

October 18, 2018

Regular Town Board Meeting

Present: Supervisor Edward Bender, Councilman Dan Wiley, Councilman Paul Aubertine, Councilman Marty Mason, Councilman Alan Wood, Keith Brass, Highway Superintendent Bill Pond, and approximately 35 visitors.

Supervisor Bender called the meeting to order at 6:30pm with the pledge of allegiance. He explained to everyone that the board would like to discuss the lack of ambulance service and he was glad to see the interest with the attendance. Supervisor Bender said that he wants civil open conversation and he will not allow any bantering back and forth.

Connie Collins – Connie said that they had to wait 26 minutes for an ambulance to show up on Sunday. She said that her husband suffered a heart attack and waiting 26 minutes was too long when someone is having a heart attack. She said that people need to think about the time it takes to get to places in Cape Vincent.

Supervisor Bender told her that the Cape Vincent ambulance squad is not functioning.

Liz Brennan – Liz asked Supervisor Bender why the ambulance is not functioning. He said that there is no leadership and no people. Supervisor Bender said that they received 19 alarms and only responded to 3, leaving 16 calls to another ambulance service.

Councilman Wiley said that they don't have any volunteers and that they have missed 16 calls over the last month.

Supervisor Bender said that he has talked with the Department of Health, and he would like a committee formed to explore the options for this service. Councilman Wiley said that the committee will have to explore every avenue. He said it will be a costly venture and reminded everyone that the town is now paying TIERS to assist with coverage.

Supervisor Bender said that the town board can't do this alone, they need advice. He said that he was exploring the idea of adding a line to the tax bill and using a figure of a half a million dollars to start, he would suggest .75 cents per thousand.

Councilman Aubertine said that they are looking for volunteers to serve on a committee for a long term fix. He said they do not want to visit this issue every year.

James Wiley – Jim said that if they want to form a committee, they need more people in the community to hear about the ambulance issues. He suggested the board send a letter to the organizations in town to help determine what to do or what we need.

Pam Atkinson – Pam asked if there were enough people in town to serve as volunteers for the ambulance squad.

Ron Jacobs – Ron said that he is willing to serve on a committee to help. He said that the ambulance squad sent out fund raising letters and in the letter they asked for help. He said they only heard from one person who said that they would be interested in driving.

Bill Kirchgessner – Bill said that town law 102B and 109 says that a Fire District can contract with any ambulance squad they wish, and then third party bill for the service. He said that the law also says a town can contract with any ambulance that they may wish too.

Supervisor Bender said that he would like a business person on the committee because he feels that the ambulance service has to be run as a business.

Dave McIntyre – Dave told the board that they need to have a letter of agreement for service with the ambulance first. He said there are trained medical staff ready to serve. He said that their hands are tied now because a lot of them have been removed from the call out list and do not get notified of calls on their pagers. He said that he is ready to assist the committee. He said doing the paperwork for new service will take some time. He talked about the first responders and said that these individuals could get to the patient first and have them stabilized until the ambulance could get to the scene. He said that the faster the first responder can get to the victim the better, then transport. Dave said that the paperwork to get this going takes sixty to ninety days. He said that he thinks a letter from TIERS, Guilfoyle, and/or Three Mile Bay Ambulance Squad would be good. He said there is a list of members already trained. He told the board that there are no issues with the first responders. He said it is a disservice to the town that they don't hear the calls on their pagers and that the Fire Department and the Ambulance split.

Bill Gould – Bill said that the first responders are the first ones on site and this helps until the ambulance arrives. He said that when the ambulance is called out those who are responding are committing three hours minimum to that call. He said that is one of the reasons the membership is so low as they all have jobs too. He said that the first responders are called out up to half an hour; they can get to their jobs.

Supervisor Bender said that they would like to have another meeting and asked everyone present to help spread the word so more people would attend.

Pam Atkinson – Pam suggested advertising the meeting using testimonials.

Darrell Burton – Darrell asked how the meeting was advertised as he did not see anything.

Dave Bonney – Dave said that he feels this has been discussed for quite some time. He said that a lot of the fire department personnel were in attendance. He wants the town board to think about them because every time they are called out to a fire, they are putting their lives on the line. He said he wants the town board to think about the lack of ambulance coverage if one of them should get hurt.

Councilman Wiley said that he feels it is no secret that the ambulance and fire department don't get along. He said every meeting the town board has had with the ambulance squad they say they have a lot of members going through training. Councilman Wiley said that it is not just a town issue; it is a village issue too.

There being no further comments regarding the ambulance situation, Supervisor Bender resumed the regular meeting at 7:05pm.

Councilman Mason made a motion to accept the minutes of the Sept. 20, 2018 town board meeting, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Reports

Recreation Park – Keith Brass reported that they have had five wedding receptions, a water training class and meetings in the building. He also reported that one of the furnaces is down and he is not able to fix it so he will be calling in someone to take a look at it.

