

**TOWN OF FORESTPORT
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WOODGATE FIRE HALL
September 21, 2016 @ 6:30 PM**

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilwoman Kardash
Councilman Scouten
Councilman Scott
Councilman Rockhill
Supervisor Entwistle
Town Clerk Tracy Northrop

MEMBERS ABSENT

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Supervisor Entwistle.

ABSTRACTS:

GENERAL:

A motion was made by Councilman Rockhill and seconded by Councilman Scouten to pay Abstract #9, Vouchers #598-#659 in the amount of \$25,759.31
Roll call vote:

Councilwoman Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Scouten – yes
Councilman Scott – yes
Councilman Rockhill-yes
Supervisor Entwistle –yes

HIGHWAY:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kardash and seconded by Councilman Scott to pay Abstract #9, vouchers #250-#294 in the amount of \$43,169.73
Roll call vote:

Councilwoman Kardash - yes
Councilman Scouten – yes
Councilman Scott – yes
Councilman Rockhill-yes
Supervisor Entwistle- yes

PLANNING BOARD ESCROW:

A motion was made by Councilman Scouten and seconded by Councilman Rockhill to approve Abstract # 9, Vouchers # 12-14 in the amount of \$100.00. Roll Call Vote:

Councilwoman Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Scouten – yes
Councilman Scott – yes
Councilman Rockhill-yes
Supervisor Entwistle –yes

TOWN CLERK MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kardash and seconded by Councilman Scott to accept the minutes from the the Regular Town Board Meeting August 17, 2016. Roll call Vote:

Councilwoman Kardash – yes
Councilman Scouten– yes
Councilman Scott –yes
Councilman Rockhill-abstain
Supervisor Entwistle –yes

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

JUSTICE REPORT:

Supervisor Entwistle observed Judge Sege and said he has a good understanding of what's going on as well as great communication with the public. He also stated Sherry Paschke, the new Court Clerk has a good grasp of what the job entails.

HIGHWAY:

The Highway gravel pit was inspected and there are no issues.

PLANNING REPORT:

The Planning Department has been staying busy all summer.

CODES:

Supervisor Entwistle stated there is an influx of recreation vehicles on private property. He has looked into other Towns as to what their laws are regarding this. Brad suggested they have some type of amendment specifically for Recreational Vehicles. Don Frank, a resident of the Town asked how is this going to be enforced. You can make all these rules, but if you can't enforce them how is it going to be effective?

Supervisor Entwistle has spoken with Paul Rejman, the Chairman to the Planning Board as to what they need to move forward with the new fee structure. He asked that Brad, the Code Enforcement Officer look into what the fee structures are for other

towns. When he has compiled all the information to either fax or deliver it to Bonnie, The Secretary to the Planning Board. Brad stated he had the information already available.

ASSESSOR:

Tonya, the Tax Assessor brought it to Supervisor Entwistle's attention that there is currently a Real Property Tax Law, a taxation on Solar or wind energy systems or farm waste energy systems. He stated they need to make a decision if the town wants to opt out of tax exemption. The State is allowing these farms to be tax exempt and the towns are saying no because they want the ability to tax. Councilman Rockhill asked if this is something we can change our mind on later if they so choose to. Supervisor Entwistle said it's something we can readdress in the future if needed. If in the future the Board wants it to be changed, they just modify it or just pass another Local Law. Other local municipalities are choosing to opt out. Councilwoman Kardash stated this is not pertaining to homes, but people who are purchasing land and using them as a solar panel farm or a windmill farm. Supervisor Entwistle will be getting with Tonya and see what her take on it is.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kardash and seconded by Councilman Scott to approve all Reports as a whole. Roll call vote:

Councilwoman Kardash - yes
Councilman Scouten – yes
Councilman Scott- yes
Councilman Rockhill- yes
Supervisor Entwistle –yes

Bill Gardners's Kennel was inspected and everything is neat and in order.

NOCCOG:

- Annual dinner is a week from September 22nd. Sue Martin asked everyone to make reservations by September 23rd.
- Thursday, October 27th, at the Boonville Municipal building there is about five Tughill Councils of governments. It's a time to share what's going on in your region and ask questions.
- Association of Towns is holding a workshop for those taking care of cemeteries in Raquette Lake next week.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

OLD BUSINESS BOARD:

- The Unsafe Buildings Law has been filed with the state and is effective. Instead of a NYS Engineer having to do a walk- through of an unsafe or condemned building, this allows the Code Enforcer to instead. Supervisor Entwistle stated a complaint needs to be made in writing. Once it is deemed unfit, a placard goes on the building stating the building is unsafe and a certified letter is sent out giving 30 days to remedy the situation. If after 30 days the problem is not resolved, they have to appear in front of the Town Judge. Once the defendant is in front of the judge, they are charged a minimum of \$100/day fine if they are found in violation.
- Old Forestport Days went well. Everyone had good things to say.
- Highway Contract is completed for the next 3 years. In 2017, the Highway workers will receive a 1.5% raise, 1.75% in 2018 and 2% in 2019. This is a change from the last 10-12 years where every year has been 3% or 6% in some cases. The health Insurance has been changed. Any new hires will be required to pay 40% of the premium and there will be no family coverage. Dutch Hill Playground- Nearly complete with the grant.
- There's a sign that needs to be put up. The highway department has some time and they will be finishing up the work.

