

York Town Board Meeting  
February 12, 2009

Present: Supervisor Gerald L. Deming, Council Members: Lynn Parnell, Norman Gates, David Deuel and Frank Rose Jr.

Absent: None

Others: Anne Sapienza (Town Assessor), Carl Peter( Zoning & Code Officer), Norman Barrett ( Senior Water & Sewage Treatment Plant Op.), George Worden Jr. (Highway Supt.) and Ronald Cicoria (Town Attorney)

Supervisor Deming opened the Town Board Meeting at 7:32 p.m.

7:32 P.M.

RESOLUTION offered by Mrs. Parnell and seconded by Mr. Deuel to enter into Executive Session to discuss contractual issues, to include Town Clerk, Town Attorney and 4 members of the Town Board, with exception of Norman Gates who is President of the York Fire Department. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

8:03 P.M.

RESOLUTION offered by Mrs. Parnell and seconded by Mr. Rose to end Executive Session. Voted on and approved, Yes-4, No-0. (Excused member: Norman Gates)

Supervisor Deming reported that no action was taken in Executive Session.

MINUTES

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mr. Deuel to approve the minutes of the January 15<sup>th</sup> Town Board Meeting. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

1) Anne Sapienza:

a- Assessments:

Town Assessor, Anne Sapienza came before the Board to give an overview of the computations of the Special Equalization Rate for Assessment Disclosures (statistical analysis of the assessed value). Mrs. Sapienza explained that the new assessment letters have been prepared and will be mailed out mid week. Mrs. Sapienza stated she will be on vacation the week of March 9<sup>th</sup>, but the office staff will be accepting the calls and scheduling appointments.

b- Light District:

Mrs. Sapienza discussed with the Board the Town of York's Light District and its boundaries. Mrs. Sapienza stated, currently the Town has 1693 parcels, of which 1248 parcels are situated in the light district. Mrs. Sapienza suggested that the Town Board

consider eliminating the light district and roll the expenses into the General Fund because all residents benefit from street lights and should pay equally, regardless of where a light is located.

Supervisor Deming stated that this recommendation will be reviewed later in the year.

## HIGHWAY

### 1) Signs:

Mr. Worden informed the Board due to the mild weather, the Highway Department has been able to change out numerous street signs and will be placing the large “Welcome to the Town of York” sign back in its location on Route 63.

### 2) Brine units:

Mr. Worden discussed with the Board his thoughts on additional trucks being equipped with the brine units. Currently we have a brine unit on two trucks, but would love to equip all of our trucks. To fit the remaining trucks, they would have to make the units themselves in order to keep the costs to a minimum, which they are able to do. Mr. Worden stated he has two options: plastic bins or stainless steel bins.

The Board briefly discussed with Mr. Worden the costs involved with each option, and recommended that he pursue the stainless steel one for the durability factor. Mr. Worden added that he hopes to include a brine unit on the pickup as well, which should cost roughly \$ 355.00.

### 3) Albany trip:

Mr. Worden informed the Board of the upcoming Albany trip planned with fellow Highway Superintendents, to discuss with our elected officials the status of the CHIPS funding. Mr. Worden stated he will be out of town on March 10<sup>th</sup> and returning late on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

### 4) Backhoe viewing:

Mr. Worden stated that he and Mr. Barrett visited several companies to view and test drive new backhoes. The men have narrowed it down to a Caterpillar and a Case, both of which can be purchased on State Bid price. The two quotes are as follows:

Milton Cat in Batavia, New York	\$ 64,716.00 (Caterpillar)
Monroe Tractor in Henrietta, NY	\$ 64,600.21 (Case will need addit. options)

Mr. Barrett and Mr. Worden expressed their desire to purchase the Caterpillar model, rather than the Case. Mr. Barrett stated the Cat was a much smoother piece of equipment to handle, and the Case quote did not include everything they would need.

After a brief discussion the Town Board concluded they would have to review the budget once again to decipher how to make this purchase work within the parameters of the budget.

## WATER/SEWER

### 1) Retsof Road:

Mr. Barrett reported that the new waterline installation on Retsof Road is close to completion. Once the line has been pressure tested and chlorinated, the new services will be added and we can then abandon the old line.

2) Pump stations:

Mr. Barrett informed the Board of the issues we have been experiencing with the pump stations. A check valve had to be replaced on the Retsof Road station and three valves replaced (at \$ 200.00 each) on the pump station near York Central School's bus garage. Mr. Barrett stated that the department will begin preparing a schedule either in the spring or early summer to tear apart 2 or 3 stations for cleaning purposes, in order for overall better performance and increased longevity.

