

TOWN OF NELSON
TOWN BOARD MEETING
MARCH 13, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Richard Williams at 7:05. After the pledge to the flag roll call was taken. Members attending were Dean Coe, Mike Costello, Denise Earl, and Rob Davies. Also present was Highway Superintendant Jack Sevier and Sue Henderson, Town Clerk.

Mike made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting as written and Denise seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the minutes were approved as presented.

Steve McCarthy was present to give a presentation for the town insurance contracts. He went through the whole package and made comments on different items. He said he would be taking out the voting machines. Mike made a motion to accept the proposal and Dean seconded. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Dick read the Supervisor's report and gave a recap of the Madison County Board meeting. He said they are looking at the impact of the land going into trust. Russ Laura is resigning. He is the Assistant to the Chairman of the Board.

Sue gave the Town Clerk's report. February was a very slow month.

Code Enforcement Report: Things were very slow there as well. Building has been very little.

There haven't been any Zoning Board meetings this year.

Denise gave a recap of the Planning Board meeting by saying that Randy Reynolds withdrew his application and has moved elsewhere and Tronser is expanding.

Jack gave the highway report. Dick asked if there was anything further on the shared services agreement with the Town of Fenner and Jack said they haven't finalized it yet. He said there were 31 plow trips and they are still sanding. As far as the budget, they are still working on this year's budget but the salt is very expensive. They are trying to keep it to a minimum. He said that Madison County has been out to look at the problem on Sanderson Road and they are working on it. They've done some survey work and are working on a solution. Jack reported that there was a breakdown on a truck that will be expensive to repair.

Correspondence:

Dick received a letter about the new area codes. They say we may run out of numbers so they may add another area code.

Letter from Cazenovia Fire Department announcing their Easter Ball which is scheduled for Saturday April 26 at 8:00.

Letter from NYMIR wanting us to respond back to the Loss Control recommendations. Dick said he thought the recommendation was only fire protection system. Dick said he would

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call the man and ask what the outstanding recommendations are. Jack said he thought everything was taken care of.

Dick said that a year or two ago we tried to apply for a grant to install sidewalks in Erieville and this is open again. Application submission deadline is June 27 and Dick thinks we may have a better chance now that the Comprehensive Plan is done.

Note back from Senator Valesky asking us to complete the information to get some funding for the Erieville Water Project and Dick will work on that.

Residential assessment ratio is not exactly the same as our reevaluation number but it's gone to 83.55. Under new cap we will be doing more reevaluations.

Cazenovia Town Public Hearing notice stating they are extending the moratorium on Route 20.

Madison County AG PLUS magazine. It was determined that Sue would receive them and pass them out to the members.

NYS Commission on tax relief. Seminars are coming up – Syracuse April 10th.

Old Business

Dick asked if there was any discussion on old business. Denise addressed the issue of direct deposit and said where she used to work they would only do direct deposit to one bank and many people didn't like that. Dick said he was going to try to use the existing PC that we have for the assessor that she doesn't use and see how it works for the bookkeeper to do the direct deposits.

Dick said Brenda Kane still owes us report of the audit that she did.

New Business

Erieville Water District

Dick said that they had their Erieville Water District meeting before this meeting and looked at the completed drawings and bid packages. They are under review by the Madison County Department of Health and we are actively going to try to get assistance from the US Department of Agriculture for some funding. The hope is to have the drawings back by April and advertize in April, receive bids in May and possibly award in June.

Farmland Protection Grant

Dick gave a recap – John Dunkle, himself and Barbara Henderson met with several members of the Cazenovia board and talked about the process of going forward with the grant and the benefits with going ahead jointly or not. The consensus was that the application would be more favorable if we did do it in a joint way. They felt that they could still collaborate on the Ag Protection component of it because they both have a desire to develop land use regulations that would help us preserve ag lands through the regulatory process. They are hopeful that they can get an expert through this grant to provide the ability to write that component of the land use regulations. Dick said that everyone had the regulation to do this jointly and have Cazenovia act as the lead agency, because they have more of a full time staff. John Dunkle added that doing it this way would assure that we can still remain independent of them as the need be. Dean asked if the monies received would be split 50/50. Dick said that we are reimbursed for what we spend. For example, if we spent 50%, we would be reimbursed 50%. Dean asked about the matching

of funds. Did we have to put up front money first in order to get reimbursed? Dean asked about getting reimbursed again, and John Dunkle said that each town can get reimbursed up to \$25,000. Each town would have to document what they spent in order to be reimbursed. Dick asked for a motion to introduce the resolution to combine with Cazenovia and Denise seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.

