

TOWN OF WESTERLO  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015

The regular meeting of the Town of Westerlo Town Board was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2015 in the Westerlo Town Hall at 933 County Route 401, Westerlo New York. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Richard H. Rapp at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were: Supervisor Richard H. Rapp  
Councilman William F. Bichteman Jr.  
Councilman Anthony W. Cherman  
Councilman Theodore S. Lounsbury III  
Councilman Alfred L. Field

Also present were Deputy Town Clerk Gertrude A. Smith, Highway Superintendent Keith Wright Sr., ZBA members John Sefcik and Amie Burnside, Deputy Town Clerk Karla Weaver, Clerk to the Supervisor Patty Boice, and approximately thirty residents.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion was made by Councilman Bichteman, seconded by Councilman Sherman and passed. Councilman Lounsbury abstained..

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the November 17<sup>th</sup> workshop. Motion was made by Councilman Sherman, seconded by Councilman Lounsbury and passed with a unanimous decision.

Supervisor Rapp made a motion to accept the October Supervisor's report and asked for a second to the motion. Councilman Sherman seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous decision.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to accept the Town Clerk's monthly report. Motion was made by Councilman Sherman, seconded by Councilman Lounsbury and passed that said report be accepted.

Supervisor Rapp made a motion to adopt the following resolution regarding the monthly bills:

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

RESOLVED: that he following bills be paid:

Voucher # 529 through # 582: \$75,119.37

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

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

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION #42-2015 was thereby duly adopted.**

Supervisor Rapp asked Deputy Town Clerk Smith to read a response to a resident's inquiry regarding the Town's fiscal status. The response was written by Town Attorney Aline D. Galgay, who had researched the information. ( A copy of the response is attached.) Ms. Marrone thanked Supervisor Rapp for the response and asked for a copy, which was given to her.

Supervisor Rapp asked the Board if December 29<sup>th</sup> would be a good time for the Board's year-end meeting for approving the last of the bills for the year. All agreed that December 29<sup>th</sup> would be OK, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Councilman Bichteman suggested that the Town Board not hold a workshop in December, but because Mr. Grober had presented the Board members with a revised plan for the renovation of Town Hall and replacement of the highway garage, the Building Committee should meet in January, and the Board should schedule a workshop after that. After a brief discussion, it was decided the Building

Committee meet on January 12, 2016 and the Town Board hold a workshop on January 19<sup>th</sup>, both at 7 p.m. All agreed.

Town Clerk Smith read the Zoning Board reports for October and November meetings. At the November meeting, the Zoning Board went over current zoning laws with Town Attorney Galgay, which lasted about one hour, with many questions answered by Ms. Galgay. The Board Chair asked if the Town Board would approve the meeting as continuing education of the Zoning Board by resolution.

Supervisor Rapp made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREBY: the Zoning Board members have reviewed changes in current zoning laws with Town Attorney Galgay, be it hereby

RESOLVED: that the Zoning Board of appeals members have met continuing education requirements.

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

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

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION #43-2015 was thereby duly adopted.**

Supervisor Rapp asked for the Planning Board report, which was given by Chairperson Verch. She reported on the Broadband Conference which was held on November 24, and had Mid-Hudson Cablevision line extension request forms for residents to pick up. The Planning Board had met every month during 2015, and all of the members had met their training through 2017. She reported that Cablevision extension is important in the Town of Westerlo. She stated that students have been doing their homework in their cars outside of the Library because they can access WIFI at that location. She also asked if it would be possible for students needing WI-FI service to use the Town Hall, instead of sitting in their cars in front of the Library doing their homework at night, after the Library closes. A discussion followed, with several residents commenting that some students have nowhere else to go for internet service. Supervisor Rapp advised her that he will work at setting up a solution. Councilman Bichteman commented that the Town Hall isn't always open, and someone would need to see that the building is properly closed if it is used for such purposes. It was noted that the Town Hall is not open every evening. There was more information regarding extending cablevision, especially on County Route 402, 413 and 410. Kim Slingerland, who works in the Library, stated that the Library is open until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and she has seen very few students using the Library for doing their homework, and only one or two in their cars instead of entering the building. There was more discussion about the lack of broadband service in this area, and the need to work on obtaining more broadband service.

Chairperson Verch asked the Board to approve her report: Councilman Lounsbury made a motion to approve the Planning Board report, seconded by Councilman Field and passed.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a Water Board report; Councilman Bichteman reported that some residents had not been aware that the water was turned off for repairs to the tank. He said that the water had been shut down, the tank fixed, and is back in operation.

Supervisor Rapp asked Deputy Town Clerk to read a letter from Albany County DPW regarding a request for an extension of the speed limit area from State Route 143 to County Route 411; to extend it to 2/10 mile north of Tan Hollow Road. Councilman Bichteman said that there is no reason to extend the speed limit; therefore he is not in favor of approving the request or passing the resolution. He asked for a report of the study done by Albany County DPW. Councilman Sherman also feels that the Board needs to have input from more residents before passing the resolution. Several residents commented, for and against passing the resolution to extend the speed limit. Supervisor Rapp was asked by Board members to contact the Albany County Superintendent for a complete report of the study and have the Town Clerk write a letter to the County Superintendent.

Supervisor Rapp informed the Board that there is a vacancy in the position of Court Clerk, and also on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Town Justice Carl asked that the Town Clerk advertise for a Court Clerk, applications to be in the Town Clerk's office by December 21, and for the Town Board to act on the applications at the special meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 2015. ZBA Chairperson Mangold asked for the same dates for a ZBA member. Both positions will start on Jan. 1, 2016. All Board members agreed to this plan.

Supervisor Rapp opened the meeting to the public, at which time Diane Sefcik reported that she had attended a meeting regarding the trips for veterans to Washington DC to the war memorials. All expenses for the veterans are covered by the American Legion.

Town Historian Dennis Fancher thanked the Town for the historical marker for the Fairview Speedway in South Westerlo.

A resident asked about the new contract with Mid-Hudson Cablevision. Supervisor Rapp informed him it hasn't been done yet, which led to more discussion regarding extending cable service.

Diane Sefcik thanked Dotty Verch for the idea of using the Town building for children to do their homework.

Dotty Verch thanked Councilman Field for his work on the Board during the last four years.

There being no further business, Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to close, which was made by Councilman Lounsbury, seconded by Councilman Field and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gertrude A. Smith  
Deputy Town Clerk