# York Town Board Meeting January 16, 2014

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

## Absent: None

Others: George Worden Jr. (Highway Superintendent), Henry Fuller, John Ellis and Carl Peter (Zoning/Code Officer)

Supervisor Deming opened the Town Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. and invited Councilman Rose to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **MINUTES**

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mrs. Parnell to approve the minutes of the December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Town Board Meeting and January 2, 2014 Organizational Meeting. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

## HIGHWAY REPORT

Mr. Worden reported the ongoing cold weather conditions have been difficult on our infrastructure. We continue to proceed with the daily routine, taking care of any issues that arise, but our pump stations have needed some attention.

Mr. Worden commented he received a packet from RG&E outlining areas where they will be replacing existing lines. The areas include Mr. Pleasant Road, River Road, Fowlerville Road and Maiden Lane.

Mr. Worden reported of the 1700 ton of salt ordered from American Rock Salt, we already used 900 ton thus far in the season. Mr. Worden added due to the frigid weather, it was difficult to melt down some of the salt, so they used a bit of liquid to help move the salt around, which is the same material used by the State on the Thruway.

Mr. Worden stated the department recently had an issue with one of our trucks in our fleet. The (exhaust) problem occurred during the heavy snowfall time period ultimately deciding to send the truck to Caledonia Diesel for repair. Mr. Worden added the claim will more than likely be in the bills for the next Town Board Meeting.

Mr. Worden stated the Town received one bid for the 10,000 pound forklift.

RESOLUTION offered by Mrs. Parnell and seconded by Mr. Rose to approve the bid submitted by Northern Supply Inc. in the amount of \$5,000.00 for (1) 10,000 pound Hyster forklift. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

Mr. Worden also informed the Board of the electrical issues our air compressor has been experiencing. The equipment in the shop is a 1947 model,

and unfortunately cannot handle the existing needs of the current tools. Pete Scondras commented due to their age, not putting any more money into compressor repairs. Mr. Worden stated he has found a newer air compressor, in the amount of \$2,200.00.

## WATER/SEWER REPORT

Mr. Worden reported the freezing and thawing conditions have been hard on the water and sewer infrastructure as well, and added we have been fortunate not to have any water breaks through this time period. Mr. Worden commented the dials at the sewer pump stations were going off continuously during this cold spell. Due to the extreme cold, the alarms were activated, and we had to place heaters in them. Mr. Worden asked Pete Scondras to look into a thermostat method in the pump stations, in order to balance the winter and summer temperatures accordingly. Mr. Scondras stated he will review options and inform Mr. Worden of the answers when available. Mr. Worden commented insulation for winter months (removing in the summer) may be the way to proceed until a more permanent solution has been determined.

Mr. Worden reported Steve Morsch has a bit more restoration to complete, nothing major, and will be expecting his final check shortly.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1) Linwood Road update:

Supervisor Deming informed the Board after the December 12<sup>th</sup> Town Board Meeting when Mr. Ellis discussed with the Board the need for Town water to the Linwood Road area, he contacted Rick Henry of Clark Patterson Lee. Mr. Deming expressed the need to update the original information to have the most current figures available to the residents to host an Informational Meeting. Mr. Deming stated he, Mr. Worden and Mr. Henry met recently, explaining what is needed for an updated quote. Supervisor Deming also asked Mr. Henry to contact Livingston County and Monroe County Water Authorities for their input as well.

Mr. Ellis asked if the Linwood Road area could be independently connected to Monroe County Water if the Town's infrastructure does not meet the criteria. Mr. Deming replied, Linwood could be run independently if Monroe County Water Authority has the most affordable way to proceed. Mr. Deming stated he asked Mr. Henry to review and update all documentation pertaining to water for the Linwood hamlet, including pumping costs. Supervisor Deming added regardless of the price, the residents need to see the numbers calculated. Mr. Ellis commented, many of his neighbors in the Linwood area feel their concerns have not been listened to, and asked Mr. Ellis to assist by speaking with the Town Board about the possibility of Town water. Mr. Deming stated he does not believe the Board has ignored Linwood's concerns for water. We apply for grants for all projects, but not always the beneficiary of funding. Without grant funding it makes the project(s) more difficult to proceed with. As stated before, a few years ago the numbers for a waterline from Fowlerville Road/Main Street to Simpson/Anderson Roads were astronomical. In order for the Town to proceed with a new line at a higher debt service, the State must grant us permission to exceed the maximum allowed which is rarely approved. Supervisor Deming stated Mr. Henry will hopefully have the pricing together by the end of January in order to schedule an Informational Meeting in February.