Farmland Protection Grant Program

Barb, Fay and John attended and John gave a recap. He said that we have a very competitive group of farms along Judd Road. He said there are three things they look at 1) the value of the ag land, how good is the soil and how active are the farms and are we preserving a viable operation; 2) is there a lot of development pressure around the lands, and he feels there is and 3) that they are adjacent to the Nelson Swamp so we're preserving a buffer zone. He feels that if there is interest among those landowners that an application might be very competitive. He said in order for this to move forward the local municipality has to be the applicant. It either has to be the County or the local town and Madison County has already said they do not want to do it. Therefore, the Town of Nelson would be the lead applicant. He said we also need to get the landowners firmly behind us as well. He said it does involve some money, 25% of the value of the land is not reimbursed. There are expenses, up to \$20,000 for the actual application. So we have to go through with the process first and then invite landowners to submit proposals for their particular parcels. Dick gave an example: Farmer could sell an acre for development purposes for \$5,000 and then it was determined that the ag value was \$1,000. The farmer would not receive the \$4,000 but would receive 75% of the \$4,000.

Fay talked about his interest as well as Werbela and Westfall and perhaps Carl Stearns. Dick said we should ask people to come to a meeting and discuss it.

Craig Omans asked where the funding for this is coming from as appraisals and such are expensive. Dick explained that that is why the landowners need to be behind us as well. Barbara Henderson said it would be part of the budget.

Mike asked what expense it would be to the town. Barbara said as much or as little as we want it to be. She said the Town of Cazenovia said they would go along with it but wouldn't put a penny into it.

Dick asked if everyone was going along with this proposal. He said we should go forward with it. He suggested a small meeting with the landowners as a starting point and see if this whole thing is feasible. Dick said he would set it up. He said a tentative date is March 28th with an alternate of April 4, 2008.

Dick thanked everyone for their work on this.

Women's Softball League

Dick said we have always allowed them to use the field and asked for a motion to accept. Motion was made by Mike contingent on them providing us with an insurance certificate and Dick seconded. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Water Supply at Erieville Park

Dick asked Dean if he would talk to well drillers to see what we need to do to put a bid spec together as we'll have to bid it.

Website

Jeff Palmer talked with Keith Stocker after receiving an email from him on the website about having a directory on our website. He also asked if we wanted to create a blog or chat room on the website. Denise said that Edmeston had a chat room but no one used it. She thought it would be better to have a bulleting board type thing instead where people could post questions and then look for answers.

Town Clerk's Office Renovations

Sue gave a report of proposals that she has come up with. The carpet tiles are half again as regular carpet so we will go with the regular carpet. It was decided to wait to see what Fay Lyon and Roger Cook need and order everything at one time.

Town Satisfaction Survey

Dick asked about the feasibility of doing a Town Satisfaction Survey. Denise said that we are now trying to work up these things on the website, such as everyone's duties etc. Denise will rough something up.

Local Law to establish an escrow account for engineering costs

Dick said this would be a way to collect a deposit from applicants for unique site plans and used the Verizon application as an example. We needed to hire a special expert to study the visual impact of the tower they put up. They ultimately paid us for that but if things had gone badly, they could have just

walked away without paying. One problem is how to establish a schedule of fees and who should it apply to. There was discussion about having the ones pay that we know we will need special services. It was decided to table it for tonight so everyone has a chance to read it. Mike asked if Roger Cook would be involved and it was decided that he is already on the payroll but may need some structural assistance at some time.

Dick asked for a motion to adjourn and Mike made the motion. Dick seconded. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Henderson, Town Clerk