

Hamilton Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom Videoconferencing and In-person at 38 Milford Street

Present: Eve Ann Schwartz, Peter Darby, Shari Taylor, Darrell Griff. Absent: Mary Lee Dinski. Others Present: Luke Dowsland-Highway Superintendent, Sue Reymers-Town Clerk, Brynley Wilcox-Bookkeeper via Zoom.
Public: Chris Rossi, Deb Hotaling (6:50 p.m.).

Call to order & Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

Public Comments:

Chris Rossi reported on Zoning and HCPWG. The Municipal CAP needs final review by the town council, which they will do in the next 2 weeks.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Highway Superintendent

GENERAL REPAIRS:

- We've continued the work on Borden Road. We're at a standstill until a quarry makes us more of the large rocks. The culvert replacement will start once I get confirmation from the County that we can have help from their bridge crew.
- Replaced a driveway culvert on Mason Road
- Ditched on Mason Road
- Regraded 3 seasonal roads. (Lake, Brown and Wilkinson)
- Replaced 2 driveway culverts on Preston Hill Rd
- The County brought their pipe-jetter over and cleaned out 4 pipes for us
- Re-graded a driveway on Horton to get it to shed water into the ditch rather than washing the shoulder away
- The roadside mower has been going nonstop trying to keep up.

EQUIPMENT:

- Cut off and bolted #15's chipper bar so it can be easily removed if needed for paving
- Completely polished 16, the excavator and trailer for the 4th of July parade. I got a couple of very nice phone calls after the parade saying how nice it looked and how cool it was that the town participated in the parade.

TREE REMOVAL:

- Dave's Stump Grinding came to grind the stumps on Wickwire Rd at the cemetery
- Cleaned up numerous small trees and limbs around down from a small windstorm

OTHER:

- The Bailey Road pipe is getting much worse. Delivery of the new pipe is expected next week. Working with Soil & Water. Not in the budget this year.
- We've been VERY busy working on all 3 of SOMAC's ambulances. They have all been in the shop back-to-back sometimes having 2 in the shop at the same time and the third needing repairs as well.
- Erick and I attended a drug and alcohol recognition training in the Town of Willett
- Mowed all of our properties every Thursday.
- The garage roof is in very poor shape with a number of significant leaks. I am calling around to get rough estimates on replacement or patching. Roof was last replaced in 1987.
- The garage study has been completed and the findings were that the current building is in satisfactory structural shape. The highway committee has been meeting regularly to discuss the next course of action.

Board discussed the highway garage including the roof, proposal by Barton and Loguidice, and the immediate repairs that are needed.

Supervisor/Bookkeeper – Brynley Wilcox

FRANCHISE FEES:

- \$2,930.30 was received from Charter Communications
- 2021 YTD: \$ 5,998.16; BUDGET: \$ 10,400.00

MORTGAGE TAX:

- \$17,743.32 was received from Madison County
 - Oct. 2020 – Mar. 2021 house sales
 - \$1,868.77 or 11.77% over Oct. 2019 – Mar. 2020

EV CHARGING STATION:

- \$1,440.00 was received from the Village of Hamilton
 - Cost of plow damage to electric vehicle charging station

2% FOREIGN FIRE TAX MONEY:

- \$3,953.24 was direct deposited into the NBT Checking account on 07/02/21
- *RESOLUTION NEEDED* to process the distribution of monies to the fire departments/districts (see reverse)

Question: What is the Foreign Fire Tax Program?

Answer: The foreign fire tax program as set forth in New York Insurance Law §9104 and §9105 requires foreign and alien insurance companies to pay a 2% tax on premiums written for insurance against loss or damage by fire on property located in the State. Excess line brokers licensed to place insurance business with an unauthorized insurer as set forth in New York

Insurance Law §2118 are required to pay a 3% tax on fire insurance premiums on property located in the State. The tax collected from the insurance companies and brokers by the Department of Financial Services is distributed to fire departments, fire districts, fire department benevolent associations, and the Firemen's Association of the State of New York.

Experiencing trouble with microphones and speakers.

RESOLUTION 2021-62: Audit of Claims

On a motion of Councilmember Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Darby, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that the bills contained on Abstract #7 have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

General Fund A	No.	171	<i>through</i>	196	15,035.44
General Fund B	No.	49	<i>through</i>	50	77.82
Highway Fund DB	No.	108	<i>through</i>	115	5,154.87
Prepays					101.72
TOTAL:					20,370.85

RESOLUTION 2021-63: Authorization to Distribute Foreign Fire Tax Program

On a motion of Councilmember Darby, seconded by Councilmember Griff, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that the town be authorized to distribute the Foreign Fire Tax Program, total amount, \$2,888.94, in the following disbursements:

- Hamilton Fire Co.: \$ 2,134.75
- Hubbardsville Fire Co.: \$ 1,383.63
- Earlville Fire Co.: \$ 434.86

(Amount is based on coverage areas and road lane miles in a jurisdiction which determines the percentages, which is the same every year.)

