

**TOWN OF WESTERLO  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
OF  
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board met on Tue., March 3, 2015 at the Town Hall 933 County Route 401, Westerlo, NY. Supervisor Rapp opened the meeting at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ATTENDING WERE: Supervisor Richard H. Rapp  
Councilman Alfred L. Field  
Councilman William F. Bichteman Jr.  
Councilman Theodore S. Lounsbury III  
Councilman Anthony W. Sherman

Also attending were: Town Historian Dennis Fancher, Planning Board Chair Dorothy Verch, Planning Board Member Edwin Stevens, Highway Superintendent Keith Wright Sr., Town Clerk/Tax Collector Kathleen Spinnato, several Highway Dept. employees and approximately twenty residents.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to approve the Town Board Workshop minutes of 1/20/2015. Councilman Lounsbury made a motion to accept the 1/20/2015 Town Board Workshop minutes, motion was seconded by Councilman Sherman and unanimously carried.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to approve the Town Board minutes of 2/3/2015. Councilman Field made a motion to accept the Town Board minutes of 2/3/2015, motion seconded by Councilman Bichteman and unanimously carried.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to approve the Town Board Workshop minutes of 2/17/2015. Councilman Sherman made a motion to accept the Town Board Workshop minutes of 2/17/2015, motion seconded by Councilman Bichteman, Councilman Lounsbury abstained, motion carried.

Supervisor Rapp announced that the Town of Westerlo turns 200 years old on March 16, 2015. He introduced Town Historian Dennis Fancher who gave a brief detail about the history of the Town of Westerlo. He reported that in 1814 part of the Town of Coeymans and part of the Town of Rensselaerville where combined to form the current Town of Westerlo. The Town was named after a Dutch Reformed Minister from Albany named Elardis Westerlo who died in 1790 and his relationship to the Van Rensselaer's through marriage. He continued to report on another name for the Town (Chesterville), population figures, budget figures, the amount of livestock, production of crops, butter and whiskey and the fates of 19 Civil War soldiers from the Town. Mr. Fancher was thanked and applauded for his presentation.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to accept the Town Clerk's report for the month of February which was submitted to the Town Board. Councilman Lounsbury made a motion to accept the Town Clerk's February monthly report, the motion was seconded by Councilman Bichteman and unanimously carried.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report submitted to the Town Board. Councilman Field made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's report, motion was seconded by Councilman Bichteman and unanimously carried.

Supervisor Rapp made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the Town needs to pay the monthly bills, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the monthly bills be paid:

Voucher # 54 through Voucher # 97 in the amount of \$94,732.34

Councilman Lounsbury seconded the motion and a roll call vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Lounsbury, Councilman Sherman,  
Councilman Field and Councilman Bichteman

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION #10-2015 was thereby duly adopted.**

Supervisor Rapp asked Planning Board Chairwoman Dorothy Verch to give the Planning Board report. Dorothy advised the following: The Planning Board met on 2/24/2015 to discuss a workshop presented by the Capital District Regional Planning Commission. The full day workshop Seminar on Planning and Zoning Board over view, natural resource planning, climate and energy, green infrastructure practices and stream basics will be held on 3/27/15 at Hudson Valley Community College starting at 8 AM. All of the members of the Planning Board are requesting permission from the Town Board to attend. The fee is \$30 each.

Supervisor Rapp made a motion in favor of the Planning Board members attending the 3/27/15 HVCC Seminar, Councilman Field seconded the motion, motion unanimously carried. Dorothy advised she submitted to the Town Board the topics of the seminar and the hours which could be applied towards required training. Councilman Sherman made a motion to accept the Planning Board report, seconded by Councilman Lounsbury, and unanimously carried.

Supervisor Rapp advised no Zoning Board of Appeals report was received.

Supervisor Rapp asked for a Water Board report. Councilman Bichteman reported on situation in February involving a leak in the Westerlo Water District No. 1. A pipe froze in a residence and broke causing the use of over 594,000 gallons of water. The system has been fixed and remedied and the Water District is in full power. The Water Board will meet on Thurs. March 26 at 7:00 PM in the Westerlo Town Hall. On March 18<sup>th</sup> the Water System Operator Doug Story and Councilman Bichteman will be attending a seminar at Columbia-Greene Community College regarding grants for Water Districts. Councilman Bichteman also asked the Town Board to authorize the bidding and advertisement for the proposed 2015 Water District Utility Repair Crews contract with no changes from the previous year. Supervisor Rapp made the motion to authorize the bidding for the 2015 Water District Utility Repair Crews, Councilman Lounsbury seconded, motion unanimously carried.

Supervisor Rapp asked if there was a Zoning Recommendation Committee report. None was available.

