

**WESTERLO TOWN BOARD  
MEETING OF  
THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2017**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held the regular monthly meeting on Thursday, July 6, 2017 at Town Hall, 933 County Route 401, Westerlo, NY. Supervisor Richard H. Rapp opened the meeting at 7 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attending were: Supervisor Richard H. Rapp  
Councilwoman Amie L. Burnside  
Councilman Anthony W. Sherman  
Councilman William F. Bichteman Jr  
Councilman Joseph J. Boone (arrived at 7:07 PM)

Supervisor Rapp announced Councilman Boone was on his way to the meeting, he would be late due to a traffic situation.

Also attending were: Planning Board Chairwoman Dorothy Verch, Zoning Board of Appeals member John Sefcik, Clerk to the Assessor Claire Marshall, Clerk to the Supervisor Patricia Boice, Town Historian Dennis Fancher, Town Clerk Kathleen Spinnato and approximately eighteen residents.

**TOWN BOARD MINUTES**

Supervisor Rapp made a motion to accept the Town Board minutes of 6/6/2017 and the Town Board Workshop minutes of 6/20/2017 as submitted. Councilwoman Burnside seconded, Councilman Bichteman abstained on the Workshop minutes of 6/20/2017, motion carried by members present.

**PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS**

Supervisor Rapp made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

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

RESOLVED: the following bills be paid

Voucher # 291 through Voucher # 352 in the amount of \$44,885.16

Councilman Bichteman seconded the motion, a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Sherman, Councilwoman Burnside and  
Councilman Bichteman

NAYS: None

**RESOLUTION # 25-2017 was thereby duly adopted.**

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Councilman Sherman made a motion to accept the Supervisor's Report for the month of May as submitted. Councilwoman Burnside seconded, motion carried by members present.

**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Councilman Sherman made a motion to accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of June as submitted. Councilman Bichteman seconded, motion carried by members present.

**SUPERVISOR**

Supervisor Rapp announced the Town had received a check for grant monies applied for through the NYS Dormitory Authority in the amount of \$45,349.90.

## **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT**

Chairwoman Virginia Mangold submitted the following report, read by Councilwoman Burnside.

The Town of Westerlo Zoning Board, at their last meeting of June 26th was partially postponed due to the legal notices for the public hearings were not advertised by the Enterprise. The board, at the meeting, asked participants & abutters if they would please return on July 10th for a special Public Hearing for each of the three applicants. They all agreed that it was not a problem and would be at the special meeting.

The board reviewed one of the applications for the public hearing and asked the applicant if the ZBA can go back for another site visit as the last one was confusing without the entire survey map. Now that the board members were able to review the entire survey map, they wanted further clarification that will be allowed for them on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 for a second site visit.

The board reviewed and approved a new applicant that will be brought up at a Public Hearing at our next regularly scheduled meeting on July 24th at 7 p.m.

Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to accept the ZBA report as submitted, Councilman Bichteman seconded, motion carried by members present.

## **PLANNING BOARD REPORT**

Chairwoman Dorothy Verch submitted and read the following report.

The Planning Board met on June 27, 2017 at 7PM. A continuation of the public hearing for a minor subdivision requested by Mark Bonneau application #17-003. The public hearing was resumed, the list of questions submitted by Anita Marrone were individually addressed. Additional questions were asked and answered. The public hearing was closed. The SEQRA part II and III were completed. A negative declaration was declared with conditions. The application for the subdivision was approved.

A discussion regarding the updating of the Comprehensive Plan took place. Ned Stevens and Doyle Shaver feel that it is too soon to address changes/updates since it was just accepted in January of 2015. Gerry Boone and Rich Kurylo were not in attendance.

No new business. Meeting was adjourned.

Councilman Sherman made a motion to accept the Planning Board Report as submitted, seconded by Councilwoman Burnside, motion carried by those present.

## **BROADBAND RESEARCH COMMITTEE (BRC)**

Dorothy Verch submitted and read the following BRC report.

The BRC met on June 22, 2017. Attendees: Eric Markson, Mike Sikule, Bob Wilcox and Dotty Verch.

