

Town of Nelson
Town Board Meeting
May 14, 2009

Present: Richard Williams, Supervisor
Denise Earl, Councilman
Rob Davies, Councilman
Michael Costello, Councilman
Jack Sevier, Highway Superintendent
Sue Henderson, Town Clerk
Absent: Dean Coe, Councilman

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Williams at 7:00 pm.

The pledge of allegiance was recited and roll call was taken. Denise made a motion to accept the March minutes and Mike seconded. All voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

The next Land Use Regulation Committee will be meeting on May 28, 2009 at 7:00 and will be a public information meeting for all agricultural land owners. 49 letters went out to the agricultural land owners and we hope to have at least some of them come to the meeting. The town clean-up day was a success and thanks went out to all who helped out.

Dick gave the Supervisor's report and Sue gave the Town Clerk's report and Zoning Officer's report. The Madison County Supervisor's meeting entailed talking about the emergency communication system which will cost around \$20 million and will be bonded.

Sue presented the proposal from Usherwood for the new copier. Mike suggested that we check on the warranty first for clarification. Dick made a motion to go ahead and purchase this copier and Mike seconded. All voted in favor and the motion was carried.

Sue presented to the board the fact that we are the lowest in the local area as far as the local fee we charge for dog licenses and suggested that we raise our local fee. We are not making very much money on these licenses considering that we pay \$1.00 for every dog licensed to Wanderer's Rest. Sue said that she was working with Ag and Markets to get the population list to agree with each other. It was suggested that we wait until this is completed to increase the fee. Sue will check with other town clerks to see what they do and also come up with a job description for the Dog Control Officer.

Jack gave the report for the Highway Department and said that the Chaphee Hill Rd. project is scheduled for later in the summer. He said that the bid proposal documents for the used mower from Madison County were never sent to him or Dick so they lost out on bidding on it. Dick said that it went for more than they would have bid anyway so it really doesn't matter now. The new backhoe is here and other than some minor warranty problems, it is fine and everyone likes it. They will continue to use the existing mower and hope it holds out. There was some discussion about hiring the Cazenovia Highway department to do mowing if need be with their new mower as Tracy would probably be too expensive.

Jack said the CHIPS money is \$101,000 which is the same as last year. He also said that they will be sealing 3 miles of road this week.

Correspondence

Dick received a letter from NYMIR regarding a disaster plan that we should come up with.

There was a letter from CACDA requesting a standard endorsement letter from us.

Rob reported that there is nothing to report from the sewer district and everyone appears to be happy.

Old Business

Barbara Henderson reported that we will basically be getting the Farmland Protection grant once we jump through all the hoops they are asking for. The CACDA/Town of Cazenovia & Nelson submitted revised application with more detailed scope of work to the NYS Ag & Markets Department. Fay Lyon reported that the landowners are showing interest in pursuing the Purchase Development Rights Program and a letter of support for the landowners would be nice from the town. Barbara will send a sample resolution to Dick.

Dick Benner reported on the 5K run and said all is progressing nicely. The USA Track and Field Association has sanctioned and insured them. The letters have gone out to the neighbors and sponsors and everyone seems to be fine with this project. He is getting the forms ready to get the Sheriff's okay.

New Business

Erieville Water District – Dick met with Terry Duell of the Environmental Facilities Corp. out of Cortland. Dick doesn't feel that they have any money to give to anyone. Mr. Duell said we didn't get the drawings to them in time to be on the list for this year. This was because the State DOH and the County DOH didn't get together to agree in time so all was lost. But he felt that our score and everything else the way it is for a small project that we should be fairly certain that we would be eligible for the new list this coming October. We would be getting \$125,000 through this grant so we would have to finance \$225,000. He will write to them and indicate that we will be getting a short term bond anticipation note for the \$225,000 with the hope that we will get long term, low interest money from the Environmental Facilities Corp. after October.

The water supply well for Tuscarora Park is waiting comments from the Madison County Health Department regarding the sketch plan. We will be submitting the layout to them. There was an email from Cindy Phaff about the mowing of the infields on the softball fields and Dick gave her the number for John Perkins who will be doing the mowing. He also reminded her that they should take their garbage out as we have no means of removing it.

Denise reported on the Madison County Fair and showed a photo of the quilt that will be on display at the fair. She said they also have Nelson Swamp flowers and ????(lines) of the town (Denise????) She also said they are working on getting posters done by some of the town residents and will probably have 4 or 5 posters on display. She said there are 6 towns out of 11 so far that will have a display at the fair.

Denise also reported on the Town Survey follow up and said that we ought to respond to the comments in some way. There is some of it in the minutes. She said one of the things that is a big problem in the town is communication. People don't read anything or talk to each other at all. Then they complain that when something happens they don't know about it. Denise will write something up to be approved by all board members and then post it on the website.

Our town assessor has asked for a new laptop, the cost of which will be split among the towns she services. Our share is \$300. After much discussion about her buying her own equipment, it was determined that Dick will find out what the other towns have to say about it and table the vote for this month.

Miriam Barrows asked about the letters for the town barn. Jack said they need scaffold as the ladders aren't enough to do it. He has asked Peter Baker to come over with the scaffold. She also asked about the banners. Denise said she didn't think the county was the way to go for that, that it is not really their job. It was decided to talk to Rick Gaut to see if he would put them up. Miriam will check with Mike Furness at National Grid to get the okay to put them on the other side of the pole and lower them a little bit.

Miriam also expressed her concerns about Lori Smith's house. She feels that someone is going to get hurt over there as she is taking it down by herself. Sue is to follow up with Roger and have him go over to inspect the situation.

There was a motion to adjourn made by Rob and seconded by Denise. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Henderson, Secretary