

October 8, 2015

The regular Meeting of the Newfield Town Board was held at the Town Hall Board Room October 8, 2015 at 7:18 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, Atty.'s Hooks & Smith, and 22 attendees.

Agenda Changes:

Add to New Business: Justice Chernish Grant application and an Executive Session after Business Meeting to discuss pending litigation.

Privilege of the Floor

No one wished to speak

Approval of September 10, 2015 Regular Business Meeting Minutes and September 24, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to approve the September 10, 2015 Business Meeting Minutes, seconded by Councilperson Powers.

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

Carried

Motion was made by Councilperson Powers to approve the September 24, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Councilperson Laughlin.

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

Carried

Correspondence:

None

Reports:

Highway: Highway Superintendent Kevin Berggren reported the Highway Department is continuing to work on flood damage and bringing in sand and salt for future use.

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Water Sewer: Superintendent Berggren reported that water meters had been read the week before.

Recreation: Recreation Director Reid Hoskins report was read by Supervisor Hart

Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Bill Baker was absent.

Planning Board: Karen Trask Planning Board Chairperson; reported that grant applications had been submitted to the Park Foundation and the Community Foundation of Tompkins County for land use education. Mrs. Trask also reported the Planning Board is moving forward looking for a consultant to help with land use education. She also added the Planning Board is still looking for new members.

Cemetery Committee: absent.

Tompkins County Legislature Report: Newfield Representative David McKenna stated that most of the budget presentations had been made and that drone legislation would be coming before the government operations committee.

Supervisor: Supervisor Hart reported that he and the Board Members had been meeting regularly with budget meetings and felt that the less than 1% tax cap would be difficult to stay within this year, but the he and the Board were trying. Supervisor Hart also commented he had met with LaBella Engineering regarding the sewer leach field expansion project. The Board has also been reviewing other options for health care employee benefits. Supervisor Hart, Councilperson Trask, Highway Superintendent Berggren and other neighboring municipalities met with Assemblywomen Lifton regarding assistance from the June flood damage. Newfield estimates over \$700,000 in damage.

New Business

Mike Kobre- High Speed Internet Access

Mr. Kobre came before the Newfield Town Board asking for Board support regarding high speed internet service to the outer portion of Van Kirk Road. Haelele TV from Spencer NY is willing to run fiber optics up Van Kirk Road to Irish Hill Road that would provide high speed internet, cable TV and phone to that neighborhood. Jeff Golden representing Haelele TV stated if the Town would sign an agreement with a non-franchise agreement, Haelele would be willing to provide the families with high speed internet, cable TV and telephone. Supervisor Hart asked Atty. Smith to review the proposed contract for advisement, an answer to be determined at the October 22, 2015 meeting.

Justice Chernish requested the Town Boards support for a JCAP Grant for Courtroom security, Courtroom improvements and paperless technology.

RESOLUTION 16-2015

WHEREAS, the justices of the Newfield Town Court have identified the need for improved courtroom security, better record-keeping through application of paperless technology, replacement of the old court bench as well as other related improvements, and

WHEREAS, the improvements have been identified by competitive estimates at a total cost not to exceed thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) with no cost for this request to be borne by the Town, and

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WHEREAS, the justices wish to apply to the 2015-2016 New York State Justice Court Assistance Program for a grant to cover the cost of these improvements,

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves this request and the application being made to the 2015-2016 New York State Justice Court Assistance Program.

Motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to support the Newfield Town Court to submit the above mentioned grant application, seconded by Councilperson James.

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

Carried

Old Business

Dan Walker- LaBella Associates regarding the Water Tower Project

Mr. Walker presented a cash flow analysis plan to the Board Members for the Water Tower projects on Van Kirk and Trumbulls Corners Roads. Mr. Walker stated the bid process will be held January to March and hopefully initially start construction April or May of 2016. Mr. Walker also added he would like to upgrade the water line from the proposed Van kirk Road tank to the Main Street intersection. He also felt in the long term the Town will need to be replacing water mains within the Town Water District, due to the age and deterioration of the pipes. Mr. Walker will have a design presentation at a November Board Meeting.

Discussion of the Noise Law

Supervisor Hart commented on the process the Board had used in working on the proposed Noise Law. He also explained why decibel level reading was not listed in the proposed law. Councilperson James commented of the struggle of finding a solution that was the least restrictive but yet responsible legislation. The proposed law created an opportunity for law enforcement to make the determination of judgement. Councilperson Laughlin added that after Lieutenant Donahue came to speak to the Board Members, it became clear that what had been initially proposed would not work and how the Noise Law within the Town of Ithaca could work for Newfield. Councilperson Powers commented the Board had not wanted to see Newfield resident’s activities or life style to change, but unfortunately there are those who are not considerate of their neighbors. The Town Board decided not to vote on the proposed Local Noise Law and will continue to work on a Local Noise Law. The Board asked for community input to help formulate a better law to help Newfield.

Approval of the Payment of the September 2015 Bills

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

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General Fund	\$24,353.87
Recreation Fund	\$945.65
Highway Fund	\$30,874.31
Street light Fund	\$117.93
Sewer Fund	\$161.82
Water District 1 Fund	\$1,100.26
Water District 2 Fund	\$211.44
Trust and Agency	\$1,941.58

Vouchers were audited by Councilpersons Laughlin and Powers.

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

Carried

At 8:27 p.m., a motion was made to move into an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

At 8:50, the Meeting was called back to the Regular Meeting of the Newfield Town Board, moving to adjournment at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

October 20, 2015

Karen Miller Kenerson
Newfield Town Clerk