Mr. Fuller asked if the County has the same Grantsman. Mr. Deming replied previously Stu Brown was the Grant Writer, the County now has Bernie Thoma of Thoma Development Consultants as our Grant Writer.

#### 2) McVean Road Water:

Supervisor Deming reported we have yet to receive firm numbers for the McVean Road water area. Clark Paterson is still working on the quote.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1) Ambulance letter:

The Board discussed the letter they received from Dr. Manish Shah, the EMS Medical Director for the York Ambulance. Dr. Shah expressed his ongoing concern pertaining to the no crew percentages for York. Dr. Shah detailed for the past 6 years, the inability of the York Ambulance to consistently find a crew for emergency requests and exceeds the standards established.

Year	<u>No Crew Rate</u>	
2008	28.3%	
2009	35.1%	
2010	16.1%	
2011	22.4%	
2012	8.9%	
2013	21.28%	

Mr. Peter, as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the York Ambulance discussed Dr. Shah's concerns with the Board. Mr. Peter stated the ambulance has indeed been over the standard established for missed calls, which is 10%. Mr. Peter agrees a meeting needs to take place to discuss how to correct the problem. Mr. Peter explained last year (2013) 8 calls came in, in January, of which 7 were made by the ambulance. By missing 1 call, the percentage was calculated at 12% missed. Mr. Peter commented although we hope not to have a great number of ambulance calls, but with an increase in the number of calls the percentage is more in our favor. York's calls are fewer than most Towns in the County. Mr. Peter added Saturday responses are a big problem, we are not getting the necessary numbers.

Councilman Deuel asked if the letter we received has the figures for the entire year. Mr. Peter responded it does have the report for the entire year. Mr. Peter stated the ambulance has 8 EMT's in the Department, but only 4 are actually making calls, personnel is very hard to keep.

Supervisor Deming asked Mr. Peter to follow up with ambulance Captain Kim Howe on an acceptable date to meet with Dr. Shah.

## 2) Digesters:

Supervisor Deming stated Governor Cuomo has set aside \$21 million dollars for dairy farmers to build digesters. Any dairy farmer can now apply for a grant which may be up to 80% funded. The industry they are targeting are farms with 300 cows or less.

Councilman Deuel stated there have always been funds available for digesters, perhaps they have enhanced it for renewal energy purposes. Mr. Deuel commented Lawnel Farms has been looking into it further, but Donnan Farms is not interested at this time.

## 3) Planning Board:

Supervisor Deming stated the Town received three letters of interest for the position on the York Planning Board: Davies Nagel, Larry Lacy and David Dermody. Interviews will take place on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Council Members Parnell and Rose will conduct the interview sessions.

## 4) Zoning Board of Appeals:

Supervisor Deming reported we received one letter of interest for the position on the York Zoning Board of Appeals, which was from Mark Connolly, the current member.

After little discussion...

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Deuel and seconded by Mr. Gates to re-appoint Mark Connolly to the York Zoning Board of Appeals, for a period of 5 years, term expiring December 31, 2018. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

# <u>OTHER</u>

# 1) Roof:

Custodian, Mr. Peter informed the Board of a leak he encountered in the kitchen. AW Farrell was contacted and located where the leak had occurred around the vent area. Mr. Peter stated he attempted to get them to look at the other roof while they were here, but did not view other areas.