Mr. Barrett stated he is aware that we need to continue to prioritize what the main issues are for the Water & Sewer Department and complete these issues each year, but noted he believes the Town is rapidly approaching the need for a monitoring system on the pump stations for a complete account of their functions. These type of systems are rather expensive but give a detailed print out of every action for each station, allowing the employees to focus on the task at hand on a much quicker basis. Mr. Barrett spoke briefly about two options:

**1<sup>st</sup>: Omni system:** \$ 1,700.00 to install on each station  
\$ 25.00 per day for reports

We have 12 total pump stations, this method might be an option, but we would only be able to purchase perhaps two per year, we can not afford to do all 12 at one time, much too costly.

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Scata system:** \$ 65-75,000.00

All pump stations are wired in order to make any corrections or adjustments to any or all of them, by way of a computer. This system is top of the line with incredible benefits, but astronomical price, not likely something we can afford without grant funding.

3) Diane Ashley request:

Mr. Barrett reported that an issue arose this week on Tenth Street in Retsof at the home of Diane Ashley. Ms. Ashley was experiencing sewer related problems and believed them to be internal, trying to correct the matter herself by contacting a plumber. After the plumber reviewed the situation, they realized that our sewer system was plugged which created the problem and became our responsibility. Unfortunately the plumber charged Ms. Ashley for the call and now she is asking the Board to consider reimbursement.

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mr. Rose to reimburse Diane Ashley in the amount of \$ 384.58 for the correction of the sewer related issue near her residence. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

4) Town of Leicester:

Supervisor Deming reported that Town of Leicester Supervisor, Gary Moore contacted the office today to ask the Board to discuss the ongoing water contract with the Towns of York and Leicester. Mr. Moore questioned whether or not the Town of York will continue to service Sam Swearingen as our customer or will he then become a customer of the Town of Leicester once the contract has been signed.

After a brief discussion the Board and Mr. Barrett concluded that the most efficient method would be to have the Town of York read the master meter at the town line and bill the Town of Leicester directly, rather than a separate bill for Mr. Swearingen.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### 1) Dan Templeton:

Supervisor Deming reported that a request was submitted by Daniel Templeton owner of the property located at 3201 Genesee Street. Mr. Templeton purchased by foreclosure a year ago an extremely run down 2-family residence in Piffard, which he is trying to disassemble, and asked the Board to consider adjusting or removing the sewer charges from the quarterly billing cycle.

Zoning & Code Officer, Carl Peter stated that he surveyed the property and has since condemned the structure. The lot itself is quite small with frontage of 37.50 feet and depth of 125.00 feet. Mr. Templeton conveyed his hopes of removing the structure completely before the year is out, bringing the charges down to vacant land only. Mr. Peter informed Mr. Templeton if the structure is down before October 1<sup>st</sup>, the unit charges can be removed, after such date they will remain for another year. Mr. Deming stated that Mr. Templeton's request came in January, but due to an oversight the Board did not discuss the matter until tonight, making him pay the \$ 170.00 January quarterly sewer charge. Mr. Deming added because of the time delay, he believes if the Board decides to grant Mr. Templeton's request for removal of sewer charges, we should reimburse him. The Board agreed due to the size of the parcel and the condition of the condemned structure, Mr. Templeton should receive reimbursement and we will remove his parcel from the billing cycle.

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mrs. Parnell authorizing Supervisor Deming to reimburse Daniel Templeton \$ 170.00 for two units of sewer on the January-2009 billing cycle. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

\*\* If the structure is completely removed before October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, the unit charges on the County & Town tax bill will be removed and replaced with vacant land charges for water and sewer.

##### 2) Insurance coverage:

Supervisor Deming informed the Board of the discussion held at the January festival committee meeting with Insurance Agent, David Boyce and Town Attorney, Ron Cicoria. The committee was concerned about liability issues and asked what our current policy covers. Mr. Deming informed the group that the Town currently holds a 2 million dollar policy, which Mr. Cicoria then strongly urged Supervisor Deming to discuss with the Town Board to increase such coverage, 2 million is much too low for a municipality. Mr. Boyce prepared several options for the Town Board to review, they are as follows:

Current coverage	2 million-	\$ 3,008.00 per year
	3 million-	\$ 3,526.00 per year
	4 million-	\$ 4,044.00 per year
	5 million-	\$ 4,562.00 per year

After some discussion the Board agreed, for roughly \$ 1,500.00 more per year the town's coverage can be increased substantially.

