

TOWN OF CATHARINE  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
JULY 17, 2018

Members present: Supervisor John VanSoest; Councilpersons: Glenn Bleiler, Ronald Hoffman, C. Michael Learn, Jamee Mack; Highway Superintendent: Martin Vondracek; Visitors: Barlow Rhodes, Jason Pauliszczak, Bill Morgan, Steve Bannister, Tom Ruocco, Bruce Bruckner, Brayton Foster

Public Be Heard:

Barlow Rhodes—doesn't want to see the ballfields go forward until Oak hill is fixed. His road needs gravel and Oak Hill needs some grading and needs the shoulders pulled back

Jason Pauliszczak- reviewed the adult softball league facebook page and they have been asked not to play in Hector and they are drinkers and it's his concern that they are drinking and driving. If we can't maintain our roads, how can we maintain the ballfields. He doesn't feel that the letters of support should be from people outside the tax district. It is going to cost us money and no body gets anything for free. They also hunt back in that area and it's an infringement on his way of life if he can't hunt—he's dealt with trespassers in the past—he has it posted and people still trespass. His kids ride horses on this land.

ADDITIONS to the Agenda

New business—a resident called and asked about lowering the speed limit on Pertl Rd.

Jamee—remove the word “try to” and change it to “Will” in the sentence about Carl States

RESOLUTION 2018-41

RESOLVE that the minutes of the June meeting be approved with the above change

RESOLUTION by C. Michael Learn, seconded by Jamee Mack

VOTE 4 ayes, no noes

Wickham Gravel Pit—after the hearing that was held last night there was some comment pro and con—

Ron and Jamee both said to leave the hours the same—John and Glenn see no compelling reason to increase the hours. Jamee stated that she is not aware of any other pits that are open past 5 p.m. Brayton Foster said the increase of the hours was for the convenience of the operator and the addition of Saturday was again for the convenience of the operator. All that we have discussed during the last few meetings was about the safety. The operator states that he fixed the approach to the specs he was given. He suggests that if they fix the approach the way it's supposed to be then maybe the town would consider the increase. John said that he would not change his mind even if that was fixed. No one wants trucks driving by their house at 6 a.m. or after 5 p.m.

RESOLUTION 2018-42

RESOLVE that the Town Board of the Town of Catharine deny the request to change the hours of operation at the Wickham Pit.

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Jamee Mack

VOTE—4 ayes, no noes

Larry would like to see the board take it one step further that they require the operator to fix the approach to the appropriate state requirements. A letter needs to go to DOT requesting that it get fixed. A letter could go to the operator first and give him a month to respond. (maybe from Marty)

Ball field discussion: John gave some background on the field. There have been groups that came and asked about making it into playing fields. The original thought was that the adult softball league wanted to do the fields, but the town wasn't willing to put money into it under those circumstances. There was preliminary discussion about who, what, when, etc. Since then, we found a grant that was available to plan and design the fields for not only the adult league, but for the youth and the school and soccer people. Part of our comprehensive plan is to increase activity and the availability of recreational areas. John is not interested in putting all the money into it, but the it still needs community input. Jason said that there will be more traffic and we were just talking about that with the gravel pit and also that they (Jason and Larry & family) hunt next to those fields. John said that he understands their right to hunt and shoot but it's the responsibility of the shooters to be careful. John is a process guy and he wants everyone to have a chance to talk and say their piece. Jason thinks that the adult league is going to have sole use, and that they were filing for the grant. (that is not the case, the grant is filed in the name of the town) Work in kind is also a concern as there are only 3 highway guys and one of them is always in and out with sickness so technically they are down to 2. John indicated that we are not going to raise taxes just to build this stuff. John asked Jason did his kids play soccer—his kids did not—Johns kids did and he felt that it was good for the kids and a family event. Larry said that we need to raise \$100,000 to just maintain the highway and he's not in favor of larger government—if John isn't running the ship next year, then someone else comes in and we spend money frivolously then we will have a debt service. We are already looking at having to buy a new truck, new excavator and a new mower and that is \$500,000. We have only increased the highway reserves by \$30,000 in over 30 years. With a 2% cap on the budget we are in real trouble. This will be an ongoing decision. Bill was once told that to get people to move into your town is to pave the roads. Barlow said that he doesn't have a problem with dirt roads, but there has to be maintenance. John said that it's the highway superintendents who decide what roads get the attention. There has been some improvements on Oak Hill Rd, and he can't guarantee that it will ever get paved—Barlow said that oil and stone would be good.

