

The regular monthly meeting of the Hamilton Town Board was held on Thursday October 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Office, 16 Broad Street, Hamilton, New York. Present were: Eve Ann Shwartz, Supervisor; Peter Darby, Deputy Supervisor; D. Holcomb, C. Todd and C. Rossi, Town Council; B. Glazier, Highway Supt.; S. Reymers, Bookkeeper; Mayor Miller; G. Hayes ; D. Kliman; Tom Fagan; and Shannon Mantaro (from PCD).

Supervisor Shwartz welcomed everyone, she was glad more people were present, and she asked if anyone wished to speak. She said this meeting would not be as long as others had been, and T. Fagan said that the length of the meetings was what he was going to comment about; so it was addressed.

Shannon, from the Partnership for Community Development (PCD), started by thanking the Town of Hamilton for its support, and she expressed the need to increase funding for their 2013 year. They have created Small Business Services: Training Workshops, an Online Library, Welcome Center on the porch of their building. The Chocolate Train Wreck Festival was a success, there's a Newsletter, they do Grant Writing and Grant Writing Assistance for businesses, they want to do some Agribusiness –an important market to provide services. They want to go out and market Hamilton. They want to develop a Website to promote available commercial property in Hamilton. C. Todd said Assemblyman Magee signed a piece of legislation allowing farmers to grow hops and get tax credits for producing beer. C. Todd said PCD could use the Good Nature Brewery in Hamilton as an example, in its marketing. There is a Hop Trail in the works, Shannon said. C. Todd promotes local use; and Shannon said they are planning a Shop Local Campaign. She said they used PJ Green in Utica for printing, upon C. Todd's question. In questioning- Shannon said she is paid by Hamilton Initiative, Dominick is paid by PCD. Shannon said Colgate U. contributes \$50,000-Village of Hamilton contributes \$8,000 and she is looking for the Town to increase their \$5,000 contribution; plus, they have a fund raising campaign. C. Todd said PCD is asking the Town for \$10,000 and Shannon said yes, and she has made her request to the others; and the levels remain the same. We can take the lead, Eve Ann said; and C. Todd said yes we can. The Town Board thanked Shannon for coming. Eve Ann said the Town Board will get back to PCD.

Mayor Miller was asked to invite Supv. Goldstein (Town of Lebanon) to the SOMAC Meeting on Thursday; and Eve Ann said Jo Ann (from Colgate) will be coming, too.

B. Glazier then gave his Highway Report. In September they chip sealed streets in Earlville, working with Earlville, Lebanon and the Village of Hamilton. G. Hayes thanked Bert. They mowed roadsides and the Hamilton Center Cemetery, trimmed, ditched on Horton Road. Spare truck is ready to go, serviced all equipment that is to be stored, put a culvert in on Excell & Williams Road (new house going there). They cleaned up 3 downed trees. Also concrete barriers on Hill Road for erosion purposes, replaced road signs. Bert talked about safety on Furner Hill – it is dangerous every way you turn – it has to be corrected; and the County has to be involved. Morabito is our State bid dealer in Madison County, Bert said, with regard to fuel bids We must make sure that fuel oil and diesel is what they are giving us. They are accepting truck bids now, Bert said: from Den Kelly, Holston Chevy (Rochester) and Carbone in Utica.

Resolution # ___ was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Todd and carried to approve the Agreement between the County of Madison and the Town of Hamilton: October 1, 2012 through April 30, 2013, at \$16.84 per lane mile upon which snow & ice services are performed; and loader rate of \$120 per hour for snow bank removal (with prior approval from County Highway Supt.).

Eve Ann and D. Holcomb then talked about the solar (Arista) project. She said there is a limit to any one installation - can't produce more than 110% use at the location, so we can't effectively produce enough energy to come close to more than 20% of the lighting districts energy. They won't allow us to meter any more than that. There is a meter at the Garage, but there are not meters with the lighting districts. D. Holcomb explained it is a contracted price, not a metered priced – that will be used. He said it is a flat fee (does not depend on usage) – no meters/no breakers – and if the Town takes over, they will pay NYSEG to do the poles; and the Town guys will change bulbs, etc. Can the lights in Poolville and Hubbardsville be replaced with more economical lights P. Darby asked; and D. Holcomb said absolutely. The assessor will be asked how much the power companies pay in taxes.; how many properties pay the lighting district tax in Poolville and Hubbardsville.

A Motion was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Rossi and carried to scale down the Solar project with Arista to 100% use of solar/electricity on the Town Highway Garage itself; \$61,000 with credits of \$23,625; would be a net cost to the Town of \$37,375.

A Motion was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Rossi and carried to accept the September 13, 2012 Town Board Minutes: with a "Change" on page 815: "IT" is probably five years away; to "GAS DRILLING" is probably five years away.

