

REGULAR MEETING, TOWN BOARD, TOWN OF LITTLE FALLS, APRIL 13, 2021

A Regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Little Falls was held on April 13, 2021 at the town hall commencing at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present:

Present: Supervisor Dan Casler
Councilman Mitchell Soules
Councilman Kirk Schwasnick
Councilman Eric Gehring

Absent: Councilman Kevin Sullivan

Others Present: Town Clerk, Sandra Regan; Highway Superintendent, Donald Cotton; Town Attorney, Nick Macri; Planning Board Chairwoman, Elaine Cobb.

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

RESOLUTION #33

Minute Approval

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

Ayes-Supervisor Casler; Councilmen Soules, Schwasnick, 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 distributed the monies received to the different funds as required.
- That he received another County snow payment for \$25,700.
- That the Association of Towns is having an online training session on budgets if anyone is interested. Clerk Regan reported that she had emailed the information to the board.
- That the town hall will not be used for the Primary Election, but will be used for the general election in November.
- That the Humane Society has passed its state inspection.
- That the town will be receiving \$160,000-\$200,000 from the American Rescue Plan, and after speaking with Superintendent Cotton on this, recommends paying off the new truck and Superintendent Cotton would like to possibly buy a new front loader to replace the 40 year old one that we got rid of.
- That we are working on the Bridge NY grant and that the O'Hara Road Project will be paid for with CHIPS money.
- That he and Councilman Soules met with Bill VanGorder to review the town's insurance policy, that there will be an increase due to the new truck, and that he asked Mr. VanGorder to look into pricing for Worker's Compensation coverage. Supervisor Casler stated that there is cyber breach coverage available for \$645.00 if the board thinks it's necessary.
- That he received the Codes Enforcement yearly report from the state.

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-Supervisor Casler read a letter from Mohawk Valley Economic Development District that informs the town that they are the coordinator for NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program and that they provide free assistance to help review energy and resiliency goals, determine which actions are best for communities, and help access funding.

Supervisor Casler stated that this might be something worth looking into.

-Supervisor Casler stated that everyone needs to get their three month calendar of activities turned in.

-Supervisor Casler requested that his monthly financial report be approved.

Discussion was held on this matter with the board stating that they would like a more specific monthly financial report, one that shows how much we had, how much was spent, how much is left, etc., to at least have a fourth column that shows what the initial approved budget figure was for each line item, and suggested that Supervisor Casler look into a different software program if needed.

After discussion the board approved this month's financial report.

RESOLUTION #34

Supervisor Monthly Financial Report

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

Ayes-Supervisor Casler; Councilmen Soules, Schwasnick, Gehring
Noes-0

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

-Assessor Report: None

-Town Attorney Report:

Attorney Macri stated that he had nothing other than a law relating to projects in the town that he will let Planning Chairwoman report on.

-Town Justice Report:

Supervisor Casler reported that the Town Justice deposit had been received.

-Planning Board Report:

Chairwoman Cobb reported that in reference to the Kimbro's initial project to open an event center in their barn, this project has been scrapped due to the high cost of having to install a sprinkler system in the barn.

Chairwoman Cobb reported that the board recently met with the Kimbros and that they are now looking to build a 3-sided 84x48 open pavilion to hold events for up to 125 people. Chairwoman Cobb gave an overview of the project stating that they will meet again with the Kimbros for further review of this project. Chairwoman Cobb reported that previous to this project, the Kimbros were approved to open a gift shop in the barn.

Chairwoman Cobb reported that the board had reached out to Attorney Macri in regards to having a law that would allow the town to hire an engineering and/or an environmental legal

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firm to assist with projects in the town and that the planning board had contacted other municipalities for information on what they did and what firms they used.

Attorney Macri explained that the town can add an addendum to the town's current solar law that would pertain to only solar projects, or the town can have a stand-alone law that pertains to all projects. Attorney Macri explained that said law allows the town to chose and hire a firm at the expense of the developer.

Chairwoman Cobb explained that the hiring of said firms wouldn't be needed for all projects only when it is deemed necessary by the planning board to do so, and that the planning board had voted on this and would like the town to consider having a stand-alone law.