Steve Bannister—last October he came in and complained about the salt pile ruining the yard of one of his properties and nothing has been done—we will discuss that during the highway superintendents report

#### RESOLUTION 2018-43

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

RESOLUTION by C. Michael Learn, seconded by Jamee Mack

#### RESOLUTION 2018-44

RESOLVE that the list of records to be shredded be approved as presented. The following are the records series that will be shredded: Tax receipts 2000-2009, Payroll records 1945-1963, Supervisor's reports 2004-2007, General ledgers 2004-2008, vouchers 2000-2012, AUD copies 2005-2009, Town clerks report 2007-2011, Legal Notices 1997-2003, Sales Tax disbursement records 1996-1998 & 2003-2009, Bank Statements 2007-2012.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 5 Ayes, no noes

#### RESOLUTION 2018-45

RESOLVE that the Town clerk be allowed to appoint a second deputy clerk to help cover vacations through the end of 2018. Jennifer Cole will be appointed as the second deputy at the rate of \$11/hr from 7/1-12/31/18

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 5 ayes, no noes

Referendum to change the clerk's position to an appointed position versus an elected position. Jamee thinks that position should be a town resident. Jason asked if we could put it out on the Odessa file that we are looking for someone to run for town clerk? John said that as a Supervisor—he cares about getting someone of competence—he doesn't think that it's important to have the clerk be a town resident—they do paperwork mostly. Continuity is very important in this position. Hold a hearing at the next meeting (August 21) at 7:00 p.m. to discuss this. Jamee said that she would resign from the board and take the Town Clerk's job instead of having a non-resident having the position. Ron questioned if she would give up her county job? Her response was that she would work nights at the Town and the Deputy Clerk could run the office during the day.

Zoning Report:

Harold left the report with John—has checked on some of the building that is going on and there is some work going on. One wood stove inspection that failed and will reinspect in the next month. Certificate of occupancy for 2 apartments—certified letters went to residents with violations.

RESOLUTION 2018-46

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

RESOLUTION by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by Jamee

VOTE 5 ayes, no noes

Supervisors report: still waiting on mortgage tax, state aid and on the A side.

B side recycling reimbursement still to come in. (Carmella will send reminders to the towns)

DA—we only have \$23,000 left in the budget

DB waiting on sales tax and CHIPS to balance that portion of the budget

RESOLUTION 2018-47

RESOLVE that the Supervisor's report be accepted as submitted to the Board

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by Ronald Hoffman

VOTE 5 ayes, no noes

Highway report: Chip sealing done—thanks to Larry and Bill for helping. Excavator is up and running and dependable. The County came and helped pull shoulders of the roads so that water doesn't collect on the edge of the roadways. Got truck #3 back from Caskeys at the tune of \$5000. The Soil and Water Conservation District finished doing ditches and our guys helped them out by hauling stone. Loch Heid road was in bad shape, so to get it in shape they put 27 loads of gravel on the road. The end of Connecticut Hill Rd. needed some work, and they put 8 loads of gravel on that road to get the stones that were poking through covered. Martin would like to finish using the CHIPS money on Hosenfeld, Lisk and Carley Roads, and would also like to do some work on Brink Road. Ron asked what Rhodes Rd needed—Marty said that it's going to need gravel—but that road has had more gravel than any of the other roads. John asked if we are using a good gravel that can be depended on.

Need to be looking at a mowing tractor. We are just 3 weeks out from getting the boom mower so his suggestion is to wait. The County tractor and mower that were going to auction were junk.

## RESOLUTION 2018-48

RESOLVE that the following vouchers G147-169 in the sum of \$26786.73 and H71-80 in the Sum of \$24580.35 within funds according to the totals

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 5 ayes, no noes

Unfinished business: The bids on the highway barn repair—John feels that we take the BEST bid which isn't always the lowest bid. We do not have to take the lowest bidder, but the lowest **responsible** bid. We could just decide to do parts of the projects or we can do nothing at all. We will make copies and give to each board member and then make a decision. Tom Ruocco said that if we are so worried about spending money on the highway we need to stop pumping money out through the windows and doors instead of putting money into a generator. Larry said that there isn't a sufficient generator at the highway garage and they need one also.

The Dumpster at the town office needs to have a lid on it as the animals are getting into it and scattering garbage all over. We called Ted Dudgeon and asked for one before and he indicated that he had just one and would get it over to us, but we haven't seen it yet. Carmella and Diane are tired up being on Garbage detail. We will ask Ted again and if we don't get one shortly, we will move to someone else. Tom Ruocco called and Ted said he will have a covered dumpster over here shortly.

The question about changing Pertl Rd. speed limit. That has to go through the State DOT, not the town. Last time we did a request like that, it took forever to get it to happen.

Jason Paulisczak wants to know where someone will find out about the meetings for the ball fields and such. John indicated that if people want to know what is going on, they can find out through the minutes and the website.

Motion to go into Executive Session made by John VanSoest, to discuss pending employment issues , seconded by Ronald Hoffman at 9:00 p.m.

Move to return to open session by Ronald Hoffman, seconded by C. Michael Learn

## RESOLUTION 2018-49

RESOLVE that the wages of the Deputy Town Clerk #1 be increased to \$12/hr effective immediately.

RESOLUTION by Jamee Mack, seconded by C. Michael Learn

VOTE 5 ayes, no noes

Move to adjourn at 9:51 by Jamee Mack and seconded by C. Michael Learn