

**TOWN OF WESTERLO  
TOWN BOARD MEETING &  
PUBLIC HEARING RE-PROPOSED LOCAL LAW 1-2019  
REVISION TO THE ZONING LAW AS IT PERTAINS TO ARTICLE 18- SOLAR ENERGY  
OF  
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held a Public Hearing and Regular Town Board meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at the Town Hall located at 933 County Route 401, Westerlo, NY. Acting Supervisor Bichteman opened the meeting at 6:45 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attending were:           Acting Supervisor William Bichteman Jr.  
                                  Councilman Anthony W. Sherman  
                                  Councilwoman Amie L. Burnside  
                                  Councilman Richard Filkins  
                                  Councilman Joseph J. Boone

Also attending were: Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander, Highway Employee Salvatore Spinnato IV, Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman John Sefcik and member Jillian Henck, Town Historian Dennis Fancher, Clerk to the Supervisor Patricia Boice, Clerk to the Assessor Claire Marshall, Grant Writer Dr. Nicole Ambrosio, Planning Board Chairperson Dorothy Verch, Deputy Town Clerk II Karla Weaver, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Kathleen Spinnato and approximately 17 residents.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Town Board held a public hearing regarding the proposal of Local Law #1 of 2019, which is an amendment to Article 18 of Local Law #1 of 1989. Acting Supervisor Bichteman announced that a SEQR review still needs to be completed therefore the hearing will remain open until the Town Board meeting in June.

ZBA Chairman Sefcik commented that there is no definition for non-conforming lots in the Zoning Law. Councilman Sherman indicated the Zoning Law should be addressed at a later time.

A resident questioned angle of panels for winter and summer sun glare and wondered if solar panels are allowed to be adjusted as the law does not address it. Mrs. Verch indicated the current projects are fixed panels. After discussion it was believed the wording didn't need to be changed and would be left for the Planning Board to evaluate glare. The same resident questioned decommissioning as it relates to disasters and hazardous waste and wondered if the decommissioning bond covers it. The Town Board believed this would actually be a liability issue. Another resident indicated there really wasn't anything in the panels that would be considered hazardous.

It was also mentioned that all Community Solar is considered Commercial Solar in the Town of Westerlo.

A resident questioned top soil removal referring to a Borrego Solar Project at Shepard Farm. Mrs. Verch indicated they moved the topsoil and smoothed it out but it was all still there. Mr. Bicheman mentioned that the engineering consultant Ingalls Assoc. and the Code Enforcement Officer would be going over this week to review storm water management plans.

After discussion between the Town Board and public, the following changes were recommended:

- Page 1, Section Two, end sentence after “whole”, omitting “while promoting development of renewable energy sources”
- Page 6, h, i, omitt entire paragraph and will renumber
- Page 7, j, iii, change the last sentence to read “Final determination of the security amount shall be at the discretion of the Town Board in consultation with an engineer designated by the Town”
- Page 9, f, add after exterior lighting “in accordance with dark sky guidelines”
- Page 13, e, ii, change the first sentence to read “the security amount shall be determined by the Town Board in consultation with an engineer designated by the Town”

Mr. Bichteman along with the Town Board reviewed and completed Part 1 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form (SEQR). The Town Board has declared itself as the SEQR lead agency.

Councilman Sherman made a motion to postpone the Public Hearing until the June 4<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting and open the Town Board meeting. Councilman Boone seconded the motion, all in favor motion carried.

## **REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

Town Board meeting minutes of 4/2/19 as submitted and Town Board Workshop meeting minutes of 4/16/19 as submitted.

### **SUPERVISOR’S REPORT**

Supervisor’s report for March and April 2019 as submitted.

### **TOWN CLERK’S REPORT**

Town Clerk’s monthly report for April 2019 as submitted.

Councilman Sherman made a motion to accept the Town Board and Workshop meeting minutes of 4/2/19 and 4/16/19, the Supervisor’s report for March and April and Town Clerk’s monthly report for April. Seconded by Councilwoman Burnside, all in favor motion carried.

### **PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS**

Councilwoman Burnside 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 # 203 through Voucher # 279 in the amount of \$87,973.52.