A draft of the new franchise agreement was finalized. Some wording was adjusted and the colored maps of the new phases for Exhibit II were completed. Copies of the draft were forwarded to the Town Attorney, members of the Town Board, Ed Lawson, CEO and the Planning Board. Copies of the colored maps for Exhibit II were furnished tonight to the members of the Town Board.

We are requesting a meeting of the BRC, the Planning Board, the Town Board, the CEO and the Town Attorney in an executive session, to review the draft and consider any revisions before it goes to Mid-Hudson Cable (MHC) and Mr. Fingar.

### **Councilman Boone arrived.**

Discussions followed regarding; the approaching deadlines for MHC to receive potential NYS grant funding, a draft of the proposed new franchise agreement for Mid-Hudson Cable that the BRC has been working on, the criteria for holding executive sessions, etc. The Town Board will further discuss the matter at the next Town Board Workshop scheduled for Tue., July 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

Councilman Bichteman made a motion to accept the BRC report, seconded by Councilwoman Burnside, motion unanimously carried.

Councilman Bichteman asked Planning Board Chairwoman Verch if they had received another check from Tarpon Towers, she responded yes it was delivered to the Town tonight.

### **TOWN HISTORIAN**

Town Historian Dennis Fancher reported on a visit from man from Australia who was gathering genealogy on a relative Philip Myers, after his visit a donation of \$500 was made to the Westerlo Heritage Museum Fund.

### **MUSEUM REPORT**

Mary Jane Araldi, Museum Interim Director submitted the following report, read by Councilman Boone, who is a member of the Museum Committee.

They have been meeting once a month on the second Thursday of the month. Some of the museum possessions have been moved from the library to the old Town Hall and they continue to meet to sort through them.

The Town Wide Garage Sale Day to benefit the museum held on June 10<sup>th</sup> was a success. They sold out of food! Thank you to all who supported us!

The museum was open as part of the NY Path through History on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 am-4pm and Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 1pm -4pm. The focus is on local industry. The theme was Prohibition in this area because of the hops industry in the past. Thanks to Sue and Denny Fancher for their displays and Ron Bryan for cooking!

Plans are being made for the Grand Opening on Friday, October 7, 2017. Save the date postcards are going out. This will coincide with the fall NY Path through History. We will be asking local industries to donate either food for this or money so we can purchase food.

We are also planning on having the museum open the weekend of Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> for the Farm and Artisans tour that will be going on that weekend.

Claire Marshall stated over 20 persons attended the museum for the June Prohibition display and the Fancher's did a nice job. Discussions followed on advertisement of upcoming events. Supervisor Rapp thanked everyone who helped they did a good job, applause followed.

Councilman Boone made a motion to accept the Museum Report, seconded by Councilwoman Burnside, motion unanimously carried.

### **WATER BOARD REPORT**

Councilman Bichteman reported on the painting and clearing around Water District Fire Hydrants and other improvements to water buildings thanks to a Community Service Program, compliments of the NYS District Attorney's Office and the local Justices, who have had volunteers. It has worked out well, the work continues.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Employee Handbook**

Councilman Bichteman reviewed section 806 of the Employee Handbook as it currently reads. A suggestion has been made to revise and replace with the following provision:

Full Time Elected Officials and Employees:

The Town will pay 80% of premiums for individuals or family medical insurance coverage, as the case may be, for each eligible full-time elected official and each eligible employee who works an average of thirty (30) or more hours per week, and who was elected or hired on or after January 1, 2013. Coverage is available to the Town Attorney as part of the Town Attorney compensation. The Town will continue to pay the full premium for individual or family medical insurance coverage for full time elected officials and full time employees (as defined herein) hired prior to January 1, 2013.

Councilman Bichteman made a motion to adopt the following resolution: to

WHEREAS: An oversight has been found in the Employee Handbook (2014) and a suggestion has been made to revise section 806, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town Board shall revise section 806 of the Employee Handbook to amend and revise section 806 as described above.

