

TOWN BOARD MEETING – 10/14/2014

Supervisor Edna Frasier and Board Members Marty Fitzgerald, Ginger Kuenzel, Rudy Meola and Steve Ramant were all present.

Councilman Meola made and Councilwoman Kuenzel seconded a motion to open the audit meeting at 5:32 pm. Motion approved unanimously. The Board then proceeded to audit the bills.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Meola.

A moment of silence was held for Robert Caldera, Steve Bevins, Martha Denton, Maryann Neugass and Larry Crammond.

Supervisor Frasier welcomed the guests. There were no speakers during the Privilege of the Floor.

Councilman Meola moved and Councilman Fitzgerald seconded a motion to pay General, Highway and Sewer Claims (\$41,448.47 & \$11,951.83). Motion approved unanimously.

Councilman Meola moved and Councilwoman Kuenzel seconded a motion to accept the minutes of September 9, October 2, October 6 and October 9, 2014. Motion approved unanimously.

Under discussion of the previous minutes, Councilman Meola asked about the refund to Joan Clark. Supervisor Frasier said that it was found that the property is over 100 feet from the sewer line so there is a choice to hook up or not. She has called and written to Ms. Clark but has not heard from her. Councilman Meola noted that Ms. Clark had asked her money to be refunded a long time ago. Supervisor Frasier said she would like to wait until next month to see if she responds.

Regular Committee Reports:

1. Assessor & Justice (Meola/Kuenzel) – No report
2. Buildings & Grounds/Community Center/Enhancement (Fitzgerald/Frasier) – Councilman Fitzgerald has contacted Eric and Eric and emphasized that the Town wants the plans before year is out. Then the Board can decide if they want to go ahead.
3. Finance & Insurance (Meola/Ramant) – No report
4. Highway (Fitzgerald/Ramant) – Highway Superintendent Don Smith was in attendance and reported that paving had been done with help from the county and the department was now returning the favor by helping out other towns. They will be working on the Jabe Pond road and other dirt roads. He asked that the Board advertise for winter drivers.

Councilman Fitzgerald made and Councilman Ramant seconded a motion to have Town Clerk Debbie Manning advertise for full time and part time CDL drivers. Motion passed unanimously. Councilwoman Kuenzel suggested that there should be a job description before the interviews. Supervisor Frasier verified that the Highway Department has one.

5. Museum & Historian (Kuenzel/Ramant) – Councilwoman Kuenzel reported that there is to be a joint event on October 24, 2014 at the Fire Department with the Hague Historical Society, the Fire Department and the Boy Scouts. They will not be going into the cemetery because of concerns expressed by people but it will be an event for adults and children. Councilman Ramant said it should be good and there are signs all over.

6. Personnel (Meola/Kuenzel) – Councilman Meola reported that the Committee met to discuss a specific member of the staff and is in the process of trying to resolve the issue by coming up with an detailed job description. Councilman Kuenzel noted it is a job performance improvement plan that they will be monitoring over the next 30 days.

7. Planning/Zoning/Stormwater (Fitzgerald/Ramant) – There was no planning-zoning report but Councilman Ramant said he has been helping to identify some catch basins.

8. Recreation & Promotion & Youth (Ramant/Meola) – Councilman Ramant reported that the Lake George Open Water Swim was successful with 238 swimmers and in a survey 86% of them responded positively. He noted that Chris Bowcutt did a nice job and gave a good report. Councilwoman Kuenzel inquired about their donations to local projects. Ramant said they were going to donate to the Double H ranch, the Hague Water Quality Awareness Committee, Dragons Alive for cancer research, the Coast Guard and the Hague Fire Department.

Councilman Ramant noted Verizon is working on a problem on New Hague Road, Time warner has about a month to go on Summit Rd, the cell tower in Putnam is under construction and Lake Forest Association has donated benches to the Town Park. He also noted that better electricity is needed at the Park and he has looked at it with Art Steitz and they will be getting together with Dick Crossman.

9. Sewer Districts #1 & # 2 (Frasier/Kuenzel) – Supervisor Frasier reported that for the past month they have been working on the budget, working to get violations corrected and working with Cedarwood Engineering to identify areas for remediation. The Sewer Asset Management Committee will be meeting at 3 pm on October 28, 2014 with Steve Grimm, rural water consultant as facilitator and Supervisor Frasier, Councilwoman Kuenzel, Budget Assistant Trudeau, Waste Water Treatment manager Belden and three members of the public, Jim Beaty, Chris Navitsky and Phil Smith.

10. Town Park & Beautification (Kuenzel/Ramant) – Councilwoman Kuenzel reported that the boat launch is closed for the season. Eric Robinson and Joel Jordon have access for their boat operations. Joel needs to sign an agreement with the Town. The Visitor Center and bathrooms are being put to bed for the winter. There are new door closers and locks as well as motion detector lights.

Unfinished Business:

1. Supervisor Frasier reported that the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery will be here on 10/22/2014 at 9 am to scan documents in regards to Hurricane Irene and that maybe sometime after that we will be receiving reimbursement.

Communications & Petitions:

1. Supervisor Frasier reported that the Town had received the Preliminary Evaluation for Hague WWTP from Cedarwood Engineering Services, PLLC, dated 9/25/2014. She noted that the problems are listed and they are looking at big corrections and the funds needed to get the work done.

New Business:

1. Supervisor Frasier reported that they received an Order on Consent on 10/8/2014 from NYS DEC. Schedule "A" of the Order of Consent contains the actions that must be taken to bring the WWTP into compliance. The nitrate and phosphorus levels are high and they have given us 1 year to bring that into compliance. There are other changes to be made also and if all of them are not made we will be fined an additional \$8,600 as well as the \$1,700 we have to pay.

2. Supervisor Frasier asked for a motion to pay the secretary for the Planning Board and Zoning Board for at least an hour if the meeting is shorter than that.

Councilman Meola made and Councilwoman Kuenzel seconded the motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

3. Supervisor Frasier noted that fees were cancelling out any interest in the account the Town had with TD Bank and that Community Bank does not have those fees. Councilwoman Kuenzel moved and Councilman Meola seconded a motion to allow a change in banks. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Supervisor Frasier stated that the Town will need the services of a Bond Counsel who will help with arranging for funding for repairs in the sewer districts. Councilman Meola made and Councilwoman Kuenzel seconded a motion to give the Supervisor permission to engage the services of a Bond Counsel. Motion approve unanimously.

Other Business:

Councilman Meola asked about what was happening relative to reviewing the agreement with Silver Bay on their payment in lieu of taxes. Supervisor Frasier said she felt it was time to move forward noting that they have a \$59 million dollar assessment but pay the Town only \$25,000. However she would like to get through the budget process first. It was suggested that the Board should come up with what they would want a committee to explore with Silver Bay and then two Board members should meet with them.

The Town Board will hold their next Budget workshop on Thursday, October16. 2014 at 4 pm.

Supervisor Frasier reported that at the County they are busy on the budget and looking for a replacement for the Head of Social Services. She also noted that Hague will be getting \$14,000 more from the County on the snow and ice budget.

The Board had no questions about Oktoberfest for Tom Schaeffer who was in the audience but commended him on a good job.

Councilman Meola made and Councilwoman Kuenzel seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:35 pm. Motion approved unanimously.

Judy Stock, Acting Recording Secretary

