

July 9, 2015

The regular Meeting of the Newfield Town Board was held at the Town Hall Board Room July 9, 2015 at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Jeffrey Hart and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Present were: Supervisor Jeffrey Hart, Councilperson Roy Trask, Councilperson Joanne James, Councilperson Christine Laughlin and Councilperson Casey Powers. Also present: Highway Superintendent Kevin Berggren, County Representative Dave McKenna, Atty. Hooks, and 15 attendees.

Privilege of the Floor

Diana Bryant: complimented the Town Highway Department regarding their response to the flooding on June 14, 2015. Mrs. Bryant also brought to the Boards attention the availability of watershed grants for roadside ditch work for flood mitigation. Mrs. Bryant offered to act as a liaison with Professor Rebecca Schneider for the Town Board and the community.

Tom Gerow: complimented the Highway Department for the cleanup and repairs on Blakeslee Hill Road after the June 14th storm.

Approval of June 11, 2015 and June 25, 2015 Board Minutes

Motion was made by Councilperson Powers to approve the June 11, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Councilperson Laughlin.

Vote	AYES	5	Hart, Trask, James, Laughlin and Powers
	NAY	0	

Carried

Motion was made by Councilperson Trask to approve the June 15, 2015 Work Session/Special Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Councilperson James.

Vote	AYES	5	Hart, Trask, James, Laughlin and Powers
	NAY	0	

Carried

Correspondence:

Supervisor Hart previously read a letter of support from Nancy Dolge regarding the amendment of Local Law No. 1 for the year 2007.

Reports:

Highway: Highway Superintendent Kevin Berggren stated 9 municipalities and agencies came to the Town's aide to help make the roads passable and clean up debris from the June 14th storm. Superintendent Berggren stated Bower Road continues to be closed. New culvert pipes are needed for Bower and Connecticut Hill Road. TG Miller Engineering has been hired to assist with the projects. Supervisor Hart asked the status of the truck conversion. Superintendent Berggren said it would be completed by the end of August or early September.

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Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Harry Wright was absent. Supervisor Hart stated Mr. Wright had reported a cleanup where several vehicles had been removed from a property discussed in prior months.

Water Sewer: Highway Superintendent Berggren reported there had not been any issues.

Recreation: Recreation Director Reid Hoskins was absent. Supervisor Hart read the prepared report by Mr. Hoskins.

Tompkins County Legislature Report: Newfield Representative David McKenna reported there had been a presentation by Ag and Farm land: one third of the county acres are actively used for agriculture and of that 16,000 are organic. TC3 gave a presentation of its budget of 4, 650,364.00, 2% higher than last year. The County approved 16 quick claim deeds foreclosed properties throughout the county. Bids were awarded for a county project at the Groton City Bridge. The sale of the old Tompkins County Library has been referred back to committee. TCAT has received an award from the State where an FTA loan/grant can be applied for.

Planning Board: Tom Gerow reported the Planning Board is continuing to consolidate information gathered from the Townships that attended the round table regarding land use planning successes and impacts. The Planning Board will begin working on Action Steps # 21-Creating Energy Plan and associated outreach to keep energy costs down for residents, for Town physical assets, reduce town wide emissions, and promote sustainability locally and globally and Action Step # 29- Create a Home and Building Improvement Alliance to spearhead town-wide initiative to improve Newfield's housing and building energy efficiency, accessibility, and upkeep. A grant writing team will be working on bringing in outside funds to help Newfield. Mr. Gerow also commented on the Town Website and Email. He feels they do not function the way they should and needs to be upgraded or possibly hire a service to take care of it and felt it should be looked at during budget time. Supervisor Hart asked if the Town Board should be informed of grants being applied for prior to its application. Mr. Gerow stated that if any grant which required the Town's participation or that impacts the towns finances, it will be informed.

Cemetery Committee: Marie Terlizzi reported the sign for the Bank Street Cemetery had arrived. She will ask the Highway Department if it has equipment to drill the post holes for it's installation.

