

The regular monthly meeting of the Hamilton Town Board was held on Thursday, July 12, 2012, at 5:30 p.m., at the Town Office, 16 Broad Street. Present were: Eve Ann Shwartz, Supervisor; Peter Darby, Deputy Supervisor; David Holcomb, Carolyn Todd, Chris Rossi, Town Council; Bert Glazier, Highway Superintendent; Mayor Miller, Gerald Hayes, John Schell, Linda Manchester, Bookkeeper; S. Darby, and W. Todd.

The Supervisor Welcomed the Public. John Schell asked if he could speak. He said he had attended a Natural Gas Meeting at the Hamilton Theatre wherein the public wanted a Moratorium put on hydrofracking. John said with Eve Ann and Peter on the Steering Committee and Town Board – he feels they will make sure it is safe. He said a year ago presenters at an informational hearing in Hamilton in favor of hydrofracking did not receive any respect. John feels no Moratorium is needed. Eve Ann said Harmon, Peter and Chris went to the Meeting at the Theatre also. She said B. Campbell was there, too. Peter said a citizen's committee has been started and the primary goal is to not tear the community apart, to try and find common ground. Peter said a question for the Town's lawyer is – if you don't have a Moratorium in place, and you get a Permit application – is it too late to put the brakes on. He said there is lots of protection in the draft Lease which needs to be extended to the whole Town. John said he spoke with a worker, working in Pennsylvania that told him they are learning from their mistakes and rumor has it they will be drilling in the Southern Tier in August. Eve Ann said we will tackle the issue and get educated about the Law. She said we will have a Committee with a set of charges; and bring the Planning Board, Zoning Board, and Town Board up to speed.

G. Hayes said he and B. Glazier were going to a meeting in Utica at the State Office Building regarding purchasing fuel oil. He said the Earlville Mayor went to Lebanon and asked about shared services. He said Earlville Days are coming up. He said Earlville passed a dog law for owners to pick up after their dogs, or they would be fined \$25 – he said DPW, Codes, or Sheriff can enforce this law. C. Todd will be at a Joint Shared Services meeting in the Hamilton Village Office on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

A Motion to Accept the June 14, 2012 Town Board Minutes was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Todd and carried with Eve Ann's amendments: Pg. 798 – Electric Battery Charging Center, Passed Solid Waste Landfill Information on the History of Landfill onto C. Rossi to review, and Grant to PCD from Madison County IDA to continue successful Micro Grant Program.

A Motion was made by C. Todd, seconded by P. Darby and carried to pay the General Bills in the amount of \$ 6161.06, #119-135.

A Motion was made by D. Holcomb, seconded by C. Todd and carried to pay the Highway Bills in the amount of \$6319.60, #109-129.

B. Glazier then gave his Highway Report. His workers had the week of July 4<sup>th</sup> off. They helped Madison pave, they helped Smyrna pave, they have patched all roads to be chipped/sealed, repaired culvert on Hill Road, and graded all dirt roads. He is going to the NYS Meeting regarding fuel oil. He sold the 2005 Chevy pickup \$6575 on auction. The Village of Hamilton would like to buy the plow truck for \$42,000.

Discussion: all our taxpayers contribute to the DA--Purchase Highway Equipment Fund; so this sale would help all our taxpayers. Some of the bids were too low on the other equipment, so they were not accepted.

A Motion was made by D. Holcomb, seconded by P. Darby and carried to sell the 2004 plow truck to the Village of Hamilton, for \$42,000. Vote was unanimous.

Also regarding the Highway's Capital Plan – Bert suggested holding off until Spring regarding the Backhoe, and he is still negotiating on the 2011 year Pickup Truck. Sand Bids will be done soon.

Discussion about solarize consultation with ETMS solar for possible project at the Highway Garage; reduce electric bills that come to us. Eve Ann attended a meeting on this, and said with one of the companies – you purchase the equipment; and with another company you lease the equipment. Leasing would be best, she said, and if we could generate electricity, the Town would save money.

Peter said he found coding discrepancies in the June Report, and he will go over them with the new bookkeeper.

Eve Ann said the Town received \$2787.36 for the Madison Lane's PILOT Program from the Village of Hamilton, and the Town will continue to get regular payments – the County is also receiving payments. Six years was the legal Statute of Limitations the Town could go back on, Eve Ann said.

Eve Ann discussed the new bookkeeper, Sue Reymers. There were several good applicants, and Sue got high marks. Eve Ann and Peter did the interviews. Sue does not have a formal bookkeeping background, but she has worked for many years in Financial Management and Development at the Chenango County SPCA. The County reviews her books and has given her high marks, she is self-motivated, and computer savvy.

A Motion was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Rossi and carried to hire Sue Reymers as a part time bookkeeper @ 20 hours a week, \$15 an hour. She will begin August 6, 2012. Unanimous vote.

The Bookkeeper is the Supervisor's choice, Peter said. C. Todd asked if Sue would be at all the meetings, knows softwear, and will she do both the Tackabury's and Linda's jobs. Maybe someone else will do payroll, Eve Ann said; as not all the budgeted bookkeeping money is being used by Sue. C. Todd said the high turnover of bookkeepers is a concern. She said L. Manchester has done a wonderful job of learning the job, coding, and the municipal part. She wondered if Linda could stay on and help train Sue regarding producing the financials, matching the coding with the budget - Peter said we have coding support for her, it is common sense. Eve Ann said Sue is willing to go to courses.

