

TOWN BOARD MINUTES
TOWN OF POESTENKILL
TOWN BOARD MEETING
August 19, 2021

ROLL CALL AS FOLLOWS

Councilwoman Butler	Present
Councilman Hass	Present
Councilman Van Slyke	Present (via ZOOM)
Councilman Wohlleber	Present
Supervisor Hammond	Present

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Susan Horton, Town Clerk
Jack Casey, Town Attorney

Supervisor Hammond led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the floor at 7 p.m. He said that this had been a difficult week as several of the Town leadership’s family members have serious health situations, including M. Asquith, Administrative Assistant to Supervisor Hammond, whom herself has been taken ill. Supervisor Hammond further stated that tonight’s meeting would be closed early, to be followed by an Executive Session to discuss personnel plans and a legal matter. Important items not covered in tonight’s meeting would be brought up in another meeting soon. He also stated that there would be a Workshop on October 7th starting at 6 p.m. for “Zombie Properties” and at 7:00 p.m. for Budget talks.

Motion by Councilwoman Butler, seconded by Councilman Hass and carried that the bills were audited for payment.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - Supervisor Hammond then opened the floor for comments during the Public Comment Period. Susan Kalafut said that many present tonight are worried about Michelle Asquith and asked what her latest health status was. Supervisor Hammond said that he has been in touch with Michelle’s family, but that nothing was new at this time. S. Kalafut also wanted to thank DJ Goyer, Highway Superintendent, and his crew for doing such a great job. Supervisor Hammond expressed his thanks to D. Goyer for the outstanding work that he and his crew did on Hinkle Road, and other roads. Supervisor Hammond then addressed the issue of the \$250,000 which was provided by the Federal Government to the Town for necessary work as a result of the recent storm damage. He said that a town committee was being assembled to determine the best use of the money. He said that based upon the limited responses received from the residents to a questionnaire, it is estimated that the dollars would likely be used for the town’s public benefit. In answer to Susan Kalafut’s question regarding specific plans for the use of these funds, Supervisor Hammond assured the assembly that the recommended outputs of the committee would be made available to the residents. He stated that the Town is working with Owen Goldfarb, who is experienced in this type of endeavor. Councilwoman Butler said that “cable” is very important and that she would like to see it as a priority item. Supervisor Hammond said that we have not yet received guidelines from the Federal Government. Councilman Hass said that it was important that the residents be informed of information and pending decisions. Supervisor Hammond said that he would see that decisions would be published in The Advertiser. S. Kalafut said that it was crucial that the Town be communicative on this issue. Supervisor Hammond said, “when we have information we will reach out to the community, I promise”.

Leanne Ricchiuti, Town resident, spent considerable time discussing the intolerable situation concerning their neighbor's unleashed dogs on Tymeson Road. There have recently been two very severe incidents involving these dogs coming onto their property and "going after" their young child and one incident so severe that her husband had to run away and jump into his car because he was fearful of being attacked and bitten. She stated that this has been going on for a long time and that she has brought this issue up to the Town in the past, but despite the neighbor's promises, nothing has improved. Supervisor Hammond said that he is aware of the issue and has personally been up to see the situation. Councilman Wohlleber then related his personal involvement with the neighbor's constant property violations but realized the ineffectiveness of past Town attempts. Leanne said that Bob Guyer, (Animal Control Officer) has been involved several times and is grateful for his help, but the situation is not getting any better. It was determined that Councilman Wohlleber would involve Tracy Church, Code Enforcement Officer, and they would do a home visit and that the Town would stay involved until the issue is resolved, with the full support of the Town Supervisor. Susan Kalafut stressed the importance of the Health and Welfare of the residents, particularly with young children living there.

Scott Bidwell, Deer Creek resident inquired about the status of the proposed Kronau PDD. Supervisor Hammond said that it was "on hold" awaiting answers from Mr. Kronau. Mr. Bidwell requested that he be notified when the next meeting was scheduled.

Motion by Councilwoman Butler, seconded by Councilman Hass and carried to accept to the Town Clerk's minutes of July 15, 2021, as written.

Correspondence:

Charter Communications – Memos dated July 19, 2021, and July 23, 2021, from Charter Communications regarding upcoming changes to their service. Also, an advertisement from Main-Care regarding their offering of free inspections of basements.

Liaison Reports:

Planning Board – Tom Russell, Planning Board member reported on the activities of the Planning Board. This included the pending 8 Lot Major Subdivision on Cooper Hill Road and their approval of Thomas Cooley's 2 Lot Minor Subdivision.

Zoning Board – Susan Kalafut, ZBA member reported that there was no meeting of the Zoning Board this month.

Fire Company – Town Board members had copies of the Fire Company's July 2021 report. D. Basle, Assistant Chief, reported that the recent Car Show was very successful and that 226 cars showed up.