Water- Keith Brass said they have fixed a curb stop and the new radio reader is up and running. He said they have less than 100 meters to replace in water district #1. Keith also reported that he needs to have the board's approval to contract with Steven J. Hall to do the Generator Cold Weather Kit and the Generator Yearly Service Agreement in the amount of \$575.00.

Councilman Wood made a motion to approve of the payment of the \$575.00 and to authorize the Supervisor to sign the proposal, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. All members voted AYE.

Highway – Bill Pond reported that they have completed the chip and seal and that the trailer has been repaired. He said that they are outfitting the trucks for winter and that Jim Rooney and Dave Christianna are working on the bathrooms in the town office. Bill reported that the truck they had at Stadium for repairs is back. He said he has done the CHIPS paperwork, and it has been submitted. Bill told the board that the hot water pressure tank is leaking and it will take a professional to fix it. He said he has called Hyde-Stone to do the repairs. Bill said that he contacted Wells Communications regarding the new radios and he was told that the price quote will be extended until June of 2019.

Supervisor's Financial Report – Supervisor Bender gave the financial report and added that there would be one more budget meeting.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to approve of the Supervisor's financial report, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Machinery – Councilman Aubertine said that after discussing the purchase of the broom and loader with Bill Pond, they have decided to hold off on the purchase until December to see where they are at budget wise.

LWRP – Supervisor Bender said that they need to get phase one of the Environmental Assessment done on the Club Street properties. He said that he has the approval from one of the property owners to go ahead. Supervisor Bender said that GYMO is supposed to do this on Monday.

Youth Commission – Councilman Wiley shared a report from Youth Commission member, Kathy Wiley. He said that this is the first time the board has received a report and he is happy with it. He also said that the youth commission would like to reduce the number of required meetings from four to three. He said that he would like to think about this as the by-laws state they must meet four times a year.

LDC – Councilman Wiley said that they are trying to set up a meeting with the architect regarding the East End Park project. He said that they can't get anyone to bid on the plumbing because of the design and they want to see if they can change it.

Supervisor Bender told the board that the Town Clerk has received a letter of resignation from the Assessor, Cindy Shaw.

Councilman Mason made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Cindy Shaw, seconded by Councilman Wood. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Wood made a motion to hire Rebecca Trudell as the Sole Assessor, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Mason said that he and Supervisor Bender, Mayor Golden and Trustee Youngs had another meeting with three representatives from Samaritan to discuss the clinic. He said that they have a flyer they are going to distribute to help residents better understand how the clinic operates. He said he was very happy with the meeting and they will meet again in another six months. Councilman Mason also reported that they are very interested in holding educational seminars at Recreation Park and they would like to start with a Nutritionist. Councilman Mason said that there have been some questions regarding residents getting their flu shots there and he was told that they can if they are a patient. Supervisor Bender also agreed that it was a good meeting, and he strongly feels that there was a lack of communication and it is now getting better. Councilman Wiley said that they should also meet with the landlord. He said that he was happy that the new contract is not a roll over renewal.

Councilman Aubertine said that he would like to schedule a Public Hearing for the new Zoning Law as soon as the Planning Board is done with it. Councilman Wiley said that he would like the Planning Board to know that the Town Board appreciates their work so far and the approves of the changes.

Councilman Wiley said that he has been asked if a wine tasting event could be held at Tibbetts Point in conjunction with the Lighthouse Lighting Ceremony. The board asked the Town Clerk to check with the insurance carrier regarding this.

Supervisor Bender said that he has given a letter to the board members regarding a list of complaints from the Tibbetts Point Historical Society over the lighting of the lighthouse, and he asked them to review the letter.

Resolution #48

Resolution #48 was moved by Councilman Wiley, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. Resolution #48 is to set the date of Nov. 8, 2018 at 6:30pm for the 2019 Preliminary Budget to be held at Recreation Park. There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Resolution #49

Resolution #49 was moved by Councilman Aubertine, seconded by Councilman Mason. Resolution #49 declares a sander surplus equipment and authorizes the Highway Superintendent to make ready for disposal. There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Wiley said that a representative from a sign company will meet with Supervisor Bender and him on Oct. 25 at 10am. He said that he would also like the Clerk to the Supervisor and the Town Clerk to be in attendance.

Bills: General Fund, \$40,294.56; Highway, \$79,537.27; WD #1, \$32,922.18; WD #2, \$3,413.88; WD #3, \$1,197.32; WD #4, \$149.22; WD #5, \$113.68; WD #6, \$11.34.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to approve the payment of the vouchers, seconded by Councilman Mason. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to adjourn at 7:40pm, seconded by Councilman Mason. All members voted AYE.

Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk