

TOWN BOARD MINUTES
TOWN OF POESTENKILL
TOWN BOARD MEETING
APRIL 23, 2020

Not approved at time of distribution)

ROLL CALL AS FOLLOWS

Councilwoman Butler	Present
Councilman Hass	Present
Councilman Van Slyke	Present
Councilman Wohlleber	Present
Supervisor Hammond	Present

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Susan Horton, Town Clerk
Jack Casey, Town Attorney

Due to the ongoing issue with Covid-19, the Town Hall remains closed and for that reason the Town hosted a “Zoom Conference” meeting on April 23rd.

Supervisor Hammond opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7 p.m. and stated that the monthly bills had been audited for payment.

Motion by Councilman Hass, seconded by Councilwoman Butler and an oral vote of 5 ayes to accept the Town Clerk’s minutes of February 20, 2020 as written.

Public Comment Period – D. Hass, Councilman updated the Board on how the Treasury rates went to zero and at this time no money is being made. He will be talking to the bank to see if the fees can be waived. J. Butler, Councilwoman expressed her concerns about the excessive parking on Plank Rd./Blue Factory Road due to people visiting Barberville Falls. She stated this is safety hazard for our Town residents. Supervisor Hammond suggested calling law enforcement when this issue arises. S. Kalafut wanted it noted that she too was very concerned with the parking on Plank Rd./Blue Factory Road going to the falls. She also wanted to thank the Town Board for arranging this meeting tonight via “Zoom” and felt that this was a great service to our community.

Correspondence –

Memo’s dated February 27th, March 9th and April 14, 2020 from Charter Communications regarding upcoming changes.

Liaison Reports:

Planning Board- T. Russell, Chairman spoke regarding the Vanderhyden Public Hearing and SEQRA Hearing on their proposal to subdivide two lots in Poestenkill from their property they currently own. Mr. Russell stated that they (Planning Board) reached out to the VFW Post to see if that venue would be available to hold the Public Hearing/SEQRA Hearing. He was informed that the County would have to approve this matter due to the current issue with Covid19.

Zoning Board– S. Kalafut, member stated there have been no meetings however, she has received some communication from Algonquin Estates asking if there has been anything brought in front of the Boards regarding Clemente Mining on Stop 13 and she referred them back to the Town Board. Supervisor Hammond stated that if they wanted to reach out to him, he would be available.

Fire Company – Town Board members had copies of the March Fire Co. report.

Library – E.Gresens reported that the Library remains closed and will until further notice. He stated that the Library’s monthly meetings are held via Zoom. Ed also stated that the Library applied for both loans but has not heard anything as of yet.

Youth Advisory Board-T. Buker reported that she is basically in “limbo” and is waiting from Rensselaer County Health to see if she can even hold camp this year with the issues of covid19. There will have to be several factors worked out regarding camp. For instance, will there be a fifty (50) camper limit and if so, camp is full. Hopefully in the next couple of weeks she will here from the State and County on where we are with camp.

CAC- no meeting

Discussion Items:

Assessor’s office – Betsy Pinho

Supervisor Hammond recommended to the Board that B. Pinho, Clerk to the Assessor be appointed as Deputy Assessor. This would give her the opportunity to hire a Clerk for the Assessors’ office, as our current Assessor will be resigning in June. B. Pinho will at the time be appointed as the new Assessor. Supervisor Hammond stated that there will be a budget overrun this year. However, next years budget will be \$10,000 less in the Assessor’s office. He also wanted to thank Betsy for putting together the budget summary for the Board to review. This will be voted on during the Action Item portion of the meeting.

Town Credit Card – Supervisor Hammond stated that currently the Town’s credit card is still in the previous Supervisor’s name and would like to make some changes. He would like to add M. Asquith, Adm. Assistant and Sue Horton, Town Clerk names to the credit card as they are the ones that use it most of the time and are available if anyone else needs to use it. Motion by Butler, seconded by Van Slyke and carried with 5 ayes to authorize the approval of the Town’s credit card with Michelle Asquith and Susan Horton being named on card.

Health Insurance for Tracy Church –

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Office, T. Church has requested Basic Health Insurance. Supervisor Hammond explained that T. Church is willing to stay at present rate of \$22/per hr. and not take increase of \$31.65 that was agreed upon when hired in exchange for Basic Health Insurance. This is the insurance that the Highway Department receives, and it is only for a single person and it is basically the same amount of money. J. Butler, Councilwoman questioned the salary rate of T. Church. Her understanding was the increase did not go into effect until he had completed all his training. Supervisor Hammond stated that T. Church has been doing all Building Inspection/Code Enforcement duties on a daily basis. T. Church reiterated he has been doing all Code Enforcement duties as the previous officer did with the help of the surrounding communities and R. Brunet and has not had any problems. Motion by Councilman Wohlleber, second by Councilman Hass and carried with 5 ayes to authorize the approval of Basic Health Insurance for T. Church, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer which he agrees to remain at this current hourly rate of \$22/per hr.

