

February 11, 2015

Work Session

6:30 PM

Supervisor Grant along with Council Members Frounick, Hoy and Mohun audited the Highway, General Fund, Special Districts, Harris Corners and Varysburg Fire Contract vouchers. Art Buckley , County Planning Board Chairman discussed Sludge and County Wide Garbage/Tranfer Station issues with Board Members. Council Member Mohun reported that she received notice from National Fuel Gas that they sent out letters to residents on Graff Road, would cost them \$5300 initially and \$86/month to get natural gas service on Graff Road. There are 21 applicants.

February 11, 2015

Regular Meeting

7:30 PM

Supervisor Grant called the meeting to order and asked Councilman Frounick to lead the pledge to the flag. Present were Council Members Frounick, Hoy and Mohun, also Zoning Officer Sedlock.

Supervisor Grant opened the Public Hearing to consider a Special Use Permit application submitted by Evan Gerhardt. Mr. Gerhardt wants to store equipment on his property on Bullis Road, to be used by other farmers for drying hops.

2015 Contracts from Wiliamson Law Book

Supervisor Grant asked for approval of the following contracts:

Town Clerk Plus \$544.50; Water & Sewer \$907.50; Municipal Accounting \$847 for 2015. Motion made by Frounick/Hoy to approve the contracts for 2015, voting all ayes carried.

Financial Matters:

General Fund claims #19-52 totaling \$50,825.14 presented. Motion made by Mohun/Hoy to approve the General Fund claims presented. Voting all ayes, carried.

Highway claims #1 - 22 in the amount of \$64,018.89 presented. Motion made by Frounick/Mohun to approve the Highway Fund claim. Voting all ayes, carried.

Special District Claims: Cowlesville Water District claims #4-13 totaling \$11,843.88 and **Cowlesville Street Lighting** claim #2 in the amount of \$465.54 presented. Motion made by Hoy/Mohun to approve the Special District claims, voting all ayes, carried

Varysburg Fire District Claim -Contract for 2015 (\$8891.34): Harris Corners Fire Contract Claim for 2015 (\$28,645.04) presented. Motion made by Frounick/Mohun to approve the Fire Contracts vouchers for 2015, voting all ayes carried.

Supervisor's Financial Reports – December 2014 and January 2015– Supervisor Grant reviewed the reports. Motion made by Mohun/Frounick to accept the Supervisor's reports as submitted. Voting all ayes, carried. Supervisor Grant reported that the town has been paid in full of the tax dollars for the 2015 budget.

Correspondence:

2014 County Sales Tax Report
NYS Dept. of Public Services – energy modernization initiative- public hearing notice; modification of elected safety standards.
Certificates of Liability Insurance naming the Town of Bennington as additional insured received from: Time Warner Cable; The Country Plumber.
Bennington Court Report – January 2015
Tompkins Ins. –Endorsement deleting Mack truck and credit invoice.
Chatfield Engineers – Request to serve as Town Engineer.
Wyoming County Arts council – Promoting 40th Anniversary in 2015 and membership application.
Wyo. Co. Treasurer – Receipt fo dog licenses paid 4/24 & 8-12/14 reports.
National Fuel Gas – Emergency contacts.
NYSEG – Energy Efficiency programs.
Tobacco Free GLOW –information on tobacco free parks and requesting to do a presentation.

Departments:

Highway: Superintendent Czworka reported on the trucks with regard to weather conditions, reported that Attica has a wood chipper for sale \$7500 (new one is around \$30,000), Eastman does our wood chipping now. Asked about purchasing a new pick-up truck. FEMA claims extended to next week, doesn't know when the final report has to be in.

Transfer Station: Supervisor Grant has completed the 2014 Annual report which shows a loss of \$16,466.11 for 2014 (had a loss for the past 5 years). Short discussion held. Talked about going with the County Program, only has 144 users last year (permits sold) Motion made by Hoy/Mohun to raise the Punch Cards price from \$15 to \$20 dollars and the annual sticker price from \$5 to \$10 dollars. Voting all ayes, carried.

