

December 4, 2014

The Newfield Town Board met for a work session meeting on December 4, 2014 Supervisor Hart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Supervisor Jeff Hart, Councilperson Roy Trask, Councilperson Joanne James, Councilperson Christine Laughlin and Councilperson Casey Powers. There were also 4 residents in attendance.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

#### ***Discussion of Water Rate Study***

A 36% increase has been suggested by TG Miller in order to meet expenses for 2015 and to establish reserve funds for Repair, Replacement and Rehabilitation(3R) The suggested water rates are being determined by the size of the meter (3/4, 1, 2 and 3 inch).

The Board members were in favor of option D- a fixed charge based on meter size with flat rate structure-usage allowance. Supervisor Hart will contact Andy Sciarabba from TG Miller for clarification of several concerns. Councilperson Trask suggested that a letter be sent or hold a Q and A meeting for the water district residents concerning the water rate increase.

Supervisor Hart and the Board members agreed to offset the cost of the water rate study with funds intended for the 3R's from the water rate increase then collect the remaining half over 4 quarterly payments from water district consumers. There was not a recommendation for a sewer rate increase. The Board members also agreed to the recommended increases for water turn on and turn offs and not to turn water off due to lack of payment. A resolution will be drafted for passage for the December 11, 2014 meeting. The practice of levying delinquent water rents with administrative costs on to the property taxes will be continued for another year.

#### ***Discussion of Water Sewer Supervisor Position***

Supervisor Hart stated he had spoken to Steve Estes from Tompkins County Personnel concerning the Water Sewer Supervisor position. Because it the Highway Superintendent is an elected position it was felt the Water/Sewer Supervisor position would not be a Tompkins County Personnel Civil Service classification compliant. There is an existing job position listed for the Towns of Newfield and Danby for Water/Sewer MEO/workers. The Board members agreed to accept Mr. Este's opinion. Supervisor Hart suggested the Board appoint Highway Superintendent Kevin Berggren as Water/Sewer Supervisor, the Board agreed.

At 8:00 p.m., a motion was made to move into an Executive Session to discuss CSEA Union Negotiations and health insurance. Motion was made at 8:52 p.m. to reconvene to the regular Work Session Meeting Councilperson Powers made a motion at 8:52 p.m. to reconvene to the regular Work Session Meeting, seconded by Councilperson Laughlin.

Councilperson Trask made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m., seconded by Councilperson Powers.

Respectfully Submitted,

December 10, 2014

Karen Miller Kenerson  
Town Clerk

December 4, 2014