

Town of Niles
Regular Meeting
Town Board
July 14, 2011
Niles Town Hall

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

Others: Bill Sheppard, Fred Eberhardt III, Anna DeWitt, Don DeWitt, Dan Murphy,
Mike Gorr, Fred Covert, Dennis Bell Jr., Tiffany Bell, Jim Matijas, Bob Martin,
Jerry VeVone, Brody Smith, Johann Drake-DeWitt, Sue Newell, Robin Sheehan,
Pat Steger, John Morris, Bob Carson (Stadium International), Dick Dewitt, Lorna
Dewitt, Terri Cuddeback, Thomas Hayden, Blaine Fleming, Kristi Krieger,
Richard Evans, Barb Evans, John Klink (Supervisor - Owasco Lake Watershed
Management Council)

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

Review and Approval of June 9, 2011, minutes:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Eberhardt to approve June 9, 2011, minutes as written; seconded by Councilman Edmonds. Minutes unanimously approved.

Open Floor to the Public:

John Klink, Supervisor for the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council addressed the Board regarding the importance of protecting Owasco Lake. Mr. Klink proposed the Board pass a resolution for an individual to join the Watershed Management Council as an ex-officio member to represent the Town of Niles and to act as a liaison. Supervisor Slagle requested copies of the bi-laws to be sent to assist the Board in making a determination. Mr. Evans addressed the Board with safety concerns regarding the closing of Fire Lane #1. Attorney Smith spoke with Mr. Evans regarding his concerns. Mr. Fleming addressed the board concerning flooding on his property at Carpenters Point and proof of damage needed to satisfy his claim to FEMA. He is to speak with Mr. VeVone and Attorney Smith at a later date regarding this proof. Mr. Dewitt addressed his dissatisfaction with his recent property assessment. Mr. Gorr addressed the Board concerning hydrofracking and his desire for the town to take urgent action to enact a ban.

Hydrofracking:

There are currently 300 signatures from town residents in support of a ban on Hydrofracking. Supervisor Slagle recently attended the Association of Towns Seminar addressing Hydrofracking. A full spectrum of the subject was presented at the seminar. There was discussion amongst Board members and Attorney Smith as to what the next advisable course of action should be for the town. Councilwoman Winters requested that the topic be tabled for

discussion until the next board meeting on August 11, 2011. Attorney Smith will at that time provide needed information regarding a moratorium on the practice.

Code Enforcement:

Jerry VeVone indicated that there are currently 4 permits, with a total of over \$1,000,000.00 and fees of over \$2,000.00 for the year. There is currently a large amount of construction occurring within the town as addressed by Mr. VeVone.

Highway Report:

Pat Steger reported that the ditching previously being worked on by the Highway Department is now complete.

Mr. Steger expressed his desire to attend the Annual Town Highway Conference to be held on September 27-30th. Permission for Mr. Steger to attend was granted by the Board, with motion made by Supervisor Slagle; seconded by Councilman Juli. Motion was unanimously passed.

The purchase of the truck was discussed including price quotes presented by Pat Steger. Bob Carson; Representative for Stadium International also addressed the board concerning the purchase of the truck.

The matter of manpower needed to operate the truck was also discussed. Cost effectiveness addressing full and part-time employment for the Highway Department was discussed. Motion was made by Supervisor Slagle to table the issues till next month; seconded by Councilwoman Winters, unanimously passed.

Finance:

Supervisor Slagle welcomed John Morris as the new Bookkeeper. Mr. Morris is currently in training for the position and will have continued training with the next training session to be held on Saturday with Supervisor Slagle.

Supervisor Slagle recently reconciled the bank statements for the month in which they came out to the penny.

Budget Transfers:

Transfer of funds between accounts was discussed. Motion to approve transfer of funds was made by Supervisor Slagle; seconded by Councilwoman Eberhardt, unanimously passed.

Clerk:

Clerk's fees and revenues collected were discussed.

Supervisor Slagle welcomed Susan Newell as town clerk and introduced her to town residents in attendance. Supervisor Slagle inquired to Attorney Smith if any further notification needed to be sent regarding the appointment of the position. Attorney Smith discussed the matter and no further action is required.

Highway Equipment Reserve:

Motion was made by Supervisor Slagle to transfer funds from the Unallocated Fund balance to the Highway Equipment Type Reserve. Motion was seconded by Councilman Juli and unanimously passed.

Attorney:

Brody Smith spoke of two possible resolutions for the Subdivision Law. This matter is to be addressed in a public hearing at next month's meeting. Supervisor Slagle requested that a public hearing notice be published regarding modification of the law in time for next month's Board meeting. Attorney Smith is to notify the clerk's office of the proper section in which to post the notice.

Non-Conforming Lots was noted by Supervisor Slagle, this matter has been resolved as indicated by Attorney Smith.

Supervisor's Report:

Report was reviewed and no significant increases or decreases in figures were noted. There was an allocation of \$4,200.00 for the appliances, flooring, and misc. expenses for the kitchen renovation.

Vehicle Maintenance Facility Moisture:

A meeting has attempted to be scheduled with the VIP.

Abstracts: Abstracts #187 - #239 \$97,249.90

Summary for the abstracts were presented. Motion was made by Councilman Juli to pay the abstracts. Motion was seconded by Councilman Edmonds, motion was unanimously passed.

Other Business:

The history room will be closed on July 26th and 27th and reopening July 28th at regular hours. The hiring of workers for building improvements and maintenance was discussed. This included the topic of the gentleman currently hired for the kitchen renovation. There is currently a purchasing policy in effect which is followed in such circumstances.

Executive Session:

A Motion was made by Supervisor Slagle to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation and a personnel hiring matter; this was seconded by Councilwoman Winters. The motion was unanimously passed.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Winters to end executive session and return to regular session: seconded by Councilwoman Eberhardt. Motion unanimously passed.

A Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Winters, seconded by Councilwoman Eberhardt, motion unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Newell