

Town of Catharine  
Town Board Meeting  
December 20, 2016

Members present: Supervisor John VanSoest; Councilmen: Glenn Bleiler, Wayne Chapman, Ronald Hoffman, C. Michael Learn; Highway Superintendent William Morgan; Zoning Officer Harold Russell; Guests: Jane Ike (Town of Hector Clerk), Jamee Mack, Chelsea Bailey, Chris Conolly, Larry Reynolds, Bruce Bruckner

Public be heard:

Jane Ike-presented a proclamation to Carmella for Town Clerk of the Year for District 6. The award was originally given at the Town Clerk's Conference in Saratoga in April, but due to time conflicts, the district clerks couldn't make a Town Board meeting until now. The Clerk's association presented Carmella with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and notebook with the recommendation letters and pictures.

Schuyler County Public Health: Chelsea Bailey came to update the town board on the end of the year programs that are finishing up. The County Health Dept. has had a busy rabies year. They had 2 cows and a horse with rabies--one of the cows was in the Town of Catharine and a horse and a cow in Town of Hector. Also 2 raccoons and a woodchuck were detected with rabies. The woodchuck actually attacked a lady doing her gardening. The dry summer could be a reason for the increase in rabies as the wild animals came closer to civilization to get water. Rabies vaccinations are not required for farm animals but are offered if the farmer wants to vaccinate. The 2017 rabies clinics are set and they are trying to get set up for 2018. Chelsea left some lyme disease and tick information for those interested. Also flu season is upon us. So far there have been no cases in Schuyler County but Chelsea wants to remind everyone to get their shots.

RESOLUTION 2016-69

RESOLVE that the minutes of the November meeting be accepted as presented to the board

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Wayne Chapman

VOTE 5 Ayes, no noes

RESOLUTION 2016-70

RESOLVE that the Clerk's report be accepted as presented to the Supervisor

RESOLUTION by C. Michael Learn, seconded by Glenn Bleiler

RESOLUTION 2016-71

RESOLVE that the Justice report be accepted as presented to the State Comptroller and Supervisor

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Glenn Bleiler

VOTE 5 ayes, no noes

Supervisors report: John went through the report and explained where we are currently sitting with the budget. Glenn questioned the shortfall in the employee lines (social security, etc)--most is just misappropriation between the two highway funds (DA & DB).

## RESOLUTION 2016-72

RESOLVE to approve the Supervisor's report as presented to the Town Board

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by Wayne Chapman

VOTE 5 ayes, no noes

## RESOLUTION 2016-73

RESOLVE that the proposed budget amendments for 2016 be approved as suggested by the Bookkeeper (see attached).

RESOLUTION by Glenn Bleiler, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 5 ayes, no noes

Highway Superintendent: The guys have been plowing snow and fixing broken trucks. Truck number 7 is 20 years old and is getting very unreliable. The number 3 truck doesn't have a spreader and Bill would like to get permission to buy a new spreader. Truck 7 has a leak in the gas tank, and multiple other problems. Bill estimates that if they get a new spreader they will be keeping truck 3 for about 15 years. If one of the trucks on the road goes down, they are down to one truck to work the roads. New truck is 3 years old, the second truck is 13 years old and the oldest truck is over 20 years old.

## RESOLUTION 2016-74

RESOLVE that the Town purchase a new salt spreader at a cost of approximately \$16,000.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Wayne Chapman.

The caterpillar loader that we bought 2 years ago is now up for trade-in. The cost of getting another new loader with the same 2 year trade-up would be \$20,000. If we don't do the trade now, the "trade-in" offers go away. There are a lot of townships doing the trade-in programs as there is minimal maintenance. We have until April to make a decision so we aren't pressed at this point. We will discuss it more once we have end of year budget figures.

John had a complaint from a citizen regarding the plowing that was done on Saturday and the message on the answering machine at the Highway office. Bill indicated that he plowed at 8:00 Saturday morning as it was snowing steadily at 6 and he didn't feel it was worth the work to plow it twice. As for the answering machine message, we will change it.

Zoning report: Harold was not in attendance, but Carmella gave the report that there were 2 zoning violations issued. The property owners have until January 15, 2016 to contact Harold with a plan to eradicate the violations. After that date, if they've not contacted him, he will issue a court date. Both properties are on State Route 228.

Landfill--nothing--next meeting is scheduled for February

## RESOLUTION 2016-75

RESOLVE that the following vouchers be paid G200-221 in the sum of \$6307.77 & TA 16 in the sum of \$41.99 and H109-116 in the sum of \$7095.11 within funds according to the totals

RESOLUTION by Wayne Chapman, seconded by Ronald Hoffman

Zoning law: John asked what the thoughts of the Board members were at this point--did they change any? Ron stated that he has been looking around the town and not seeing a lot of trailers, and he's been looking on the internet and seeing some really nice single wide trailers. They are now putting siding on and peaked roofs making them look much more like a home. Glenn has also been looking

around and he's seeing some nice trailers also. In our comprehensive plan we state that we will be looking toward affordable housing options for our residents. The new trailers are not the 'old tubes' that they used to be. If something has depreciated to less than half its value, it's a maintenance problem and should be dealt with according to Zoning Laws or Property Maintenance Laws. He still struggles a lot with restricting trailers to parks only. There has been criticism with trying to restrict trailers to parks. Wayne has been thinking about it and he doesn't think we should restrict them to parks only. People still want their independence and not have neighbors 10' away from you. Mike is coming around to thinking we shouldn't restrict them either. John said that he too was thinking that maybe we shouldn't restrict them. He wants to do what the Town is ready to do and with the work we have put into this he wants to make sure we aren't biting off more than we can chew by being really restrictive. With the new law, we need to administrate it well and Enforce it equally as well. In the Industrial Use District it lists Adult Use. A question was posed about if we really want that in there. Chris Conolly said that he thinks he remembers Chelsea Robinson saying we can't exclude it all together but by putting it in the Industrial zone we aren't excluding that use. We have to have the map added to the zoning law. The Planning board will work on the final version of the map to denote the boundaries of certain zones to be adopted. (we will wait one week so we have the map in our hands) The board is in agreement that the map can be approved with the 2 neighborhood zones (Alpine and Catharine 4 corners). Jamee suggested that the old zoning law be annexed to the new law--John said that isn't necessary, but Carmella said that there can be a sheet included in the book with the new law that the legal lot size from 1967-2016 was 2 acres. We can also include other pertinent information that is Historical in nature as the current board won't be around forever and then all the historical data would be lost. The board decided to wait on the vote until the end of the year meeting. John needs 2 things ready for the year end meeting so the vote can proceed. He needs the wording exactly as we intend it to be and the map.

Year end meeting Dec. 29th at noon.

County Planning Commission representative--some suggestions--no decisions. Everyone will be thinking of names of possible people.

Dog census will be done after January by the same company that did it last time. They do all the mailings and the responses come back to us. The cost will be \$415.35. The responses will be due no later than April 15.

Adjourned at 10:04 p.m. with a motion by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Glenn Bleiler.

Respectfully submitted

Carmella Hoffman  
Town Clerk/Collector