

Town of Niles
Regular Meeting
July 8, 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, Charles Mellor, Fred Covert, Bob Martin, Fred Eberhardt Jr., Roger Slater, Robin Sheehan, Brody Smith

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

Minutes of June 10, 2010, meeting reviewed. Motion made by Councilwoman Winters to accept minutes; seconded by Councilman Juli. Minutes approved.

Open Floor to the Public:

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

Bill Martin stated that the June 21st meeting was a very good and informative meeting. People that attended were very knowledgeable and professional. If the Board has something specific that they would like the Planning Board to look at, let them know. If not, members of the Planning Board can put something together for the Board's review.

Town Hall Basement Project:

After we go through our 30-day period, subject to permissive referendum, we will advertise for bids on scope of work and request quotations for the front wall.

There is an electrical water problem where water is coming in either from the pole or a crack in the conduit, water coming in through the basement into the electrical meter and down into the main feed. Pat Ryan is addressing this problem and hopes to have it fixed this week.

We need to request quotations regarding a water softener or chlorination unit, as well as quotations for a hot water heater.

Communications:

Supervisor Slagle indicated DSL is available in New Hope. Town Hall is scheduled to be up and running on July 16. We will have all new e-mail addresses etc. It will cost us \$42.99 plus tax. We are now paying \$99.99 plus tax.

The Federal Government killed the stimulus for Broadband. We don't know what the next step is at this time. The dedicated workers from Genoa, Scipio, and some of our politicians will get together to see what we can come up with. We're not going to give up.

Supervisor's Report:

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

Assessor's Report:

Dan Stanford gave Assessor's Report. Roll has been finalized and delivered. Questions on data collection can be addressed to Dan at the Town rather than Maxwell Appraisal. On August 5, 2010, at 6 p.m. there will be an informational meeting on data collection.

Grievance day went pretty smooth. There may be one certiorari and one small claims action.

Regarding revaluation, Jeff Lowell of New York State ORPS recommended we have a Board resolution. Resolution presented as follows:

Whereas, the Town's Property information is not up to date and creates inequalities in the assessment roll, and the equalization rate being less than 100% is confusing, be it

Resolved, that the Town of Niles is requesting the Assessor's Office to initiate a Revaluation Project to insure that all property owners are treated equally and the assessments will reflect full market value.

Motion for above resolution by Supervisor Slagle; seconded by Councilwoman Eberhardt. Roll call vote: Edmonds, aye; Eberhardt, aye; Slagle, aye; Juli, aye; Winters, aye. Motion passed.

Maxwell is doing data collection for the lakes. Data mailer will be sent out. Assessor's Office will be doing data collection for the rest of the Town.

Memorandum of Understanding with State will be reviewed by Attorney Brody Smith.

Code Enforcement:

Jerry was not in attendance. No report presented.

Clerk:

Report read by Supervisor Slagle. Change of issuing dog licenses by the towns rather than the State is still being explored.

Highway Report:

Pat Steger indicated that the 81st Annual Town Highway Conference is coming up September 14-17 in Saratoga Springs, NY. He would like permission to attend. Motion by Councilwoman Winters; seconded by Councilwoman Eberhardt. Motion unanimously passed.

Regarding the highway building, the insulation is in place. The next step is to purchase the dehumidifier. There are no local dealers. However, in dealing directly with the Company, the

Hi-E-Dry 195 (PN4030060) dehumidifier has a five-year limited warranty and the cost is \$3,175.00 plus shipping. Shipping will probably be less than \$100.00. Motion to purchase said dehumidifier by Councilman Edmonds; seconded by Councilman Juli. Motion unanimously passed.

Regarding Gahwiler Road being changed to a seasonal highway, Pat presented to the Board the possibility of having a portion of Gahwiler Road be designated as a seasonal highway from its intersection with Harter Road north to the driveway of tax map no. 146.00-1-5 (4661 Gahwiler Road) which is just south of the town line of the Town of Owasco. In this way, the two residents on the north end would have access from the Town of Owasco and the Highway Department wouldn't have to fight so hard to keep that portion of the road open, thereby allowing us to work on snow removal in other parts of the town. Regarding any emergency at one of these residences, the Chief at West Niles will call dispatch so that Owasco will be called first, and Owasco is actually closer. Also, Pat talked with Mike Wilson Highway Superintendent in the Town of Owaso, and they already take care of that portion of the road anyway, which is where they turn around.

There is a hunting camp in the woods, but no other residence along this stretch of the road. There is an abandoned barn. Attorney Smith indicates that if the situation changes and someone does move in on this section of the road, we will have to start plowing this area again.

Councilman Juli suggested we talk with the owners of both properties on the north end to discuss this situation. Pat will take care of this.

Pat indicated we will still have to do some regular maintenance on Gahwiler Road.

Attorney Report:

Attorney Smith stated it has been a busy month. A lot of time has been spent on the highway designation question as well as researching the question of whether it would make sense for the Town to take advantage of the State early retirement program. Due to the fact that the program is only available to towns looking to eliminate positions, Attorney Smith doesn't think this pertains to the Town.

Attorney Smith is working on the boiler plate documents as well as preparation of a law to give to the Planning Board regarding possible overlay.

Supervisor Slagle indicated that we are still waiting for our files from the former Town Attorney. We have heard nothing. Attorney Smith will make another request for the files and will offer to have someone pick them up.

Abstracts:

Abstracts were reviewed.

General Fund #164 - #195	\$20,571.86
Highway Fund #97 - #111	\$29,125.31
Garbage Fund #6 - #7	\$11,264.15

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

Audit:

Audit will be started by Cuddy and Ward on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, at 1:00 p.m.

Civil Service Clean-up

Resolution provided by Civil Service Commission to abolish Deputy Town Clerk Sub position and remove Caroline Head and Christine Nolte from the position. Motion to pass said resolution as presented by Councilwoman Winters; seconded by Councilman Edmonds. Motion unanimously passed.

Resolution provided by Civil Service Commission to abolish Town Superintendent Sub and create Deputy Town Superintendent, which would remove Douglas Winters as Town Highway Superintendent Sub and hire Douglas Winters as the Deputy Town Highway Superintendent and abolish the Town Highway Superintendent Sub position. Motion to pass said resolution as presented by Councilwoman Eberhardt; seconded by Councilman Juli. Motion passed. (Councilwoman Winters abstained).

Douglas Winters will have to sign oath of office again.

Other Business:

The Clerk's Office has ordered 22 complete Code Manuals, so we all will have current and up-to-date manuals.

Councilwoman Winters made an inquiry of the Board of Elections regarding the old voting machines. No information on when they will be picked up. They need to be moved down to the basement for storage in the meantime.

County Corrections Inmates did a great job on waxing our floors; they also painted the deck which has needed it. Councilwoman Winters supervised the project.

Motion to adjourn by Councilwoman Winters; seconded by Councilwoman Eberhardt. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Sheehan