

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
TOWN OF WESTERLO
TOWN BOARD
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2013**

The Westerlo Town Board met on Tue. April 2, 2013 in the Westerlo Town Hall located at 933 County Route 401, in Westerlo. The meeting was opened by Supervisor Richard H. Rapp with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at 7:30 PM with the following present.

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

Also present were: Zoning Board member Virginia Mangold, Planning Board Chairwoman Dorothy Verch, Planning Board members: Gerry Boone, Edwin Stevens, & Doyle Shaver, Highway Superintendent Keith Wright Sr., Town Clerk Kathleen Spinnato and approximately sixteen residents.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to approve the Town Board minutes of March 5, 2013. Councilman Field made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman Bichteman and carried all in favor.

Supervisor Rapp reported Town Clerk Kathleen Spinnato had provided the Town Board with a Town Clerk's March Monthly Report. Councilman Field made the motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the Town Board has received the Town Clerk's monthly report for March 2013, be it hereby

RESOLVED: to accept the Town Clerk's monthly report as submitted.

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

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

NAYS: None.

RESOLUTION #19-2013 was thereby duly adopted.

Supervisor Rapp reported Tax Collector Kathleen Spinnato had provided the Town Board with the Tax Collector Summary report dated 4/1/2013. Councilman Sherman made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the Town Board has received the Tax Collector's Summary Report dated April 1, 2013, be it hereby

RESOLVED: to accept the Tax Collector's Summary Report as submitted.

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

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

NAYS: None.

RESOLUTION # 20-2013 was thereby duly adopted.

Supervisor Rapp stated the monthly bills need to paid and he 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 #645 through Voucher #689 in the amount of \$75,307.17

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

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

NAYS: None.

RESOLUTION #21-2013 was thereby duly adopted.

Supervisor Rapp stated the Town of Westerlo Comprehensive Plan had been presented by Dotty Verch and received by the Town Board. Before any Public Hearings are held he would like to have the Town Attorney Aline Galgay review the Comprehensive Plan. Dotty asked if the Town Board had the opportunity to read it. They responded yes. She also asked if there were any questions or changes. Councilman Bichteman had some comments. He indicated there seems to be conflictions. On one had it says that it will promote commercial expansion, and then it seems to have restrictions to keep those things from happening. Dotty advised that in a letter received from Albany County, Mrs. Lombardo suggested that the Planning Board incorporate this in. He felt it didn't have a clear direction. Councilman Field gave his opinion that it leans to heavily on future agriculture.

Supervisor Rapp advised that he would like to send a letter to the Berne Knox Westerlo School congratulating the Girls Basketball team for the year they have had. The Board agreed.

Supervisor Rapp would like to meet with Town Board members to hold Workshops. The Public can attend but won't be able to comment at the workshops. The workshops to be held would determine any concerns the Town Board may have and prioritize those concerns. No action will be taken at the workshops. Discussion followed on scheduling dates. The Town Board came to a decision to hold the Town Board Workshops on the second and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 PM starting April 9th, 2013. The Board advised the Town Clerk the concerns discussed will vary no particular topic will be advertised for the workshops. A motion was made by Supervisor Rapp to hold Town Board Workshops starting Tue. April 9th, seconded by Councilman Bichteman and carried all in favor.

Councilman Field announced the Gas Drilling Investigation Committee has completed its research report about Hydrofracking. The report has yet to be printed. Once the report is printed it will be presented to the Town Board for their review. The Public will have an opportunity to review the report. ****A vote will be held in November.** He thanked the Committee for their hard work, especially Doyle Shaver, Larry Verch and also Dotty Verch for typing and hours spent on the computer.

The meeting was opened to the Public.

Anita Marrone asked who had been appointed to the Zoning Board position. Supervisor Rapp responded that the interviews were done but no one has been appointed yet.

Leonard Laub asked about the reports the Town Clerk Kathleen Spinnato is submitting to the Town Board. The Town Clerk advised the Town Clerk's report is a monthly report of all fees collected through the Town Clerk's office: marriage license, dog license, hunting/fishing license, etc. She provides a copy to the Supervisor and also to the Town Board for their information. The Tax Collection Summary report is as of April 1st. I provided it to the Town Board so they are aware of the amount of taxes collected and the amount that remains uncollected in the Town of Westerlo for the 2013 Property Tax Year. He asked to look at the reports after the meeting.

Mr. Laub asked questions regarding the public's ability to review the reports of the Gas Drilling Investigation Committee (GDIC) before a Referendum.

Councilman Sherman reported that there has been no definitive that there will be a referendum. There has been no formal recommendation that it should be on the ballot. The GDIC was tasked with gathering information and reporting to the Town Board. It sounds like the GDIC is recommending to the Board, that the issue of Hydrofracking in the Town of Westerlo, be put to the

public for a vote on the ballot. If that is what the GDIC intends, when the report is handed to the Town Board, they should include a written recommendation that it go to the public for a vote.

Anita Marrone inquired if education courses are required for Zoning, Planning, & Town Board members. The Town Board responded yes, four hours of training. Councilman Sherman advised that there are different courses offered, on line courses or conferences, where members receive credits towards the hours required. She also inquired about parking for the Sheriff's.

John Sefcik inquired about the Comprehensive Plan and if any Public Hearings are scheduled for it. Supervisor Rapp responded that it will be announced in the future.

Pat Kosorek inquired what is the next step on the Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance he had emailed to the Town Board & Supervisor. Supervisor Rapp responded that he would like the Town Attorney to review it. Councilman Field asked where the ordinance came from. Mr. Kosorek reported he authored it, from Pennsylvania. Councilman Field explained that the ordinance goes beyond Town level powers. Discussion followed. Mr. Kosorek gave his opinion on the topic as did Jack Milner.

Dotty Verch thanked all who attended and worked the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny event held by the Community Activity Committee (CAC). Over 300 persons were served. It was a fun and amazing day. She would like to see more people volunteer to help in the future.

There being no more comments Councilman Field made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Bichteman and carried, all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Kathleen Spinnato

Town Clerk

****At the Town Board meeting of 5/7/2013**

The Town Board voted to strike the highlighted sentence from the minutes.