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

**AYES:** Councilman Boone, Councilman Sherman, Councilwoman Burnside

**NAYS:** None

**RESOLUTION #27-2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

### **CATHOLIC CHARITIES PRESENTATION**

Marcia Casullo and Mike Sikule representatives of the Hilltown Community Resource Center (HCRC), a program under Catholic Charities visited to bring more awareness to the center and all it has to offer to

the community. It was established in 1981, is located at the Reformed Church in Westerlo and serves residents of Berne, Knox, Westerlo and Rensselaerville. It's not just a food pantry, they address the needs of residents. They are requesting to have their information on the Town of Westerlo website since the HCRC does not have a website of their own. Councilman Boone made a motion to investigate putting a link on the Town website with information about the Hilltown Community Resource Center services. Seconded by Councilman Filkins, all in favor motion carried.

#### **KENNETH'S RIDE PRESENTATION**

Representatives for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Kenneth's Ride attended tonight's meeting to explain that money raised will go toward a scholarship and given to a deserving student from Kenneth's graduating class interested in social work to help other children like Kenneth. Additional funds are used for underprivileged families for school supplies and clothing as well as adopting a family for Thanksgiving. It was also reported that Kenneth's sisters have been adopted. The ride and festivities will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup> and information is available on the Town website including registration.

#### **CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY GRANT PRESENTATION**

ZBA member Jill Henck announced the Town was fortunate enough to qualify for a \$35,000 grant and is currently in the process of deciding the intended use of the grant funds. She explained the process and introduced her colleague Greg Mumby. He mentioned that any energy saving project is eligible but there are requirements and offered his assistance. Greg explained that the grant funds do not have to be used all at once and can be put toward multiple projects however; work can't begin until NYSERDA approves them or the Town will not be reimbursed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **STOP THE BLEED**

Mr. Bichteman thanked Debbie and Kenny Mackey from the Westerlo Rescue Squad and Tom Moran from Albany Medical Center who hosted a "Stop the Bleed" training workshop last week at the Town Hall about preventing emergency blood loss. Mr. Bichteman mentioned it was very informative and he hopes more training sessions will be held in the future now that Debbie and Kenny are both certified instructors.

#### **REVISION TO LOCAL LAW #2 of 1992-ARTICLE 1, SOLID WASTE FACILITIES**

Councilman Filkins mentioned that a final draft has been sent to Attorney Afzali for his review.

#### **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN/COMMITTEE/CHAIRPERSON UPDATE**

Acting Supervisor Bichteman mentioned that Nan Stolzenburg will be attending the June 18<sup>th</sup> Town Board workshop meeting to provide information and help with the direction for the Comprehensive plan. He currently has received seven applications for committee member positions and is expecting five more.

#### **UPDATE ON SYSTEM UPGRADES-TELEPHONES/COMPUTERS/PROJECTOR**

Mr. Bichteman gave an update that the projector is mounted but is awaiting wiring and the screen is mounted and functioning. The desktop computers and monitors have been purchased for the Highway Superintendent, Supervisor and Clerk to the Supervisor and a laptop for the Assessor. The telephone system will be installed next week and the new fiber has been installed at the Town Hall. All purchases are complete and total \$11,650.00 under the \$13,000.00 budgeted.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ALS & EMT CONTRACT WITH ALBANY COUNTY**

Acting Supervisor Bichteman requested a motion to allow him to enter into the ALS & EMT agreement with Albany County, the same service agreement the town receives every year.

Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS:** Albany County has provided the 2019 ALS/EMT Contract, be it hereby

**RESOLVED:** the Town Board authorizes Acting Supervisor Bichteman to sign the 2019 Contract  
Councilman Filkins seconded the motion, a vote resulted as follows:

**AYES:** Councilman Filkins, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilman Boone, Councilman Sherman

**NAYES:** None

**RESOLUTION # 28-2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

### **BOARD OF ELECTIONS CONTRACT**

Mr. Bichteman mentioned he also has an agreement from Albany County Board of Elections for the use of the building for the primary and general elections.

Councilman Boone made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS:** Albany County on behalf of the Albany County Board of Elections has provided the 2019 Facility Use Agreement, be it hereby

**RESOLVED:** the Town Board authorizes Acting Supervisor Bichteman to sign the 2019 Agreement  
Councilman Filkins seconded the motion, a vote resulted as follows:

**AYES:** Councilman Filkins, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilman Boone, Councilman Sherman

**NAYES:** None

**RESOLUTION # 29-2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

authorize Acting Supervisor Bichteman to sign and submit, seconded by Councilwoman Burnside, all in favor motion carried.

