

**TOWN OF WESTERLO  
PUBLIC HEARING ON LL # 5-2019 &  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
OF  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2019**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held a Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No 5-2019- Town of Westerlo Code Enforcement Program and the Regular Town Board meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019 at the Richard Rapp Municipal Building (Town Hall) located at 933 County Route 401, Westerlo, NY. Acting Supervisor William Bichteman, Jr. opened the meeting at 7 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Also attending were: Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman John Sefcik and member James Gallogly, Town Historian Dennis Fancher, Planning Board Chairperson Dorothy Verch, Westerlo Vol. Fire Co. President & Comp Plan member Kelley Keefe, Town Justice's Robert Carl & Kenny Mackey, Interim Town Attorney Javid Afzali, Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) Jeffry Pine, Deputy Town Clerk II Karla Weaver and approximately eleven (11) residents.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 5-2019, CODE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Councilman Filkins, all in favor motion carried.

Acting Supervisor Bichteman mentioned that Interim Attorney Javid Afzali has taken the Building Code document that he, Councilman Boone and Councilwoman Burnside provided him and integrated the current Zoning Law to include it.

A resident objected to the law on principal due to discrimination and equal protection under the law. It was her understanding that due to a complaint the Town is being singled out. She believed that the state is in violation of equal protection under the law unless every town in the state is subject to these conditions. Mr. Bichteman explained that the current Zoning Law has a gap in it and the CEO does not have the authority to enforce the law because the state code hasn't been adopted by the Town yet. Mr. Afzali gave some insight on towns who have refused to comply He indicated that the best scenario is if the town does it voluntarily, worst case scenario, the Town refuses and can get hit with a lawsuit and then have to settle and pay a fine. The Town Attorney indicated the state has never been challenged for violating equal protection and he wondered if Westerlo wanted to be the first town to pursue this.

Mr. Bichteman indicated that the state has left it in the hands of the town to meet the requirements of the law however, they will monitor the town's progress. Discussion ensued regarding fees and the fee schedule and additional costs to the town. Mr. Pine indicated the code is only for commercial properties not residential or agricultural.

The Town Board agreed that the Public Hearing will remain open for further discussion at the Town Board meeting on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Councilman Filkins made a motion to open the regular Town Board meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Boone, all in favor motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Councilman Boone made a motion to approve the Public Hearing & Town Board meeting minutes of 11/19/19, Emergency Town Board meeting of 11/25/19 and Workshop meeting minutes of 12/3/19. Seconded by Councilwoman Burnside, Councilman Filkins abstained from the 11/19/19 minutes as he was absent, motion carried.

### **SUPERVISOR & TOWN CLERK MONTHLY REPORTS**

Councilman Sherman made a motion to accept the Supervisor and Town Clerk reports for November 2019. Seconded by Councilman Boone, all in favor motion carried.

### **PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS**

Councilman Boone 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 # 632 through Voucher # 686 in the amount of \$129075.33.

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

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

NAYES: None

**RESOLUTION # 89 -2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **APPROVAL OF PROPOSED LOCAL LAW # 4-2019**

Mr. Bichteman explained that he was under the impression that the Town Board approved proposed LL # 4-2019 upon Albany County Planning Board's approval however no vote was actually taken at the last meeting. Councilman Boone made a motion to approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Westerlo determined that the Town's local laws, rules and regulations related to Highway defect notifications do not adequately provide for the written notification of defects and obstructions on the town highways, bridges, streets, sidewalks, crosswalks and culverts within the Town of Westerlo and directed that a draft local law replacing and replacing all prior rules and regulations be prepared for the Town Board's consideration;

**WHEREAS**, the local law was developed with the assistance of the Town's consultants and was distributed to and reviewed by the Town Board members;

**WHEREAS**, the local law was referred to the Albany County Planning Board, and clerks of the towns of Berne, Greenville, and Rensselaerville, New Scotland, Coeymans and Durham

**WHEREAS**, the comments, if any, of the Albany County Planning Board were considered by the Town Board;

**WHEREAS**, a duly noticed public hearing was held on November 19, 2019 (attached is the newspaper notice of the public hearing) and any public comments were carefully considered by the Town Board members;

