

The regular monthly meeting of the Hamilton Town Board was held on Thursday, December 13, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Office, 16 Broad Street, Hamilton, NY. Present were: Eve Ann Shwartz, Supervisor; Peter Darby, Deputy Supv.; D. Holcomb, C. Todd and C. Rossi, Town Council; Bert Glazier, Highway Supt.; Sue Reymers, Bookkeeper; Mayor Miller, G. Hayes, and Bill Todd.

Eve Ann started the Meeting by welcoming the Public . Mayor Miller talked about the assessment doubling at the Mid York Housing. Their PILOT Agreement will be renegotiated. There is a Meeting January 7th, she said. Doc Hayes said he was just here to listen, and Eve Ann said she recently went to Earlville for events they had: carriage rides, Earlville Opera House, etc., and enjoyed the day there.

A Motion to Accept the November 8, 2012 Town Board Minutes was made by C. Todd, seconded by C. Rossi and carried; after the following notations. C. Todd asked about page 834 and receiving Sales Tax from Madison County – Eve Ann said on November 8th they talked about the fact that the way they are showing this in the Budget is different. Previously it was credited against reducing the amount of taxes due and collected, and never showed up as a clear source of income; and now it is going to show up as a clear source of income in the 2013 Budget. Eve Ann said we could collect our sales tax in the same year that it is being received-we need to consider that for next year. On Page 833: Eve Ann said she was describing what was happening at the County level with the tentative budget and the fact the non-profit programs were being attacked; and she and C. Todd both said: the County-taking 6 million dollars out of the reserves- is just postponing the problem. Eve Ann wanted added on Page 835: We have the “one time” option of getting our Sales Tax Revenue twice in one year. Also on Page 836 add on sentence 4: Project is ready to be submitted to NYSERDA.

Bert then gave his Highway Report. He said they have plowed and sanded 8 or 9 times; they moved the air compressor from out front to out back because PERMA was not happy about the sound to the workers; they tore about their steel storage bin and are rebuilding that; they are changing the divider between the

back of the garage and the front of the garage; picked up 8 deer; sound-proofed the office door; and picked up a couple of downed trees. They sold their 2011 pickup truck for \$24,000 at Auctions International, and we bought a new pickup \$26,767 and we purchased a plow. He is watching bids in Woodstock, New York, for box culverts (for Hill Road). \$4,000 he feels would be good-as a new one is about \$25,000. The bid is subject to inspection, he said. He said a Syracuse company came in and did a light test – they have a meter that tells what the lights are giving off (in lighting) and they drew up a program with LED lighting – which would be more efficient. He has talked to a guy about installation, too; and our Codes Officer should be involved – to meet codes; Bert said.

Peter said: we realized there is no plan in our Equipment Replacement Schedule to replace the spare truck. Peter went back and rebuilt it- so that the 2006 truck is to be replaced when it is 10 years old; and buying a new truck and holding on to that truck so we are being charged the full replacement price for that truck. That 10 year old truck becomes the spare truck for the next 10 years. It changed the initial contribution from \$103,000 to \$110,000 ; and that is scheduled to grow at 2%. We should note that this truck is out of the cycle, Eve Ann said. Peter said he needs to double check some figures and he will continue working on the finance sheets. Sue (Bookkeeper) said they are getting there. Eve Ann said: we are above budget on our income, and below budget on our expenses. Sue said: we received a SOMAC check, Franchise fee check, Mortgage check. Bert said FEMA still owes them some money and he will check his records.

Peter thinks we should wait until mid January to see where the year end books are then- with the final fund balance. Coding mistakes need to be fixed, Eve Ann said – and in January- they will do a motion so that Sue's accounts are where they should be. It will show where the money was really spent, Peter said. Sue needs to move some money from the Money Market Account into the Checking and get those balances where they need to be, and have enough cash flow for January expenses. C. Todd said it is remarkable what Sue is doing. Peter said the only

problem they may have is the \$20,000 for the rescue truck –they may have to take some money out of the fund balance for that. Eve Ann thanked Sue for her good work and C. Todd thanked Peter for his work and time. Sue is working with Piaker & Lyons to make sure everything is reconciled, and everything is clearing okay. She looked at Tackabury’s files too. Sue gave the Town Board a Bookkeeper’s Report to read. C. Rossi said she sees Sue is meeting with Dominick at PCD on January 7th regarding possible Grants; and she said she and Peter met with John, and he gave them the Greenhouse Gas Inventory that a student did for them. In there it lays out objectives and things that can be done to reduce a carbon footprint – solarizing, insulation, and that sort of stuff – so that might be a good support document.

Eve Ann said Peter & Sue met with the Town’s Health Insurance provider. Sue suggests the Town stay with the same plan. It is a 4.5% contribution every month now. Bert said we talked about a 5% contribution, and he does not believe that will be a problem. Eve Ann thinks 5% is fair, and it ideally will show up in the January paychecks. HSA is \$1800 for single and \$3600 for spouse/family; Sue said. Peter said it is best to be “in network”; to save health costs.

