

**TOWN OF WESTERLO
TOWN BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPT. 4, 2018**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held a meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2018 at Westerlo Town Hall, 933 County Route 401, Westerlo, NY. Supervisor Rapp opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ATTENDING WERE: Supervisor Richard H. Rapp
Councilman Anthony W. Sherman
Councilman Joseph J. Boone
Councilwoman Amie L. Burnside

ABSENT: Councilman Richard Filkins

Also attending were: Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander, Museum Director Mary Jane Snyder-Araldi, Planning Board Chairwoman Dorothy Verch, Zoning Board member John Sefcik, Town Historian Dennis Fancher, Planning Board member Edwin Stevens, Clerk to the Supervisor Patricia Boice, Clerk to the Assessor Claire Marshall, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Kathleen Spinnato and approximately ten residents.

MINUTES

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Board minutes of 8/4/2018 were not available. The document was erroneously deleted and needs to retype document.

Councilman Boone made a motion to accept the Town Board Workshop minutes of 8/21/2018. Councilman Sherman seconded, Supervisor Rapp voted in favor, Councilwoman Burnside abstained, motion to accept carried by those in attendance.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Councilman Sherman made a motion to accept the Supervisor's report for the month of July as submitted. Councilman Boone seconded, motion carried by those in attendance.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to accept the Town Clerk's monthly report for August as submitted. Councilman Sherman seconded, motion carried by those in attendance.

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 # 442 through Voucher # 488 in the amount of \$83,171.54

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

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

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 42-2018 was thereby duly adopted.

GRANT WRITER REPORT

Nicole Ambrosio arrived late she indicated on the Highway Garage building grant she continues to move forward on the application path. On Sept. 12th a scoping review for an energy analysis at the Highway Garage will be conducted by a company she believed to be L & S Energy Services. New York State is paying for the energy analysis for the scoping review. She advised she has reached out and is waiting for information on a water grant and has completed some application information thus far. She continues to keep in touch with Code Enforcement Officer Ed Lawson.

Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to accept the grant writer's report, Councilman Boone seconded, motion carried by those in attendance.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT

Virginia Mangold Chairwoman was absent. August meeting was cancelled, no report was submitted.

PLANNING BOARD & BROADBAND RESEARCH COMMITTEE (BRC) REPORTS & APPROVAL OF TRAINING

Dorothy Verch Chairwoman submitted and read both reports

PLANNING BOARD REPORT TO THE TOWN BOARD SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

The Planning Board met on August 28th. We had no new business. Old business – A letter to Mr. Beller was approved by the Planning Board requesting a formal removal of his application for a solar farm application #16-006.

Tarpon Towers/Verizon Cell tower- the Planning board voted unanimously to have a galvanized steel color for the tower. The decision was relayed to AeroSmith engineering.

Borrego- Shepard farms, the Planning board voted unanimously to have the bond amount for the decommissioning of the farm be determined by the Planning Board in a form acceptable to the Town Attorney which include but are not limited to letter of credit, perpetual bond, or any combination thereof.

The bond shall be reviewed annually by the Planning Board and shall be adjusted if deemed necessary. If the bond is deemed to be adjusted, the applicant shall have 90 days from notice to provide an adjustment bond. As directed by section 18.50 (4) (f).

The meeting between myself and the Town Attorney is scheduled for Thursday evening. The Town Attorney has requested the Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Lawson be present.

Respectfully submitted,

Dotty Verch

*BRC MEETING REPORT
TO TOWN BOARD
SEPT. 4, 2018*

The regular meeting of the BRC on August 23rd was cancelled due to vacations.

Respectfully submitted,

Dotty Verch

Councilman Boone asked about the galvanized finish in her first report, Mrs. Verch advised it is a galvanized steel coating.

She also made a request to the Town Board for approval of Planning Board training hours for the following:

1. Dorothy Verch:
 - April 2018 -NYS Power Authority LED Street Lighting, 4.5 hrs.
 - 5/15/18 -NYS Energy Industries Association, 6.5 hrs.
 - June 2018 – RPI Lighting Research Center, 4 hrs.
2. Dorothy Verch, Richard Kurylo, & Edwin Stevens:
 - 9/5/18 NYSERDA & CDRPC Solar Technical Assistance for Municipalities.

