

**REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
TOWN OF WESTERLO  
TOWN BOARD  
TUE., JANUARY 7, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Westerlo Town Board was held on Tue., January 7, 2014 at Town Hall 933 County Route 401, Westerlo. The meeting immediately followed the 2014 Organizational Meeting and was opened at 8:08 PM by Supervisor Rapp.

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

Also present were: Deputy Supervisor Edwin Lawson, Justice Robert Carl, Planning Board Members Dorothy Verch & Edwin Stevens, Town Clerk Kathleen Spinnato, several town employees and approximately twenty three residents.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to approve the Town Board minutes of Dec. 3, 2013. Councilman Lounsbury made a motion to approve the 12/3/2013 minutes, seconded by Councilman Sherman, motion unanimously carried.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to approve the Special Town Board minutes of Dec. 30, 2013. Councilman Sherman made the motion to approve the 12/30/2013 minutes, seconded by Councilman Bichteman, motion unanimously carried.

Supervisor Rapp made a motion to adopt the following resolution

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

RESOLVED: the Town Board accept the Supervisor's Trial Balance for November

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

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

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION # 1-2014 was thereby duly adopted.**

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to accept Town Clerk's monthly report for December. Councilman Field made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

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

RESOLVED: the Town Board accept the Town Clerk's December monthly report.

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

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

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION # 2-2014 was thereby duly adopted.**

Supervisor Rapp stated the bills need to be paid and asked for a motion. Councilman Field 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 # 1089 through Voucher # 1094 in the amount of \$10,463.64

& Voucher # 1 through Voucher # 11 in the amount of \$4,253.00

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

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

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION # 3-2014 was thereby duly adopted.**

Supervisor Rapp advised the Town Board that he had received a request from resident Curt Cunningham to become a Marriage Officer. There would be no salary. Councilman Sherman inquired if there were any requirements he would need. The Town Board agreed to table the decision until the following month.

Supervisor Rapp asked Councilman Bichteman to give the Water Committee Report. Councilman Bichteman reported the thermostat program in the buildings has cut the electric usage almost in half. Doug Story is working on an Annual Report of the Water District which is due in April. Supervisor Rapp then made a motion to accept the Water Committee Report, seconded by Councilman Lounsbury and unanimously carried.

Supervisor Rapp asked Dorothy Verch to give the Planning Board Report. Dorothy reported she had attended 4 hr course on NYS Environmental Quality Review Act on 12/4/13 offered by NYS DOS. New SEQRA forms are expanded. Short form is now a 4 page document & Long form is now 25 pages. She and Planning Board member Rich Kurylo attended a SEQRA workshop offered by CT MALE & Assoc. on 12/11/13. CT MALE furnished thumb drives containing the full short form & long forms with supporting documentation. A thumb drive was given to Zoning Administrator Edwin Lawson for his use when interviewing potential applicants. Flood maps have not been finalized. When finalized, a copy will be forwarded to the Planning Board who in turn will furnish a copy to Highway Superintendent Keith Wright Sr. The Albany County Planning Board review of the Town of Westerlo Comprehensive Plan was discussed at the by the Town of Westerlo Planning Board on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. The advisories supplied by Albany County are being addressed and the assistance of Laura DeGaetano, Sr. Natural Resource Planner has been requested. Dorothy is hoping a copy of the revised Comprehensive Plan will be ready for submission at the February Town Board meeting.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to accept the Planning Board Report. Councilman Field made the motion to accept the report, seconded by Councilman Lounsbury and carried all in favor.

Supervisor Rapp asked the Town Clerk to report on correspondence received on Jan. 3, 2014 from the Association of Towns (AOT). A letter was read regarding the upcoming 2014 Association of Towns Training School for town officials & Annual Business meeting to be held at the Hilton in midtown NYC Feb 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. A Certificate of Designation form was included for a representative of the town to vote at the annual business meeting. No action was taken by the town board to designate a delegate. The AOT also provided a report of resolutions (new & prior) submitted to the AOT for their consideration.

