

REGULAR MEETING, TOWN BOARD, TOWN OF LITTLE FALLS, FEBRUARY 14, 2023

A Regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Little Falls was held on February 14, 2023 at the town hall commencing at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present:

Present: Supervisor Dan Casler
Councilman Anthony Viscomi
Councilman Kirk Schwasnick
Councilman Kevin Sullivan
Councilman Mitch Soules

Others Present: Town Clerk, Sandra Regan; Highway Superintendent, Donald Cotton; Town Attorney, Nicholas Macri; Codes Enforcer, Phil Green; Planning Board Chairwoman, Elaine Cobb..

-Supervisor Casler called the meeting to order directing the Clerk to call the roll.

-Privilege of the floor was granted to those present. There were no comments.

RESOLUTION #15

Minute Approval

On motion of Councilman Soules, seconded by Councilman Viscomi, the following resolution was ADOPTED-vote:

Ayes-Supervisor Casler; Councilmen Viscomi, Schwasnick, Sullivan, Soules

Noes-0

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous month's meetings, as submitted by the clerk, hereby be approved.

-Supervisor Monthly Report:

Supervisor Casler reported:

-That a letter of appreciation was received from Mountain View Memorial Cemetery thanking the town for the monetary donation.

-That a letter was received from Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation requesting a monetary donation for its annual Envirothon.

-That Codes Enforcer Green has submitted his annual report to the state.

-That a letter was received from NYS Department of Taxation listing the town's special franchise's full values for properties in the town.

-That PILOT Monies for the solar farm and wind farm have been received, \$687.68 for the solar farm, \$3,532.90 for the wind farm.

-That the snow removal check was received for re-imburement for town expenses.

-That he's submitted a monthly financial report for the board's review.

-That the fire contract will be due for renewal this year and that he will be paying this year's bill in April. Discussion was held on paying this year's bill with the board directing Supervisor Casler to pay the bill now rather than in April.

-That he is still working on updating the Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

-Assessor Report: None

-Codes Enforcer Report: Tabled until later.

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-Town Attorney Report:

Attorney Macri reported that he had received a call from Planning Board Chairwoman Cobb regarding the possibility of placing a moratorium on the town's solar farm law if needed.

Attorney Macri explained that the town had done one in the past and the only way you can do another one is if the town was really going to contemplate land use regulations, so it wouldn't be allowable at this moment.

Attorney Macri stated that he pointed out to Chairwomen Cobb that town law allows the town to hire a specialized attorney and engineer for new projects and that the town should do this.

-Justice Report:

Supervisor Casler stated that no word has been received yet on the justice court grant.

-Planning Board Report:

Clerk Regan reported that the board met briefly for a re-organizational meeting to elect this year's officers and that Chairwoman Cobb, Vice Chairman Schlag, and herself as secretary, were re-appointed, and that they plan on meeting next month to continue working on SEQR for the Newville Road Solar Project.

-Health Officer Report: None

-Dog Control Officer Report: None

-Highway Superintendent Report:

Highway Superintendent Cotton reported that \$45,000 in CHIPS money has been received.

-Planning Board Chairwoman Cobb arrived and explained that the reason she had inquired about placing a moratorium on solar farms was that the town passed the Opt Out Law; however, not all state agencies were aware of this, that the town was supposed to be listed on the NYS Taxation and NYSERDA websites, but weren't. Chairwoman Cobb stated that Clerk Regan has taken care of this and the town is now registered with both state agencies and will be listed on their websites when the agencies update their website, which is done quarterly.

Chairwoman Cobb explained that contrary to what Mr. Piseck, from the IDA, had told the board; by Opting Out, the town assessor is supposed to do the value of a solar farm so it will be taxed at a higher rate than the IDA would tax it, that there will still be the same pilot program but the valuation of the pilot will be different. Chairwoman Cobb stated town residents, including herself, object to solar farms because they don't pay their fair share; such as the one on State Route 169 that pays not even half of what the highest tax payer pays; that's not fair.

Chairwoman Cobb stated that we are now registered with both agencies and we'll be listed on their websites; that it probably won't help with the current project we have before us because they will be grandfathered under us not being on the list; however, it will apply to any future projects.

Chairwoman Cobb stated that she did forward a law adopted by the Town of Danube to Attorney Macri and Clerk Regan for solar farm fees that Danube thinks helps them in not having any solar farms. Attorney Macri asked Clerk Regan to forward copies of this to the board for their review at their next meeting.

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Chairwoman Cobb reported that ARC is supposed to be coming to the April meeting; that they've purchased land on Eatonville Road and are planning to have their event center there versus next to their current club house; however, because they are relocating the center to a new location from the one that was previously approved by the planning board, they have to go through the approval process again.

