

December 29, 2016

Town Board Year End Meeting

Present: Supervisor Debra Suller, Councilman Marty Mason, Councilman Ed Bender, Councilman Dan Wiley, and three visitors.

Councilman Paul Aubertine arrived at 6:25pm.

Supervisor Suller called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Privilege of the floor:

Colleen Knuth & Michelle Oswald-Colleen thanked the Board for their support given to the Christmas Committee. They presented to the Board an idea that they have for next year's Christmas season, which would be placing lights on the Lighthouse at Tibbetts Point. They told the Board that they have a donor willing to buy the lights, but want the Board's approval to do this first. They shared with the board their different ideas regarding a wagon ride to the site and stops for cocoa along the way. The town board told them they liked the idea and gave their approval to use the grounds.

Supervisor Suller spoke with the board about the Medicare Part B coverage for retirees. She said that the premiums were going up and she is recommending that the town stop providing the coverage. Councilman Wiley said that he did not have a problem with drawing the line, but felt now was not the time to do it. Supervisor Suller said that she understood his concerns and would like to discuss continuing the benefit. She said that she has researched this and can't find anywhere in past minutes as to the year it was set up.

Supervisor Suller told the board that there is an invitation to the Save the River conference on Feb. 4 if anyone was interested in attending she has the registration information.

Supervisor Suller told the board that it was brought to her attention that the person providing extra help for the transfer site will undergo major surgery and will not be able to help over the summer. The board discussed the situation and the need to hire help to be able to provide the operator the help she will need in the event that she is sick and for coverage for her vacation time. The board instructed the town clerk to advertise for the position.

Supervisor Suller also spoke to the board regarding employee contracts and time cards. She said that she had written contracts for the zoning officer, assessor and the assessor's assistant. She told the board that they have set the salaries for these people, but feels they should be paid hourly. The board discussed this agreeing it would be better to have time cards signed, and that hourly pay instead of salary would limit time taken off with pay, when sick and vacations times have been exhausted. Councilman Wiley wanted to make sure that the deputy zoning officer also signs the contract and fills out a time card.

Councilman Mason made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Tri-County energy Cooperative agreement, seconded by Councilman Wiley. Councilmen Mason, Wiley, Bender and Aubertine voted AYE. Supervisor Suller abstained from the vote stating she had signed the agreement.

Supervisor Suller talked with the board about using the Columbus Day holiday as a floating holiday. She said that she would like the board to assign the holiday. The board agreed stating that the Columbus

Holiday would be the best one to use and Councilman Aubertine said that he agreed it should be a board decision and asked if the intention is for the employees use it at their discretion. The board discussed this and it was decided that in 2017, the board would decide on the floating holiday.

Councilman Bender made a motion for the Supervisor to sign the Municipal Snow and Ice Agreement for the 2018/19 season, seconded by Councilman Mason. All members voted AYE.

The board discussed the responses they had received regarding Councilman Mason's inquires to the necessity of the town having two judges. Councilman Bender said that he had had a conversation with Judge Blodgett and he understands the process and situation a little better and Councilman Bender recommended the town stay with two judges. The board also agreed with this.

Supervisor Suller talked with the board about the ambulance. She reviewed a report from the ambulance squad and all agreed that the response rate to calls was poor. Councilman Mason asked about the status of the CON (certificate of need) and Councilman Bender said it should be done after the first of the year.

Councilman Wiley discussed the need to get residents in Cape Vincent to help out and serve on boards and help with events. He said that the town should make an appeal to get people involved. He said he thought writing letters or purchasing an advertisement might help.

The board discussed training and the hours required for the planning and zoning board members and the various opportunities to attend training classes. The board also discussed the situation where the town has paid the entire registration fee for training and a board member might only attend part of the day and then the town pays for another training session for the same member to complete the 4 hour requirement. The board has decided that the town will only pay for a training session once during the year for each member.

Councilman Wiley said that he would like the Medicare part B to be a tiered system. He said that he would be ok with setting the standard for any new hire after Jan. 1, 2017.

Councilman Bender said that he spoke with Dan Hubbard regarding proper fire detectors in the highway garage. He said that he feels this is very important to have in place to prevent devastating equipment loss. He also said that with regard to the employee handbook, he does not want to get the town into a bad situation and would like to have an employee assistance plan in place.

Resolution# 98

Resolution #98 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Bender. Resolution #98 is to correct the tax levy amount to \$232,458.00 to the 2017 Preliminary Budget. There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #99

Resolution #99 was moved by Councilman Mason, seconded by Councilman Bender. Resolution #99 is to authorize the Supervisor to transfer money from the Highway Fund Balance to the Highway Machinery Reserve Fund: DA-Highway Townwide \$77,500.00/DB-Highway Outside \$52,500.00. There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #100

Resolution #100 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. Resolution #100 is to authorize the Supervisor to record budget modifications in the Budget Journal for any overdrawn expenditure lines, with unspent expenditure lines bringing any overdrawn lines to zero. There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Bills: General Fund, \$6854.23; WD#1, 2079.69; SD#3, 32.00; WD#4, \$91.95; WD#5, \$18.00; Highway \$4900.39. Councilman Aubertine made a motion to approve the payment of the vouchers, seconded by Councilman Mason. All members voted AYE.

Supervisor Suller made the motion to adjourn at 7:18pm, seconded by Councilman Mason.

Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk