

**TOWN OF WESTFORD
TOWN BOARD MEETING
JULY 11, 2022**

At 7:00 p.m., the Westford Town Board meeting was called to order.

Town Board members present: Supervisor Walter Heinrich, Councilman James Feil, Councilman Ralph Ritton, Councilman Robert Huntington, - absent Councilman Steve Zerby.

Other Town Officials present: Highway Superintendent Jason Ritton, Assessor Pamela Dyn-Gohde, and Town Clerk Eileen Ten Eyck,

Sign-in sheet on file at Town Clerk Office.

Pledge of Alliance was recited.

Corrections (typos) were made to June 2022 minutes.

Motion by Councilman Huntington to accept minutes as amended, seconded by Councilman Ritton. Unanimous ayes.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Town Supervisor contacted Mohawk Valley regarding interns to go over grants. To date, they have not responded.
- 2) Dept of State has our newest law on file.
- 3) The refunded check from the County from 2018 was deposited.
- 4) NYSEG contacted Supervisor Heinrich to get updated information in case of an emergency. Town Hall will be listed as a critical infrastructure.
- 5) \$47,700 for the Fire Department tax amount was paid.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1).The Governor's Office sent notification that we have received the first portion of ARPA funds in the amount of \$42,000. The second amount of \$41,880 will be received in the next month or so.
- 2). Tax exemption letter was given to Councilman Feil so he can make purchases for the upgrade to the Transfer Station.
- 3). A check for \$19,747.76 was received from Snow and Ice contract with the County. This has been deposited.
- 4). A check from Auto Crushers in the amount of \$248.00 was received and deposited.

5). Otsego County's Picnic in the Park offered by the Office of the Aging will be held on August 10th at Glimmerglass Park.

6). Mohawk Economic Development – Supervisor Heinrich put in a request for an intern to assist with ARPA funding and any DEC grants we can get. They have not yet responded.

7). CHIPS – Supervisor Heinrich submitted a request for \$141,000 and will be requesting another \$93,000 which will be submitted once Superintendent Ritton affirms the road work projects have been completed.

8). There is an event being held at Borst Field in Schenevus on the 29th and 30th called Bridging the Gap. This is open to the public

9). Town Assessor Pam Dyn-Gohde will be attending training in Ithaca next Monday.

NEW BUSINESS:

1). The Profit/Loss statement was provided to the Board. Supervisor Heinrich informed that the town is holding its own in these tough economic times. However, 64% of the Highway's contractual services have been used to date.

2). DEC- Supervisor Heinrich registered online for petroleum bulk storage. This will need to be recertified next year. Most likely there will be fees attached to this, but the amount is unknown.

3). Some complaints and questions regarding Dust Control have been received. Those inquiring have been informed that the town cannot afford to provide this service and will be requiring a fee for service. Those interested should contact Superintendent Ritton at the Town Barn.

4). One bid for sand was received from Seward Sand and Gravel. This was opened during the meeting. There were some questions from the board about some of the costs.

Motion by Supervisor Heinrich that the bid be tabled for a month to obtain additional information regarding product and cost. Seconded by Councilman Huntington.
Unanimous ayes.

Transfer Station – The Town is implementing a compactor in lieu of a garbage truck. Home Town Hauling's bid was accepted.

-Previous concerns about items being stored in the garage have been addressed.

-A job description for the Transfer Station Operators was developed by Councilman Ritton. Additions and deletions were made and Councilman Ritton will provide the final draft at the next meeting.

-Supervisor Heinrich found a law composed by a previous Town Board (this law is not on file with the state) that provided some definitions including one defining what “garbage” is and is not. We will be re-filing a new law.

-Supervisor Heinrich and Councilman Feil will be on site at the Transfer Station to hand out stickers to those who still do not have. Other Board members will assist if needed.

GALLERY:

Some residents voiced concerns about a yurt that was constructed without a CO or permit. There is purportedly a wood burning stove that was installed, but not inspected. Neighbors are worried about a fire. Town Assessor Dyn-Gohde verified that they applied for a permit through her and this was sent on to Code Enforcement. Those concerned were prompted to contact County Codes to voice their concerns.

There have been inquiries regarding the repair of the sluice pipe on County Route 34. Superintendent Ritton informs it is on the County’s “to do” list.

The flags by Town Hall are looking run-down. Supervisor Heinrich will check into Building Funds to see if there is money that can be used to replace them.

COMMITTEES:

Highway: Very few orders for dust control have been received thus far.

Paving should be concluded next week.

Suit Kote will be doing the sealing.

The Westford Highway Department is helping other towns with paving as they continue to work on the dirt roads.

BUDGET MEETING:

General: #95 - #104 - \$3,871.93

Highway: #60 - #65 - \$19,196.47

Motion by Councilman Feil to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Huntington.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.