

Regular Town Board Meeting

May 12, 2011

Present: Supervisor Urban Hirschey, Councilman Mickey Orvis, Councilman Marty Mason, Councilman Brooks Bragdon, Councilman Don Mason, Highway Superintendent Dan Hubbard, Dave Croft, Keith Brass, Michael Docteur, Matt Cooper and approximately 35 residents.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Privilege of the floor.

Colleen Knuth - Colleen thanked the Board for the open house. She spoke about the web page, and thought it was not as attractive as other town web sites she visited. Unapproved minutes need to be removed.

Darrell Burton - Darrell said he felt the Zogby survey questions were confusing. He said the interviewer was easy to talk with. He had a problem with the questions and wonders what good the survey will serve.

Gary King - Gary spoke about the hijacking of the C. V. Republican Committee and about a Draft Statement. He spoke about the Supervisors open meeting platform and told Councilman Marty Mason that he had his support for reelection.

Dave Docteur - Dave spoke about a book that Nina Pierpont wrote, he asked the Board to read it. He gave the Board members copies of the "Executive Summary" and entered a copy into the records.

John Byrne - John spoke about initiating Town Wide Police coverage. Using the Village Police to cover the township with an "on call" coverage plan.

Donna Essegian - Donna spoke to the Board about the ongoing issues regarding the Code of Conduct and the Code of Ethics. She asked the Board to follow these laws. Asked that the Town see that the members of each Board get the required training needed. Thanked the Board for hiring Steve Weed and she said she was happy with the survey.

Paul Mason - Paul said that the WPEG group is using the blog to attack a Town Judge. Asked why the Zogby survey was not voted on by the Board members. He said the Supervisor is not running a transparent government.

Rick Wiley - Rick reported that his blog does not carry anything regarding the Judge.

The minutes of the April 14, 2011 minutes were accepted by Marty Mason, seconded by Mickey Orvis.

Financial Report

Brooks reported that the town has received the sales tax payment and he reviewed the different accounts the Town has. He said he has been in contact with the Comptrollers office and the annual year end report is complete. He reported that he and Urban had attended a course on budgeting and financial planning.

County Legislator

Michael Docteur reported on the County's snow & ice contracts. He told the Board that Ft. Drum soldiers returning home need places to live and this could bring families to our community. He said the Town would be eligible for grants for housing and the County has been meeting with housing developers already. He said the military will downsize and some smaller bases will close. Urban told Mike that he has met with Guy Javerone and he feels that we could have some trouble locating some families here because of the distance to Ft. Drum from here.

Matt Cooper from the Bernier and Carr Group spoke about the water district #6 project. He said that it is above the funding line and they completed the hardship determination package to determine the hardship eligibility. An income survey needs to be done because the senses data is too old to use. He would like the Board's approval to get the income survey started. They have received quotes from two non profit groups to conduct the survey. He has talked with the Tibbets Point Water Committee about the income survey. Marty asked if he would like to hold a meeting to explain the importance of the survey and review the questions. Marty feels this would help. Butch Cullen, Tibbets Point Water Committee member, reported that they have mailed a letter out to the residents. Mickey Orvis asked if there was a time line and Matt said there was not. Urban asked if there would be any additional funding from the Government. Matt said that it would be the same allocations as 2 years ago. It was decided that the Town would mail the survey.

Planning Board

Brooks reviewed the issues discussed at the planning board meeting. He reviewed a letter to Mr. Edsall from St. Lawrence Wind. He talked about the different issues brought forward during privilege of the floor. He said that Mr. Macsherry reviewed the guidelines for acceptance of site plan review.

Water Districts

Dave reported that the water has been turned on for just about every resident. They have done 7 curb stop digs and one install for a new home. He reported there have been a few leaks and a couple of hydrants froze. The Annual Quality Reports (AQR) will be going out.

Recreation Park

Dave reported that new hoops and backboards are up and the ballfields are ready. There will be a Pee Wee tournament at Recreation Park to kick off the season. Dave said that he will be taking down the skate shack and the new building will be moved on to its spot.

Highway

Dan reported that he has received the mining permit and it expires in 5 years. They should start crushing next week. The highway crew will be taking a safety class in June. They will start the County Rte 6 project soon. This will go from Martins Marina to Bedford Corners Road. Dan reported that they used 50 ton less in salt this year. The highway crew have cleaned the well at the Hostel and washed decks on a couple of bridges. Dan told the Board that he has the old gradall in an auction and has received a bid for \$3,500.00. He told the Board he felt this was too low and recommended placing it in the County auction. The Board agreed and told Dan to place it in the County auction.

Supervisor's Report

Urban reported that he spoke with the AG's office and they advised him to be patient. He also addressed the concerns regarding the lights on the water tower and at the clinic. He said they are regulation lights and can't be dimmed or shut off. Urban reported that the Code of Ethics is being addressed in the article 78.

Opinion Survey

Urban read a copy of a letter that he emailed to the Board members regarding the survey and its questions. Don Mason said that he never received the survey email and he feels that the money spent on the survey is a waste. Mickey said that he was disappointed there was not another work session before the survey went out.

Urban thanked everyone for attending the open house. He felt it was a success.

Urban reported that the AUD is done and that he found the Comptrollers office to be very helpful. He reported on the seminar that he and Brooks attended regarding budgets and said the topic of procurement tips, ethics, grants and shared services were discussed.

Brooks encouraged everyone to vote on the school budget and board members and asked the people in attendance to pass the word to their neighbors to get out and vote. He also said that he feels the townwide police protection would be a valuable service.

Resolutions

Resolution #25

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Cape Vincent has previously formed a Wind Power Economic Impact Committee, and

WHEREAS, such Committee has determined that it would be beneficial to study the impact of commercial wind towers on real property values, and

WHEREAS, the Committee has received a proposal from McCann Appraisal, LLC from Chicago Illinois (the "Firm") to study such impacts, and

WHEREAS, the Committee has also received offers from the community of financial support to pay for such study,

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Cape Vincent does hereby agree to assist the Committee by hiring McCann Appraisal, LLC of Chicago, Illinois to perform a study of the impact on property values of commercial wind towers in the Town of Cape Vincent at a cost not to exceed Two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) conditioned upon the cost of such study being funded by donations from private citizens, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the donations from private citizens shall be put into an earmarked account by the Town to be used solely for the purpose of paying for such study.

Motion to accept the resolution was made by Mickey Orvis, seconded by Brooks Bragdon. A roll call vote was taken: Mickey Orvis AYE; Marty Mason, abstain; Urban Hirschey, AYE; Brooks Bragdon, AYE; Don Mason, abstain. Resolution #25 passed.

There was no discussion.

Resolution #26

WHEREAS, EFC has requested that an income survey be done on Water District #6 before the Town can proceed with the funding application process, and

WHEREAS, Snowbelt Housing has provided us with a price of \$1,500.00 to complete the income survey, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor be authorized to hire and pay Snowbelt Housing to complete the income Survey for Water District #6.

A motion to accept was made by Mickey Orvis, seconded by Marty Mason. There was no discussion. All members voted, AYE.

Bills: General fund #162-#201, \$23,987.21; Highway #88-#111, \$12,798.80; Water Dist. #1 #35-#45, \$35,756.29; Water Dist. #2, #2, \$2,570.00; Water Dist. #3 #3, \$2,438.60; Water Dist. #4, \$4,353.87; Water Dist. #5 #2-#3, \$16,106.12.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn at 7:53pm was made by Mickey Orvis, seconded by Marty Mason.