

**TOWN OF WESTERLO  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, DEC. 3, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Town of Westerlo Town Board was held on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 in the Town Hall at 933 County Route 401. The meeting was opened by Supervisor Richard H. Rapp with the Pledge to the Flag. Present were:

Supervisor Richard H. Rapp  
Councilman Alfred L. Field  
Councilman William F. Bichteman  
Councilman Anthony W. Sherman  
Councilman Theodore S. Lounsbury III

Also present were Deputy Town Clerk Gertrude A. Smith, Town Attorney Aline D. Galgay, Deputy Supervisor/Code Enforcement Officer Edwin H. Lawson, several Planning Board and Zone Board of Appeals members, several Town Highway employees and approximately twenty-five residents. Absent was Town Clerk Kathleen J. Spinnato

Supervisor Rapp informed the Board that the bids for Utility Repair Work will be opened at this time. Two bids were received; from Trinity Construction, Inc. and J.R. Pietropaoli, Inc. Deputy Town Clerk Smith read the bids aloud. The Board decided to turn the bids over to the Westerlo Water Board and then back to the Town Board for any action to be taken.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 29<sup>th</sup> Workshop. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Bichteman, seconded by Councilman Field and passed unanimously.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 6<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Sherman, seconded by Councilman Bichteman and passed. Councilman Field voted "Nay".

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12<sup>th</sup> Workshop. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Lounsbury, seconded by Councilman Field and passed unanimously.

Supervisor Rapp informed the Board that the December Town Board workshops will be cancelled. Motion was made by Councilman Sherman, seconded by Councilman Lounsbury and passed unanimously that the December workshop meetings be cancelled.

Supervisor Rapp made a motion to hold a special Town Board meeting on December 30, 2013 for the purpose of approving any year-end bills which needed to be paid. Councilman Field seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Supervisor Rapp made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: THE Town Board has received the Supervisor's Trial Balance for October, be it hereby

RESOLVED: that the Town Board accepts the Trial Balance as submitted.

Councilman Sherman seconded the motion and the roll-call vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Sherman, Councilman Bichteman, Councilman Field, and Councilman Lounsbury.

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION #79-2013 was thereby duly adopted.**

Supervisor Rapp asked the Board to act on the Town Clerk's November Monthly Report. Councilman Sherman made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the Town Board has received the Town Clerk's monthly report for November, be it hereby

RESOLVED; that the Town Clerk's November monthly report be accepted.

Councilman Lounsbury seconded the motion and a roll-call vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Sherman, Councilman Lounsbury, Councilman Bichteman, Councilman Field.

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION # 80-2013 was thereby duly adopted.**

Supervisor Rapp made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Town Board has audited the monthly bills, be it hereby

RESOLVED: That the following bills be paid:

Voucher # 99 through # 1044: \$122,313.25

Councilman Field seconded the motion and a roll-call vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Field, Councilman Lounsbury, Councilman Bichteman, Councilman Sherman.

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION #81-2013 was thereby duly adopted.**

Supervisor Rapp turned the meeting over to Deputy Supervisor/Zoning Administer Edwin H. Lawson, who had presented to the Board plans for repairing the roof over the Town garage and old Town Hall building. He explained that the roof, windows, doors insulation, etc. are included, all with an estimated cost of \$209,000. He also explained that the roof will be slanted, so that water will be able to run off. There were questions about tearing down the building and starting from the ground up. Mr. Lawson explained that even a new Morton building, which would cost over a million, would last only about 20-25 years. The plan he has presented would have a life expectancy of about 20 years. Town Attorney Galgay suggested that the Board must make a decision as soon as possible because they will need time to arrange for financing. All Board members agreed that they need to review the plans and be prepared to make a decision at the January meeting, so that a public hearing, etc. can be scheduled. The work needs to be started in the spring.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a Planning Board report; Chairperson Verch reported that they had approved the Konecny Special Use Permit, and that there will be no Planning Board meeting in December.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a Water Committee report. Councilman Bichteman reported that the system has been flushed, and several hydrants have been repaired. He re-evaluated the loan value calculation, and gave estimated new water usage fees and bond repayment rates. The water board found areas where expenses may be reduced; the system operator & electricity. Several questions were answered by Councilman Bichteman. After a discussion, Councilman Sherman made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS; The Westerlo Water Committee has computed and presented a water district fee schedule for 2014, be it hereby

RESOLVED: to adopt the Water District Fee Schedule for 2014 as presented by the Water District Committee.

Councilman Lounsbury seconded the motion and a roll-call vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Sherman, Councilman Lounsbury, Councilman Field, Councilman Bichteman.

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION # 82-2013 was thereby duly adopted.**

Councilman Bichteman answered a question which had been asked previously by a resident.

Councilman Bichteman had presented to the Board copies of the revised Employee Handbook and went over the changes from the old one. A question regarding comp time was discussed, with input from several employees. There was another question regarding firearms and knives followed by a

discussion. Discussion over, Councilman Bichteman made a motion to adopt the Employee Handbook with some modifications, and to add a statement that firearms will be allowed if authorized by the Town Board in writing. Motion was seconded by Councilman Sherman, and a roll-call vote resulted as follows: Ayes: Councilman Bichteman, Councilman Sherman, Councilman Field, Councilman Lounsbury.

Nays: Supervisor Rapp.

Supervisor Rapp opened the meeting to the public. Mr. Leonard Laub informed the board that Amy Walsh, of the Albany Water Board has requested a meeting with the Town Board to give additional information regarding the watershed maps, and asked that she be put on the agenda for the next regular meeting. After a discussion, it was decided that she attend the January meeting, which will be the organizational meeting, followed by the regular meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The workshops will be on January 14<sup>th</sup> and January 21, 2014.

A resident congratulated Councilman Bichteman for straightening out the Water District rates and finances.

There being no further business for the meeting, Councilman Sherman made a motion to enter into Executive Session, and stated that the Board will not return for any more business, so no one need to remain for the Board's return. Councilman Bichteman seconded the motion, which was passed with a unanimous decision. Deputy Town Clerk Smith was informed that she did not need to wait for their return. The Board entered into executive session at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gertrude A. Smith  
Deputy Town Clerk

According to Supervisor Rapp, the Executive Session ended and the Board adjourned at 10:30 p.m.