-Highway Superintendent Cotton stated that the 1978 plow truck is the oldest truck and a spare. That we should get rid of it and get a new one. That a new one is \$166,000 and the price isn't going to go down, so the board should consider this since getting new plow trucks is two and half years out.

Discussion was held on this matter with the board deciding to authorize Superintendent Cotton to order a new truck.

RESOLUTION #16

Order/Purchase Approval-New 2024 Western Star Plow Truck

On motion of Councilman Soules, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, the following resolution was ADOPTED by roll call vote:

Supervisor Casler	Aye
Councilman Viscomi	Aye
Councilman Schwasnick	Aye
Councilman Sullivan	Aye
Councilman Soules	Aye

RESOLVED that the Town Board, of the Town of Little Falls, hereby authorizes the Town of Little Falls Highway Superintendent to order/purchase a new 2024 Western Star Model 49X set forward axel Cab/Chasis, under Oneida County bid price, from Tracey Road Equipment, at a cost of \$165,712.34.

Town Clerk Report:

Clerk Regan reported:

-That her and Superintendent Cotton have filed the paper work for the Bridge of New York grant for work to be done on the bridge on Eatonville Road.

-That she is working on trying to get Funtech to get things on the website.

-That as requested by Legislator Campione, she has distributed information on the \$20,000 of American Rescue Plan Funding that he's allocating to the town.

-Supervisor Casler stated that he had talked with Sheri about a comprehensive plan and was told it could fall under the \$20,000 funding to offset the cost of doing one; that the town of German Flatts is currently in the process of doing a plan and have hired an outside firm at about \$40,000 to assist with the project.

Attorney Macri stated that the town could wait until theirs was finished and get a copy of it, that this is what the Town of Warren did when he was their attorney; that the town could use another municipalities plan as a template and have professionals work it to the town's specifics.

Chairwoman Cobb stated that this isn't something the planning board could do alone.

Supervisor Casler stated that he had emailed an attachment with his agenda regarding his thoughts that this is something the town should move forward with and asked the board if they had any thoughts on this or how to use to \$20,000.

Discussion was held on this and fixing the town's building's ice problem.

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After discussion, it was the consensus of the board that the money should be used towards fixing the ice problems. Supervisor Casler will contact Standard Installation, Upstate Foam and Northern for quotes.

-Codes Enforcer Report:

Codes Enforcer Green reported that he filed his annual report with the state and that there's been a couple of building permits issued so far this year.

-Discussion was held on the annual donation to the Envirothon with the board deciding to increase the annual amount from \$100.00 to \$250.00.

RESOLUTION #17

Envirothon Donation Approval

On motion of Councilman Soules, seconded by Councilman Viscomi, the following resolution was ADOPTED by roll call vote:

Supervisor Casler	Aye
Councilman Viscomi	Aye
Councilman Schwasnick	Aye
Councilman Sullivan	Aye
Councilman Soules	Aye

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby approves that a \$250.00 donation be made to the Herkimer County Envirothon.

-Meeting recessed at 8:10 p.m. to audit the bills.

-Meeting resumed at 8:24 p.m.

RESOLUTION #18

Payment of General Bills

On motion of Supervisor Casler, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, the following resolution was ADOPTED-vote:

Ayes- Supervisor Casler; Councilmen, Viscomi, Schwasnick, Sullivan, Soules
Noes-0

RESOLVED that the General Bills #12-33 in the amount of \$11,281.75 hereby be paid.

RESOLUTION #19

Payment of Highway Bills

On motion of Councilman Soules, seconded by Councilman Schwasnick, the following resolution was ADOPTED-vote:

Ayes-Supervisor Casler; Councilmen Viscomi, Schwasnick, Sullivan, Soules
Noes-0

RESOLVED that the Highway Bills #21-36, in the amount of \$47,467.42 hereby be paid.

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RESOLUTION #20

Supervisor Monthly Financial Report

On motion of Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Schwasnick, the following resolution was ADOPTED-vote:

Ayes-Supervisor Casler; Councilmen Viscomi, Schwasnick, Sullivan, Viscomi

Noes-Councilman Soules

RESOLVED that Supervisor's Monthly Profit and Loss Financial Report, as submitted, hereby be approved and placed on file.

-Councilman Soules stated he voted no on the Supervisor's Monthly Financial Report because it's incomplete.

-The next regular meeting will be held on March 14, 2023 at the town hall at 7:00 p.m.

-Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.-Councilmen Soules, Sullivan

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Regan, Town Clerk