Councilwoman Burnside seconded the motion, a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Bichteman, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilman Sherman and Councilman Boone

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION # 26-2017 was thereby duly adopted.** Councilman Bichteman advised Attorney Galgay will make the necessary revision to the Employee Handbook.

## **TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS**

Councilman Bichteman informed the Town Board members of the latest information to date. Sullivan Contracting still needs to sign the work change order for the asbestos abatement for removal of floor tiles. The Town awaits Sullivan Contracting's signed proposal and price schedule. Once the proposal is received and reviewed by the Board he suggested that they then take a vote on it. Discussions followed: on the length of time needed to complete the work on the floors; he anticipates a minimal impact to the Town Hall employees schedule, may have to share a room during the process; heating system contract bid documents are ready to be sent out; certification is needed from PSI before the floors can be penetrated for installation of a new heating system, etc.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Highway Superintendent**

Supervisor Rapp announced the retirement of Highway Superintendent Keith Wright. He then made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: Highway Superintendent Keith Wright Sr. has retired, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town Board appoints Jody Ostrander to the position of Highway Superintendent.

Seconded by Councilman Bichteman, a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Bichteman, Councilman Sherman,  
Councilman Boone and Councilwoman Burnside

NAYS: None

**RESOLUTION # 27-2017 was thereby duly adopted.**

### **Election District # 1-Polling Place**

Councilman Bichteman reported the Town of Westerlo Fire Company has made a request that the Fire Station #2 in the hamlet of South Westerlo be no longer used as an Election Polling site. Councilman Bichteman advised the Town will need to check with the Board of Elections it may already be too late to change it for this year. Supervisor Rapp asked for the Fire Company's cooperation to get through this year's election cycle. Fire Co. President Kelley Keefe advised of the reasons behind their decision. She advised the Fire Company will work with the Town and the Board of Elections to accommodate elections for the remainder of this year.

Councilman Bichteman asked as a reminder, would the Fire Co. notify him when they use a fire hydrant to fight a fire. The drop in water pressure trips an alarm for the water district instantly. The alarm then needs to be reset. Discussions followed concerning the Election District and the water alarm.

### **Completed Eagle Scout Project**

Councilman Boone reported on the completion of an Eagle Scout project by Liam Hanley for a "Leave a Book Take a book Library box". The project which he designed, fabricated with the help of his fellow scouts, requested approval, installed and populated with books and placed at the Westerlo Town Hall. He also has one each at Berne & Knox Town Halls. It's not a donation site for books.

## **OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Dotty Verch asked that everyone keep Rich Kurylo in their prayers due to his recent surgery.

A person thanked the Assessor's Office for their recent assistance.

She then informed residents of an offer from AT&T on a device for home phone and internet costing \$60 a month for a 2 yr. contract, with 250 GB of data including home phone. She was unsure of the coverage to other areas of the Town but she reported the device worked well on Otto Rd.

Historian Dennis Fancher provided history information from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century for the Town of Westerlo. He showed a license plate graphic from Westerlo NY Public Garage and a photograph of the garage which was run by Gene Delavern and Orlo Stewart; it is the building across the street from Hannay Reels. They sold Chrysler Plymouth and also Allis Chalmer tractors. In an ad from the same company in 1929 a Chrysler Plymouth coupe cost \$779, a four door sedan cost \$825, and if you called they would bring the car to you to try it out. He also showed a picture of what is now the Library building alongside it was a 1916 Ford dealership run by Ed Hannay.

Lisa DeGroff Republican Committee Chairperson for the Town of Westerlo read information she received from the Albany County Board of Elections on why there are three election districts in the Town of Westerlo.

Residents also made inquiries or commented regarding; caucuses, a possible request for presentation by the Town Historian on a sawmill on Tan Hollow Rd., shared services grant as reported last month by a resident, the topics to be discussed at the next workshop meeting, if maintenance is scheduled for the town hall and the safety of outside stairs. Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Bichteman, Historian Fancher and Ms. DeGroff responded to the inquiries.

There being no further discussion, Councilman Bichteman made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Councilman Sherman, motion unanimously carried. The meeting closed at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen J. Spinnato, Town Clerk