NEW BUSINESS BOARD:

- ATV LAW: Don Frank stated he was for the ATV Law, but has since changed his mind. He wants to know who is going to be protecting those with the private property. He doesn't want to see an ATV Law until he knows there will be some type of enforcement. Supervisor Entwistle stated John Furness has done a lot of work with the town, land owners, DEC, forest rangers and the sheriff. The purpose of scheduling the Public Hearing is to get more opinions from the public. Those suggestions can be taken into consideration and hopefully come up with a solution where everyone can compromise.

A motion was made by Councilman Scott and seconded by Councilman Scouten to schedule a Public Hearing for October 19, 2016 at 6:15P.M.

Councilwoman Kardash - yes
Councilman Scouten – yes
Councilman Scott- yes
Councilman Rockhill-yes
Supervisor Entwistle –yes

- Zombie Property Legislations will be tabled for now.
- Audit of Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Justice.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kardash and seconded by Councilman Rockhill to hire a Certified Public Accountant at a reasonable cost to audit the Town Clerk, Justice and Tax Collector's Accounts.

Councilwoman Kardash - yes

Councilman Scouten – yes

Councilman Scott- yes

Councilman Rockhill-yes

Supervisor Entwistle –yes

- Doktor Lease- The town was going to trade use of the property with Ted and Sharon Doktor. They have unexpectedly sold their rental property. He would like Mr. Riley to draft a letter to Ted and Sharon Doktor stating the lease agreement has been canceled as the sale of the property has gone through. It will include in writing that the town will return to paying them \$250 a year for the use of a chunk of the Dutch Hill Ball field. He would also like Mr. Riley send a letter to the new owners, so they know they do not have use of that property.
- Codes Office Fall/Winter Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-1:30 and this will begin October 27th. Brad suggested he keep 20 hours because of the heavy workload. Supervisor Entwistle said they could revisit it next month when they are working on the budget.
- Port A Potties- The one at the Boat Launch will be pulled after Columbus Day. There was a request to leave the one in Otter Lake near the Otter Lake Station through the winter.
- Staff Training Approvals- All Departments of the town need to have a list of conferences for 2017 by the first of the year. This is for budgeting purposes.
- Senior Recreation Program- Senior Recreation Director, Sonja Skidmore will be leaving at the end of the month. He would like to thank her from the Board, Community, and seniors. Sandy Miller will be hosting a Potluck Supper on October 6th at 5P.M.at the Forestport Town Hall. Councilwoman Kardash and Supervisor Entwistle will be attending to listen to the residents in which direction they would like the program to run and also share their ideas.
- Budget workshops are scheduled for October 26th and October 3rd at 6:30 at the Forestport Town Hall. There will be a two hour limit on those workshops. At the beginning of each meeting there will be 10 minutes for the Public. At the end of the ten minutes Supervisor Entwistle asks you to sit quietly. If you have concerns that cannot be discussed within the ten minutes, you may contact one of the Board members or supervisor Entwistle and discuss with them another day. September

26th they will be discussing the General side of the budget as well as Sewer and Water. Once that is finished, they will adjourn. On October 3rd, they will discuss the Highway Budget and the Fire Budget. The Board would like some time to speak to the Fire Departments.

NEW BUSINESS- PUBLIC:

- Don Frank brought up some Codes issues. Discussion took place. He also made a point that the Town does not have a Master Plan. There was a survey done in 1996. Supervisor Entwistle said the town still has a majority of the surveys on hand. He suggested getting a small committee together to jumpstart it. Several residents have already offered their services.
- Sandy Jones presented a written complaint to Supervisor Entwistle.
- Code Enforcement Officer, Brad Smith brought it to the Boards attention how people are buying properties and then selling them and they continue to do so. It becomes difficult to find them once it gets turned over to the bank. Discussion took place on how other towns have interview processes before you are able to purchase the property.

OLD BUSINESS PUBLIC:

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilman Scott and seconded by Councilwoman Kardash to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote:

Councilwoman Kardash - yes

Councilman Scouten – yes

Councilman Scott- yes

Councilman Rockhill-yes

Supervisor Entwistle –yes

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm by Supervisor Entwistle.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy M. Northrop
Forestport Town Clerk