

Town of Hope
Regular Board Meeting
September 10, 2018

- 1) Town of Hope Regular Board Meeting on September 10, 2018.
- 2) A Regular Board Meeting of the Town of Hope, Hamilton County, and the State of New York was held at the Town Hall, Route 30, Hope, New York on the 10th day of September 2018. Supervisor Tomlinson called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag at 1900.

- 3) Present: Steven Tomlinson Supervisor
 Mark Stuart Councilperson
 William Witts Councilperson
 Dianna Downing Councilperson
 John Stuart Jr. Councilperson
 Zachery Colson Highway Superintendent
 Jill Dunham Town Clerk

RESOLUTION # 86

4) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF August 13, 2018 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

On a motion by Councilperson William Witts, seconded by Councilperson Mark Stuart, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 S. Tomlinson, M. Stuart, J. Stuart Jr., D. Downing, W. Witts
 Nays 0

- 5) Resolved that the minutes of the August 13, 2018 Board Meeting have been reviewed and approved as presented.

6) **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Present were: Harry Downing, Peter Robinson, Joann Robinson, Dan Jenkins and Bill Donovan. Dan Jenkins addressed the Town Board, asking for a key to the Transfer Station now that it is locked. He and his wife run a Redemption Center in town and their hours are the same as the Transfer Station, therefore, he would a key to go in during off hours to collect bottles and cans from the Fire Department Donation bin. The Town Board has agreed to let this happen and Highway Superintendent Zac Colson will have one available to Dan that can be picked up at the Transfer Station.

7) **BUILDING / CODE OFFICER REPORT**

Supervisor Tomlinson handed out a report given to him by Code Enforcer Mike Stewart. It reads as follows:

1. I answered some questions from Ron Batchner on stairs and a roof change to a house that he has been building on State 30.
2. I completed the final inspection for Steve Podlick's basement replacement on Route 30.



3. I inspected the slab at Rudy Peters of 111 Peaceful Falls Road for an addition to his garage.
4. I issued a permit for a pole barn to Terry Loveday of 602 Hope Falls Road.
5. I spoke with Frank Piazza on Route 30 about the insulation he needs in the basement to get his final CO.
6. I returned a call from Michael Strober to answer questions about his garage that is under construction.

8) RESOLUTION # 87

APPROVE CODE OFFICER REPORT

On a motion by Councilperson Dianna Downing, seconded by Councilperson Mark Stuart, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 S. Tomlinson, M. Stuart, J. Stuart Jr., D. Downing, W. Witts
 Nays 0

9) The Code Officer's Report was accepted.

10) Discussion with the Town Board in regard to a letter from Kirstin Seleen from DEC. The letter reads as follows:

"The Department of Environmental Conservation has been developing a draft unit management plan (UMP) for the Wilcox Lake Wild Forest. This plan describes existing and proposed recreation infrastructure and in it a 0.3-mile accessible trail is proposed at the end of Hope Falls Road. This short trail would follow the East Stony Creek to a proposed accessible campsite along the creek. For accessible use of this trail, the Department is proposing an accessible-only parking area for 1-2 cars at the end of the road on the southeast side. The Draft UMP is on track to be out for public comment sometime late fall/early winter and finalized early in the year next year. Projects could then start to be implemented the following field season.

This proposed parking area would be signed to allow only vehicles with accessible hang tags. All others would be ticketed. The approximate size of the lot would be 25 feet deep and 30 feet wide) along the road). This parking area, when unoccupied, could also serve to allow municipal and emergency vehicles to turn around at the end of the road."

Supervisor Tomlinson added that Highway Superintendent Zac Colson, County Highway Superintendent Tracy Eldredge and himself had met with Ms. Seleen about the proposed parking area. Per Mr. Eldredge, the county will donate equipment. Per Ms. Seleen DEC will pay the cost of the materials.



Councilwoman Dianna Downing asked why only handicap parking signs? Supervisor Tomlinson stated DEC is requiring this. Councilman John Stuart added that this would alleviate what we (the town board) were looking to do, which is make it so the town equipment and emergency vehicles can turn around. Councilman John Stuart also inquired as to if the land owners affected were satisfied with this decision. Supervisor Tomlinson said he was told they were satisfied with the proposal. Councilman William Witts asked what about the 49 feet right of way? Supervisor Tomlinson and Highway Superintendent Zac Colson explained that we do not have 49 feet right of way. We are in the “Forever Wild” are. Once the trees grow over 4” around, we lose the right of way. We also lost the right of way to the land owners when we stopped maintaining it. Councilman William Witts also asked if we would now be losing CHIPS money. Supervisor Tomlinson answered that now that we can maintain this area we may actually receive more CHIPS money. Highway Superintendent Zac Colson also responded that he spoke to the person in charge of the CHIPS program and he will be coming to the Town to measure roads next week. This will ensure we are not losing any CHIPS money. Supervisor Tomlinson explained that at the goal since Day 1 was to get a turn around for town and emergency vehicles and that will happen.