A Motion to Pay the General Bills was made by D. Holcomb, seconded by C. Todd and carried in the amount of \$11,093.61.

A Motion to Pay the Highway Bills was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Todd and carried in the amount of \$3494.43.

Eve Ann asked if everyone noticed the fantastic new system put in place. The Town Board thanked the bookkeeper Sue Reymers for her good work.

The Town Board then reviewed the September Financials. Profit ,Loss, and Balance Sheet.

C. Todd said usage is up on the Village's Youth Recreation Program -243 children participated –and the Town's Budgeted contribution of \$10,000 to this program, is very much appreciated.

A Motion was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Todd and carried to accept the September 2012 Financials.

Resolution # _____ was made by C. Todd, seconded by D. Holcomb and carried to buy the new copier for the Town Office. Purchasing the copier will save the Town \$2500 over a 5 year period.

P. Darby said they have a Budget Workshop October 16th to make some simple changes, have a Budget Hearing November 1, and approve the 2013 year budget on November 8. The deadline to approve it is November 20th, he said. Legal Ads need to be published in the newspaper.

We will also need a Public Hearing regarding the 2013 Budget exceeding the 2% Cap ,Peter said.

Eve Ann said on Tuesday-Laird Petrie is coming to Madison County to sit down and workshop with the Supervisors and Treasurer's Office to explain why the Comptroller's Office is insisting that Madison County change the way it deals with the sales tax distribution to the Town. They want the money to show as an income line on a Budget.

Eve Ann said P. McGinnis, Code Enforcement Officer, left a report. He would like to modify the fee structure to (1) initial fee per building activity, to streamline the process. He will provide a proposed schedule for the November Town Board meeting. Discussions continue with the Village of Earlville about joining shared CEO agreement – G. Hayes said there are some issues with their current codes officer.

C. Rossi then gave a Report on the Energy Working Group (EWG). The Town Council agreed to move forward with the EWG's recommendations on Road Use Laws. The EWG will arrange for a meeting with Delta Engineering to learn more about their road protection programs. Other local municipalities are invited to join the meeting in hopes of keeping costs down through sharing services. The EWG would like their own Web page, too. They talked about the Alan Zurcan Group – someone who has DOT and road engineering experience; and someone who is an environmental lawyer with the DEC to act as consultants, and also for facilitators for discussion. They wanted a \$1,000 charge to meet with us. EWG recommends that we should pursue getting help or some consultation to find out what they could offer us. In the Town's Zoning – with regard to wind power – there are road use provisions in it for wind zoning. Peter said the Town Board should not invest a lot of time and money with something that may be far into the future. We can't commit future Town Boards, D. Holcomb said. Town Board Discussion: to go forward on Road Use Agreement work. Steve Jones, Esq. provided Eve Ann with notes and a booklet on Municipal Law and Planning: A Local Perspective on Hydrofracking. C. Rossi will review this booklet and get it back to Eve Ann.

C. Todd reported on a Joint Shared Services Meeting on September 20th – Villages (Earlville & Hamilton), Town of Hamilton, Staff Training. Mayor Miller asked what kind of Staff Training. C. Todd said Sam Cooper (Village of Hamilton) suggested: how to handle citizens who come into the office upset with their taxes, assessments – so they do not leave mad; and handling different office personalities. C. Todd said she told him our Town staff is extremely good at handling the public, and they all get along beautifully. G. Hayes said he'd been to a meeting of Chenango County Mayors Shared Services and he gave a copy of some of their suggestions. C. Todd said there were ongoing discussions of: Fuel Oil, SOMAC, Website, Parks – that they want to talk about. Also at the Hamilton Village Board Meeting the Sound Ordinance was discussed. There have been complaints. Colgate has asked for more time on this matter.

Town Board Concerns: None.

Supervisor Concerns: Eve Ann said the County Planning Dept. and Planning Committee at the County are soliciting information on abandoned sites – Brownfields – to come up with a list of properties in your community that have hazardous waste on – there is money out there to clean these up, and get them back on the tax rolls. Example: Philips Station on Utica Street; underground storage tank-Madison County owns it now. Eve Ann asked everyone to think about this, as a list is needed.

Eve Ann said the Tax Sale Auction at the Colgate Inn had an overflow crowd. That same company will auction Philips property. The County realized \$275,000 back taxes on their Tax Sale Auction.

Madison County is still working on their Budget. At the November 13th Madison County Meeting - if anyone wants to override the tax cap - it has to be done by Introduction of a Resolution, and she is prepared with such a Resolution. Oneida County and Madison County receive money from the State to make up for the lost property tax money on the property in trust and in litigation; regarding the Nation.

A Motion to Adjourn the Meeting was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Rossi and carried at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine S. Hotaling, Town Clerk