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board is the only involved agency for this unlisted action under NYS Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)—the adoption of a local law providing for written notification of defects and obstructions on town highways, bridges, streets, sidewalks, crosswalks and culverts;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board declares itself lead agency pursuant SEQRA for the required environmental review of this action;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board has carefully considered the Environmental Assessment Form (EAF), Parts 1 and 2 prepared to evaluate the proposed local law and hereby adopts the Full EAF attached hereto;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board hereby adopts a negative declaration incorporated therein finding that the adoption of the proposed local law will not have the potential for at least one significant adverse environmental impact and that no Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No. 4 of 2019, entitled “Notice of Highway Defects” and directs that the SEQRA documentation and the Local Law be filed as required by SEQRA and the NYS Municipal Home Rule Law.

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

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

NAYES: None

**RESOLUTION # 90 -2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

#### **REVIEW APPOINTMENT OF GARTH SLOCUM, ASSESSOR**

Mr. Bichteman advised that the initial applicant selected by the Town Board for Assessor accepted a position elsewhere after he was appointed. He indicated that it was important that an Assessor be appointed immediately due to the impending PILOT agreements and preparation of 2020 taxes. The Town Board held an emergency meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November for the purpose of appointing a new Assessor. Garth Slocum was selected and appointed as the new Assessor.

#### **TRANSFER STATION PERMIT APPLICATION**

Mr. Bichteman asked the Town Board to allow the Town Clerk’s office to handle a renewal process that works best for them. The Town Board agreed. The Board indicated that the hang tags will be permanent and color stickers will be given annually to approved applicants for use of the transfer station. Discussion ensued regarding increasing the haulers annual fee. Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS:** The Town of Westerlo now requires application permit forms for residential and commercial haulers for use of the transfer station to be handled and filed in the Town Clerk’s office, be it hereby

**RESOLVED:** The Board approve the provided residential and commercial transfer station permit application forms, be it further

**RESOLVED:** the cost of commercial hauler annual renewal permits be increased from \$50 to \$100 annually.

Seconded by Councilman Filkins, a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Councilman Boone, Councilwoman Burnside, Councilman Filkins

NAYES: Councilman Sherman

**RESOLUTION # 91-2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

#### **NYCLASS INVESTMENT ACCOUNT**

Mr. Bichteman mentioned that the investment accounts with NYCLASS have made the following interest to date:

General:	\$853.65
Highway:	\$722.11
Museum:	\$171.16
Water Dist.:	\$171.19
Total:	\$1,918.11

Mr. Bichteman indicated the current interest rate earnings are 1.5562%. Councilman Sherman mentioned this was only with a 30% investment of the Town of Westerlo funds and indicated he was in favor of investing a higher percentage of the town's money. No decision was made.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **APPOINTMENT OF COURT CLERK**

The Justices recommended the selection of Jamiee Motschman for the appointment of Court Clerk at \$18.00/hr to begin Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Filkins made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: There is a vacancy for Town of Westerlo Court Clerk due to the pending resignation of Patricia Thompson, be it hereby  
RESOLVED: The Town Board appoints Jamiee L. Motschmann at a rate of \$18.00/hr to fill the vacancy with a start date of Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.

Seconded by Councilman Sherman, a vote resulted as follows:

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

NAYES: None

**RESOLUTION # 92 -2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

### **RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE BAS-INTEGRATED PROPERT SYSTEM (IPS)**

Mr. Bichteman provided the Town Board with the proposal and cost associated for the purchase of the BAS IPS software for the CEO. The Town needs to enter into an agreement with them prior to them submitting a bill. Mr. Bichteman indicated that there are enough funds in the 2019 budget to pay for the software. Councilman Boone made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Town of Westerlo requires record keeping software for the CEO, be it hereby  
RESOLVED: The Town Board authorizes the Acting Supervisor to enter into agreement for the purchase of the BAS IPS software.