### **ONDERDONK LAKE DAM**

Mr. Bichteman mentioned that the town received a letter from NYS DEC regarding the Onderdonk Lake Dam which they classified as an *Immediate Hazard Class B* and is addressed to Town of Westerlo, County Executive and the three property owners whose property adjoins at the dam itself. He announced that the town did a title search of that area of the lake several years ago and the title company certified that the lake itself belongs to the county as part of a foreclosure; the town owns no part of the dam and instead is owned by the three adjacent property owners. The Town Attorney has forwarded that information along with the copies of the searches to DEC. He indicated that every five (5) years the dams are recertified which is why it came around again.

### **TOWN HALL DEDICATION COMMITTEE-RICHARD H. RAPP MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Chairperson Mary-Jane Araldi mentioned that the committee has met 3-4 times and a date has been set for June 29<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at the request of the family. The ceremony will take place in a tent in front of the Town Hall building and will be open to the public. Invitations have been mailed to dignitaries and Town Board members from other towns. The information will be posted to the town's website and donations can be made to the Town of Westerlo Dedication Fund. She requested the Town Board make a resolution to rename the Town Hall.

Councilman Boone made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS:** There will be a ceremony on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at the Westerlo Town Hall to have the Town Hall building renamed, be it hereby

**RESOLVED:** the building be known as the Richard H. Rapp Municipal Building

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

**AYES:** Councilwoman Burnside, Councilman Filkins, Councilman Sherman, Councilman Boone

**NAYS:** None

**Resolution # 30-2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

#### **TOWN E-MAILS**

Mr. Bichteman commented about town employees using private e-mails on private servers and not keeping a FOILable record for business conducted before the town. He indicated there is about a \$2/ea a month fee to include those people onto the server chain, eliminating the expectation of privacy. When the town is FOILed, it is difficult to obtain e-mails in their entirety. Therefore, he believed it should be addressed and any correspondence from any Committee or Board should be made part of a record by its clerk.

#### **GRANT WRITER REPORT**

Dr. Nicole Ambrosio mentioned the town was awarded a \$35,000 NYSERDA grant and funds need to be used by July 26<sup>th</sup>. As for possible Water Dist. grants, she is working with Mr. Bichteman and Stantec to get paperwork together for submission. She announced that the Consolidated Funding Applications (CFA) opened up and she plans to investigate to see if the town can get additional money for the Water District. She indicated that eligibility can be tough for our town because the median income is more than is allowed. She explained she had reviewed the current Comprehensive Plan to complete an application for a grant for a new Comprehensive Plan. There deadline is in September but everything is completed with exception of the budget portion of the application. She also discussed potential for sidewalks grants.

#### **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REPORT**

John Sefcik Chairman of the ZBA submitted and read the following report:

*Town Board ZBA Report (5/21/19) .... on 4/22 & 5/20 ZBA Mtgs*

*Because the Town Board meeting moved out and the May ZBA meeting moved in, there have been 2 ZBA meetings since the last Town Board meeting.*

*The ZBA met on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with our new full board of 5 members. We accepted two new variance applications. One is for setback relief for a new home that will replace a manufactured home. The other is for setback relief for a commercial garage, which is also currently before the Planning Board for a special use permit. We are doing our normal process of site visits and public hearings. At the end of regular business, the ZBA members had a short Q+A session with Javid and Jeff Pine, which was very helpful. Our next meeting is May 20<sup>th</sup>.*

*At the May 20<sup>th</sup> ZBA meeting, we had two public hearings. A decision on the first application, after discussion, was deferred to the June meeting so that the applicant can further evaluate options. Potentially there will be no need for a variance. The second variance application, which is also at the Planning Board, was approved. We had no new applications, but expect one for our next meeting in June.*

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*For Town Board approval: 2 hours of training credit for Pam Schreiber for taking the Zoning Overview webinar by the Dept of State. (The rest of the ZBA members took this class in Jan.)*

*Regards,  
John Sefcik, ZBA Chairman*

#### **ZBA TRAINING**

Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS:** New ZBA member Pam Schreiber attended a 2 hour Zoning Overview webinar provided by the Dept. of State, be it hereby

**RESOLVED:** The Town Board approves the training for Pam Schreiber

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

**AYES:** Councilman Sherman, Councilman Filkins, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilman Boone

**NAYES:** None

**RESOLUTION # 31-2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

#### **PLANNING BOARD REPORT**

Committee Chairperson Dorothy Verch submitted and read the following report:

##### *PLANNING BOARD REPORT*

*TO*

*TOWN BOARD*

*MAY 20, 2019*

*The Planning Board met on April 23 at 7 PM.*

*The public hear for application 17-009 Medusa Solar Farm was reopened. There was no representation from CEC present. The Site plan submitted shows the proposed battery. It is our understanding that the battery storage will be removed so the PB will require a new site plan without the battery option and addressing the 100' setback required by our Solar Law. CEC must also bring the escrow accounts current. The public hearing was adjourned until May 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*The public hearing for application 17-010 WesterloNY 01/WesterloA was reopened. There was no representation from CEC. CEC has transferred the Westerlo A site to EnterSolar. We need a letter from CEC acknowledging this transfer of Westerlo A to Entersolar.*

*Energy Storage is not a consideration for this project so a new site plan will be required addressing the required 100' setback. There was no representation from CEC or EnterSolar so the PH was adjourned until the Ma 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. CEC and EnterSolar must fully fund the escrow accounts before further action can be taken on this application.*

*Peter Lawn, representing Cypress Creek presented a new site plan without the battery storage option for Costanza Solar Farm, application 17-005. The site plan shows a reduction in the array footprint.*

*David Ingalls, representing Ingall's Engineering, the Town Designated Engineer, will be reviewing all of the solar applications. Mr. Ingalls ask Mr.Lawn to provide a line of sight sketch of the screening on the site plan so that the residents could visualize what they would see. The Board accepted the revised site plan contingent upon completion of a satisfactory review by Ingalls Engineering .*

*I fielded a complaint/concern from a resident on Creamery Rd. regarding Shepard Solar West.*

*In the end, the resident was satisfied with the investigation and response.*

*Jacob Irwin's application 18-003 for a commercial garage was tabled . Mr. Irwin was seeking a variance for a rear setback. The law states 100' setback and Mr. Irwin is requesting a 48' variance. The public hearing was scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>. He will be on the agenda for the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

*A new application 19-001 for a minor subdivision- submitted by Santo Associates, Mr. Alton MacDonald was accepted. Loretta Liebhaber Stelter and Frederick Liebhaber want to subdivide 8.65 acres from the original acreage. This minor subdivision is aTYPE II action and requires no further SEQRA review. The application will be sent to ACPB and DEC for review. Mr. Azfali provided legal oversight review. A public hearing will be held May 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*CDRPC is holding their Spring workshop at HVCC on May 29<sup>th</sup>. 3 of the PB members would like the TB's approval to attend. Rich Kurlyo, Doyle Shaver and Dotty Verch. The attendance fee is \$40@.*

*Given the degree of attention energy storage received at the past PB meetings, I am presenting the TB and Mr. Azfali with a copy of the BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM MODEL LAW ( designed by NYSERDA ) to assist Westerlo in drafting local laws and regulations for the protection of the residents of Westerlo . Our current Solar Law casually mentions Battery Storage with no real 'teeth'. I strongly recommend the Town Board consider using this Model Law as a guide and incorporate this into our Solar Law.*

*It is a roadmap for Westerlo to use to create regulations for the installation and use of battery energy storage systems.*

*It provides a detailed outline to protect the health, welfare, safety and quality of life for the residents of Westerlo that is not, currently, addressed by our Solar Law.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Dotty Verch*

A resident requested that Mrs. Verch include in future reports the property owner's name & property location in addition to the solar project name.

A resident asked why solar companies are pushing for battery storage. Mrs. Verch had been told that the electricity produced would be stored during the sun shining time and in the evening would be uploaded to the grid, boosting the ability of the electrical company to avoid brown outs. The evening is when many people are home using the most electricity. She explained that the problem the Planning Board encountered at the Costanza public hearing was that fire suppression systems, an integral part of the unit, were categorized as a category 3 hazard, meaning if it were exposed to the air or in case of a fire where toxins went into the ground it could poison water and cause health problems. She mentioned that the battery storage law must indicate a category 1 hazard or below which is what the town is currently following. Mr. Bichteman indicated that the battery storage law is not intended to be injected directly into a local town law, instead it should be included as part of the Comprehensive Plan. He indicated that the current Comprehensive Plan could be modified or a new one could be created to fit within the zoning. Battery Storage really only benefits the developer of the solar project, not necessarily the town.

