

Town of Newfield Board Meeting  
August 9, 2012

The Regular Meeting of the Newfield Town Board was called to order at 7:04 PM by Supervisor Driscoll. Present were, Supervisor Driscoll, Council Person Trask, Council Person James, Council Person Laughlin, and Council Person Powers. Also present were Highway Superintendent Berggren, County Legislator David McKenna, Justices Payne and Dresser, and Atty. Edward Hooks.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Driscoll.

Supervisor Driscoll read a proclamation of thanks and appreciation to Justice Debbi J. Payne for securing funds from the New York State Office of Court Administration with the Justice Court Assistance Program, creating a new design to the Town Court, bringing greater efficiency, better public service and security.

**Privilege of the Floor:**

Amy Heffron: Voiced concerns of asking to meet with the Board and Supervisor Driscoll about the Recreation Program and not receiving a response.

Michael Corbett: Proposed for consideration a local Prohibition on the outdoor burning of fire wood and other combustible materials within the hamlet of Newfield. He cited that fires within the hamlet could be a public safety and health hazard and a general public nuisance. He asked the Board to consider Beach, Pearl, Bridge, Mill Streets Nixon Lane, Hidden Pines development, Main, Bank, Shaffer Road (up to the Benjamin Hill intersection), Depot and other roads deemed appropriate by the Board.

Jeff Golden: Voiced his concerns of the Proposed AWS Garbage Transfer Station, would bring positive assets to the Newfield area, increasing the tax base and generally bring a positive flow financially. He feels that if the claim seems flawed if the proposed transfer station obtains permitting. A new assessment of the new structure would bring increased tax revenue for the Town and School but could lower the assessments of the surrounding homes by 20 to 50%. He feels this would have a negative effect on the community. He is concerned about the repair and restructuring of the roads and the cost to the Town. He asked the Town Board to consider a minimum 24 month moratorium to ensure that all impacts are fairly, honestly and completely reviewed. He suggested that this include all the DEC findings, post permitting, a report from the US Geological on the water table assessment and a full impact statement with these specifics.

Linda Callahan: also supported a moratorium on any waste transfer stations being established in a residential neighborhood. She asked that the Board review the DEC application very carefully. She noted discrepancies that were presented at the public meeting and what is in the application. Until all of the issues are understood, and the impact on the water and the surrounding homes, she proposes a moratorium.

Hillary Lambert: represents the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, she is concerned about the impacts to the creeks that flow to Cayuga Lake from the

proposed Garbage Transfer Station. She is concerned if the leachate ponds that are poised at the top of the creek fail it will impact maximally down the stream.

Becca Haber: thanked the Board for passing the Moratorium.

Brian McIlroy: spoke to the Board of his recent FOIL request.

Scott Thomas: he also supports a moratorium for the proposed garbage transfer station.

Eugene VanZile: spoke of speaking to one of the technicians doing the geological study. He was shown maps that show rock formations showing discrepancies of the rock depth that was stated on applications that were submitted for the proposed garbage transfer station. He was told it may take six to eight months to get the data/information back for the study. The technician thought that no big steps should be taken until the data/information is back and the truth is out. The technician also suggested a Moratorium as well. Mr. VanZile also cited some traffic count and intersection information.

Rebecca Riberio: supports a Moratorium concerning the proposed garbage transfer station. She cited that the proposed garbage transfer station goes against several recommendations and guide lines outlined in the Environmental Protection Agency Publication Waste Transfer Station, A Manual for Decision Making.

Evie Marques: voiced several concerns the proposed garbage transfer station.

Brenda Lapp: voiced concerns of the proposed garbage transfer station. Ms. Lapp does not have issues with AWS the business is presently operating but does with the proposed garbage transfer station. She is concerns about the increased traffic and damage to the roads. The roads presently are in poor condition she feels the town and county do not have extra funds in their budgets to continue to repair the roads from the amount of damage done by the increased traffic. She asked the Board for a Moratorium for the garbage transfer project. She would like to see the Aquifer Study and the Comprehensive Plan completed, and the Board's review of the items. Then create any laws that may be recommended as part of the Compressive Plan.

Joe and Amy Pelligrino: addressed the Board of the conditions of the Town of Newfield's roads. He feels the roads are in bad condition. He feels we need to get back on track with the road maintenance. He agrees with the others that the roads are not made for the truck traffic proposed. He would also like to see a Moratorium concerning the proposed garbage transfer station. He also added he does not have a problem with AWS as a business but not the transfer station.

John Fry: was curious what Newfield would look like if gas drilling came to Newfield. He then showed the Board pictures from Dimock, and Springville PA, that he superimposed on to a map of Newfield. He then spoke what Newfield could possibly expect in truck traffic if gas drilling were to come to Newfield.

**Adoption of the previous Meeting Minutes:** Motion was made by Council Person Laughlin to approve the July Board Meeting Minutes, and seconded by Council Person James.