Seconded by Councilwoman Burnside, a vote resulted as follows:

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

NAYES: None

**RESOLUTION # 93 -2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

### **RESOLUTION TO AMMEND THE WATER RATE FOR LOAN REPAYMENT**

Mr. Bichteman mentioned that at the time the water rates for the loan repayment were proposed to the Town Board there were 89 users. The Water District has since lost one user. Mr. Bichteman indicated that although the property in question is still within the water district, the issue with the property is there is no one to bill. He explained County Law 453a does not allow the Town to charge or tax the property after they have gone through three (3) consecutive not payment of taxes; meaning the town can no longer levy the bond against the property. He answered questions from the public regarding the property and billing. Councilman Sherman made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Westerlo Water Dist. No. 1 users have decreased to 88 users therefore the water rate for loan repayment needs to be recalculated, be it hereby

RESOLVED: The Town Board increases the rate by \$3.19 to \$318.19 annually.

Seconded by Councilman Boone, a vote resulted as follows:

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

NAYES: None

**RESOLUTION # 94 -2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

#### **APPOINTMENTS TO THE WESTERLO WATER BOARD**

Mr. Bichteman indicated that after Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> he can no longer be the Chairman of the Water Board. He recommended the Town Board appoint James Loux as Chairman and Kelley Keefe to fill the vacancy. Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: As of January 1<sup>st</sup> due to Mr. Bichteman not being able to hold positions for both Supervisor and Water Board Chairman, there will be a vacancy on the Water Board, be it hereby

RESOLVED: The Town Board appoints James Loux as Chairman and Kelley Keefe as a member of the Town of Westerlo Water Board as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> to fill the vacancies.

Councilman Boone seconded, a vote resulted as follows:

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

NAYES: None

**RESOLUTION # 95 -2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

#### **WESTERLO A (WESTERLO NY1) PILOT & COMMUNITY HOST AGREEMENT (CHA)**

Mr. Afzali indicated that the developer from Energy Collective requested an emergency meeting of the Town Board to approve the PILOT's or have the Supervisor sign off. Mr. Afzali explained that the Supervisor did not have the authority to do so and that an emergency meeting of the board did not make sense unless they had something to agree on. Energy Collective's predicament was their financing agreements required them to start generating power upon a certain amount of time after mechanical completion. Mr. Afzali explained that although the project is mechanically complete, the PILOT agreements and CHA hasn't been finalized and executed therefore they aren't allowed to start up under their permit conditions. He indicated that he and Mr. Bichteman have worked around the situation by having an agreement in principle on all of the substantive terms of the Pilot agreements which will be presented to the Town Board for their review, amendment, modification or acceptance next month. As part of that agreement, the Supervisor has chosen to exercise his discretion to not enforce violations of the permit conditions related to operations without a PILOT agreement subject to a few conditions; getting the agreements to the Town and payment of the \$15,000 CHA. Mr. Bichteman mentioned that they have until the 12<sup>th</sup> to submit the PILOT agreement or the Town has the power to make them turn it off. They have also agreed to pay any costs involved including legal fees for Mr. Afzali.

#### **AUTHORIZATION OF TRAINING FOR DOG CONTROL STAFF**

Mr. Bichteman mentioned there is a \$50.00 a person discount if the Town pays for the training for the Dog Control Officers now for the training on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of 2020. Councilman Boone made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Westerlo Dog Control Officers must attend training on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of 2020, be it hereby

RESOLVED: The Town Board authorize the training of the Dog Control Officers for a cost of \$50.00 a person.

Seconded by Councilman Filkins, a vote resulted as follows:

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

NAYES: None

**RESOLUTION # 96 -2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

Attorney Afzali indicated he will be making some recommendations on amendments to the dog control laws for the town in the near future.

#### **AUTHORIZATION FOR TOWN CLERK AND TAX COLLECTOR TO ACCEPT CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS**

Mr. Bichteman mentioned that the Town Board needs to pass a resolution to allow the Town Clerk's office to accept credit card payments for Town Clerk and Tax Collector transactions. He also indicated the agreement was in place and the equipment was already ordered. Councilman Boone made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Town Clerk's office has requested to allow the acceptance of credit cards in the office for tax collection and most other Town Clerk transactions, be it hereby

RESOLVED: The Town Board authorizes the Town Clerk's office to accept credit card payments.

