

The regular monthly meeting of the Hamilton Town Board was held on Thursday, May 10, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Office, 16 Broad Street, Hamilton, New York. Present were: Supervisor Eve Ann Schwartz, Deputy Supervisor Peter Darby, David Holcomb, Carolyn Todd, and Chris Rossi, Town Council; Bert Glazier, Highway Superintendent; Mayor Margaret Miller; Gerald Hayes, and Rob Wise.

Eve Ann welcomed the public and asked if they wished to speak. G. Hayes said the Village of Earlville buys fuel with BOCES and Bert said he talked with Tony in Utica to see what he can do. Tony works with State bids, Bert said. G. Hayes also said Earlville Fire Dept. Auxiliary is having a plant sale Saturday morning, and Earlville Days will be July 20, 21 and 22. He also left an Earlville Opera House schedule. Eve Ann said she was in touch with Sarah, Earlville's new trustee, and PCD is doing a new newsletter and is trying to reach out to more businesses, so Eve Ann asked her to gather up names of businesses in Earlville. Bert said his current fuel bills are very trying to work with – so that is proof that the low bid on fuel is not always good.

Mayor Miller said there is a Father's Day airplane fly-in and breakfast on June 17th. The Village Board suspended "no overnight parking" on Colgate's Graduation weekend. She spoke that the Village needs a new DPW building – maybe a new building on the lot next to Courthouse, or the lot next to their Village Parking lot – or the lot next to Oneida Savings Bank-- they are open to ideas, they want to stay downtown. Eve Ann told how DeRuyter renovated their Town Offices – they got a 2 million dollar Grant- it was a schoolhouse; and it is beautiful now. Mayor Miller said the Village Office's second and third floors are in rough shape; she said if they sold their building and got the money from that sale, they could do more.

P. Darby will discuss the monthly financials next month. Eve Ann, Peter, and Bert will search for help in the financial dept., and B. Glazier said he could use some help with his bills – he is overloaded. P. Darby said Tackabury is expensive, Linda is duplicating, something is missing.

B. Glazier then gave his Highway Report. He said in April he made 175 tons of patch, they helped Lebanon chip/seal for a day and ½, they bought a used broom for our loader, \$1500 was paid for it. They have done ditching, put a culvert pipe in on upper Wickwire, did some mowing, they have cut trees, helped haul gravel for Madison, purchased sand from Beta House (they used at a beach party).

P. Darby then gave everyone Estimated Equipment Costs sheets, including an Amended one (A). Peter said if you buy plow trucks in the first four years, you end up saving money, because you are saving the inflation you would be paying those next three years. Peter said he thinks the 7 year plan is the better choice. Peter said equipment purchased on state bid can be turned over every other year, and make a profit. Peter went over his handout sheets with the Town Board. Peter would like the 7 year bunched equipment program and he would like to give B. Glazier the authority to order what he needs and put others up for auction. G. Hayes said if there is a different Board 5 years from now, how do you know this plan will continue. Peter said there was no plan to begin with, and hopefully the Bookkeeper will keep this plan in place. There is an inflation cost (5%) figured in. P. Darby's -Amended A -- Estimated Equipment Costs Sheet will be kept with the original Minutes.

A Motion was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Todd and carried to Adopt the 7 Year Bunched Schedule A , Equipment Costs Plan, by creating a dedicated Highway Fund of \$350,000 and authorizing B. Glazier to replace the 2004 plow truck, 2011 pickup truck, and 2007 backhoe. Vote taken was unanimous.

Eve Ann, Peter and Town Clerk are to put together a public notice in the newspaper; Peter said.

A Motion to Accept the April 4, 2012 Town Board Minutes (held at the Highway Garage) was made by D. Holcomb, seconded by C. Rossi and carried.

A Motion to Accept the April 12, 2012 Town Board Minutes was made by C. Todd, seconded by P. Darby and carried.

A Motion to pay the General Bills was made by P. Darby. seconded by C. Todd and carried in the amount of \$ 3622.60, #80-99.

A Motion to pay the Highway Bills was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Todd and carried in the amount of \$14,934.41, #72-85.

Eve Ann gave mortgage tax information- given to her by the County- to the Town Board. She said according to the receipts for 6 months: Town of Hamilton got \$17,501. Total collected this year: \$562, 788.26 and last year at this same period, it was \$496,632.

Also FEMA had paid us all but 12% of disaster relief funds, and now we will receive the 12% Eve Ann and Bert said.

Informational: Set Polling Places for the Madison County Board of Elections, when they send us the paperwork.

Informational: Board of Assessment Review (5 year appointments): Term Ends: Mike Craven 09/30/14; Sandra Holbrook-09/30/15, and Tracie DeBisschop-09/30/16.

Eve Ann said Town Clean Up day will be June 2, 2012. Bert will call R. Hammond to say we have committed. There will be 3 dumpsters at the Landfill, allowing residents to bring 2 free bags of roadside trash. C. Rossi went over no fee items and fees to be collected items. The County will pick up the dumpsters. Bert will have staff from the Town Barn work with them and help out. Eve Ann thanked Bert. Press Releases need to be done, notify Radio Free Hamilton, notify the Store in Hubbardsville, notify the Earlville Village Office, do Posters – farmers need to know about this, too. C. Rossi and B. Glazier will help.

