

REGULAR MEETING, TOWN BOARD, TOWN OF LITTLE FALLS, MARCH 9, 2021

A Regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Little Falls was held on March 9, 2021 at the town hall commencing at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present:

Present: Supervisor Dan Casler
Councilman Kirk Schwasnick
Councilman Kevin Sullivan
Councilman Eric Gehring

Absent: Councilman Mitchell Soules

Others Present: Town Clerk, Sandra Regan; Highway Superintendent, Donald Cotton; Town Attorney, Nick Macri; Code Enforcer, Phil Green; County Legislator, Peter Campione.

-Supervisor Casler called the meeting to order directing the Clerk to call the roll.

RESOLUTION #24

Minute Approval

On motion of Councilman Gehring, seconded by Councilman Schwasnick, the following resolution was ADOPTED-vote:

Ayes-Supervisor Casler; Councilmen Schwasnick, Sullivan, Gehring

Noes-0

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous month's meetings, as submitted by the clerk, hereby be approved.

-Privilege of the floor was granted to those present. There were no comments.

-Supervisor Report:

Supervisor Casler reported:

-That he submitted his monthly financial report for review.

-That he received another snow payment.

-That he received Herkimer County Soil and Water's Annual Report.

-That he received notification from the Canal Corp Earthen Embankment Integrity Program that work is being done along the canal and that there is a phone number listed if anyone has any questions.

-That he spoke with Funtech about getting the website updated and coming to work on some problems with the wireless connections.

RESOLUTION #25

Supervisor Monthly Financial Report

On motion of Councilman Schwasnick, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, the following resolution was ADOPTED-vote:

Ayes-Supervisor Casler; Councilmen Schwasnick, Sullivan, Gehring

Noes-0

RESOLVED that the Supervisor's Monthly Financial Report, as submitted, hereby be approved and placed on file.

REGULAR MEETING, TOWN BOARD, TOWN OF LITTLE FALLS, MARCH 9, 2021-
CONT.

-Assessor Report: None

-Town Attorney Report:

Attorney Macri reported that the planning board is considering changing the solar law to include that any proposed project has to pay for any engineering services if needed. Attorney Macri stated that this will allow the town to hire an engineer to assess the decommissioning of a project at the solar company's expense.

-Councilman Schwasnick asked what was going on with Hillside Auto. Supervisor Casler stated that, as Codes Enforcer Green stated last month, the courts are closed due to COVID, so you can't really do too much at this time.

Attorney Macri stated that according to his reports from the state, the courts will be reopening and slowly bringing back the staff and should be fully open in person by April 22nd at the latest.

-Town Justice Report:

Supervisor Casler reported that he had received the justice deposit.

-Planning Board Report:

Clerk Regan reported that the planning board did not hold its February 2nd meeting but met on February 16th and made their yearly officer appointments and discussed revising the solar law to include the town's ability to hire an engineer at the solar company's expense.

Clerk Regan reported that the planning board did not hold its monthly March meeting but plans to meet in April.

-Dog Control Officer Report: None

-Health Officer Report: None

-Highway Superintendent Report:

Highway Superintendent Cotton reported that in regards to the BridgeNY Grant, the grant will pay 95% of a project and the town is responsible for 5%.

Supervisor Casler stated that he thinks it's worth pursuing, that if there's trouble coming up with the 5%, he could reach out to Assemblyman Miller and/or senate leaders for additional funding.

-Supervisor Casler reported that the highway employee's union contract has been approved and motioned for board approval.

RESOLUTION #26

Approval of Three Year Union Contract

On motion of Supervisor Casler, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, the following resolution was ADOPTED by roll call vote:

Supervisor Casler	Aye
Councilman Sullivan	Aye
Councilman Schwasnick	Aye
Councilman Gehring	Aye

REGULAR MEETING, TOWN BOARD, TOWN OF LITTLE FALLS, MARCH 9, 2021-
CONT.

(Resolution #26-Cont.)

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby approves the highway employee's union contract for three years retroactive from January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023.

-Town Clerk Report: Nothing at this time.

-Supervisor Casler read a letter of resignation from Tax Collector Kathleen Sagatis.