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Deuel and seconded by Mr. Rose to increase the Town of York's insurance coverage from 2 million to 5 million dollars, at a cost of \$ 4,562.00 per year. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

3) Waste Management letter:

Mr. Deming reported we recently received a letter and picture from Waste Management informing us that the Town Hall dumpster located at the corner area of the parking lot, was documented by the Waste Management driver as "overloaded" and stated if this should happen twice in a 60 day time frame they will be canceling our contract, and suggested that we consider a larger unit.

The Board briefly discussed the letter and asked Town Hall Custodian, Mr. Peter to keep a closer watch on what is placed in the dumpster and if it continues to be an issue, the York U.P. Church will also need to be made aware of the circumstances due to the fact that we allow them to use the dumpster as well.

4) Empire Zone info:

Supervisor Deming reported at the Board of Supervisors meeting yesterday the Empire Zones were discussed at great length. At this time Governor Paterson has not altered the empire zones as of yet, but it is uncertain for exactly how long. Mr. Deming stated he will keep the Board informed of any and all upcoming details.

5) Town Hall roof:

Custodian, Mr. Peter informed the Board of the lasted issue with the Town Hall roof. Last evening we experienced a great deal of rain & wind and unfortunately the hall lost several shingles and a few water spots (leaking) occurred in the office. Mr. Deming stated we have dealt with leaky roof issues for several years and suggested that we consider a metal roof for longevity purposes. The Board agreed that we must revisit this issue when the winter weather ceases.

6) SRO:

Supervisor Deming reported that a meeting was held at York Central School on Monday evening to discuss with the Boards from the Town of Leicester and York and the School Board, several issues one of which was the future of our funding portion for the School Resource Officer. Leicester Supervisor, Gary Moore made it clear that the Leicester Town Board will be making a decision on whether or not to participate in

funding at their March meeting. Supervisor Deming expressed his thoughts, if Leicester is not willing to continue forward, the Town of York may not be either. The Board agreed even if the Towns of York & Leicester choose not to continue funding the program and the school has to fund it themselves, ultimately the taxpayers are still paying for the program, whether it be through the towns and school combined or the school budget directly.

7) Cell phones:

Mr. Deming stated that the town's cell phone contract will be up for renewal shortly and expressed the need to purchase new phones for the Highway and Water & Sewer Departments because of the problems they have been experiencing with service.

OTHER

1) Industrial Appraisal:

Councilman Deuel updated the Board on the status of Industrial Appraisal. Mr. Deuel stated he will be preparing the documentation shortly and will be separating the department information for Mr. Worden and Mr. Barrett in order to make their particular segments easier for them to update.

2) Farmland Preservation:

Mr. Deuel informed the Board of the upcoming meetings he has scheduled with area farmers to further discuss farmland preservation issues. Mr. Deuel stated over the next two months he has slated meetings at the Town Hall on Wednesdays and some Thursdays in hopes to gather as many interested members to participate. Mr. Deuel invited members of the Board to attend any session.

Councilman Deuel addressed with the Board an issue the group has discussed pertaining to a potential Right to Farm Law for the Town of York. Mr. Deuel stated his goal is to get such a law passed in this town because currently if an agricultural dispute/issue arises, it is resolved in Albany, not locally. If a Local Law is enacted, the Town can resolve the matter themselves.

3) Furnace:

Mr. Peter stated he had to contact Don Fox last week because the primary heater in the main hall continued to experience issues and may have to have a motor replaced. Mr. Fox changed the speeds in the furnace, allowing one side to do the majority of the workload, but this is only a temporary fix. A more permanent solution must be discussed once Mr. Fox prepares a quote with options.

4) Fire Department:

The Board discussed the need to schedule a Special Town Board Meeting to further work on a 2009 Fire & Ambulance contract with the York Fire Department.

Supervisor Deming stated he will contact each member next week to verify a date and time.

5) Valley Fest update:

Council Member Parnell updated the Board on the recent discussions of the Valley Fest Committee. Mrs. Parnell stated that a poster outlining the day's activities was created, copied for posting and placed on the website. The poster invites persons of all ages to participate in the T-shirt contest, deadline for entries will be April 15<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Parnell also stated that the sponsorship funding letters will be mailed out within two weeks to Town of York businesses as well as surrounding businesses and organizations.

BILLS

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mrs. Parnell to approve all claims brought before the Board. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

Sewer Districts	# 16-30	\$ 13,917.66
Consolidated Water	# 27-47	\$ 102,364.01
General Fund Claim	# 46-75	\$ 63,143.78
Highway Fund Claim	# 7-28	\$ 53,905.95
Youth Fund Claim	# 1	\$ 233.50
Street Lights	# 2	\$ 1,991.32

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mr. Rose to adjourn the Town Board Meeting until February 26<sup>th</sup>. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

Town Board Meeting closed at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Harris, Clerk