Attorney Macri stated that if the town board is interested, he will draft up a law for the board's consideration, noting that these firms can assist the town with the decommissioning of projects.

Chairwoman Cobb stated that other municipalities have set fees in their law that are paid by the developer and will send this information to the board for their review.

Chairwoman reported that the planning board will start meeting in person at the hall town.

-Health Officer Report: None

-Dog Control Officer: None

-Highway Superintendent Report:

Highway Superintendent Cotton reported:

-That letters had been sent to and responses received back from engineering firms for the Bridge NY grant and he recommends GPI.

-That there are three programs that the town will be receiving money from, CHIPS, Extreme Recovery, and Pave NY, that CHIPS money has increased from \$34,000 to \$44,000, and that between the three of them, the town will receive \$65,000.

-That the O'Hara Road project will use all of the CHIPS money, that you have to spend the money to get the money.

-Supervisor Casler reported that he and Superintendent Cotton had spoken with, Brian Olds from the DOT, on safety issues on various roads in the town including the safety issue at the bottom of O'Hara Road and that they have to re-draft a letter of what we recommend the state do to remedy these issues.

-Discussion was held on the cost of having GPI Engineering firm for the Bridge NY grant. After discussion it was decided that Superintendent Cotton would contact GPI and asked them what their fee was. After discussion the board approved the hiring of GPI at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 without a town board telephone poll.

RESOLUTION #35

Approval to Hire GPI Engineering Firm for BridgeNY Grant

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

Supervisor Casler	Aye
Councilman Soules	Aye
Councilman Schwasnick	Aye
Councilman Gehring	Aye

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(Resolution #35-cont.)

WHEREAS, it is necessary to have an Engineering Firm assist the town in obtaining funding to repair/replace the Eatonville Road Bridge over North Creek through a Bridge NY grant program, and,

WHEREAS, the town has solicited and received back interest in said services from several firms,

BE IT RESOLVED that, as recommended by Superintendent Cotton, the Town Board of the Town of Little Falls hereby selects GPI/Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., as the Engineering Firm for the Town for the Bridge NY grant program, at a cost not to exceed \$5,000 without a town board telephone poll and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Supervisor and Highway Superintendent hereby be authorized to execute a contract with GPI/Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. for said application.

-Codes Enforcer Report:

Clerk Regan reported that Codes Enforcer Green wasn't sure he can make tonight's meeting but reported that everything is going well.

-Supervisor Casler reviewed the town's liability insurance policy with the board stating that the cost is \$21,187.76.

Councilman Gehring questioned the cost of the municipal auto coverage. Discussion was held on this matter with the board deciding to have Councilman Gehring contact Mr. Van Gorder to clarify the Municipal Inland Marine and Municipal Auto Insurance coverage.

-Discussion was held on whether then town needed cyber breach coverage. After discussion the board decided this was not needed and approved the renewal.

RESOLUTION #36

Approval of 2021 Insurance Renewal

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

Supervisor Casler	Aye
Councilman Soules	Aye
Councilman Schwasnick	Aye
Councilman Gehring	Aye

RESOLVED that the Town's 2021 insurance coverage through NBT hereby be approved at a cost of \$21,187.76 for the year.

-Planning Chairwoman Cobb stated that in reference to the earlier conversation about getting a large sum of money, she questioned if some of the money could be towards comprehensive planning.

Supervisor Casler stated that there are certain criteria that the money can be used for and that he would have information on this upon receipt of the money.

-Meeting recessed at 8:15 p.m. to audit the bills.

-Meeting resumed at 8:33 p.m.

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RESOLUTION #37

Payment of General Bills

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

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

Noes-0

RESOLVED that the General Bills #33-47 in the amount of \$26,120.94 hereby be paid.

RESOLUTION #38

Payment of Highway Bills

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

Ayes-Supervisor Casler; Councilmen Soules, Schwasnick, Gehring

Noes-0

RESOLVED that the Highway Bills #57-79 in the amount of \$24,791.46 hereby be paid.

-The next regular meeting will be held on May 11, 2021 at the town hall at 7:00 p.m.

-Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.-Councilmen Gehring, Schwasnick

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Regan, Town Clerk