Vote: Council Person Trask: AYE, Council Person James: AYE, Council Person Laughlin: AYE, Council Person Powers: AYE, Supervisor Driscoll: AYE.

Motion passed.

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**Correspondence:** An Environmental Code complaint was forward to Code Enforcement Officer Wright to handle.

**Reports:**

Highway: Highway Superintendent Berggren commented on voiced concerns of road conditions.

County Legislature: David McKenna reported that the Legislature received a presentation from the Mayor of the city of Ithaca, concerning the rebuilding of the infrastructure of the Ithaca Commons, and the future construction of new housing units. Redistricting of the legislature districts is still under discussion. Budget season is getting underway and he expects evaluations of departmental budgets in the beginning of September.

Supervisor Driscoll asked to suspend his report until after the report from Todd Miller of the US Geological Survey.

**New Business:**

Report and Update on the Western Cayuga Inlet and Fishkill Aquifer Study, by Todd Miller of the US Geological Survey: The program began in 2000 and Newfield joined in 2011. It collects data, well inventory, ground water samples and water level measurements, seasonal replenishment, underground water flow and chemical profiles.

**Supervisors Report:**

Newfield Recreation Advisory Committee: Vice Chair Amy Heffron reported the most recent chair has stepped down. She said there had been a misunderstanding and that the Recreation Department did not decide to become a Booster Club. There are not any notes of the past meetings, but that will be corrected for future meetings and that copies will be distributed. She would like the NRAC to meet with the Town Board to discuss new ideas for the new budget. She mentioned that the NRAC had not a budget to look at, making it hard to make financial decisions without past financial records.

Supervisor Driscoll announced that the Town has a new website! It is at [NewfieldNY.org](http://NewfieldNY.org) and the soft launch will be beginning this weekend. All are welcome and encouraged to look at it. There are pages that are still being completed but the frame works is there, and others are near completion. Information on what is happening in the town, all permits are available online and can be downloaded, and information on each department is available. Supervisor Driscoll asked that residents look at it and let the Board know what you think, or what you would like to see on it.

Supervisor Driscoll announced that Environmental Code Enforcement Officer Tony Petito has decided to retire. He looks forward to concentrating his efforts to opening the “Neighborhood Store” in Ithaca with his son.

Council Person James provided a summary of the audit cash report, from the Ciaschi, Dietershagen, Little, Michelson, LLP CPA Firm. She made a quick worksheet and analysis since she will not be at the work session on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. She took the suggestions that the Board had been struggling with in the 2012 budget. She was pleased to see there was an increased fund balance in the General Fund than anticipated. Council person Trask asked if it could be presented in a different format, one page rather than two. He also asked when the Board would receive copies of the full audit report. Supervisor Driscoll said he had emailed them today with the request.

Motion was made by Council Person Trask to approve the payments of the July 2012 monthly bills. Motion was seconded by Council Person Powers. Council Person Laughlin had a few questions and Supervisor Driscoll said they would look at those with her concern. She also asked if the Court expenses were within the grant funds. Supervisor Driscoll said that he would verify that it was in line with the grant funds. All approved.

General Fund totaling	\$ 41,126.79
Highway Fund totaling	\$ 115,703.71
Fire Protection totaling	\$ 86,313.00
Street Lighting totaling	\$ 1,180.60
Sewer District totaling	\$ 508.25
Water District 1 totaling	\$ 1,844.38
Recreation totaling	\$ 4,649.98
Water District 2 totaling	\$ 530.23
Trust and Agency	\$ 3,393.47

### **Old Business:**

Council Person Laughlin asked about the AUD report. Supervisor Driscoll stated he had spoken to examiners and the NYS Comptroller's Office. They understand that the AUD report will be available when the audit has been completed and are satisfied with that.

### **Closing Privilege of the Floor**

Linda Callahan: wanted to let Highway Superintendent Berggren know that when the poor conditions of the roads were being discussed, he and his staff are not being criticized. She thinks that with what Highway Superintendent Berggren said concerning budgets and road conditions throughout the Town, it would be insane to allow a new operation that would bring in 56 round trips of heavy trucks per day.

Brian McIlroy: Commented that the Bookkeeping software could be viewed and reports run to see if funds are within their budget lines.

Jeff Golden: Wanted to clarify a misinterpretation of a statement made of a discussion. But he wanted to reiterate the statement of the poor conditions of our roads, and the challenges the Highway Department faces.

Brenda Lapp: Wanted to remind everyone of Newfield Old Home Days September 7<sup>th</sup>. and 8<sup>th</sup>.

At 8:35 PM Supervisor Driscoll then asked for a five minute recess before moving into executive session. Motion was made by Council Person James move into an Executive Session to discuss a CSEA bargaining unit issue, seconded by Council Person Trask.

Motion to adjourn the Executive Session was made by Council Person Trask go back to the Regular Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by Council Person Laughlin. All approved.

There being no further business motion was made by Council Person James to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:52PM. Motion was seconded by Council Person Laughlin.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Miller Kenerson  
Town Clerk

August 23, 2012  
Date