L. Manchester will send draft of the Legal Ad she did regarding Steno needed for ZBA and Planning Board Minutes to Eve Ann. Eve Ann said H. Kliman was helpful and good in taking the Minutes for the ZBA Board's recent meeting.

Eve Ann said Paul is finding it is a lot of work to do Codes for both the Town and the Village. He has been busy, and we want to make sure he is not overworked, Eve Ann said. He did not submit a June Report. The Town has a problem with a resident not coming into compliance right now, and Steve Jones, Esq. has been contacted. Eve Ann said hopefully we can keep Paul on, but we must make sure he is not overworked.

The Energy Task Force Committee was discussed next. They met Monday night at the Town Office: Harvey Kliman, Mike Welshko, Greg Owens, Elaine Hughes, Peter Klepeis (Colgate U. Geography Professor), Jodi Palmer, Peter Darby, Chris Rossi. The purpose of this committee is to review energy issues, and make recommendations (actions/ideas) to the Town Council. They plan to meet August 7<sup>th</sup> with attorney Steve Jones to review the Town's authority to regulate some aspects of natural gas development. They talked about hydrofracking: what is possible and what is not; what can be done legally, road use agreements, zoning issues. Steve Jones, Esq. is going to a meeting in Lebanon to listen to a lawyer speak about Home Rule on these issues. C. Rossi said they are getting themselves educated and wonders if there is enough time to put some things in place before regulations. C. Rossi said the Town needs a tip-off as to when they will use the roads. B. Glazier said there are many sub-contractors involved and if they have to drill, they will move quickly. Eve Ann said the Road Law needs a penalty in it, if they do not give us notice. B. Glazier said we need a Bond on them – recourse: guaranteed money we get, and they are going to fix them. C. Todd thanked Chris and Peter for their good work, and she said regarding road use – photographs of roads could be taken, and location of wells. B. Glazier said roads have to be listed, and guaranteed if damaged, that they will fix them. C. Todd said that is why there could be a uniform Madison County policy. Bert said a video of every road and a rating of 1-6 could be made. Eve Ann inquired about having Minutes from the Energy Committee put on the web; C. Rossi said they could put on a page.

Peter said he is working with Emily on the Greenhouse Gas Project. L. Manchester gave Emily some information she needed on gallons (gasoline, fuel oil) and kilowatts (electricity) used in 2009, 2010, and 2011 years. Eve Ann said she would like to review information gathered by Linda. Eve Ann said an intern is working with the County Public Safety Committee and getting data on the cost of all emergency spending services: ex. SOMAC/Fire Services. She said help is needed regarding handicap access to Town Office, and maybe Dominick (PCD) can help find funding.

Eve Ann said Windmills – have a 12 month Moratorium in Madison. She said we should tell Madison we have an Energy Task Force Committee and we would like to be involved in the process of redrafting of the rules.

Eve Ann said the review of the Greater Hamilton Economic Review Plan is going forward. Partners prioritized the list of current/future projects and it is now going to the PCD Board for their review and prioritization. The process is moving forward and PCD has been sending her updates about Grant activities.

C. Todd had a report from Google and she said there were 400 hits on our Town website last month, and the Village had 682 hits last month. C. Todd said Colgate Tech support could be scheduled sometime in August; Eve Ann said when everyone is here, including Rochelle and Sue. C. Todd suggested Don Rhodes (I.T. from Colgate). C. Todd said \$2857 of our Budgeted money for the Website has been spent.

C. Todd said at the Village's Planning Board Meeting – a change in their Zoning had been requested by Colgate U. in order to tear down the former Perry's Building and put a Museum up there; this would require a change to: Institutional Use Zoning. It was a unanimous decision of the Village's Planning Board to not change the Zoning and not allow this to happen. There will be a Special Meeting of the Village Board July 17<sup>th</sup> to get the information from their Planning Board. Variance/Spot Zoning was discussed – the Village Board will make their own decision.

C. Todd said the Good Nature Brewery is expanding and adding equipment, and more noise is coming from there, and a neighbor complained. C. Todd said Milford Street is a unique street because it is residential and light industrial. C. Todd said there was a discussion about doing an Audit of the Village Court, as one has not been done for several years. She said Judge Haight does not feel an Audit is necessary for the Town, as they do not have the volume. Eve Ann wondered how many times Town Judge Haight covers for the Village, and if he gets paid for that.

C. Todd said there is a Meeting of the Joint Shared Services on July 17<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. She said their list of priorities has been: website, court security and consolidation, road maintenance, codes/administrative services, and sales tax distribution. There is a task force for the 5 way intersection and Dominick (PCD) will look for funding.

Eve Ann said the Madison County Planning Board had a report from the Ag Economic Development Coordinator: Farm Days will open July 28<sup>th</sup>, 39 farms and 3 farmer's markets are participating. The good news this year is given financial constraints at the County, etc.- they went to the local business and raised about \$13,000 to help fund the activities; and they have partnerships with Price Chopper, etc. There is a bike tour later on with a chance to look at interesting farms.

A Motion to Adjourn was made by P. Darby, seconded by C. Todd and carried at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine S. Hotaling, Town Clerk