Supervisor Rapp announced the next agenda item is for the proposed 2015 Westerlo Volunteer Fire Company Contract. Councilman Lounsbury made a motion to approve the contract and stated he appreciates the Fire Company and the valuable service they provide. Councilman Field seconded the motion to approve the 2015 Fire Contract, motion unanimously carried. Kelly Keefe stated she would take the contract to Deb Filkin for her signature and return to the Town Supervisor.

Supervisor Rapp announced the next agenda item, a proposed Resolution by the Town Board of the Town of Westerlo which specifies time-table for budget requests for service contracts and supporting documentation required to be included with such requests. Andy Joslin of the Westerlo Volunteer Fire Co. asked for clarification on the proposed resolution: #3 Ledger, item C. Detail of transactions with separate columns for revenues and expenses. Would this apply to Fire Co. budget only? Councilman Bichteman indicated the resolution had been prepared with the assistance of the town's accountant. He then was asked to read the resolution aloud. Discussion followed between Andy Joslin and Councilman Bichteman regarding whether this would apply to donations and/or gifts the Fire Company receives and what those donations/gifts are potentially used for. Councilman Bichteman indicated he was asking for more clarification for Fire Co. line items, ie: New Equipment-if they can show what particular items were included in those figures, a breakdown of what the funds are used for, this would provide a clearer account. Kevin Flenstead of the Westerlo Vol. Fire Co. suggested the addition of a rollover clause to the resolution in case a budget is not received by the Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. Until a new contract is in place the budgeted amount from the prior year would be used.

Councilman Bichteman spoke in regards to the resolution, as a side note he offered his personal observation of the Fire Company Code Ethics. His opinion was based on materials he had reviewed from the NYS Comptroller's office, he suggested the objectivity of someone outside the Fire Company serving on their Ethics Committee. The Fire Company is its own entity and no one is trying to impress their opinion on them, this is offered as a thought.

Councilman Field suggested to Councilman Bichteman that the Town Attorney correct the date on the proposed resolution after item # 4. Discussion followed between the Town Board members regarding proposed resolution, the Board members agreed to discuss this at the next Town Board Workshop scheduled for Tue. March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, Councilman Field indicated he would be unable to attend the workshop.

Supervisor Rapp informed the Board that a decision needs to be made regarding an accountant for the Town of Westerlo. Councilman Bichteman asked if the firm of Pattison, Koskey, Howe, and Bucci had revised their letter of engagement to reflect the concerns the Town Board had discussed. Supervisor Rapp indicated they had. Supervisor Rapp then made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: the Town of Board needs to hire and appoint an accountant for the Town of Westerlo, be it hereby

RESOLVED: the Town Board retained Pattison, Koskey, Howe, & Bucci CPA's as the accounting firm for the Town of Westerlo.

Councilman Field seconded the motion, a roll call vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Rapp, Councilman Field, Councilman Bichteman,  
Councilman Sherman, and Councilman Lounsbury

NAYS: None.

**RESOLUTION # 11-2015 was thereby duly adopted.**

Supervisor Rapp stated the Town Clerk and himself keep receiving telephone calls from companies asking to switch to their company instead of Central Hudson as the electric supplier. He believed this could be a scam and asked the Town Board how to proceed. Councilman Field made a motion to stay with Central Hudson as the electric supplier, Councilman Lounsbury seconded the motion, motion unanimously carried.

The next Town Board Workshop meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Supervisor Rapp opened the meeting to the Public.

Tom Diedrich asked again about street lights that were not functioning or malfunctioning. Supervisor Rapp informed he had called several times and given the pole numbers. Councilman Bichteman reported there is a place on Central Hudson's website to report outages of street lights, he had reported twice as well. Tom will ask Central Hudson as well, he had counted a problem with seven street lights. Supervisor Rapp responded many problems are caused by the electric eyes.

Edwin Stevens asked if there was a problem with the Water District Tank. Councilman Bichteman indicted they are unsure. The tank has a seep, of the third ring near the top, it should go away according to Aquastore in the spring time and the gaskets should reseal. He advised Mr. Stevens of the details which may have caused the seep and the response received from Aquastore as to why this happened and why Aquastore believes it will go away on its own. Discussions followed with questions from several individual's concerning the Water District:

- digging they had seen
- Level of water in Water District tank as a result of a broken pipe which had froze in a home,
- A contact list for the Fire Company, so the Town can report an issue with Water District pressure if there is ever a future problem.

A resident asked if the Town Board could use microphones during the Town Board meetings as some people in the audience have difficulty hearing the Town Board members. Supervisor Rapp advised he could look into that.

There being no further business. Supervisor Rapp asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Lounsbury made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Field, motion unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Spinnato