Councilman Field made a motion to purchase the accounting program Quickbooks from the firm Pattison Koskey Howe & Bucci (PKHB) for the purpose of upgrading the Town's current accounting software program, installation and instruction will be included. Discussion followed with Councilman Bichteman answering the public's questions and explaining the approximate cost of the Quickbook program, why the recommendation from PKHB to upgrade to Quickbooks, possible application to water district billing, etc. Councilman Sherman seconded the motion, motion carried all in favor.

Councilman Bichteman explained an issue with a hauler of trash & recyclables at the Transfer Station. The hauler has been previously spoken to by Transfer Station personnel regarding bringing in trash from outside the Town of Westerlo for deposit at the Transfer Station and was asked to stop but continues to do so. Councilman Bichteman had asked that all haulers have inspections of trash, to which others haulers have complied. Councilman Bichteman made the motion for the Supervisor to send a letter advising Greene County Sanitation is on probation with notice that any further violations will

result in revocation of Town License to collect trash in the Town of Westerlo for deposit at the Transfer Station. Councilman Lounsbury seconded the motion and carried all in favor.

Councilman Bichteman suggested the Town Board Workshop be reduced from two to one meeting per month. The next workshop to be held on Tue., Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM with Code of Ethics training. Councilman Bichteman made a motion to hold a Town Board Workshop on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM until further notice. Supervisor Rapp seconded the motion and carried all in favor.

Justice Robert Carl asked about progress regarding potential roof repairs at Court, Highway garage building located at 671 County Route 401. Deputy Supervisor/Code Enforcement Officer Edwin Lawson advised he was waiting to hear feedback from the Town Board how to proceed. Councilman Lounsbury advised he had not received references.

Mr. Lawson explained the proposal was an initial estimate which was a preliminary draft to be discussed and finalized by the Board on how to proceed. The initial proposal was for the roof to be repaired with tapered insulation to shed water, cap flashing on roof, EDPM roof. Insulation to address energy concerns. Additional: window replacement, door replacement, canopy replacement for Court entrance, and repair which would include pointing for fixing of the blocks, styrofoam facing, furring strips, and stucco to face the outside of the building. The original proposal was approx. \$209,000 that included an outside stairway which needs replacement and the three sections of roof replacing the bad sheeting and extension of the eaves on the west side of the building and the replacement of the back wall on the machine shed section so the water would shed away from the building and not run down walls. The firm Architecture Plus sent a design fee letter which was given to the Supervisor. The firm would provide ala carte fee schedule for services which would reduce the cost. Questions were asked by the Board members and the public and discussion followed. The Town Board made the decision to invite Architecture Plus to the next Town Board Workshop on to be held on Tue., January 21st for the purpose of answering questions or concerns the Town Board has over any cost of services.

A resident asked questions regarding the Town of Westerlo Vol. Fire Company's purchase of property and it's affect on the property tax.

Diane Sefcik asked about the status of the Hydrofracking Report. She advised in her comparison of the original report to the revised, she feels the report is essentially the same and is still substantially biased. She submitted her letter to the Town Board for the record. Councilman Bichteman felt that Zoning modification would assist more to protect the Town on the issue of Hydrofracking. Deputy Supervisor Edwin Lawson explained that due to the population of the Town of Westerlo, the Town does not have the authority to extend permits or do anything associated with fracking, it would be done on a State or Federal level. Other municipalities should be brought in ie: City of Albany, Albany County, for input to address water resources, road infrastructure (weight limits, bridges, etc.). Discussion followed with comment from the public regarding information contained in the report, any vote pertaining to the report, a ban on hydrofracking with a duration period to be revisited, and comments from Doyle Shaver a member of the Hydrofracking Committee, Councilman Bichteman, and Councilman Sherman.

The Board then discussed holding a Special Town Board meeting to hear public comment regarding the Draft Hydrofracking Report to be held on Tuesday February 18, 2014 at 7:00 PM. Councilman Bichteman made the motion to hold the Special Town Board meeting, Councilman Sherman seconded, motion carried all in favor.

There being no further discussion, Councilman Field made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Lounsbury, and carried all in favor. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9: 45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathleen Spinnato

