

**TOWN OF WESTFORD
TOWN BOARD MEETING
June 1, 2020**

At 7:03 p.m. the June 2020 Town Board Meeting was called to order.

Present: Town Supervisor Walter Heinrich, Councilman Feil, Councilman Huntington, Councilman Zerby and Councilman Ritton.

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

The sign-in sheet is on file with the Town Clerk.

The flag salute was recited.

Minutes from the May 4, 2020 Board meeting were read. The following corrections were made:

Under Correspondence #2- the spelling of "board"

Under Old Business #8- in the motion- language was added to state "contingent on a favorable response for CHIPS money.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1). Management Service- money has been received and the town has liability insurance coverage.

2). Department of Labor- Dave Reynolds applied for unemployment- he will be out of work for 6 to 8 weeks. He will also be applying for Workmen's Comp to see if he would qualify under Covid-19 provisions.

3). Matt Rifenbark- submitted a letter requesting the mowing of the cemetery. Supervisor Heinrich will clarify how many times the cemetery will be mowed and at what price. He had given a price of \$269 per mow.

OLD BUSINESS:

1). The Salt Contract between the County and the Town of Westford was signed, notarized and sent to the County.

2). Resolution #7 was sent to Rose and Kiernan (insurance company) - regarding liability.

3). Stacy Camillari was approved for the Town Assessment Board.

4). The conference call between the County and Town Supervisors was completed and the latest information is that the Governor is not releasing CHIPS money. The Department of Transportation is cautioning towns to proceed at their own risk in regards to highway projects. \$165,137.00 was budgeted for 2020, this amount has been frozen by the Governor. The consensus from the board was to put as many projects on hold as possible.

5). Tires for the transfer station truck was completed. Inspection on the truck will be due in August or September. Supervisor Heinrich clarified that repair costs associated with the transfer station vehicle come out of general funds.

NEW BUSINESS:

1). Dust oil- Westford Highway Department is offering dust oil for dirt road residents at a cost of \$75 per 100 feet.

Motion by Councilman Ritton requesting an ad be placed in the paper alerting residence of the option of the dust oil service, seconded by Councilman Huntington. Unanimous ayes.

COMMITTEES:

1). Fire Department - Ralph Ritton will be hanging a banner announcing the Westford hotspot. Supervisor Heinrich will be following up with Otsego Electric regarding bundling prices for town phones. Supervisor Heinrich is working on getting the Clerk's Office hooked up to the high speed network and is working on the phone system as well.

2). Cemetery Association- conducted the cemetery clean up and have begun work on the monuments with grant money they received.

3). Highway Department - Highway is working on the dirt roads.

4). Transfer Station- there are questions about fees for bulky items left at the transfer station. The Town Board had established a bag fee, electrical equipment fees and appliance fees, but the employees are looking for some direction on furniture and other bulky items that are being left at the station. Councilman Zerby will look into the existing policies to clarify this issue and look into a "clean up day" or "dumpster day" for the town.

There was also a request for a raise from Joseph Murello (Transfer Station attendant). This will be addressed during the upcoming 2021 budget meetings.

BUDGET MEETING:

2020 budget had an operating budget of \$754,524.00 - \$466,716.00 coming from property and sales tax and \$222,767.00 (received CHIPS funds) leaving a deficit of \$64,981.00. The town will most likely run out of money in September or October. The Highway Department and Transfer Station are the only entities where money can be taken. Highway Superintendent Ritton has been doing everything in his power to keep cost down. Supervisor Heinrich is projecting a \$50,000.00 arrears for the town.

2021 budget hearings start in August 2020.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

General fund: 202 - 211 - \$4924.58

Highway fund: 181 - 187 - \$11,116.51

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.