

Town of Niles  
Regular Meeting  
August 12, 2010  
Niles Town Hall

Present: Rickey Slagle, Supervisor  
Alberta Darlene Winters, Councilwoman  
Bernard Juli, Councilman  
Barbara Eberhardt, Councilwoman  
Clarence Edmonds, Councilman

Others: Patrick Steger, Dan Stanford, Jerry VeVone, Fred Covert, Forest Rittgers, Bill Sheppard, Robin Sheehan, Jim Pergolizzi

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Slagle with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Minutes of July 8, 2010, meeting reviewed. Motion made by Councilwoman Eberhardt to accept minutes as amended; seconded by Councilman Edmonds. Minutes approved.

**Open Floor to the Public:**

Supervisor Slagle gave the audience an opportunity to address the Board.

Forest Rittgers addressed Board regarding an incident on Apple Tree Point Road, two cars were going in opposite directions, one hugging the middle of the road and the other trying to get on shoulder. There was no shoulder and the second car went into the ditch. Discussion on roads in the Town where there is no shoulder, could weeds and brush be cut in such a way so that drivers can see there is no shoulder. Discussion on whether or not to paint center lines on Apple Tree Point Road.

**Town Hall Basement Project:**

Once we have answers to a couple of questions regarding electrical, we will be ready to advertise for bids. We are also ready to request quotations for the front wall. Also, problem of water coming in through basement into the electrical meter and down into the main feed is in process of being fixed by Pat Ryan.

Quotations for water system and for hot water heater are being requested at this time. Hot water heater for small bathroom and kitchen area has burned out twice.

**Communications:**

There will be a benefit for Chris Nolte, our Town Clerk who is fighting cancer, at Lake Como Inn, on Saturday, October 2, 2010, 2-8 p.m. Tickets are available at Town Clerk's Office or see Councilwoman Winters - \$10/person or \$15/couple. They will also be available at the door \$20/person. This includes food 2-5 p.m. and entertainment 4-8 p.m.

Verizon DSL is now available in New Hope. As of mid-July it is up and running, the Town Hall was on DSL as of July 20. It is much quicker than Hughes.net. Hughes.net will be cancelled this month. Our grant application to Dept of Agriculture Rural Utility Service Broadband Improvement Program is still being considered. However, e-mail received yesterday indicates Senate approved taking \$302 million out of broadband improvement program to divert to keeping teachers, firemen, policemen etc. so it seems questionable as to whether we will get it. If the grant is rejected, we are trying to work with the County, who is putting up approximately \$15 million radio service for its emergency management system. Motorola has in other places used the same bandwidth for internet service. There will be somewhere around a dozen towers put up. They have already signed a contract with Motorola. We will work with them to try to see if we can piggy back that if we don't get anything from the Dept. of Agriculture.

**Supervisor's Report:**

Supervisor's report was read and discussed. No additional questions.

**Assessor's Report:**

Dan Stanford gave Assessor's Report. Good meeting on August 5. We are still collecting data, waiting for school taxes to be printed by County so we can start entering data into computer. Plan is to send out change of assessment notices, which will ultimately give property owners more time to prepare for a March 1 impact statement and a May 1 tentative roll.

Maxwell is doing some of the appraisals; we have another gentleman who is doing some of the appraisals along the lakeshore from Skaneateles Lake because of problems with access along firelanes. We have also received notification from approximately 40 people asking us not to enter onto their property.

We have one certiorari and two small claims actions.

Fred Covert questioned how the market value or assessment of a "lake view" is determined.

**Code Enforcement:**

Jerry VeVone presented the Code Enforcement report. People are building. Multiple questions come in every week regarding what people can do with their property, most come from lake shore property owners.

Discussion on windmills and wind power. Understanding that there is grant money available, might be something to look into.

**Clerk:**

Report read by Supervisor Slagle. No further information on change of issuing dog licenses by the Towns rather than the State. Code books are in, need a couple of revisions.

**Highway Report:**

Pat Steger indicated that they are continuing with mowing the roadsides. Work has begun on the underdrain on Cream Hollow Road.

Regarding seasonal use of Gahwiler Road, both residents on the north end agreed that seasonal use would be acceptable as they would have access through the Town of Owasco. No written agreement from Owasco Town Board at this time.

Dehumidifier is in, but not hooked up yet.

Discussion regarding Mr. Sheppard's question of maintenance on Gahwiler Road. Mr. Steger indicated we will still do regular maintenance on Gahwiler Road.

**Attorney Report:**

Attorney Smith was not present. Attorney Jim Pergolizzi was present in his absence. No news on the junkyard law matter. Discussion on entering into an agreement with municipalities regarding implementation of greater watershed plan for Owasco Lake. Attorney Smith and Attorney Pergolizzi have been reviewing this issue.

**Owasco Lake Supervisor's Association:**

Further discussion regarding Memorandum of Understanding with Town Governments of Owasco, Niles, Moravia, Venice, Scipio, and Fleming to create Owasco Lake Supervisor's Association regarding Owasco Watershed.

Motion by Supervisor Slagle to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Town of Niles. Seconded by Councilwoman Eberhardt. Motion passed.

Discussion regarding need to develop a Funding Agreement. Raw data presented. We are still in the beginning stages, and there will be further discussion on creating a Special District to collect taxes etc. Right now we are working with the Central New York Planning Board to fund the project as a start.

**Abstracts:**

Abstracts were reviewed.

General Fund #197 - #229	\$ 13,012.42
Highway Fund #112 - #128	\$116,161.48
Garbage Fund #7	\$ 10,917.35

Councilman Juli made motion to pay abstracts as shown above. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Winters. Unanimously passed.

**Audit:**

Cuddy and Ward have been going through the files, will set up an appointment with the bookkeeper. Should be finishing up within a couple of weeks.

**Other Business:**

Assessor Dan Stanford requests that the Board consider paying a portion of the cell phone bill for his personal cell phone which is being used for the data collection and grievance process for the benefit of the Town. Discussion on how much is contributed to cell phone bills for Code Enforcement Officer and Town Highway Superintendent.

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Winters; seconded by Councilman Juli. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Sheehan