Supervisor: Supervisor Hart reported that Councilperson Trask, Highway Superintendent Berggren and himself met with Senator O'Mara. They showed the Senator the culvert pipes and homes that were damaged from the recent flooding. It was felt damage was below the federal threshold for assistance. Lee Shurtleff from TC EMC is looking for State funding to help. Supervisor Hart thanked Highway Superintendent Berggren for his hard work managing all the crews during the cleanup process. Supervisor Hart stated that the July work session agenda would include a discussion with Justice Chernish regarding improvements to be made to the court room, the noise ordinance, flood progress and health insurance benefits with TCCOG Health Care Consortium. Late summer into fall will be the budget. Nadine Bennett the Town's bookkeeper stated she will have the first six months of the year reports to all department heads soon. The Fire Contract is up at the end of 2015, negotiations will begin when the fire department has its preliminary request completed. Supervisor Hart stated the Emergency Response Plan Manual had been found. He would like to begin updating it in September and October. In September the Planning Board and the Town Board will meet in also.

Councilperson Powers stated she had recently had the opportunity to visit the 911 Memorial and Museum, and encouraged everyone to go.

New Business

Discussion of Conservation Easement with Security Storage Property

Supervisor Hart reviewed the reasoning for the request. Attorney Hooks added his concerns, including liability to the town. Attorney Hooks asked if Finger Lakes Land Trust might be interested in this property.

Councilperson James asked for the definition of a conservation easement: The owner of the property retains ownership, but cannot develop it; the Town receives the perpetual easement. It was determined that more information is needed for this topic. Supervisor Hart will consult with Tompkins County Planning and Tompkins County Soil and Water and will then bring a recommendation to the Town Board.

Old Business

Discussion and action on the proposed Amendment to Local Law # 1 of 2007

Motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to approve the passage of Local Law #2 Of the Year 2015 to Amend Local Law # 1 Of the Year 2007, seconded by Councilperson James.

LOCAL LAW #2 OF THE YEAR 2015 TO
AMEND LOCAL LAW #1 OF THE YEAR 2007 WHICH ESTABLISHED A PLANNING BOARD FOR
THE TOWN OF NEWFIELD

PURPOSE: Since the Town has found it difficult to attract an agricultural member to join the Planning Board, this amendment is intended to make the appointment of such member discretionary rather than mandatory. The language comports with that contained in Section 271(11) of the New York Town Law.

SECTION ONE:

Section 4.1 of Local Law #1 of the year 2007 to establish a Planning Board for the Town of Newfield, New York hereby is amended to delete therefrom the requirement that at least one member of the Planning Board shall be an “agriculture member” as defined under New York Town Law Section 271(11) and to substitute instead that at least one member of the Planning Board may be an agricultural member as that term is defined under New York Town Law Section 271(11) provided, however that an applicant who is an agricultural member and otherwise deemed suitable and qualified shall be given propriety for appointment.

SECTION TWO:

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Effective Date. This amendment shall take effect immediately upon its filing with the New York State Secretary of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Vote	AYES	5	Hart, Trask, James, Laughlin and Powers
	NAY	0	

Carried

Discussion and action on the proposed Tax Collection Agreement

Motion was made by Councilperson Trask to empower the Supervisor to sign the Tax Collection Contract with the Newfield School District for the year 2015/2016, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

Vote	AYES	4	Hart, Trask, Laughlin and Powers
	NAY	0	
	ABSTAIN	1	James

Carried

Flood Damage Report

Donald Smith of 40 Shelter Valley Road asked if there could be any accountability of the debris that clogged the bridges. Councilperson Trask responded that the question is where does the Town's responsibility start and end, regarding the creeks. This is being determined presently.

Approval of the Payment of the July 2015 Bills

Motion was made by Councilperson Trask to approve the payments, seconded by Councilperson Laughlin. The Board authorized the payments of the following amounts:

General Fund	\$25,937.16
Recreation Fund	\$1,334.38
Highway Fund	\$169,622.03
Fire District	\$88,807.00
Street light Fund	\$1,192.35
Sewer Fund	\$292.73
Water District 1 Fund	\$2,083.38
Water District 2 Fund	\$950.29

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Trust and Agency \$2,518.80

Vouchers were audited by Councilpersons Laughlin and Powers.

Vote AYES 5 Hart, Trask, James, Laughlin and Powers

 NAY 0

Carried

At 8:04 p.m., a Supervisor Hart motioned to move into an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

At 8:39, the Meeting was called back to the Regular Meeting of the Newfield Town Board; motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to adjourn at 8:40 pm seconded by Councilperson Trask.

Respectfully Submitted,

July 30, 2015

Karen Miller Kenerson
Newfield Town Clerk