Eve Ann said there is now a free prescription drug drop off container at the Motor Vehicle Dept. in Madison County.

Eve Ann said the Town's Lease is up this year with Steve Hall (currently \$525 a month). She said that is very cheap rent, we may only want a 2 year lease, and we may want a few things done to improve the building (front steps rusty, some paint, etc.).

A Motion was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Todd and carried to renew the Office Lease for two years with Steve Hall.

Eve Ann explained some people lost exemptions – P. Darby said his needed a correction, too. Residents only received a notice if theirs was changed.

C. Rossi said they are feeding Matt from North Shore Solutions information for the website now (minutes, etc.); use .org extension, she said. C. Todd said the Village took .gov, so the Town will have .org. C. Todd said town of Hamilton NY – gets you on the website and .org is the Town, and .gov is the Village. She said the Tax Rolls have to be on the website. There will be training after it launches. Matt will meet with Dept. Heads of the Town and Village. Discussion: Budget/Financials on website; Zoning Law is already on the website. Eve Ann said she would like a commitment of training dates before he is paid. He will be in California this summer, C. Todd said.

Eve Ann said regarding Environmental Concerns at the Highway Garage-a Committee will be doing research and sharing their information.

Also, there will be a four week Madison County Youth program wherein 10 kids will be available to help the Village and Town with activities.

Eve Ann said P. Darby and C. Rossi will be on the Natural Gas Committee regarding issues as they pertain to Hamilton. Eve Ann said the County has a Road Use Law with regard to heavy repeated use of roads. She then handed out information from Delta Road Protection Program – a company that will video tape every Town road and their condition, and date it-to protect the Town. The cost is \$9900 per Town. They have an engineering degree and they will go to Court for the Town, if needed. If Delta gets the County deal, perhaps the Towns could get a discount. Eve Ann said this is for the task force and highway superintendent to go over.

Eve Ann said at the County Energy Meeting – taxation on windmills and Pilots were discussed and also how gas wells are assessed. On May 30th the County will have a meeting and start educating the public.

C. Rossi discussed Madison is considering a moratorium on their proposed windmill project. C. Todd said the Town of Madison gave Hamilton their Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS), and it is on the counter in the Town Office and available for all.

C. Rossi wondered if the Planning Board should revisit Zoning on Windmills regarding setbacks-Eve Ann said they may not be up for this, but she will discuss it with them. D. Holcomb said if you drive out to Lowville, it's disgusting-and we will not benefit from them (windmills). Eve Ann handed out to everyone a sheet entitled Windmill Pilots – Town Purposes. This sheet will be put with the original Minutes. Windmills can provide economic development for small towns, as there are few jobs anymore. Eva Ann said at the County meeting –how are windmills taxed was discussed. Real Property Tax Law Section 47: exemption from taxation for certain solar or wind energy systems, or farm waste energy systems. However the County, schools, Towns, can opt out of Section 47 and put them on the tax rolls and that forces the Companies to negotiate the Pilots; Eve Ann said.

P. Darby said perhaps broaden the Town of Hamilton Energy Work Group to include Natural Gas, Windmills, and the Planning Board, D. Holcomb said. C. Rossi said have a bio digestion program –take away food, wood chips, agricultural fertilizer, etc. C. Rossi said she and P. Darby would be going to a Greenhouse Gas Study meeting on May 14th, at the Village Office, and will meet Emily, the intern. Jamie Hart, of the Madison County Planning Board, can help you, too, Eve Ann said.

Eve Ann said she is waiting for attorney Steve Jones to get back to her regarding the Pilot Payments from the Village of Hamilton.

Eve Ann then passed around a booklet : Greater Hamilton Economic Development Plan 2007, put together by the Partnership for Community Development (PCD): The Village of Hamilton, the Town of Hamilton and Colgate University. She said this plan was to help businesses. Eve Ann then handed out 4 pages of PCD's Review of 2007 Greater Hamilton Economic Development Plan, generated out of an April 27, 2012 meeting. Colgate U did a refinance with the non-profit version of the IDA, for 30 million dollars and when they do that – they have to pay $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1% back to the IDA for the service of having a refinance to their loans; this has been a source of funding for the PCD in the past. One Goal is to come up with specific projects that the PCD is going to work on, and make a proposal to the IDA to get a chunk of that money, to give back to the community and help businesses. C. Todd thanked Eve Ann.

SOMAC funding issues was next. D. Holcomb said they are at a \$70,000 deficit this year, some of that is because of the funding of paid drivers now. SOMAC will probably be coming to the Town Board meeting in June, with a short term plan. Mayor Miller said it is tough trying to provide emergency medical service; perhaps regionalize it, they need ideas. The Mayor said specializing is hard now – SOMAC has to go elsewhere for specific health care (ex. heart care). That is one reason volunteers have dropped out – because it takes time to go to and from places, they are not just local anymore. Eve Ann said the County should be a leader in this, and Colgate should be a part of this, too. A Colgate student, Nichole Simpson, will be helping to look into this matter, too, Mayor Miller said. We will need information for our Budget.

C. Todd said the Courthouse will have 75 new chairs & new carpeting from a Grant obtained by the Village. Mayor Miller said the Town applied for this Grant, too.

A Motion was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Rossi and carried to Adjourn the Meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine S. Hotaling

Town Clerk