

**TOWN OF WESTELO TOWN BOARD  
MEETING OF  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Town of Westerlo Town Board was held on Tue. August 5, 2014 located at the Town Hall, 933 CR 401, Westerlo NY. The meeting was opened at 7:30 PM by Supervisor Rapp with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Also attending were: Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple, Albany County EMS Brian Wood, Town of Westerlo Deputy Supervisor Edwin H. Lawson, Town Justices Robert Carl & Kenneth Mackey, Town Highway Superintendent Keith Wright Sr., Planning Board Chairwoman Dorothy Verch, Zoning Board member John Sefcik, Town Clerk Kathleen Spinnato, several highway department employees and approximately sixteen interested persons.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to accept the Town Board minutes of 7/1/2014. Councilman Field made the motion to accept, seconded by Councilman Lounsbury, motion unanimously carried.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to accept the Town Board Public Hearing minutes of 7/24/2014. Councilman Bichteman made the motion to accept, seconded by Councilman Field, Councilman Sherman abstained, motion carried.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to accept the Special Town Board minutes of 7/28/2014. Councilman Sherman made the motion to accept, seconded by Councilman Bichteman, motion unanimously carried.

Supervisor Rapp reported Town Clerk Kathleen Spinnato had submitted the Town Clerk's Monthly Reports for June & July and he asked for a motion to accept the reports as submitted. Councilman Sherman made the motion to accept the June & July Town Clerk's Monthly Reports, Councilman Lounsbury seconded, motion unanimously carried.

Supervisor Rapp reported the monthly bills need to be paid he then made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

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

RESOLVED: the monthly bills be paid

Vouchers # 310 through Voucher # 367 in the amount of \$ 62,811.32

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

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

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION # 37-2014 was thereby duly adopted.**

Supervisor Rapp announced the next Town Board Workshop will fall on Tue. August 19 and asked the Board if the date was agreeable for everyone. Councilmen Field and Lounsbury indicated they both had conflicting schedules and would not be able to attend. Councilman Bichteman, Councilman Sherman and Supervisor Rapp would be able to attend. The Town Board members agreed to continue to hold the Town Board Workshop at Town Hall on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

Supervisor Rapp asked for the Zoning Board Report. Zoning Board Chairwoman Virginia Mangold was absent. Deputy Supervisor Lawson did not receive prepared report from Virginia but offered the following information. The ZBA meeting scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> was canceled. There was a

Subdivision Variance Application before the ZBA. A variance would have to be approved prior to the Planning Board receiving the subdivision application. Between the Planning & Zoning Boards the variances were eliminated, therefore the meeting was canceled. The applicant agreed to modify the subdivision boundary lines so there was no need for a variance.

Supervisor Rapp asked Planning Board Chairwoman Dorothy Verch to give the Planning Board Report. She reported:

- Accepted an application from David Gumport for a minor subdivision on Sunset Rd., Public Hearing is scheduled for 8/26/2014.
- Welcomed new Planning Board Clerk Jennifer Bungay.
- Attended the 2014 New York Planning Federation & Association of Towns Summer School. Received tentative approval for attendance fee of \$80 from Supervisor Rapp with the intention of receiving full approval tonight from the Town Board.
- Requesting the Town Board sanction the training hours.
- Seminar on Solar Energy by Meister Consulting Group from Boston. - Scheduled on Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> from 1-6pm at Knox Town Hall. More information is available on their website, there is no charge but must reply by email or call attendance with Town of Knox Supervisor Mike Hammond.

Councilman Field made a motion to accept the Planning Board Report as submitted, seconded by Councilman Bichteman, motion unanimously carried. Councilman Bichteman then made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: Planning Board Chairwoman Dorothy Verch has attended the 2014 NYPF & Assoc. of Towns Summer School, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town Board sanctions the 5 hours of training she received

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

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

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION # 38-2014 was thereby duly adopted.**

Councilman Sherman made a motion to reimburse Dorothy Verch the cost of \$80. Dorothy responded she had already submitted a voucher. Motion was rescinded.