Seconded by Councilman Sherman, a vote resulted as follows:

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

NAYES: None

**RESOLUTION # 97 -2019 was thereby duly adopted.**

#### **WESTERLO RESCUE SQUAD**

Debbie Mackey from the Westerlo Rescue squad mentioned that earlier in the year the Rescue Squad held a "Stop the Bleed" class and hope to hold more in the future. She informed the Town Board that with the impending closure of the Westerlo Rescue Squad, they have decided they would like to donate a "Stop the Bleed" kit to the Town for use at either the Town Hall or Highway Garage and will be purchasing a second at a later time for the Town to have at each location.

#### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

##### **GRANT WRITER REPORT**

Dr. Nicole Ambrosio was not in attendance but submitted the following report read by Mr. Bichteman:  
*Nicole Ambrosio Grant Writer Notes for December 2019*

- 1. We received the \$5,000 Grant for the Comprehensive Plan! We were invited to a panel discussion for the grant, but it was cancelled due to weather.*
- 2. The grant for waste management and recycling 2019 was submitted on time, and now we wait.*
- 3. There is another grant on Waste Management and recycling 2017 that is continually ongoing and could result in half of the amount of the new roll-off truck being returned to the town. Within that grant, the Town needs to present a three year plan. I am trying to get ideas from past awards to help us plan for our Town. This grant is partially completed as of today.*

4. I am also working on the Agricultural and Farmland protection grant. The person at the State has sent me names of experts that will give their time as in-kind contributions to help with this plan. This grant will work well with our efforts in the Comprehensive Plan. This is a work in progress..

See you Tuesday evening!  
Nicole Ambrosio

Mr. Bichteman indicated that the Hudson Valley Greenway Grant was a matching funds grant and can be used for anything.

#### **PLANNING BOARD REPORT**

Planning Board Chairperson Verch submitted and read the following report:

*PLANNING BOARD REPORT  
TO THE  
TOWN BOARD  
DECEMBER 17, 2019*

*The Planning Board met on 11/26/19 at 7 PM.  
All board members present.*

*Opened Public hearing for application 19-003, Thompson Diner – owner Ralph Thompson Jr. Mr. Thompson has applied for a special use permit to open a restaurant with a total of 3 new retail spaces. ACPB had no issues with the application. Main concern was access and egress past the gas island with pumps on both sides.*

*After much discussion, it was mutually agreed by the applicant and the Planning Board to inactivate the pump on the west side ( post office side) and leave the east side ( closer to the building) active thereby allowing access and egress.*

*Mr. Thompson agreed to signage stating the one pump (east) would be the only active pump and the west side would be for passage to the parking area and egress. It was agreed that this would be revisited at the May 2020 Planning Board meeting.  
Negative Dec SEQRA (short form). Application was approved unanimously by the Board.*

#### *Old Business-*

*Costanza Solar surfaced with new site plan, updated SWPP (provided to TDE for cost estimate) and updated civil set dated 10/30/19. This will be addressed at the January 2020 meeting.*

#### *New business-*

*New application for a special use permit for residential solar on Strawberry Lane exceeding 400SF being referred to ZBA for variance. Expect to entertain the application in January.*

*Resident and abutter to Medusa Solar voiced concerns regarding the contractors working on the Medusa Solar. Took his information and reached out to Joe Shanahan for solutions. Anticipated a stop work order unless it was addressed and cleared immediately.*

*Introduced AT&T co-location on Goodfellow tower. Rich Kurlyo made a motion to allow the pass through to activate the escrow option thereby allowing the CEO and TDE to evaluate the plans, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doyle Shaver. Approved by Gerry Boone, Doyle Shaver, Rich Kurlyo, Dotty Verch, Ned Stevens opposed. The December meeting was cancelled due to lack of attendance by members- personal conflicts. Next meeting will be January 26<sup>th</sup> 2020.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Dotty Verch  
Chair Planning Board.*

Discussion ensued between Mrs. Verch and a resident regarding a fence at Thomspson's diner and through traffic.