A Motion to pay the General Bills was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Rossi and carried. C. Todd asked Bert a few questions and he said his dues are always paid; and she asked Sue about pre-pays.

A Motion to pay the Highway Bills was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Rossi and carried.

Resolution # _____ was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Todd and carried authorizing \$200 petty cash for the Tax Collector, to make change.

We need to review the books of the Town Justice and the Town Financials – have an Audit meeting – Eve Ann said. Peter suggests this be done at our regular Town Board meeting in January. The Judge’s book, Town Clerk book, and Bookkeeper’s book are to be provided. Sue will check with the Comptroller’s Office about the dates, and let everyone know.

Eve Ann said Paul, the Codes Officer, left a Report- Sue helped him with- and Eve Ann read it. Paul wants to collect all his fees at once; like other Towns do. Perhaps charging a percentage of the cost of the project would be fair to charge, C. Todd said. We have to enforce the State Code and residents have to pay for this, Eve Ann said. C. Todd, Peter, and Paul will get together to discuss the fees, Eve Ann said.

Eve Ann said the Terms are expiring for Bill Nolan and Pat McGaugh on the Planning Bd. (3 year term) and Harmon and Jeff on ZBA Bd. (5 year term). If Zoning Law is revised –we need to make sure we have people on the Board who are willing to put the time into it; Eve Ann said. Younger people would be good, she said. Please give her suggestions in January; and C. Rossi can put it in her press release.

C. Rossi for the Energy Working Group (EWG) reported they had their presentation by Delta a few weeks ago and Supv. Goldstein (Lebanon), Supv. Salka (Brookfield), and members of our EWG, and a few members of the public attended. Erin, from Delta presented to us and seemed open to putting together a rate for multiple municipalities to work together on a road plan. Each Town would get its own road survey, but a group protection plan and set of laws – and that would save money. Town of Sherburne Supv. was there, too; Eve Ann said. Chris sent in all the Towns road miles and sent them to Erin – there is 256 total miles, he is doing an estimate and will get back to us. Tim (Cazenovia) would be happy to show Bert what they have done for a survey to see if it meets your expectations and Chris spoke to Kim, Supv. in Corning, and she said they did a great job. Kim said they will post signs – welcome to Corning-road protection law in place here. She wanted the estimate by the 21st. Comprehensive Plan (1999)- she said they will be looking at that – and they need more copies of that. Sue will get more made up. The idea of looking at the Comprehensive Plan is that Chris has been reviewing materials that Steve Jones bought back from the Albany Law School Session about Home Rule and what powers Towns have in terms of gas

development, Chris said. It seems like the DEC will respect intentions laid out in the Comprehensive Plan and those intentions are reiterated in the Zoning, Chris said. She is reading the Zoning, too; and read the vision of Hamilton to the Town Board-it is all about protecting our assets. The thought is the EWG would review the Comprehensive Plan, understand the intent and how it is meant to shape our future; with the idea to review our zoning to see if it makes sense to put in whatever controls are possible around fracking—you can't say how it is done, but maybe where it is done; Chris said. It gives us some possibilities. D. Holcomb said this has become a transient place. Will we review the whole plan or just a chunk of it in light of hydrofracking and wind; Eve Ann said. Chris called Joe Catalano, Esq. and he charges \$150 an hour; he knows a planner who could work with us. Chris said Steve Jones said getting any change in zoning in place before NYS starts permitting would be legally more sound-so the sooner we do this work, the better; if we decide to do this.

Given the price of gas, Bruce Selleck had said to Peter, new infrastructure to move here and start up fresh seems unlikely. Peter said what needs to be done before the State starts issuing Permits is untested, and no one knows. The sooner you do it, the better your grounds are. We do not know.

C. Rossi said get the law in place first before this happens in NYS. Any review and possible zoning is going to take a while anyway, so waiting is not a good idea. C. Rossi will talk to Joe Catalano, Esq. Eve Ann thinks it will take more time before Permits are issued. Do we have to review the entire Comprehensive Plan, Eve Ann said, or revise a portion of it. Chris said wind zoning is very good. Peter said Gas Development must have some control, and if it is done well – it will be money well spent. It must be done right, Eve Ann and Chris said. Peter said to get gas throughout the Town- so all can get it-Grants are needed for infrastructure; because not enough population density.

Greenhouse Gas study from Upstate has been reviewed with John – there is a next step- another intern can put together a Climate Action Plan for us; Chris said. We need to request an intern.