Road dedication specification –

This has been held over until next month’s meeting. The Board would like to have J. Casey, Town Attorney look over this document.

Action Items:

RESOLUTION #4-2020 – APPOINTING BETSY PINHO DEPUTY ASSESSOR FOR THE TOWN OF POESTENKILL, Whereas, the Town Board wishes to recognize her hard work and dedication to that office by appointing her Deputy Assessor for the Town of Poestenkill.

MOVED BY: Councilman Wohlleber

SECONDED BY: Councilman Van Slyke

VOTED UPON AS FOLLOWS:

Councilwoman Butler:	YES
Councilman Hass:	YES
Councilman Van Slyke:	YES
Councilman Wohlleber:	YES
Supervisor Hammond:	YES

Reports:

Supervisor's Report- Supervisor Hammond reported the phones have been extremely busy with concerned residents. He also stated the Town has two (2) Covid-19 reports one of which has cleared.

Town Attorney's Report – Mr. Casey reported on the matters that he worked on since the last Town Board meeting which included working with Code Enforcement on wood lot issue and preparing the resolution for B. Pinho.

Town Clerk's Report – Motion by Butler, seconded by Hass and an oral vote of 5 ayes to accept the Town Clerk's report of March 2020. The total amount received in the Clerk's office was \$2,193.44 and of that amount \$2,074.10 was remitted to the Supervisor. Town Board members had copies of the Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer's written report. There were also reports from the Assessor, DCO, Water Dept. and 811 report, Highway Dept. report. B. Pinho, Deputy Assessor reported that the County is still requiring the Town to hold Grievance Day which will be held on May 28th. B. Pinho stated that the office was going to hopefully do most of this by mail and was setting up appointments if needed. Also, the tentative tax roll will be back from the County May 1st and available for residents to view. Supervisor Hammond stated that the Budget Summary prepared by B. Pinho will be available in his office to view.

*B. Pinho received notice from the Governor's office stating that Governor Cuomo, issued an Executive Order to suspend in-person inspection of the tentative roll, to allow notice of the filing of the tentative roll to be published solely online so long as the date for hearing complaints is prominently displayed and to allow local Boards of Assessment Review to hear complaints remotely by conference call or similar service.

R. Brunet, Water Manager reported that last month there were two (2) water main breaks in Brunswick. He also reported that NYRWA (New York Rural Water Association) conducted an Efficiency Study. The report was very complementary to Poestenkill and states that "We want to note that there are no recommended changes to your operations schedule. Your operations specialists do an excellent job operating and maintaining the drinking system." J. Butler questioned R. Brunet on one item in the NYRWA report regarding population of residents versus how many residents are actually hooked up to the water system. R. Brunet clarified the question. Councilman Wohlleber explained to the Board how our Dog Control Officer, R. Guyer no longer has a chip reader that works. He uses this device for dogs that are picked up without any identification on them. Supervisor Hammond suggested we include that in next years budget.

Councilman Van Slyke wanted to know the status of the Ambulance Committee. He stated that we are running out of time if we want to remotely look at this. Supervisor Hammond stated that Councilman Wohlleber had some conversations with the committee and asked for his review. Councilman Wohlleber stated he received an email from Owen stating he understands the desire to move forward with the committee's work. However, work plans and schedules are unfortunately on hold as all Local, Regional and State agencies involved in emergency medical services are working on limited staff. Therefore, they are currently unable to assist our committee at this time. Councilman Van Slyke stated we must be willing to wait if we want to do anything by September for the Preliminary Budget. Supervisor Hammond stated hopefully things will loosen up in the in a month or so and things can get underway again. Councilwoman Butler who is Chairperson for Comprehensive Plan also stated they have been unable to meet at this time.

Dave Basle, Assistant Chief Fire Company – stated that the new ventilation system was installed in both stations of the Fire House. He also stated the Fire Company is selling their 2011 Chevy Tahoe to a neighboring department and they do have a new replacement for it.

Payment of Bills:

Motion by Hass, seconded by Van Slyke and an oral vote of 5 ayes to pay Warrant #7-2020 in the amount of \$1,290.34. Motion by Hass seconded by Butler and an oral vote of 5 ayes to pay Warrant #8-2020 in the amount of \$47,752.59.

Supervisor Hammond thanked everyone for their patience and expressed his thanks to M. Asquith, Admin. Assistant for setting up this conference.

Motion by Councilman Van Slyke seconded by Councilman Hass, and carried to adjourn this meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Horton Town Clerk