#### **BROADBAND RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT**

Broadband Research Committee Chairperson Verch submitted and read the following report:

*BRC REPORT  
TO THE  
TOWN BOARD  
12/17/19*

*The BRC met on 11/21/19 , members in attendance were JohnSefcik, Bob Wilcox, Eric Markson and Dotty Verch. Leonard Laub and Jen Bungay were absent.  
It was decided that there would be no December meeting and the BRC will resume meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in January.*

*Discussed cellular service in the area-AT&T addition to So.Westerlo Firehouse tower.  
Upgrade of Verizon to Barnside (pending), upgrade to Godfellow. These upgrades and their impact on other services – T-Mobile, Consumer Cellular, GSM Network.  
Resident asked about advances by Mid-hudson. MHC will not be able to address the line extensions submitted in September until Phase 3 has been completed by the end of 2019.  
Bob Wilcox suggested creating a form to leave at the library looking for residents to complete and return to the library as a means of identifying those that are still without some reliable broadband service.  
A design for the form once created, will email to all members for their approval. Bob will place in library.  
16 line extension forms for Mid-Tel have been received. They have been sent to Mr.Baker.  
Some residents in HughesNet territory, will attempt to reach out to HugheNetNYSB.com for contact information and possible assistance for the residents..*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Dotty Verch -Chair BRC*

#### **ZONING BOARD REPORT**

Zoning Board Chairman Sefcik submitted and read the following report:

*Town Board ZBA Report (12/17/19) .... on the 11/25/19 ZBA Mtg*

*At our ZBA meeting in November, we had no old business. We accepted one new application for a residential solar array requesting set-back relief of 40 feet from the required 50 feet. If the variance is*

*approved, it will then go to the Planning Board for a special use permit because the array is approximately 1500 square feet.*

*The public hearing for this application will be at our next ZBA meeting which is scheduled for Dec 23 at 7 PM.*

*Submitted by  
John Sefcik, ZBA Chairman*

#### **HOMETOWN HEROES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Hometown Heroes Chairperson Burnside submitted and read the following report:  
*Good evening,*

*This will serve as the Westerlo Home Town hero report for 2019. First and foremost I would like to thank all who were and continue to be involved in this program that is close to my heart.*

*The summary of this years program is this:*

*Total number of banners displayed was 61 with 45 being new.*

*24 Families sponsored banners*

*21 businesses sponsored banners*

*There are 99 poles identified for use*

*214 people attended the closing ceremony on Nov 2, 2019 MANY MANY MANY volunteers (thank you)*

*24 Misc. doners for the ceremony.*

*Banners for 2020 will be increased to 175.00 due to the additional costs for the pole hardware, shipping costs and the costs of the vinyl the banners Are made of. Applications can be found on our face book page or contacting a committee member. As well as after the first of the year at the library and the town hall.*

*In addition to the banners this up coming year we will be selling raffle tickets to raise money for the Vietnam traveling wall. The items being raffled are signed hockey pucs(2) from para Olympic champion Luke Mcdermott as well as a pair of his boots that were given at the us olympics along with his participation metal. Our committee is working hard and we are always looking for some others to join so please let me know if you are able to volunteer.*

*Lastly our December meeting will be cancelled and will will be picking up strong in January.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Westerlo HHC.*

#### **MUSEUM REPORT**

Museum Director Mary-Jane Araldi was not in attendance but submitted the following report which Councilman Boone read:

*Westerlo Heritage Museum  
Report to Town Board  
December 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.*

*Wreaths Across America at the Westerlo Rural Cemetery on December 14<sup>th</sup> . was a success. There were between 25-30 community members in spite of the deep snow plus Patriot Riders, American Legion members and the Boy Scouts. WE even had a mother and daughter from Greeneville that usually go up to Saratoga and saw we were having it here; so they cam here instead. A special thanks to the highway department, the fire police and the cemetery association.*

*The museum will not be open during the winter this year as so few visitors come in even when we are open during the firemen's breakfast.*

#### **HISTORIAN REPORT**

Town Historian Dennis Fancher submitted and read the following report:

##### *HISTORIANS REPORT*

*TOWN BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 18, 2019*

*ABOUT 3 YEARS AGO, I RECEIVED A CALL FROM A GENTLEMAN FROM CLIFTON PARK. HE SAID HE HAD SOMETHING MADE IN WESTERLO AND HE WANTED TO KNOW IF I HAD AN INTEREST. OF COURSE, I SAID YES. HE EXPLAINED IT WAS A 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY SAMPLER. IF YOU ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH SAMPLERS, THEY ARE A VARIETY OF EMBROIDERED DESIGNS OF ANIMALS, PEOPLE, PASSAGES AND THE ALPHABET. YOUNG GIRLS AGES 8 OR 9 WERE REQUIRED TO SHOW THEIR ARTISTIC SKILLS AT NEEDLEWORK. AT THAT TIME HE SAID HIS FATHER HAD ANOTHER IN MUCH BETTER CONDITION, BUT HE WAS NOT READY TO DONATE IT.*

*A FEW DAYS AGO, I RECEIVED A CALL AND THE FAMILY WANTED TO DONATE THE SECOND SAMPLER. WE MADE ARRANGEMENTS AND SUE AND I WENT TO THEIR HOME IN VOORHEESVILLE TO PICK THE SAMPLER UP. WE HAD A WONDERFUL VISIT WITH BILL AND HIS WIFE GLORIA WHO ARE BOTH IN THEIR 90'S*

*THE SAMPLER WAS MADE BY PHOEBE C. BABCOCK WHEN SHE WAS ALMOST 9 YEARS OLD IN 1827. SOME OF THE LETTERS HAVE FADED BECAUSE THEY WERE COLORED PINK AS IN THOSE DAYS, THEY DID NOT HAVE PERMANENT DYES.*

*THE BABCOCK FAMILY, OF SAXON ORIGIN, LIVING IN COUNTY ESSEX ENGLAND DURING THE NORMAN CONQUEST, FIRST MOVED TO COEYMANS IN THE LATE 1780'S FROM RHODE ISLAND. IN 1815 WHEN WESTERLO WAS FORMED THE BABCOCK RESIDENCE CHANGED FROM COEYMANS TO WESTERLO.*

*PHOEBE WAS BORN NOVEMBER 7, 1818. THE THIRD OF 9 CHILDREN. SHE MARRIED HENRY LA PAUGH MAY 22, 1842 AND THEY HAD 5 CHILDREN. HE DIED FEBRUARY 16, 1849. SHE THEN MARRIED ANDREW HANNAY JUNE 11, 1877. PHOEBE DIED IN WESTERLO, JANUARY 11, 1892. SHE IS BURIED IN WESTERLO RURAL CEMETERY. ANDREW DIED JANUARY 3, 1901. EVENTUALLY THIS SAMPLER WILL GO TO THE MUSEUM AS DID THE 1ST SAMPLER. TEMPORARILY I WILL DISPLAY THIS IN THE HALL FOR ALL TO SEE.*

#### **APPROVAL OF REPORTS**

Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to accept the Zoning Board, Planning Board, BRC, Hometown Heroes Committee, Grant Writer, Historian and Museum reports as submitted. Seconded by Councilman Filkins, all in favor motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

A resident commented that the flag outside the Town Hall was not lit. Mr. Bichteman mentioned that in the spring, the Highway Department was going to address the situation. Mrs. Filkins indicated she and Councilman Filkins were going to get a solar light temporarily.

Another resident asked if there would be an information sign outside the Town Hall. Mr. Bichteman responded that it has been discussed in the past and that there is currently a sign board outside the Town Clerk's office. Pros and cons, cost and the zoning law were discussed.

Mrs. Filkins mentioned that the "Wreaths Across America" at the Westerlo Rural Cemetery was wonderful however she had an issue with whoever plowed their driveway. She has requested that the Town no longer plow the cemetery. Mr. Bichteman did not believe the Town did it.

Councilwoman Burnside thanked Councilman Sherman for all of his years of service. The room applauded.

Councilman Boone mentioned that the Rupeka's and Highway employees did a wonderful job on the highway garage building.

Councilman Sherman mentioned it has been an honor and a privilege to serve everyone and work with the Town Board. With there being no further business to discuss, Councilman Sherman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Boone, all in favor motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Weaver

Deputy Town Clerk