Library – M. Wait reported that everything was going well, and that Market Day is scheduled for September 11th. She said that the library's 20th Anniversary celebration was scheduled for September 18th.

Youth Advisory Board-Youth Director, Tiffany Buker reported that the Summer Camp had successfully completed for this year. She said that she was very proud of the kids for their

involvement and behavior. Supervisor Hammond was very complimentary and stated that this was the largest Summer Camp we have ever had and that it benefitted financially because Poestenkill was combined with Sand Lake.

CAC- no meeting

Discussion Items:

PFOA Update - Robert Brunet, Water Manger provided an update on the PFOA situation at the Algonquin Beach Middle School. Ultimately, R. Brunet stated that the decision of connecting to our Municipal Water System or use Granular Activated Charcoal (GAC) Filters has not yet been announced but that he believed that they might select the GAC alternative due to its' faster implementation and lower initial cost. Bob said that, in his opinion, the better option would be to connect to the Municipal Water system because the water comes from Troy and Troy gets its' water from a ground source (the Tomhannock Reservoir) which is more resistive to PFOA's. He said that his opinion is supported by other experts from various health organizations, including the EPA. He sees the GAC as a temporary fix which will likely have to be "re-thought" when the EPA extends guidance and requirements for PFOA's and "Novel" PFOA compounds. Bob discussed the status of the 10 homes being tested at the expense of the NYSDOH. He said that testing would be completed next week and that the test results would be available in about three weeks and that he would make the results public on the Poestenkill Town Website at that time. He said that pending the results, he has plans to further pursue this subject including the need for expanded testing and other follow-thru actions. He said that Judith Enck (a former EPA Administrator) has reinforced this argument in a recently published article regarding Hoosick Falls. Judith understands that the ground source water supply from the Tomhannock Reservoir is superior to GAC's with respect to PFOA's. Bob clearly believes that the school should connect to Troy water, as Poestenkill does. Supervisor Hammond said that he agreed that the school should tie into our water system. Bob said that he hated to see the school make the wrong decision. Bob reiterated that grants are available from President Biden's Safe Water efforts. He further stated that he had spoken with Chris Wheland (Troy Public Utilities Director) and that Chris offered to provide help to the school or to Poestenkill in applying for grants if it would be helpful to us. Chris recently obtained a \$20 million grant to replace two large pipes (30' and 33') from the reservoir to the Troy Water Plant with two 36" pipes.

A continuation from last month's meeting of Jake Brakes, excessive motorcycle noise (intentionally so), and excessive speeds was discussed. Although placing signs around town was discussed, the general opinion was that it would not be effective. Jack Casey, Town Attorney, said that it was impossible to regulate Jake Brakes. It was decided that Supervisor Hammond would send out the appropriate letters to local trucking companies asking for their cooperation.

DJ Goyer, Highway Superintendent informed the Board that Tom Fields, our current Town Engineer, was retiring at the end of the year and that Wayne Bonesteel was well qualified and was willing to do this job when it became available. Supervisor Hammond stated that Mr. Bonesteel will have to send in his qualifications to be reviewed by the Board.

Action Items: no action items

Reports:

Supervisor's Report-Supervisor Hammond said it has been a busy month and that he has been working on numerous issues, including a recent issue on Snyders Corner Road. Supervisor Hammond thanked T. Church, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, for all his work involving the home on Snyders Corner Rd.

Town Attorney Report – Jack Casey said that he has been involved in many items including working with Tracy Church on numerous code enforcement cases.

Town Clerk's Report – Motion by Councilman Wohlleber, seconded by Councilman Hass and an oral vote of 5 ayes to accept the Town Clerk's report of July 2021. The total amount received in the Clerk's office was \$25,246.91 and of that amount \$24,998.95 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, 811/Water report and the Highway Dept. report.

Concluding Public Comment Period – Supervisor Hammond again thanked everyone for “pulling together” during this troubled time.

Payment of Bills:

Motion by Councilman Hass, seconded by Councilwoman Butler and an oral vote of 5 ayes to pay Warrant #18-2021 in the amount of \$86,565.09. Motion by Councilman Hass, seconded by Councilwoman Butler and an oral vote of 5 ayes to pay Warrant #19-2021 in the amount of \$8,206.77.

Motion by Supervisor Hammond, seconded by Councilman Hass and carried to enter into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue and a legal issue. Motion by Councilman Hass, seconded by Councilman Van Slyke and carried to exit from Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

The Board discussed the need to temporarily fill M. Asquith's duties and it was decided to place Tiffany Buker in that position. Motion by Councilman Wohlleber, seconded by Councilwoman Butler to pay Tiffany Buker, up to 30 hrs. per week at a rate of pay of \$27.39 per hour to be paid monthly.

Motion by Wohlleber, seconded by Butler, and carried to adjourn this meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Horton
Town Clerk