Board reviewed financial statements with clarification on a few of budget lines.

RESOLUTION 2021-64: Receive and File June Financial Statements

On a motion of Councilmember Darby, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that the June financial statements be received and filed.

Town Clerk - Sue Reymers

Colgate Upstate Institute Intern:

- Kat has been compiling historic information on the railroad and selecting highlights to focus on in the display.

Grants:

- DASNY (Valesky - \$100,000) New paperwork has been submitted.
- DOS (Magee \$50,000) DOS contacted me that the grant funds are being released and that the only issues was with the MWBE. A modified MWBE was sent in but rejected. DOS sent a waiver form for us to fill out. The MBE goal fell short due to technical reasons with the precast concrete station being too big for the site size constraints. A waiver for the MWBE has been submitted and we are waiting for approval. If approved, we will get 100% of the \$50,000 grant. If rejected, the grant will be short \$2,874.74.

Town's Technology:

- Worked with ACC Tech to ensure important upgrades on Windows 10.
- Keep adjusting the set-up in our meeting room for hybrid meetings based on initial feedback. Issues with sound by those attending via Zoom.

Standard Work-Day:

- Still collecting a Record of Activities from everyone who needs to submit them.

Website:

- Still waiting for Civicplus developers to install the final code to switch over to .gov. Annual renewals are required.

Clerk and Codes Software Research:

- Elisa and I had a demonstration with BAS Clerk Software. Waiting for a cost proposal.

Codes Enforcement Officer**May Activity**

- Approved 10 new Building permits.
- Approved 13 Zoning Permit applications.
- Reviewed incoming site plan and paperwork for 1 special use permit amendment (Heritage Barn).
 - Heritage Barn would like to expand the scope of their operations to include outdoor wedding ceremonies and outdoor events.
- Conducted 14 construction inspections.
- 7478 Willey Rd cleanup completed, 60 cu yds of garbage removed from garage.
- Followed up on property maintenance violations.
 - South Hamilton Rd.
 - Harris Rd.
 - Gorton Rd.
- Attended Planning Board meeting.
- Met with contractors and homeowners to discuss potential projects.

Permit #	Date	Owner's Name	Location of Project	Description of Work	Permit Fee
2021-12	5/6/21	Isla Globus-Harris	8108 Green Rd	600sqft in law	\$225
2021-13	5/6/21	Scott Ogden	7705 Tackabury	1000 sqft home	\$345
2021-14	5/10/21	Craig Cleveland	7348 Bonney Hill	Pool deck	\$160
2021-15	5/10/21	Jessica Donnelly	825 Albro Rd	20kW ground mounted solar	\$90
2021-16	5/11/21	Shawn Palmer	1664 Excell Rd	Demo permit/12'x24' prefab shed	\$130
2021-17	5/13/21	Ian Helfant	7334 Bonney Hill	12'x24' storage shed	\$80
2021-18	5/18/21	Azfar Haleem	Tackabury Rd	336ftsq seasonal cottage/septic system	\$225
2021-19	5/24/21	Kristen Mather	1777 Sacco Rd	1813sf manufactured home/768sf garage	\$415
2021-20	5/25/21	Sue Reymers	7448 Willey Rd	Roof replacement	\$30
2021-21	5/25/21	Elaina Morgan	7091 E Main St	32'x16 above ground pool	\$120

June Activity

- Approved 4 new Building permits.
- Approved 6 Zoning Permit applications.
- Reviewed incoming site plan and paperwork for 1 special use permit amendment (Heritage Barn).
 - Heritage Barn would like to expand the scope of their operations to include outdoor wedding ceremonies and outdoor events.
- Conducted 16 construction inspections.
- Conducted annual fire/property maintenance inspection at Hamilton Manor.
- Followed up on property maintenance violations.
 - Gorton Rd
 - Harris Rd
 - South Hamilton Rd
- Attended Planning Board meeting.
- Met with contractors and homeowners to discuss potential projects.

