

January 15, 2015

The Newfield Town Board met for a work session meeting on January 15, 2015. Supervisor Hart called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Present were: Supervisor Jeff Hart, Councilperson Roy Trask, Councilperson Joanne James, Councilperson Christine Laughlin and Councilperson Casey Powers (arrived at 7:15). The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Hart and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were also 12 others in attendance.

AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion of Appointment of Reid Hoskins to the Represent the Town of Newfield on the Recreation Partnership Committee

Motion was made by Councilperson Laughlin to approve Reid Hoskins appointment to represent the Town of Newfield on the Recreation Partnership Committee, seconded by Councilperson Trask.

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

Carried

Discussion of the "In lieu of taxes" charge of Better Housing

Supervisor Hart stated that the Town receives 1,000.00 annually from Tompkins County Better Housing of "In lieu of taxes". Councilperson Trask added that the assessed value of the Newfield Garden Apartments is \$2,000,000.00 on the two acre parcel. He felt that if the tax was assessed at the current rate, it would be a significant increase. Councilperson Trask felt in light of the property value, the "in lieu of taxes" was not a fair representation. Supervisor Hart stated a letter had been sent to Tompkins County Better Housing asking what a fair and equitable increase could be.

Discussion of Policy and procedure for people in violation of building codes

At the last Board Meeting Building Codes Enforcement Office Harry Wright voiced concern of a property that was in violation of the Town Law concerning property maintenance. CEO Wright asked the Town Board for advice concerning the direction to take when trying to bring a property to compliance. CEO Wright commented that the NYS Property Maintenance Code concern as well as Town Property Maintenance Law. CEO Wright has been dealing with a particular situation since last year. The property owner has been notified to remove the unregistered cars. CEO Wright stated that some of the cars have been removed, but more seem to replace what were removed. Councilperson James asked what the recourse the Town had. CEO Wright responded that correspondence had been sent to the property owner as well as a notice left on the door to the home. Councilperson Trask asked when the first complaint came, CEO stated it had

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been a year since the complaint. Councilperson Trask felt there should be a reasonable time frame in place for compliance. Supervisor Hart commented he felt that 90 days after forward momentum (progress) stops was enough time. CEO Wright thought that by negotiation with the property owner it empowered the property owner to bring the problem to compliance. Councilperson Trask commented again he felt there should be a time frame rather than leaving it open ended. Councilperson Laughlin and James felt if progress is being made that CEO Wright should be compassionate. Councilperson Trask felt there needs to be a consistent established time line in place.

The Board recommended that the Code Enforcement Officer Wright send a certified letter to the property owner seeking compliance. The Town Board will look into this subject for further recommendation to the Code Enforcement Officer. Councilperson James asked that the Board refer to the Town Law and the State Code for comparison.

Councilperson Laughlin suggested that a certified letter be sent with a date set compliance. If there is no attempt to comply a ticket should be issued. Councilperson Trask stated there needs to be an established time line in place that applies to everyone.

It was agreed this warrants more thought and consultation with the Town Attorney.

Supervisor Hart spoke to Bill Koppel from USGS in regards to the well drilling. Frey Well Drilling has postponed the drilling due to a death in the family and poor weather in Western NY. Supervisor Hart stated the grant program the Town is involved with the County expires March 31, 2015. Supervisor Hart has spoken to the USGS reminding them of the time constraint concerning the grant.

Supervisor Hart reported a five thousand dollar donation had been made for the War Memorial Fund. Councilperson Trask suggested that the Board meet with Mr. Caslick to determine the vision and design.

Old Business

Discussion of CSEA Contract: Supervisor Hart commented that the HRA concerns had been clarified. The contract will be signed soon.

Discussion of the Solid Waste Management Facilities Law:

Supervisor Hart asked if there needed to be additional clarification to the proposed law. Supervisor Hart commented that the current Waste Management Facility cannot expand past its current operating permit.

Broad Band Funding:

Councilperson Trask asked that the Board look for potential funding for the Town portion for the Broad Band program in Newfield.

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Planning Board Chair Nancy Dolge asked what the Planning Board's role should be in regards to the Waste Management Facility Law. Mrs. Dolge read a statement that the Board felt was appropriate.

Next Work Session Meeting will be January 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilperson Laughlin commented she had a concern regarding open burning with in the hamlet that was brought brought to her attention.

Councilperson Trask made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Councilperson James.

Respectfully Submitted,

February 9, 2015

Karen Miller Kenerson
Town Clerk