Supervisor Rapp asked Councilman Bichteman to give a Water Board Report. Bill reported the Water Board is working on developing a plan to use solar energy to potentially offset the cost of operating the pumps of the well system. The person that he has talked with represents one company, we are talking to others with the Water Board. There does seem to be some economies in developing a solar energy system that would encompass the entire Town, as opposed to just the water district. As he has more information he will bring it to the rest of the Board to discuss it further. He gave a brief detail as to how the program would work. In addition the water volunteers have repaired two hydrants which are now restored to full use.

Supervisor Rapp announced the Shared Services Contract between the Town of Rensselaerville and the Town of Westerlo for the Senior Bus Transportation needs to be reviewed and potentially renewed. The contract can be reviewed at the next workshop meeting if that is agreeable. There was no negative response from the Town Board.

Supervisor Rapp asked Highway Superintendent Keith Wright Sr. if the pickup truck that was ordered had come in yet. Keith responded that it was in.

Supervisor Rapp made a motion to transfer funds and adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: some accounts have been overdrawn, be it

RESOLVED: that the Supervisor is hereby authorized to increase the following appropriation accounts from the available fund balance:

A-1320.4 \$1,100.00  
A-1110.4 250.00

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

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

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION # 39-2014 was thereby duly adopted.**

Supervisor Rapp asked Highway Superintendent Keith Wright to report on disposal of tires at the Transfer Station. Keith explained the need to increase the Town of Westerlo Transfer Station prices for certain types of tires due to the increase in cost for recycling the Town is being charged. He also suggested adding new categories for construction equipment tires and tractor tires due to higher recycling fees charged on both types of tires. Car and light truck tires would remain the same \$3 each.

Councilman Bichteman made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: Highway Superintendent Keith Wright Sr. has reported the Town of Westerlo Transfer Station tire prices need to be updated due to rising recycling fees charges, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town Board revise the Transfer Station prices for tires as follows

Small Tires: car light truck.....amount to remain \$ 3 each

Large Tires: dump truck, bus.....increase From: \$8 To: \$15 each

Construction Equip: (backhoe, grader, etc.)..... \$60 each

Farm Equip. (Tractor, etc.)..... \$20 per vertical ft. each

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

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

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION # 40-2014 was thereby duly adopted.**

Supervisor Rapp then opened the meeting to the Public.

Albany County Sheriff Craig D. Apple and Commander Brian Wood spoke regarding a proposal from Albany County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for the Towns of Westerlo, Rensselaerville and Berne. He reported they have already spoken to Volunteer EMS representatives from the agencies in Berne, Rensselaerville and Westerlo with a proposal to augment the existing volunteer EMS agencies staff. Commander Wood provided the Town Board members with a Hilltown EMS Fact sheet. He reported Albany County is proposing to staff an EMT 12 hrs. per day seven days per week among the three towns, to fill the void due to the declining number of volunteers vs. each town's population growth numbers. The proposed service would cost an additional \$94,700 and would be split between the three participating Towns in the following manner: Westerlo 42%, \$39,772, Berne 35% \$33,144, and Rensselaerville 23% \$21,780. Other options and their estimated costs were listed on the fact sheet and were briefly discussed. Commander Wood reviewed figures and expenses on the fact sheet and he explained how the proposed shared EMT services would work. He stated should the Town Board have any questions he is available to answer questions.

Councilman Bichteman, Councilman Sherman, Westerlo Rescue Squad members and the public asked questions regarding: billing & insurance, tone outs and mutual aid logistics between the three hilltown volunteer EMS agencies and the County, relating to Albany County's EMS proposal. Sheriff Apple reported the County is looking to supplement the existing Volunteer EMS services, and is not looking to take over, this is to augment the volunteers who are handling the calls and our object is to provide the most efficient and proficient life support to the Hilltowns. Brian Wood commended the volunteers for their dedication and service. Discussion continued on the potential need for the proposed service, the available resources, the number of calls handled by Westerlo Rescue, tone outs

and mutual aids. Westerlo Rescue Squad member Deborah Mackey indicated that this is a bandaid and that discussions on the issue should be held to prepare for a long term solution, she indicated the truth of the matter is they do not know what to recommend to the Town Board at the moment.

There being no further public comment, Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Lounsbury made motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Field, motion unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Spinnato