Permit #	Date	Owner's Name	Location of Project	Description of Work	Permit Fee
2021-22	6/14/21	Verizon Wireless	7934 Willey Rd	Replace/upgrade antennae	\$90
2021-23	6/17/21	Jessica/Russel Lafrance	2094 Bonney Rd	Inground pool	\$120
2021-24	6/29/21	Kathleen/Shane Palmer	2258 Wickwire Rd	24'x22' addition	\$257.50
2021-25	6/29/21	Preston Lessley	630 Earlville Rd	Manufactured home/30'x30' barn/septic system	\$370

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SOMAC- Mr. Darby reported that the meeting is next week. He presented thoughts about the need for a reliable ambulance vehicle and support for capital as well as operating. He assessed that a \$200,00 ambulance would cost about \$15 per person. Discussion turned to an option to purchase a used ambulance on Auctions International. It's a 2013 in East Hampton. Discussion followed.

RESOLUTION 2021-65: Authorization to Spend Funds for SOMAC Ambulance

On a motion of Councilmember Darby, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Resolved that the town board approves the matching of SOMAC's \$20,000 funds with a contribution up to \$37,000 for the used ambulance on Auctions International for a total purchase price of \$57,000 with the caveat that they get rid of one of their ambulances and use the old equipment from the old ambulance. Luke is to recommend which ambulance to get rid of.

Madison plans to use their ARPA funds to handle their ambulance. Additional discussion about worker shortages and low pay.

Partnership for Community Development – Clerk Reymers met with Laura and Jennifer this week to discuss the Earlville for Earlville Project. They did not get the funding from the façade grant that applied for in January. They will apply again and use the feedback they got from the state. No news on the park grant yet. Ms. Shwartz thinks that Jennifer needs to look for ambulance money again and will speak with her. A portion of Jennifer's salary, now that she is part-time is going towards a consultant to design a better plan for the Earlville Park to pursue grant funding.

Recreation and Youth Committee – No Report.

Woodlawn Cemetery Committee – Nothing to Report.

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Zoning Update Committee – Already reported on.

Hamilton Climate Preparedness Working Group – Already reported on. Julye 23 deadline to review the proposed Climate Action Plan.

Earlville for Earlville – Nothing to Report

9 Mile Swamp Access Property

Ms. Schwartz is working with Gavitt to alter the proposal. There was a brief discussion about a boat launch, potential ideas, and a potential community committee. She needs to meet with the committee again. Conversation turned to that the committee met to review the immediate parking issue and to address the concern about the neighboring property. It was determined to put up a split rail fence along the boundary of the neighbor's property. A gate will go up at the narrow part to keep people from accessing the larger grassy area in the back of the property. There will be signage. Board reviewed a map plan of these improvements. The public meeting will allow for the community to share their ideas and any concerns. Tentative meeting for the public would be end of August either the 21 or 28. We will need folding tables, a tent, etc. Sue will put out a notice and advertise it on social media and a flyer to hand out to area residents.

RESOLUTION 2021-66: Authorization for Split Rail Fence to be installed at 9-Mile Property

On a motion of Councilmember Darby, seconded by Councilmember Griff, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that the highway superintendent be authorized to install a split rail fence along the property boundary on the south side where the parking area will be as well as signage.

RESOLUTION 2021-67: Authorization for Supervisor to Sign Contract with Gavitt Associates for 9-Mile Swamp Project

On a motion of Councilmember Darby, seconded by Councilmember Griff, the following resolution was: ADOPTED: Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

Resolved that the Town Supervisor be authorized to sign a contract with Gavitt Associations for work on the 9-Mile Swamp project.

OLD BUSINESS:**Town Office Building**

- Warranty Claim: Sue asked Peter to look at the staff bathroom where they already fixed as it's not satisfactory. Doors are fixed. The air problem (air pressure and humidity) has to be worked out yet. Peter is working on it and will meet with John Bailey and Scott Larchar. Still looking for a building engineer. Brief discussion.
- State Grants: Already talked about.
- Meeting Room: We did not get the CNY grant but need the furniture for the meeting room for public meetings. Brief discussion. Sue discussed technology and the issues with the microphones and sound overall. Paul Lutwak from the County shared ideas for a television for two walls and a sound bar. The priority needs to be the furniture. Sue will meet with Chris Hayes for the furniture. The tech will need to be next. Sue broached the subject of getting more help. Every

department is busy and there are many projects going on. It needs to be discussed with the town supervisor.

American Rescue Plan – nothing to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

Concerns of Town Board: None.

Supervisor's Report: Madison County Activities: Supervisor Shwartz gave an update that the County received the grant for broadband. Luke Dowsland reminded the board that the town should pass the Utility Permit Law. Sales tax and mortgage tax is up. Still waiting for more information on ARPA.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilmember Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Darby, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne K. Reymers
Town Clerk