- Option for higher interest rates while NYCLASS rates are lower

RESOLUTION 2020-88: Authorization for Bookkeeper to open NBT ICS Account

On a motion of Councilmember Darby, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that the Bookkeeper be authorized to open an Insured Cash Sweep account at NBT Bank.

RESOLUTION 2020-89: Audit of Claims

On a motion of Councilmember Darby, seconded by Councilmember Griff, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that the bills contained on Abstract #9 have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

General Fund A	No.	260	<i>through</i>	299	53,554.09
General Fund B	No.	48	<i>through</i>	55	2,025.88
Highway Fund DB	No.	118	<i>through</i>	131	57,615.71
Street Lighting SL	No.	17	<i>through</i>	18	1,820.00
Prepays					25,054.89

Town Clerk Reports – Sue Reymers

Clerk Reymers reported that the new town office is open for business and that she is working to get the word out to the public. Staff have given tours to folks that would like

to see the building and we get lots of compliments. A sandwich board was purchased to put out front with signage that we are open and hunting licenses are on sale. That has helped direct people to our doors. The town now has the large green recycle bins for residents on a first come, first serve basis. The town is still unpacking files and organizing. Also, Clerk Reymers sold the old fire legal filing cabinets to Lebanon for \$500 total for both. There is a webinar next week from AOT about 2021 budget.

Codes Enforcement Officer Report – Mark Miller

No formal report this month. Supervisor Schwartz noted that there are several complaints on properties. Clerk Reymers noted that there is another permit for a new house.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**SOMAC**

Mr. Darby shared that Kyle said that they have not had any repair needs recently. It was recommended that Luke talk to Kyle about making sure that the town mechanics handle the work and not them. No recent COVID calls. Brief discussion on Madison County colleges and COVID.

Partnership for Community Development

Mary sent a report to the Supervisor. PCD continues to work on the gate grubs' program. They are rebranding the incubator.

Recreation and Youth Committee – Nothing to report.

Zoning Update Committee – Already reported on.

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Hamilton Climate Preparedness Working Group – Already reported on.

Town Office Building

Sign is still needed on the front of the building. There are still other small items to arrange along with meeting room chairs. Clerk Reymers has been handling much of the simple items. Discussion on the CFCNY.

Earlville Needs Assessment

Shari Taylor updated the board on Design Connects' progress. They did get some survey feedback and the students are working on the redesign.

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:**Madison County Snow & Ice Agreement Resolution for 2020-2021****RESOLUTION 2020-90: RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH MADISON COUNTY FOR SNOW AND ICE CONTROL ON THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM**

On a motion of Councilmember Darby, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Madison County adopted **Resolution No. 20-309** on **August 11, 2020** designating the improved roads of the County Road System of the County upon which snow and ice removal should be performed; and

WHEREAS, the County Superintendent of Highways was authorized to enter into agreements with the Town for the aforementioned purpose starting **October 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021** at rates as specified in the Agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Superintendent of Highways of the Town of Hamilton, Madison County be and hereby is authorized and directed to enter into an agreement with the County of Madison to perform snow and ice removal upon the improved County Road System as per attached Agreement.

Tax Bill Memo Resolution**RESOLUTION 2020-91: Authorization to Include a Tax Bill Memo with the Tax Bills**

On a motion of Councilmember Griff, seconded by Councilmember Darby, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 3, Nays: 0

Resolved that the town include a tax bill memo with the 2021 tax bills.

Proposed Local Law B-2020 "Tax Cap Override" SEQRA & Introduction Resolution

Supervisor Shwartz reviewed the SEQRA and read the resolution. 2021 Tax cap: 1.56%.

RESOLUTION 2020-92: Introduction of Proposed Local Law & SEQRA Law B of 2020 "A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c in the Town of Hamilton"

Councilor Darby introduced proposed Local Law No. B-2020, at a regular meeting (convened using the telephone/video conferencing medium known as ZOOM), relating to the ability of the Town of Hamilton to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Hamilton pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, and to allow the Town of Hamilton to adopt a Town budget for the fiscal year 2021 in excess of the "tax levy limit," and made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Taylor:

WHEREAS, Volume 6 N.Y.C.R.R., Section 617 of the Regulations relating to Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law, requires that as early as possible an involved agency shall make a determination whether a given action is subject to the aforementioned law; and

WHEREAS, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve or directly undertake the enactment of a local law in the Town of Hamilton, such that there are no other involved agencies within the meaning of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) with respect to the proposed enactment of said Local Law, with the result that the Town Board shall act as lead agency in this matter; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of said Local Law is an unlisted action for purposes of environmental review under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that a short environmental assessment form (EAF) shall be required in connection with this matter; and

WHEREAS, said EAF has been prepared and has been reviewed by the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has considered the adoption of said Local Law, has considered the criteria contained in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617.7 and has compared the impacts which may be reasonably expected to result from the adoption of said Local Law against said criteria.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED that the Town Board has determined this action shall have no significant adverse impact on the environment; that, accordingly, an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall not be required; and that this resolution shall constitute a negative declaration under SEQRA; and it is further;

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED that the Town Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed Local Law that will be convened using the telephone/video conferencing medium known as ZOOM on October 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at which time all persons interested will be heard (due to the current Covid-19 pandemic meetings shall be held using ZOOM until further notice when meetings shall resume being held at the Court House located at 60 Montgomery Street in the Town of Hamilton). The public may mail or electronically submit comments on proposed Local Law No. B-2020 to the Town Clerk by noon on October 8, 2020.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Darrell Griff	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Shari Taylor	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Mary Ann Dinski	Councilor	Voted	Absent
Peter Darby	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Eve Ann Schwartz	Supervisor	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

2021 Budget Timeline

Tentative budget meeting scheduled for September 30. Budget public hearing scheduled for October 28. Tax Cap public hearing is October 8.

Concerns of Town Board: None.

Supervisor's Report: Madison County Activities:

Supervisor Shwartz gave a brief report on the County relating to large solar arrays. NYS's goals for solar will take away local control. Hamilton does not have high transmission wires in our area, so not as likely to impact us.

EXECUTIVE SESSION**RESOLUTION 2020-93: Executive Session**

On a motion of Councilmember Darby, seconded by Councilmember Griff, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that this Board move into an Executive Session for the purposes of advice of counsel at 8:18 p.m.

RESOLUTION 2020-94: Return to Regular Session

On a motion of Councilmember Darby, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that the Board return to regular session at 8:55 p.m.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilmember Griff, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne K. Reymers
Town Clerk