11) RESOLUTION # 88

APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A NO PARKING SIGN FOR THE PROPOSED NEW PARKING AREA

Supervisor Tomlinson presented to the town board that he would like permission to purchase a new “No Parking Beyond This Point by Order of the Hope Town Board”.

On a motion by Councilperson John Stuart Jr., seconded by Councilperson Dianna Downing, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 S. Tomlinson, M. Stuart, J. Stuart Jr., D. Downing, W.Witts
 Nays 0

The proposal to purchase a new “No Parking” sign was accepted.

- 12) Discussion of Town of Benson costs from Sand/ Salt and Loader usage took place. Supervisor Steven Tomlinson distributed a letter he received from the Town of Benson regarding the above mentioned. The letter was read by the town board members. Supervisor Tomlinson went on to discuss the loader. The Town of Benson would like to know why the loader is not covered under shared services. Supervisor Tomlinson explained, in his thought, that it shouldn't be covered under shared services because it will always be used instead of occasionally. The town board agreed with this. Supervisor Tomlinson will respond with their thoughts on the matter.



The Town of Benson also wants to fill the loader with their own fuel when they use it. The Town of Hope town board has no problem with this.

The 2019 signed Transfer Station Agreement was distributed. Supervisor Tomlinson did receive a check for ½ of the 2018 costs and was told he could expect the other half of the costs in December. Supervisor Tomlinson asked the town board to prepare the 2019 increase costs. He stated it will be discussed further at budget discussions.

- 13) There was discussion about the Town of Hope contributing \$300.00 to the APA Review Board. Supervisor Tomlinson stated he received a letter from the APA to send them \$300.00 for their review board. Councilman Mark Stuart asked what the benefit to the town is. Supervisor Tomlinson did not have a clear answer for him, but he stated that the town has given in the past and at times has also not. Councilwoman Dianna Downing proposed not to send money. The town board members were all in agreeance with her.
- 14) Supervisor Tomlinson has prepared cost increases that affect the Transfer Station. With these cost increases the Town of Benson Transfer Agreement for 2019 will also reflect these increases. He is proposing a 3% increase for all attendants, as well as an increase proposed to the Transfer Station Supervisor. He would like to add \$1500.00 to the budget for this. He feels \$1500.00 would cover all increases. The town board agreed with this.

RESOLUTION # 89

15) Approval to create a new Fund DB3501 for the Creek Road and Tannery Road Project

Supervisor Tomlinson stated that we receive \$28000.00 in CHIPS money. The CHIPS money needs to be split to show specific areas of where the money is used. This resolution will separate CHIPS money to use specifically for the Creek Road and Tannery Road project.

On a motion by Councilperson Mark Stuart, seconded by Councilperson William Witts, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 S. Tomlinson, M. Stuart, J. Stuart Jr., D. Downing, W. Witts
 Nays 0

- 16) Resolved the board to allow Fund DB3501 be created to allow specific CHIPS money for the Creek Road and Tannery Road project.

RESOLUTION # 90

- 17) **Approval to pay Charles Haugh \$700.00 for the Septic Design and \$1500.00 on replacement costs of the old system for the Highway Garage and Town Hall**



Supervisor Tomlinson stated the current septic system is well over 20 years old and is leaking into the Highway garage. He states that Highway Superintendent Zac Colson will do the manual work for the project, which will save the town money from paying labor costs.

On a motion made by Dianna Downing and seconded by John Stuart Jr., the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 S. Tomlinson, M. Stuart, J. Stuart Jr., D. Downing, W.Witts
 Nays 0

- 18) Resolved was the board's approval to pay Charles Haugh \$700.00 for the Septic Design and \$1500.00 on replacement costs of the old system for the Highway garage and Town hall.
- 19) Supervisor Tomlinson passed around copies of the current 2018 budget and wanted to discuss some changes in costs and revenues he is proposing. After some discussions on these areas, Supervisor Tomlinson will prepare the Tentative Budget.

RESOLUTION # 90

Approval of the August Expense Report

Supervisor Tomlinson is seeking the town boards approval for the August Expense report.

On a motion made by William Witts and seconded by Mark Stuart, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 S. Tomlinson, M. Stuart, J. Stuart Jr., D. Downing, W.Witts
 Nays 0

- 20) Resolved was the board's approval of the July Expense Report.

RESOLUTION #91

21) APPROVAL OF PAY ROLL 17&18

On a motion by Councilperson John Stuart Jr., seconded by Councilperson Mark Stuart, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 S. Tomlinson, M. Stuart, J. Stuart Jr., D. Downing, W.Witts
 Nays 0



22) There was an approval for Pay roll 17 & 18.