## 2) Fuel Bid:

Highway Superintendent, Mr. Worden reported the fuel bid opening took place on Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, with two submittals. Unfortunately, one company bid by rack price and the other bid by cost price, not having an actual standard to bid from. Mr. Worden stated he spoke with Attorney Campbell about the matter, and he recommended rejecting all bids and re-bid for fuel.

RESOLUTION offered by Mrs. Parnell and seconded by Mr. Deuel to reject the fuel bids submitted and re-bid with more detailed specifications. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

#### 3) Water/Sewer Position:

Supervisor Deming stated the Public Works Committee will be meeting in the near future to discuss Roger McCracken's replacement at the Water and Sewer Department. Once we receive the names of the top three (3) civil service candidates, we will then schedule interviews.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

## 1) Henry Fuller:

Mr. Fuller asked what the Board's recommendations are pertaining to fracking. Supervisor Deming and Councilman Deuel commented they both attended the Planning Board meeting Tuesday evening, where a very lively discussion took place on the subject. Opinions were all over the board, and ultimately written comments were suggested for the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Planning Board asked that the Town Board members attend if possible, to review material and attempt to clarify information in the document. Mr. Deming stated storage of fuel was a question that was discussed, which will need further attention.

Councilman Deuel stated it was obvious at the meeting that very few members actually read the document, making the discussion more difficult. Setbacks will need to be re-worked or eliminated. Mr. Deming commented we may have to go back to the 500 foot requirement. Councilman Deuel reported that the Aquifer Overlay was very well received and accepted. Mr. Ellis asked if any bias was involved on the Planning Board, which they replied, yes, by one member. Zoning and Code officer, Mr. Peter stated the biggest concern expressed was if the Board approves the document as a Local Law, will it be defensible. Mr. Ellis replied, the Town of York expended a great deal of money preparing this document and many surrounding towns are waiting to see the finished product, and what happens here, in order to copy it for themselves. Mr. Deming stated one member expressed his view that the Town Board was not representing the majority of this community, which he feels is not accurate. Mr. Deming added the "No drill area" by the school was questioned, but due to location (RT.63) it will have no effect because it's a State road. Road Use Agreement was also addressed with compensation, but we have no mechanism to re-coup money from farmers who ruin the roadways. Mr. Deuel stated questions also were asked about compulsory integration.

Mr. Fuller asked if any other members of the public were in attendance Tuesday evening to speak. Councilman Deuel replied Avon resident, Claire Mulligan was at the Planning Board meeting, on behalf of the family property on York Road West (Gratwick Family Preservation Trust - Lee Gratwick). Mr. Fuller asked how Ms. Mulligan is taking over for Ms. Gratwick. Mr. Deuel answered, as Lee's daughter, it will probably be a legal transfer at some point. Mr. Ellis commented regardless of who owns the property, if an owner does not sign a lease with anyone, they ultimately don't have an issue. Mr. Ellis asked after the regular Town Board Meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>, will the Board be rendering a decision? Supervisor Deming stated before a decision can be made, the Board will conduct an Informational Meeting, then a Public Hearing. Mr. Ellis asked will this issue come to a conclusion this year, which Supervisor Deming replied it absolutely will. Mr. Deming added the Steering Committee's document was altered by one point, and in fact may be restored, anyone who feels this process was a waste of time or effort is mistaken. Mr. Deuel stated the fracking discussion at the State level is still in limbo, they continue to receive many comments. The EPA is conducting a nationwide study and New York is waiting to see what the EPA results will be before they proceed further. Mr. Deuel stated with far more regulations to contend with in New York State and more expensive, drillers go to other states to frack.

# BILLS

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

General Fund Claim	# 1-32	\$ 25,435.51
Joint Water & Sewer	# 1-24	\$ 12,753.57
Youth Fund Claim	# 1	\$ 1,605.00
Street Lights	# 1	\$ 2,017.57
Highway Fund Claim	# 1-18	\$ 30,556.69

# ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION offered by Mrs. Parnell and seconded by Mr. Rose to adjourn the Town Board Meeting until February 13<sup>th</sup>. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

Town Board Meeting closed at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Harris, Clerk