Councilman Sherman made a motion to accept the Planning Board and BRC Reports and he then made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Town Board has received a request from Planning Board Chairwoman Dorothy Verch for approval of the above referenced Planning Board members & training, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town Board approves the Planning Board & BRC reports as submitted and approves the credit hours for the training already held with the exception of the 9/5/18 training as this has not occurred.

Supervisor Rapp seconded the motion, vote results follow:

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

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 43-2018 was thereby duly adopted.

MUSEUM REPORT

Mary Jane Snyder-Araldi Westerlo Heritage Museum Director submitted and read the report.

Westerlo Heritage Museum
Report to Town Board
September 2018

We continue to meet once a month on the second Thurs of the month.

We are meeting as time allows to sort through museum items. Shelving for the old town hall has been assembled and we are sorting to move things from the downstairs to the shelves and then we will start to move items from the library with the help from some scouts. I hope to coordinate a weekend possibly in Oct to move things from the library.

I continue to take pictures of the items in the archive and add the picture of the item into the archival program.

The museum was open Sat, Sept 1st, and will be open the weekend of Sept 15-16 for the Discover the Hilltowns Tour.

Our next fundraiser will be on Saturday, October 6 – A Harvest Festival. We are still looking for vendors. We hope to have some games and a simple craft for the kids to do. We are planning another fundraiser around the Holidays.

Nick Collorafi continues to be work on his Eagle Scout project at the museum.

Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to accept the Westerlo Heritage Museum report as submitted. Supervisor Rapp seconded, motion carried by those on attendance.

TOWN HISTORIAN REPORT

Dennis Fancher Town Historian submitted and read his report

October 2, 2018

As some of you may already know, long before I became town historian, Sue & I have had a keen interest in finding & acquiring items pertaining to Westerlo history. It probably goes back at least 30 plus years

I have always been interested in Westerlo's military history but finding items pertaining to local history do not become available very often.

We saw an ad for an auction in Hoosick Falls, which listed items for a Civil War veteran from Westerlo, John S. Hassell, a blacksmith from Lambs Corners.

We attended the auction and purchased many items including his mustering in papers and discharge papers, a chest with his initials, cannonball & tin type. His photo is in the wall of honor.

We found he was born in 1840 and mustered in in 1862 and discharged in 1863. He was in two battles in Louisiana. The first battle Ponchatoula in March of 1863 was a Confederate victory. The second battle was a 48 day siege at Fort Hudson. The Union army had 35,000 soldiers (5000 killed & wounded. 5000 died of disease.) The Confederates had 7,500 soldiers (750 killed & wounded & 250 died of disease). 6500 Confederates surrendered

He died in 1922 at age 82.

Two weekends ago we went to Curt Cunningham's sale of his Civil War collection

I purchased a photo taken at an encampment at Lambs Corners probably at the picnic area owned by the Edgar Spaulding Family.

In the History of Lambs Corners written by Edmund Ingalls in 1976, he mentions seeing a picture of the C. Swain Evans GAR Post #580, which composed of 20 members & 8 or 10 drum corp. The photo I have shows 19 veterans and 8 drum corp.

My research found that veterans gathered in 1913 to commemorate the 50 year battle of Gettysburg. This photo may have been taken at that time. The only veteran we can identify is DeWitt Bates, who was one of the organizers of this Post, and who is standing in the center of the photo.

I hope that putting this on the Town's Historians website I can identify more veterans

Dennis Farrier Town Historian

Councilman Boone made a motion to approve the Historian's Report as submitted, Councilwoman Burnside seconded, motion carried by those in attendance.

WESTERLO HOMETOWN HEROES COMMITTEE(WHHC) REPORT

Amie Burnside WHHC Chairwoman submitted and read the attached WHHC meeting notes

Hometown Heroes Banner Committee Meeting Notes

- * Met on 8/28/18
- * Added new committee member Rick Haley Sr
- * Have received 3 applications for banners. Have received one sponsorship naming a specific Veteran to be honored
- * Discussed and finalized plans for closing ceremony
 - BKW Chorus for musical arrangements
 - Rick Haley offered the services of his microphone and speakers.
 - Rick Haley also suggested using his big screen and projector to create a presentation of all banners. Committee will move forward creating this presentation and implement this into the program.
 - Invites to Navy Sea Cadets and Civil Air Patrol to Participate
 - Invite to be sent 2 weeks prior to Patriot Guard Riders to participate. (Their rules and they will attend if there is not a funeral they are requested to attend.)
 - Proposed for local Boy Scout troop to present banners to families.
 - Proposed for Seth Haley to lead in Pledge of Allegiance - Rick Haley to ask him
 - All guest speakers have been asked with one confirmation
 - Discussed buffet menu items - Bonnie Kohl in charge of food not present. Discussed the idea of keeping it simple and asking area restaurants to donate food to defray the costs. Amie will contact Bonnie to see what her plans were and pending that outcome, the committee will be notified to commence approaching area restaurants.
 - Committee would like to minimally decorate Town Hall with tasteful Patriotic decorations. Would like to ask at next Town Board Meeting if this would be ok - not to include tacks, staples, nails only tape. All decorations removed immediately following ceremony
- * Next meeting Tuesday September 24th at 6pm

In addition, she advised she wrote a letter to the editor of the Altamont Enterprise regarding donations and contact information for WHHC. She also included in the letter the names of those Veteran's honored on this year's banners.

Councilman Sherman made a motion to accept the WHHC update, Councilman Boone seconded, motion carried by those in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW # 3-2018 -PEDDLER/SOLICITOR LAW (former ordinance)

Councilman Boone advised the Town Board is set on the language of draft of the proposed Peddler's Law. On the application he believed the Town Attorney would make the necessary addition of the fee they had provided to her.

Councilman Boone made a motion to hold a Public Hearing on proposed Local Law #3-2018 on Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2018 at 7 PM along with a Special Town Board meeting to follow the hearing for the purpose to adopt proposed Local Law No. 3-2018. The regularly scheduled workshop would follow the special town board meeting. Councilman Sherman seconded the motion, motion carried by those in attendance.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Councilman Boone indicated he was on the fence about developing a part-time version of the Employee handbook and after having conversations Councilmembers Filkins, Burnside and Sherman he agreed it's unnecessary. He indicated the Town Board will need to follow-up on additional sexual harassment information they received and provide it to the Town Attorney for inclusion into the existing 2014 Employee Handbook.

Deputy Supervisor Edwin Lawson suggested the Town Board review the handbook for any additional updates. The present handbook does not specifically address boards or define part-time employees. Further explanation is needed along with the additional sexual harassment information, ethics & trainings.

Councilwoman Burnside advised she did not have a copy of the Employee Handbook and asked the Town Clerk to get copies.

NEW BUSINESS:

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW - REAPPOINTMENT

Supervisor Rapp advised that the present term of Board of Assessment Review member Susan Cunningham expires on 9/30/2018. He made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the term of Board of Assessment Review member Susan Cunningham will expire on 9/30/2018, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town Board reappoints Susan Cunningham to the position of Board of Assessment Review Member a 5 yr. term to begin 10/1/2018

Councilwoman Burnside seconded, vote result follows:

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

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 44-2018 was thereby duly adopted.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Town Clerk advised the Town Board that they will eventually need to discuss potential meeting dates dates the end of year for December 2018 and the Organizational Meeting in January. The Board agreed to discuss this when Councilman Filkins would also be available.

OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC

The Clerk to the Assessor advised the Public that the 2018-2019 Greenville Central School District Tax bills are delayed in being mailed to residents in September due to an issue with the vendor used to print the bills. The school district is extending the penalty free period due to the delay. Residents should call the Greenville Central School Tax Collector if they have questions. Berne Knox Westerlo School tax bills were not affected.

Westerlo Vol. Fire Co. Chief Kevin Flensted advised the Town Board that the Fire Co. had submitted their 2019 annual budget. Knowing it is going to be a tough fiscal year for all, they are looking at \$10,400 more in their budget, a 4.7% increase. He just wanted the Town to be aware the increase is related to the NYS Volunteer Firefighters Cancer Program, an unfunded mandate from NYS. The fire company's insurance carrier is still looking into guidelines and writing this policy which is estimated to cost \$1,200 per active firefighter. The Fire Co. had cut \$4,000 out of the budget in other places to try to help decrease their budget.

Councilman Boone reported that he had attended a recent Fire Co. meeting where he was informed that two Westerlo Water District No. 1 hydrants had been identified to not be functioning properly and he hadn't informed the Supervisor yet. One hydrant was in front of the fire house on State Route 145 and one was on County Route 412.

Another Fire Co. member had questions concerning who to contact regarding their use of hydrants located in the water district. Mr. Lawson suggested in the mean time they contact Supervisor Rapp or the Clerk to the Supervisor and also the Town Board needs to discuss who is to receive these alarms. Mr. Lawson also advised the Water District has a contract for repairs to the water district. Discussion followed on the use of and hydrants to refill tankers especially during the winter months.

Jody Ostrander advised there had been a lot of recent controversy on Facebook regarding the Fire Company drilling in the Westerlo Town Park. Being a past firefighter, he believes new recruits should know the strength of the hose. It has been said they will not be allowed to practice in the Town Park anymore. He wants this to be cleared up in a public forum and printed into the Altamont Enterprise by the reporter present that the Town Board is either going to allow or disallow the Westerlo Fire Co. to practice at the Town facilities. Supervisor Rapp advised he had always allowed them to practice there in the past. Chief Kevin Flensted explained his knowledge of the event.

WESTERLO FIRE COMPANY DRILLS/USE OF WATER DISTRICT HYDRANTS

Supervisor Rapp asked the Town Board how they felt on the topic raised above by Jody Ostrander. Councilman Sherman mentioned that Fire Co. President Kelly Keefe had previously advised the Board of the same information and had apologized on behalf of the Fire Co. for the

event that may have caused an issue. Councilman Sherman salutes and thanks the Fire Co. members for their service and believes they should be allowed to hold practice drills at the Town Park. Town Council members Burnside and Boone agreed with Councilman Sherman that the Westerlo Fire Co. should be allowed to continue to drill at the Town Park. Later in the meeting Councilman Sherman who made a motion to adopt the following resolution;

WHEREAS: the Westerlo Vol. Fire Company was previously allowed to conduct practice drills at the Westerlo Town Park and that policy is now being questioned, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Westerlo Town Board members agreed to continue to allow the Westerlo Vol. Fire Co. to drill on any Town property in a safe and productive Manner and further,

RESOLVED: the Town Board members allow the Westerlo Vol. Fire Co. to use the Westerlo Water District No. 1 fire hydrants during periods of inclement weather when bodies of water become frozen to fill fire truck tanks when necessary

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

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

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION # 45-2018 was thereby duly adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

Resident Dianne Sefcik submitted and read her follow-up letter to the Town Board suggesting the Town adopt the American Society for Public Administration Code of Ethics. She also questioned why there was no mention of Bromomethane in the water district's water supply to the general public prior to August. Councilman Boone responded regarding her letter to the Town Board and Code Enforcement Officer Ed Lawson responded to her question regarding Bromomethane found by the Health Dept. in sample testing done on the Westerlo Water District. Discussion followed regarding the water district concerning repairs, special testing and treatment, etc.

MaryJane Araldi presented a gift to the Town of Westerlo of a framed colored print of Westerlo Belgium's Town Hall. The gift was presented to her at a ceremony she attended in Belgium to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of our friendship.

With no further business to discuss Councilman Sherman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Burnside seconded, motion carried by those in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Spinnato Town Clerk