

**TOWN OF FORESTPORT
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FORESTPORT TOWN HALL
FEBRUARY 18, 2015 @ 6:30 PM**

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilwoman Nancy Kardash
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski
Councilman Ronald Scouten
Councilman Charles Scott
Supervisor Parker Snead

MEMBERS ABSENT

Town Clerk Shelley Entwistle

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Supervisor Snead.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE:

Recited.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kardash and seconded by Supervisor Snead to retire to Executive Session at 6:31pm for a personnel matter. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead – yes

The board returned from Executive Session at 6:55 pm with no action taken.

NEW BUSINESS (Board):

Supervisor Snead began a brief review of the lawsuits currently pending against the town. Councilwoman Kardash stated that it was not appropriate to discuss pending litigation.

Supervisor Snead reviewed the status of the DOT project on the Dustin Road Bridge. The bridge work will go out to bid in the fall and be constructed over the summer in 2016 at no cost to the towns of Remsen or Forestport.

He additionally reported that Ian Joseph of TKE Systems will install the new firewall of the town computer network sometime next week.

OLD BUSINESS (BOARD):

A motion was made by Councilman Scott and seconded by Councilman Scouten to approve the 2015 Procurement Policy. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kardash and seconded by Councilman Scott to approve the 2015 Credit Card Policy. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

Supervisor Snead stated the Town Attorney Earl wishes to review the Employee Handbook draft with the board to address some civil service language which does not apply to Forestport. The vote to approve the handbook will be tabled pending a workshop to address the changes.

A motion was made by Councilman Scouten and seconded by Supervisor Snead to deny the Northern Oneida County ATV Club's request to open a section of Buck Lake Road from Abb's Corners to Round Lake Road. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

Councilwoman Kardash stated that the healthcare handbook for employees needs review, and that it should be done in concert with the employee handbook at a workshop. A tentative date of March 4th was scheduled with a time TBD.

Councilwoman Kardash additionally inquired into the status of the North Lake Road property currently being leased to Ray Randall. Supervisor Snead stated that Ted Earl has reviewed the lease and deemed it too weak to evict Mr. Randall for reasonable legal expenses.

She additionally inquired into the status of the town historian position. The

reappointment of Walter Paprock was tabled at the Organizational meeting in January pending further review of the job description by the board. Mr. Paprock was in attendance and gave a report on his typical activities within the position. He and Supervisor Snead agreed to meet in order to discuss the matter further. Councilwoman Kardash apologized to Mr. Paprock on behalf of the board for the lapse in communication with him in this matter.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kwasniewski and seconded by Councilwoman Kardash to reappoint Walter Paprock as the town historian for 2015. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

Supervisor Snead initiated discussion with members of the audience regarding a pending lawsuit brought by Karen Howard against the town and Supervisor Snead in particular. Councilwoman Kardash closed the topic for discussion after several minutes of exchanges.

ABSTRACTS:

GENERAL:

A motion was made by Councilman Scouten and seconded by Supervisor Snead to approve Abstract #2, Vouchers #71-145 in the amount of \$42,377.11. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

HIGHWAY:

A motion was made by Councilman Scott and seconded by Councilwoman Kardash to approve Abstract #2, Vouchers #20-56 in the amount of \$20,624.41. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

FIRE:

A motion was made by Councilman Scouten and seconded by Councilman Scott to approve Abstract #2, Voucher #3, in the amount of \$60,685.00. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

TOWN CLERK MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kardash and seconded by Councilwoman Kwasniewski to accept the minutes from the January 21, 2015 regular town board meeting. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kardash and seconded by Councilwoman Kwasniewski to accept the minutes from the January 28, 2015 workshop. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

There was no report for the month.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Councilman Scott and seconded by Councilwoman Kardash to accept the Town Clerk's monthly report. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

JUSTICE REPORT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kwasniewski and seconded by Councilwoman Kardash to accept the monthly Justice Report. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

ASSESSOR'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilman Scouten to approve the Assessor's Report. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

PLANNING:

Planning Chairman TJ Entwistle reviewed a minor change in the Site Review Law regarding Lot Frontage for the board and asked for their approval.

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilwoman Kardash to approve the change as presented conditionally pending a public hearing is required. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

CODES:

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilman Scouten to accept the Codes monthly report as presented. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

Discussion took place with the gallery regarding the process for obtaining the reports reviewed at regular meetings. Town Clerk Entwistle stated they are available for review during her regular office hours and for purchase at a cost of \$.25 per page.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilwoman Kardash to accept the Animal Control monthly report. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

NOCOGG:

February 2015 announcements were reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS PUBLIC:

David Ultsch of the gallery advised the board that it is customary for an elected official to appoint themselves to paid administrative leave when sexual harassment allegations have been levied, pending the outcome either criminally or civilly. He asked Supervisor Snead if he planned to do so, and discussion ensued. Supervisor Snead stated he is innocent, and is not going to step down. Mr. Ultsch asked the board if they planned to remove Supervisor Snead with a vote, but no one from the board moved to do so. He reminded the board that without action, the board members could be responsible for possible future actions.

Maggie Peterson of the gallery asked Supervisor Snead if Ted Earl or any other attorney from Felt Evans Group ever personally represented him (Mr. Snead) or his wife Joan. Supervisor Snead replied that he has never been personally represented by anyone within the Felt Evans Group. Supervisor Snead also stated that his wife was, at one point, represented by an attorney from Felt Evans.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilwoman Kwasniewski to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm by Supervisor Snead.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Entwistle
Forestport Town Clerk