RESOLUTION #27

Resignation Acceptance-Kathleen Sagatis, Tax Collector

On motion of Supervisor Casler, seconded by Councilman Gehring, the following resolution was ADOPTED-vote:

Ayes-Supervisor Casler; Councilmen Schwasnick, Sullivan, Gehring

Noes-0

WHEREAS Tax collector, Kathleen Sagatis, has submitted a letter of resignation informing the board of her intent to retire as the town's tax collector at the end of this year,

BE IT RESOLVED that the town board hereby accepts with regret, the resignation of Tax Collector, Kathleen Sagatis, effective December 31, 2021.

-Supervisor Casler stated that Tax Collector Sagatis has provided a list of duties associated with the position and has offered her assistance to the new tax collector.

Supervisor Casler stated that he had talked with some people to let them know the position is available and that the hall may need to be made available for the position if a person isn't comfortable having the office at their home. Supervisor Casler stated that the town will have to purchase a computer and any equipment needed for the job.

-Supervisor Casler reported that he met with Bill VanGorder to review the town's liability insurance policy and other than adding on the new truck; he doesn't think any other changes are needed. Supervisor Casler stated that Mr. VanGorder will get back to him with an updated policy and that had said that there will probably be a 2-4% increase in the premium.

-Supervisor Casler reported that he gave Clerk Regan a copy of the revised AUD for 2020 to be placed on file.

-Supervisor Casler stated that to distribute the tax levy money some fund transfers are needed.

RESOLUTION #28

Fund Transfer Approval

On motion of Supervisor Casler, seconded by Councilman Gehring, the following resolution was ADOPTED by roll call vote:

Supervisor Casler Aye

Councilman Schwasnick Aye

Councilman Sullivan Aye

Councilman Gerhing Aye

REGULAR MEETING, TOWN BOARD, TOWN OF LITTLE FALLS, MARCH 9, 2021-
CONT.

(Resolution # 28-cont.)

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby approves that \$264,135.00 be transferred from General Fund Account A909 to Highway Fund D909.

RESOLUTION #29

Fund Transfer Approval

On motion of Supervisor Casler, seconded by Councilman Schwasnick, the following resolution was ADOPTED by roll call vote:

Supervisor Casler	Aye
Councilman Schwasnick	Aye
Councilman Sullivan	Aye
Councilman Gerhing	Aye

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby approves that \$68,439.88 be transferred from General Fund Account A909 to the Special District Fire Protection Account.

-Supervisor Casler stated that due to last year's tax levy overage, a transfer of \$725.67 needs to be approved.

RESOLUTION #30

Fund Transfer Approval

On motion of Supervisor Casler, seconded by Councilman Schwasnick, the following resolution was ADOPTED by roll call vote:

Supervisor Casler	Aye
Councilman Schwasnick	Aye
Councilman Sullivan	Aye
Councilman Gerhing	Aye

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby approves that \$725.67 be transferred from the Special Fund Account to General Fund Account A909.

-Codes Officer Report:

Code Enforcer Green reported that he sent his annual report to the state and will be working on his consensus report.

Supervisor Casler asked if anything was going on with Hillside Auto. Codes Enforcer Green stated that it, as well as all the buildings, will be going up for back taxes. Codes Enforcer Green stated that in these cases, the county will notify him to find out if there are violations, if there are problems, the county gets the chance to opt out and the towns, cities, and villages get stuck with it.

Legislator Campione stated that this will be one of those properties in limbo. Codes Enforcer Green stated that the DEC is not done with them yet.

Attorney Macri stated that there are a couple of things in Real Property Law that are supposed to be modified to help local municipalities.

-Meeting recessed at 7:40 p.m. to audit the bills.

-Meeting resumed at 7:55 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING, TOWN BOARD, TOWN OF LITTLE FALLS, MARCH 9, 2021-
CONT.

RESOLUTION #31

Payment of General Bills

On motion of Councilman Schwasnick, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, the following resolution was ADOPTED-vote:

Ayes- Supervisor Casler; Councilmen, Schwasnick, Sullivan, Gehring

Noes-0

RESOLVED that the General Bills #20-32 in the amount of \$3,966.05 hereby be paid.

RESOLUTION #32

Payment of Highway Bills

On motion of Councilman Schwasnick, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, the following resolution was ADOPTED-vote:

Ayes-Supervisor Casler; Councilmen Schwasnick, Sullivan, Gehring

Noes-0

RESOLVED that the Highway Bills #39-56 in the amount of \$27,998.59 hereby be paid.

-The next regular meeting will be held on April 13, 2021 at the town hall at 7:00 p.m.

-Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.-Supervisor Casler, Councilman Gehring

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Regan, Town Clerk