Councilman Boone questioned the sale of Westerlo A to Enter Solar or sales of solar farms in general. Mrs. Verch explained that most solar farms start out with a developer who purchases the property, begins the process and eventually sells to another management firm who will then do the marketing of the electric power to the residents. She indicated this was a normal occurrence.

Councilman Boone mentioned there had been a complaint recently regarding the Borrego West Solar project from a resident on Creamery Rd and there being a big mound of dirt. Mrs. Verch had explained to him that Borrego would be flattening it to cover all of the side view of the array. Mr. Bichteman indicated he spoke with the resident who remains unsatisfied and planned to attend the next Planning Board meeting.

Councilman Boone commented on the battery storage systems. He suggested that maybe the Planning and Town Board's should consider a moratorium on the battery storage.

A resident asked what kind of protection the town has during the sale of these solar projects? Mr. Bichteman responded that the decommissioning bonds are in place and originates with the owner of the project. Building permits can't be issued until the town has the decommissioning bond money. Regardless of who owns the property, the town is protected because it can always be decommissioned.

Mrs. Verch advised that some members of the Planning Board will be attending Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) training on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Those planning to attend are Dorothy Verch, Richard Kurylo and Doyle Shaver.

Councilman Boone made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS:** the CDRPC will be holding a Spring Workshop on May 29<sup>th</sup> at Hudson Valley Community College, be it hereby

**RESOLVED:** the Town Board allow Planning Board members Dorothy Verch, Richard Kurylo and Doyle Shaver to attend the training at \$40 per attendee.

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

**AYES:** Councilman Boone, Councilman Filkins, Councilman Sherman, Councilwoman Burnside

**NAYES:** None

**RESOLUTION # 32-2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

## **BRC REPORT**

Committee Chairperson Dorothy Verch submitted and read the following report:

*BRC REPORT  
TO  
THE TOWN BOARD  
MAY 21, 2019*

*On April 26<sup>th</sup> the BRC met at 7PM. Members present John Sefcik and Dotty Verch.*

*Those in attendance:*

*Ned Stevens, Barb Russell, Karla Weaver, Mark Aversa, Monica and Adam Alvarez, Kevin Bucci and Wayne Thompson*

*Discussion regarding expansion of Mid-Tel along SR 85 and AC408 as well as Albany Hill Rd.*

*Mr. and Mrs. Alvarez live on SR 85. Mr Aversa lives on Albany Hill Rd.*

*Mr. Aversa brought forth some information regarding a USDA Reconnect Loan & Grant to help municipalities gain access to broadband. Sent email to Nicole Ambrosio regarding this.*

*Sent email to Jim Becker and copied the residents requesting information regarding the expansion. Mr. Becker was not able to provide definitively, when they would all be connected.*

*Mr. Becker stated that Albany Hill Rd. was not on their immediate radar for connection. They need to complete their Phase 3 first before they can address line extensions.*



*Discussed expansion of Mid-hudson cable. Kevin Bucci on AC 411 stated that his house had been measured by Mid-hudson Cable in 2018. Emailed Mr. Fingar and copied Mr. Bucci so that Mr. Fingar's response would go to Mr. Bucci as well.*

*Mr. Fingar stated that they were waiting for permits to be filed for completion.*

*Spectrum National manager stated that they have no intention of coming into Westerlo. They are at the edge of Cass Hill AC 11.*

*Requested more information from Mr. Fingar. Have an appt. with him on 22<sup>nd</sup>. To review the status of their expansion and the zip codes in Westerlo's billing data base.*

*Contacted PSC for the correct contact for Verizon to pursue that avenue.*

*As a point of information, if residents of Westerlo experience connection interruption, send me a text or call me so that I can report directly to the Chief Technical Engineer.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Dotty Verch*

Mrs. Verch also requested that Jennifer Bungay be allowed to take minutes for the BRC and be paid. Discussion continued on the matter with no action taken by the Town Board.

#### **MUSEUM REPORT**

Museum Director Mary-Jane Araldi submitted and read the following report:

*Westerlo Heritage Museum  
Report to Town Board  
May 2019*

*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.*

*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 Saturday, April 6 and May 4 from 9am – 12noon. There was one visitor in April from the Cairo Historical Society.*

*The Dedication ceremony for the newly erected WWII Wall of Honor on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> was well attended. I was surprised on Friday to find out that Congressman Paul Tonko was able to accept our invitation. Thank you to Bill, Dick, Joe and Kathy for attending and supporting the museum.*

The Town Board thanked Mary-Jane and indicated the ceremony was very nice.