Assessor: Working on STAR exemptions.

Public Comments on Evan Gerhardt Special Permit: Supervisor Grant reviewed his application, wants to build a barn on his property for a drying facility to store equipment for drying hops. Application has been reviewed by the Town and County Planning Boards. The town has received their comments back. If approved the Town Board will only issue a one year approval to monitor the project: noise, traffic or any other items that could have an impact on the environment in the area. If no complaints received, Mr. Gerhardt will then be able to apply for 3 years renewals. Now looking for questions/comments from the neighbors to see what their concerns are and establish what conditions should be placed on the application at this time. There were 6 residents present. Mary Perl asked where the building would be located on the property. Told on the west side about 250' back from the road. Ms. Perl asked about traffic. Told not sure at this time, Mr. Gerhart's intent is to provide a drying facility for hops farmers in the area, not too many around, with hops-it's a lot of hard work, have to hand pick the product and has to be dried within short period of time after being picked, also the hops season is only about 2 months out of the year depending on the weather. There are only 2 other drying facilities in the state. Asked if

putting in a pond. There will be a small pond out front to be used for irrigation. Motion made by Hoy/Frounick to close the Public Hearing, all ayes, carried. Public Hearing closed at 8:20 PM.

Public Comments: John Perl asked if some stone could be dumped where the plow turns around at the county line.

Old Business: Special Permit Application: Evan Gerhardt, 40 Bullis Road. Supervisor Grant would like to declare the Bennington Planning Board as the Lead Agency for SEQR purposes and asked the Town Board to accept the SEQR submitted by the Planning Board. Motion made by Mohun/Hoy to accept the SEQR submitted by the Planning Board, voting all ayes, carried. Supervisor Grant asked if any further comments from Town Board Members. Hours of operation – Council Member Mohun suggested 8 AM – 5 PM Monday thru Friday. Neighbors of Mr. Gerhardt (namely Mary Perl – Pete Pomana) after a short discussion felt that due to the short season and not knowing what noise/traffic etc. this operation will create, let him operate from 6AM to 8 PM, 7 days per week this year and see what happens. After further discussion, a motion was made by Hoy/Frounick to set the hours of operation from 6 AM – 8 PM (7 days/week) and approve Mr. Gerhardt's application for one year. Voting all ayes, carried.

Sludge – Supervisor Grant has received the Power Point information and reported that Quasar is NOT allowed to spread any more sludge in the Town of Bennington.

Records Management Grant – Supervisor Grant reported that Ann McDonnell has been reviewing our records to find out how much volume material/records we have, getting everything together for the application. The deadline has been extended, no new deadline date set yet.

New Business:

Website: Supervisor Grant has received pricing from professional vendors, nothing under \$20,000/year, received info from North Shore Solutions for Municipal Website services, packages range from \$455-\$800, also has been talking with Otis Dimick, (maintains the one for the Cowlesville Fire Company), looking at something from about \$400/year with a \$100 web hosting fee, wants to have something where town employees can access and update, zoning forms, notices etc. She will continue to discuss with North Shore and Otis Dimick.

Wyoming County Water Resource Agency – WCWRA has made the membership open to public water supplies at a cost of \$150/year membership fee. In the past been with Rural Water and received no services. With WCWRA, get a reduction in per-sample cost, emergency leak detection services at no cost, assistance in developing an operation and maintenance programs are some of the advantages. Motion made by Mohun/Frounick to join WCWRA for \$150/year, a voting all ayes, carried.

Received Bennington Senior Citizen Activity Report for 2014 - Have 26 members

Council Member Mohun

Council Member Mohun reported that she and Councilman Hoy audited the Town Clerk's January report and something seems wrong with dog licenses, doesn't add up.. Asked clerk to check.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mohun to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Judith Brown,
Deputy Town Clerk