Eve Ann reported on Shared Services – Status of the Joint Tax Collection with the County is that –we had a Resolution prepared, an Agreement worked out in detail, and when Eve Ann brought it to Finance Ways and Means Committee last week there were other Towns there and they thought Hamilton was getting ahead of everyone else, and we were going to have an opportunity to collect our taxes without any extra expense from the County; and they thought it was unfair to them. She thinks that is the major reason why it did not come out with a recommendation from Finance Ways & Means Committee-so she did not bring it to the full Board, because she did not think it was going to pass. Eve Ann said I feel we educated ourselves and Cathy and Carol sat with Becky from the County and we had a detailed understanding of how it would work jointly; and worked out an Agreement that the Treasurer’s Office was very comfortable with. (Tax Collector was not). Since then Eve Ann got a phone call from the Supv. in Cazenovia and Cazenovia would like to go forward with it. For the first Town or two –it would make the County work more efficient, because they have to input our data in May. In January, February, March and April the County is not that busy – it would smooth out the work flow; and would eliminate any inaccuracies. Cathy said her tax work was perfect, and Eve Ann said only the highest marks for Cathy, absolutely. The Treasurer’s Office is very anxious to do it as labor saving/cost saving . The Town of Sullivan is now having a Bank collect their taxes. Eve Ann’s thoughts are- with Cazenovia joining Hamilton – they will be able to do it next year. Other Towns will have an opportunity to join as well and there will be enough time to think about it. She said if that happens – will we keep the position of Tax Collection – or do a Joint Service with the County. Eve Ann had told the Tax Collector a Referendum would be required to eliminate the Tax Collection position.

Eve Ann said we have also been approached by Birnie Bus who wants to build a new facility – and the possibility of a Joint Building where the Town, Village, Bernie Bus, and Colgate would all service their buses and be housed there. Eve Ann said she wants to look at that possibility.

Eve Ann said the County Budget passed, non profits were restored, and \$200,000 for County bridges was restored. The extra crew for nighttime snow plowing for monitoring weekends & nights was eliminated; at the request of the County Highway Supt.

Madison County Transit funding has been eliminated beyond May, 2013. Bernie Bus provides that transit and the County owns 10 or 12 buses that they purchased with Grant funding. It does provide transportation for the elderly to shop, and people can get to their doctor's appointments, and that is paid for through State Funding and Medicaid – as well as some of the County's funding. It also helps people to get to work – in the northern part of the County especially; she said. The Planning Dept. (County level) has been building this system, but in a budget cutting frenzy- it was stopped. It is being looked at again. She will be meeting with the Planning Dept., Bernie Bus, soon – it is being looked at again. We will try to reorganize and not lose this. The Board of Supervisors realizes there will be an outpouring of support for this, and that is basically the reason they are reconsidering. Other Counties charge Mortgage Tax of 1% - Madison County only charges $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 % tax. If we raised our Mortgage Tax by $\frac{1}{4}$ % and participate in the Centro System (Regional Transportation) – that money would go directly to Centro and we would get services back. There are some options.

Eve Ann said Sales Tax redistribution by population – it is once again going to be the additional 1% sales tax that the County levies –in addition to the State- is up for renewal in 2014 – it has to be renewed at the end of 2013 (to go into effect for 2014); and someone is trying to push it through, as fast as possible. She wants to share some spread sheets with the Mayor. Would it be distributed by population or taxable value, and obviously our Town gets the short end of the stick – we have lots of people, but not a lot of taxable value. So could we change the formula for the 1%.

David Holcomb discussed SOMAC. He said it is a complex problem financially and politically. He gave the Town Board a hand-out. You have different Fire Depts.,

different Town Governments – give up tax dollars, and give up territories. The Town of Madison runs the entire Township of Madison, and they would not be willing to give up their territory. Creating a taxing district over a broader area is what we talked about at a prior meeting, Eve Ann said. We asked Chief Johnson to contact other Chiefs of other ambulance services. Mayor Miller said currently they are receiving income from Sevac now – as their ambulance is down mechanically-but they do not have the staff, either. Eve Ann offered to bring this matter up- at the Meeting of Supervisors in the Southern part of the County. This Report shows what the future looks like for the Region, and the need for EMS, and perhaps the hospital employees can get involved in some of this. They are not properly trained, the Mayor said. SOMAC has monthly meetings – 3rd Thursday of month-Mayor said. David Holcomb has been assigned to this. People need to be educated about this, C. Todd said. Eve Ann thanked David for his Report.

Eve Ann talked about Partnership for Community Development (PCD). Housing Initiative – partners have been meeting – one of the concerns was there is not an availability of a diverse type of housing in the Village and Town. Not a lot of affordable housing, or diverse stock. Dominick is gathering data, the Mayor said. The Mayor said they are trying to involve realtors and landlords-anyone who could offer their thoughts for having better housing available. Colgate wants their faculty living here, the school district needs more children living in the community. There is not a lot of land left to develop within the Village. Single family housing has been lost to Colgate having students off campus. Affordability is a big deal. The Mayor said Colgate is in the process of having a Master Plan being done.

C. Todd said the Joint Shared Services had a Meeting at the end of October- they are working on training on the website for the end of the year. We should have questions for Matt. The Mayor said Matt will meet with Kim from the Village first, and then come to the Town.

There is a meeting December 18th at the Colgate Bookstore –presentation about record retention. Sam Cooper brought this to the Joint Shared Committee. Maybe Grant money can be obtained.

A Motion was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Todd and carried to go into Executive Session to Discuss Tax Assessment Litigation.

A Motion was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Todd and carried to come out of Executive Session.

A Motion was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Rossi and carried to Adjourn the Meeting at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine S. Hotaling, Town Clerk