#### **HISTORIAN REPORT**

Town Historian Dennis Fancher submitted and read the following report:

*HISTORIANS REPORT  
TOWN BOARD MEETING MAY 21, 2019*

*IN 1916, ALBANY COUNTY PUBLISHED A FARM DIRECTORY. THE PORTION DEDICATED TO THE TOWN OF WESTERLO INDICATES 289 FARM FAMILIES. THE LIST OF FARMERS,*

COMPILED BY FORMER HISTORIAN THURMAN BISHOP, KNOWN TO US AS JUNIOR, IS ON THE WALL OF PHOTOS JUST DOWN THE HALL. ALSO, IN THE HALLWAY IS A DISPLAY OF FARM IMPLEMENT SALESMAN'S SAMPLES AND PATENT MODELS.

I FOUND A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE (NO DATE) WITH THE HEADLINES  
"GYPSIES STEAL \$175 FROM A HELPFUL FARMER"

WELLINGTON SHAVER, A FARMER WANTED TO DO A GOOD TURN TO A BAND OF GYPSIES WHO STOPPED AT HIS FARMHOUSE BETWEEN WESTERLO & MEDUSA. THE GYPSIES, TRAVELING IN AUTOMOBILES, CAME ALONG ABOUT 11:30 FRIDAY MORNING. ONE OF THE WOMEN ASKED FOR SOME SUGAR TO FEED A BABY, AND THEN REQUESTED PERMISSION TO MIX THE FOOD IN SHAVER'S KITCHEN. SHAVER INVITED THEM IN AND STAYED WITH THEM WHILE THE BABY'S MEAL WAS BEING PREPARED. AFTER THEY DROVE AWAY, SHAVER DISCOVERED THAT \$175. HE CARRIED IN HIS COAT POCKET WAS MISSING.

I FOUND A HILLTOWNS BOOKLET COMPILED BY RONALD CONNERS AND HELEN LOUNSBURY CALLED "POSTSCRIPTS FROM THE PAST"

ITS PURPOSE WAS TO GIVE STUDENTS AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIVES OF THE ORDINARY EVERYDAY PEOPLE OF THE HILLTOWNS – THE PEOPLE WHO NEVER MADE IT INTO THE HISTORY BOOKS.

THEY DID THIS WITH IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

THE IMAGINARY INTERVIEW IS AS FOLLOWS:

MY NAME IS NICHOLAS MYERS. I WAS THE FIRST BABY BORN IN THE TOWN OF WESTERLO. I WAS BORN ON MARCH 20, 1775 IN A LOG CABIN. MY FATHER, PHILIP WAS THE FIRST SETTLER OF THE TOWN. WHILE I WAS A BABY THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR CAME AND WITH IT ROAMING BANDS OF INDIANS. THEY CAMPED ACROSS THE BASIC CREEK FROM OUR CABIN AND BECAME VERY NOISY AT NIGHT. MOTHER AND FATHER BECAME NERVOUS AND AFRAID FOR OUR LIVES SO WE MOVED TO BETHLEHEM CENTER (DELMAR) IN 1776 AND STAYED UNTIL 1782. WHEN I WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD WE CAME BACK TO OUR LOG CABIN IN WESTERLO. BY THEN I HAD TWO BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND WE ALL LIVED IN THE LITTLE LOG CABIN. I LIVED TO BE AN OLD MAN, OUTLIVING THREE WIVES. I HAD A TOTAL OF 12 CHILDREN.

THERE WERE MANY WONDERFUL IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS THAT I WILL TALK ABOUT AT FUTURE MEETINGS.

#### **WESTERLO HOMETOWN HEROES COMMITTEE (WHHC) REPORT**

Amie Burnside WHHC Chairwoman reported:

*HHC Monthly report 5/20/19*

*The Hometown Hero committee has been hard at work and have identified a total of 99 poles in the town of Westerlo. We have received requests for 45 new banners. This is in addition to the 15 we have received back to re-install for this season. The total of 60 Banners will be installed in the village of Westerlo, South Westerlo and Dormansville. Many thanks to the supervisor's office for handling all requests quickly and diligently. We have received approximately half of the proofs back from the printer and expect to receive the rest shortly for approval then 48-72 hours for printing and they will be in our hands for installation. The committee will now be focusing on the closing ceremony which will be held on November 2, 2019 at the Westerlo Baptist church and anticipate roughly 300 guests. That being said we are looking for sponsorship in any monetary amount to help cover expenses to honor those we celebrate. If you have a donation or know someone who may be interested in a donation please see one of the committee members. Thank you.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Amie L Burnside  
HHC Chairwoman*

#### **REPORTS APPROVAL**

Councilman Boone made a motion to approve the Grant Writer report, Zoning & Planning Board reports, Museum, Historian, Broadband Research & Hometown Hero Committee reports as submitted. Councilman Filkins seconded, motion unanimously carried.

