

Town of Hope
Regular Board Meeting
August 13, 2018

- 1) Town of Hope Regular Board Meeting on August 13, 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 13th day of August 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 # 78

4) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF July 9, 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 July 9, 2018 Board Meeting have been reviewed and approved as presented.

6) **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Present were: Gary Bolton, Cathy Mercaldi, Douglas Gregor, Peter Robinson, JoAnne Robinson, Charles Biche and John M. Stortecky

John M. Stortecky first thanked us for letting him attend our meeting. He addressed the Board, stating that Supervisor Tomlinson was at the last Town of Benson meeting and they should know he did an example job. He stated that Supervisor Tomlinson came prepared and explained himself, as well as the Board's, intention in regards to the Transfer Station. Mr. Stortecky read a draft of a Transfer Agreement that he is proposing both town boards review, discuss changes, and make a resolution to adopt it. The Board agreed to do so and a meeting will be scheduled in the future. Supervisor Tomlinson stated that overall the Transfer Agreement looks good, but what is not mentioned is how each town will move forward with the purchase of a new roll off truck when the time comes. Douglas Gregor addressed Supervisor Tomlinson stating, that while he cannot speak on behalf of the Town of Benson Board, he can say that they are budgeting for it and down the road the details will need to be worked out. John Stortecky added that when the roll off truck was purchased two years ago, it was an unplanned purchase. However, this time around they have a better grasp on planning for it. In regards to the Transfer agreement, Supervisor Tomlinson added that the Board will sit down prior to January and know a better idea for the projected 2019 costs. Douglas Gregor added that September, if possible, would be



more reasonable, in time for tentative budget. Supervisor Tomlinson was confident this could happen.

Supervisor Tomlinson asked the guest from the Town of Benson if they wished to discuss the fuel situation. Douglas Gregor addressed Supervisor Tomlinson and stated that they have put a lot of work into it, but they were not prepared to put the plan forth, but would be ready to present it soon.

The Town of Hope Board members expressed satisfaction in the Transfer Agreement and all agreed to look it over and make any corrections or additions they would like to see in it.

Rebekah Crewell was present at the meeting. She introduced herself as a Town of Wells resident, a newly inducted Republican Committee member and an Insurance representative. She came tonight to discuss how, after speaking with Supervisor Tomlinson that she believes she can save the Town of Hope premium dollars on Insurance costs. She cannot guarantee it, but she has provided the Town with a packet questionnaire to answer and return to her. From there, she will research if savings can be found and the Board will make a determination at that point to either stay with what they have or switch. The Board thanked Rebekah for attending the meeting and stated they will be in touch soon.

Gary Bolton and Cathy Mercaldi were present again in regards to their concern with parking at the entrance of the Hope Falls trail. It seems that cars continue to block their driveway. Cathy Mercaldi expressed several times, that in no way, are they trying to keep rescue vehicles from entering the property when there is a medical emergency or rescue operation. She said that all the signs that were placed there by the former Highway Superintendent were effective and she and Mr. Bolton asked repeatedly for the signs to return. They stated they know how long the process is with DEC, but wanted to know what is taking so long to find a resolution and asked when they can expect that a resolution would be met. Highway Superintendent Zachery Colson stated he believed the proper way to get sign placement back up was for it to go to public referendum. Supervisor Tomlinson expressed his shared concern, stating that the town's primary concern is for a turn around to be put in place. He is working with DEC to make this happen. He states due to everyone's schedule, there has been a delay in getting DEC reps, the County Highway Superintendent as well as town representatives together to meet there. He will look into what the actual proper procedure is for getting signs up and states he is not against placing whatever needs to go there to fix the shared concerns.

John Stuart, Jr. stated asked why, if people were blocking their driveway, they don't call law enforcement. Mr. Bolton reasoned that by the time law enforcement arrives, chances are the vehicles have left. Cathy Mercaldi added that when they thought this concern was resolved before, the former Highway Superintendent had promised them it would get patrolled. John Stuart, Jr. stated that they were misinformed since the town has no law enforcement of any kind to patrol.



Peter Robinson added to Cathy Mercaldi, asking her if she was aware that when there is an emergency, there will be several emergency vehicles parked at the entrance, likely blocking her driveway. Both Miss Mercaldi and Mr. Bolton said they were well aware and that they will not be part of holding up an emergency.

Supervisor Tomlinson reiterated that they are continuing to look for a solution to satisfy everyone's concerns and hope to have this resolved in the near future.

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 inspected the footings for the Lyden property on Route 30.
2. I completed the insulation inspection for the Woodward addition on State 30.
3. I issued a permit to Rudy Peters of 111 Peaceful Falls Road for an addition to his garage.
4. I am working with the property owners of 602 Hope Falls Road on a building permit.