RESOLUTION # 92

23) **APPROVAL OF HIGHWAY FUND ABSTRACT 9**

On a motion by Councilperson John Stuart Jr., seconded by Councilperson Dianna Downing the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 S. Tomlinson, M. Stuart, J. Stuart Jr., D. Downing, W. Witts
 Nays 0

24) Resolved that the Town Highway Fund Abstracts 9 have been reviewed and approved.

RESOLUTION #93

25) **APPROVAL OF TOWN GENERAL FUND ABSTRACTS 9**

On a motion by Councilperson Dianna Downing, seconded by Councilperson Mark Stuart the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 S. Tomlinson, M. Stuart, J. Stuart Jr., D. Downing, W. Witts
 Nays 0

26) Resolved that the Town General Fund 9 have been reviewed and approved for payment.

27) **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Zachery presented the board with a report of how things are going and what upcoming things he would like to see happen.

1. On Wednesday, September 5, 2018, we double chip sealed the half mile of Creek Road and the 420 foot on Tannery Road. This is the top coat on the road. Now I can start the paperwork for the reimbursement from CHIPS.



2. I have a drawing (which was distributed) that I sketched up as an idea for a sign coming into Hope heading north on Route 30. I would like to place it along the wood line where the Willard Cemetery is.
3. The loggers moved out of River Road the beginning of August. We went in and graded the road and took care of all the pot holes and wash boarded areas.
4. Some of the items we will be working on this month are trimming brush on Creek Road, finishing the siding of the barn, installing the new septic system and replacing a culvert on the top of Creek Road.

Supervisor Tomlinson asked if the logging company must be bonded to use the road. Councilman William Witts asked if we could post it. Councilman Mark Stuart asked if it was passable when they were logging. Councilwoman Dianna Downing stated she would be ok with them using it if they pay for what they damage. Highway Superintendent Zac Colson responded that he will investigate the bonding question. As far as posting it, he said he would hate to do that. Not only does that hurt land owners who want to have trees removed, but it hurts a business. He states the logging company will be paying for the materials used to fix the damage.

28) TOWN CLERK'S COMMENTS

Jill states that there is huge mouse problem continuing at the Town Hall. Highway Superintendent Zac Colson did put Decon out, but there is still evidence of mice. It seems to be an issue all over town. There was discussion on the upcoming picnic and final details were put in place.

29) TOWN SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Tomlinson thanked the town board for their work and dedication. He will have a Tentative Budget in place for the next meeting.

COUNCILPERSON'S COMMENTS

Councilman Mark Stuart stated he spoke with Mr. Armstrong, the gentleman that lives next to the Cemetery on Creek Road and whose land we were looking to purchase to extend the



cemetery. He said he would be selling in one or two years and he would like to leave the decision to deed over property to the town up to the new home owners.

Councilman Mark Stuart stated he also would like to look at getting an estimate to remove trees at the Transfer Station and look into the solar panel project that was brought up. Jill will look into past notes to see if an estimate was ever done prior, as many town board members feel there was.

30) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Jenkins addressed the town board, in particular, Highway Superintendent Zac Colson and stated that he had been on the Tannery Road just prior to the meeting and states that it is undermined again. Councilwoman Dianna Downing asked if we were getting FEMA money for that project. Supervisor Tomlinson stated that we are not at this time and probably will not be since there wasn't enough damage throughout the county and this was a county road. Highway Superintendent Zac Colson will look into the road damage after the meeting.

Dan Jenkins also inquired regarding the logging on River Road and the road damage that was done. He stated to Highway Superintendent Zac Colson that he believed Highway Superintendent Colson told the town board at the beginning of them logging that the town would not be responsible for any damage and the logging company would leave the road in better shape than it was when they started. Highway Superintendent Colson stated that they are paying for the repairs, but the town is widening and straightening the road out.

Dan Jenkins stated to Highway Superintendent Zac Colson that in January Superintendent Colson stated he would be trimming the tops of the trees on Creek Road to let better light in and that isn't being done. Highway Superintendent Colson states that DEC only allows trees to be trimmed up to 20 feet unless there are dead branches. Superintendent Colson offered to show Mr. Jenkins his permit stating such. Mr. Jenkins then asked if they can't cut the tops, then what does cutting the bottom do? Superintendent Colson responded that it does help. The biggest way it is helping is that vehicles are not getting damaged.

With no further business on a motion by Councilperson John Stuart Jr., seconded by Councilperson Dianna Downing, the meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Hope was adjourned at 2007.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Dunham, Town Clerk

Meeting notes can be found at the Town of Hope website at: www.townofhopeny.org