#### **SUMMER YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAM -2019**

Mr. Bichteman reminded the Town Board and the public that the Summer Recreation Program will be July 29<sup>th</sup>- August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9am-noon for children aged 6-10. Councilman Boone indicated that the information and applications will be distributed around town, available at the Town Hall and on the town website. He is also hoping it will make it on the BKW and Greenville School websites.

#### **ACCOUNTING & PAYROLL**

Mr. Bichteman then reviewed the Marvin & Company bills per a Board members request. He gave a brief history of past and current accountants and the programs they recommended. Currently the town uses BenefitMall for payroll. There were issues between program communication with the payroll company and Quickbooks resulting in issues with some W-2's which thankfully the Clerk to the Supervisor found. Due to the issues made by the payroll company, the town had to endure additional accounting fees to correct the errors. Discussion continued regarding payroll billing and Mr. Bichteman mentioned that he and his clerk have been interviewing new payroll companies advising them of prior issues. He reviewed requested authorization to continue negotiations and possibly enter into an agreement with a new payroll company.

Councilman Boone made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS:** The Town is in need of a new payroll company, be it hereby

**RESOLVED:** the Town Board authorize Acting Supervisor Bichteman to continue negotiations and enter into contract with a new payroll company if there are incentives the town may lose due to time restraints

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

**AYES:** Councilman Boone, Councilman Filkins, Councilman Sherman, Councilwoman Burnside

**NAYES:** None

**RESOLUTION # 33 -2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kelley Keefe president of the Westerlo Volunteer Fire Company announced there is spring training going on for several of their members. She also mentioned that although the state burn ban has ended she reminded everyone to use good judgement and provided an Albany County non-emergency dispatch number (518-765-2352) for residents to call prior to a controlled burn on a calm day. She also thanked the Highway Dept. for helping them at a fire today. Additionally it was brought to her attention that there were political flyers on tables at a past fireman's breakfast and a political flyer on their door during the March breakfast. Their bylaws state that they will not condone any political activity and while they can't determine whether they were posted by a member of the Westerlo Volunteer Fire Co. or a guest, they did not see them to have them removed. They appreciate the support of all of their community

members and regret allowing anyone to be subjected to matter that is prohibited and could be found offensive. Their members have been reminded of this section in their bylaws and have been asked to refrain from participating in such activity and to be aware of the need to keep their events free of political flyers and such. They wish to apologize to anyone offended by this oversight and are grateful for the support of the community.

A resident commented about the public wifi at the town hall and the need for a new router. Mr. Bichteman believed the problem would be resolved shortly with the 100/100 fiber that has recently been installed.

Another resident asked what benefit the town gets from solar. Mr. Bichteman explained that the PILOT is negotiated money the town would receive annually from each of the solar farms once a project has been completed and he estimated the range to be approximately \$8,000-\$9,000. In addition, each of those solar farms has a Community Host Agreement which is also negotiated and is a flat cash fee paid to the town to be used toward recreation.

Mr. Gipprich a resident on CR 405 complained about a neighboring property. He explained that a letter was written by the previous Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) but the property owner didn't do anything to rectify the problem. Mr. Gipprich met with the new CEO Jeff Pine who he believed was attempting to get the property owner to clean up. Mr. Gipprich expressed his feelings regarding the current situation to the Town Board asking for the situation to be resolved within two months.

Jody Ostrander Highway Superintendent mentioned he received a quote of \$195,600 through state contracting price for a new 10 wheeler which includes a plow, wing and sander. He has also priced a 1 ton pickup and a 1 ton dump truck. He previously told the Town Board he hoped to be under \$300,000 for all three vehicles and is just under that amount. He mentioned the two 1 ton trucks would be put out for bid. He requested that the Town Board allow him to move forward. No action was taken by the Town Board.

With there being no further business to conduct, Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Filkins, all in favor motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Spinnato

Town Clerk