8) RESOLUTION # 79

APPROVE CODE OFFICER REPORT

On a motion by Councilperson Dianna Downing, seconded by Councilperson John Stuart Jr., 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 regards to the Town of Benson Meeting that Supervisor Tomlinson attended on 8/8/2018 continued. Highway Superintendent Zachery Colson stated, in reference to the Transfer Agreement, asked that Part 2b be removed. Councilperson Dianna Downing advised that it reads like the Town of Benson owns part of the Transfer Station. Councilperson John Stuart, Jr. asked if the Board thought an attorney should look at the agreement. Councilperson William Witts stated he knows a few people that might look at it. The Board was satisfied with this approach.



- 11) Supervisor Tomlinson and Town Clerk, Jill Dunham, have already started working on the budget. Supervisor Tomlinson reminded everyone that he needs their Budget Request forms returned ASAP.
- 12) Work on the Town Picnic is continuing. Meat is ordered. Prizes and such are starting to be collected.
- 13) Supervisor Tomlinson asked the Board members if there were any ideas for future projects for within the town. Councilperson John Stuart Jr. stated he was able to talk with Mr. Tedesco at the Old Homes Days celebration. Councilperson William Witts did as well. Both asked for monies to be granted for repairs to the Town Hall, but neither could give him an idea of the projected cost. Supervisor Tomlinson stated he has one quote for \$40-50000.00. Councilperson William Witts and Councilperson John Stuart Jr. will reach out to him to see what he has to offer.

Supervisor Tomlinson stated he would really like to see 'Welcome to Hope' signs placed on Route 30 and other outlying areas within the town.

Supervisor Tomlinson stated that Transfer Station employee Dick Morey has been staining the picnic tables and posts at the pavilion area. He will be doing the benches and old playground area next. Along this same topic, Supervisor Tomlinson stated that we need to look at a new mower to mow the ball field. The one currently being used was bought new last year, but it is not big enough or reliable to mow the ball field. Mowing that takes about 4 hours and this current mower is not built for that kind of workload. Highway Superintendent Zachery Colson will look into prices for a new, more necessary mower.

RESOLUTION # 80

14) Approval for the purchase of a new air conditioner for the Town Hall.

Supervisor Tomlinson stated that the Town Judge, Steven Daum, approached him in regards to getting a new air conditioner put in at the Town Hall. The cost was around \$450.00.

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

- 15) Resolved the board accepted the purchase of the new air conditioner for the Town Hall.



RESOLUTION # 81

16) Approval to put the Fire Tax line back on the individual Property Tax bills.

Supervisor Tomlinson stated that over 10 years ago the fire tax line was removed from the individual Property Tax bill for an unknown reason. He is asking the Board for approval to add that line back on the tax bill.

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

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

17) Resolved was the board's approval to add the Fire Tax back on the individual Property Tax bill.

RESOLUTION # 82

18) APPROVAL OF THE JULY EXPENSE REPORT

Supervisor Tomlinson dispersed the July Expense Report for review by the Board members.

On a motion by Councilperson Mark Stuart, 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

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

RESOLUTION #83

20) APPROVAL OF PAY ROLL 15&16

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



21) There was an approval for Pay roll 15 & 16

RESOLUTION # 84

22) **APPROVAL OF HIGHWAY FUND ABSTRACT 7A & 8**

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

23) Resolved that the Town Highway Fund Abstracts 7A & 8 have been reviewed and approved.

RESOLUTION #85

24) **APPROVAL OF TOWN GENERAL FUND ABSTRACTS 7A & 8**

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

25) Resolved that the Town General Fund 7A & 8 have been reviewed and approved for payment.

26) **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. The County gave us two piles of stone that they had stored in the pit on Creek Road. We mixed this stone with some pond silt and put it on Fraiser Road and on our section of Maple Grove Road.



2. We mowed the hills at the Transfer Station. There are some trees starting to grow that we are going to be cutting down to prevent the roots from puncturing the liner.
3. The chip sealing of Creek Road and Tannery Road have been delayed due to the weather. Every day that it rains it puts the paving company a day behind. I have been calling the sales rep every day to push him to get here as soon as possible.
4. From all the rain there have been some shoulders that have washed out. We have been using material from behind the pole barn to fill in the washouts. It is dirt mixed small and medium stone which will create a good base that we can later line the rip rap.

27) **TOWN CLERK'S COMMENTS**

Jill states that there is huge mouse problem at the Town Hall. It is costing extra money and time cleaning. Highway Superintendent Zachery Colson will put out more traps.

28) **TOWN SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS**

Supervisor Tomlinson started out addressing the Board and thanking them for their work with all that is going on and for their support to him. He stated that he has met with leaders of Frontier and showed a map he was given on how the fiber will be laid out to increase internet speeds in the Town of Hope through a 2 Phase project. The first phase will be completed by the end of September this year and phase 2 will be completed sometime next year. He will keep the Board posted informed along the way as he gets new information.

COUNCILPERSON'S COMMENTS

Councilperson John Stuart said everything continues to look nice and everyone's hard work is appreciated. Each Board member expressed the same thing.

29) **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no other public comments.

With no further business on a motion by Councilperson Dianna Downing, seconded by Councilperson John Stuart Jr., the meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Hope was adjourned at 1945.



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Respectfully submitted by Jill Dunham, Town Clerk

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