

TOWN OF WESTFORD
TOWN BOARD MEETING
MARCH 6, 2015

At 7:00 p.m., the Town Board reviewed and signed the following bills for payment:

Highway Fund #17 - #28 = \$21,371.48, as set forth in Abstract 3H

General Fund #40 - #56 = \$6,283.15, as set forth in Abstract 3G. **

*** (see New Business #1 for additional bill signed & paid)*

Supervisor Davis called the regular meeting of the Westford Town Board to order at 7:20 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison.

Town Board Members Present: Supervisor Brad Davis; Council People Ralph Ritton, Delphine Kerzick, Phillip Strong, Robert Huntington.

Other Town Officials Present: Highway Superintendent Martin Peeters; Deputy Assessor Pam Dyn; Town Clerk Louisa Platt.

Guests: Town of Maryland Supervisor Peter Oberacker. Sign in Sheet also on file at Town Clerk Office.

Minutes of the February 6, 2015 Town Board meeting were read. The following corrections were made: General Fund claim numbers should be #22 to #39 and Unfinished Business #4 interest rate should read .4%. Motion by Councilman Huntington to accept the March minutes as amended. Seconded by Councilman Ritton. All in favor. Carried.

At this time, Town of Maryland Supervisor Peter Oberacker talked about the proposed state mandate for consolidation of services and explained that he, Scott Gaston and Chris DiDonna are members of a steering committee for the Town of Maryland. He came to this meeting to start the process to show that Maryland is interested in shared services with Westford if there is any type of consolidation or shared services. He also mentioned that they are considering bidding out their Transfer Station and using those funds for their Highway. Discussion followed. The possibility of purchasing power to start with was suggested such as buying sand together in bulk. Councilman Ritton explained how Westford has been involved in shared services, such as how the highway departments pave the roads together and through an agreement made by the local Fire Departments that if one gets called out, all four go.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Purchasing the catch pole and cage which Dog Control Officer Becky Sears needs was discussed. Motion by Councilman Strong to allow Councilman Ritton to purchase the catch pole and Supervisor Davis to purchase the cage. Seconded by Councilman Huntington. All in favor. Carried.
2. With reference to the issue of the payment received by Mrs. Sears for a dog she kenneled, Supervisor Davis explained the check has been deposited into the town account and payment made to Mrs. Sears.
3. It was noted that the pails John Shulgay provides for depositing waste oil at the Transfer Station are 5 gallon pails.

4. Superintendent Peeters was advised by the DEC that because the beaver dams by the Serafen Road bridge and Charlie Burton Road are on private property, it is the landowners, not the town, who have to apply for the nuisance permits.
5. The additional road sand was ordered and delivered.
6. \$10,570.00 JACAP Grant was received. Six Juror Chairs were purchased at a cost of \$539.94, leaving \$10,030.06 remaining to do the Hallway.
7. Supervisor Davis advised he and the Town Board members did meet with Jeremy Wyckoff concerning the proposal to drill a water well at no cost to the town and gave approval to go ahead with the project. Mr. Wyckoff attended tonight to explain how this project came about and to give an update of the status of the well. 6 college students and a company from Syracuse drilled a 40' gravel well. They collected and studied samples of the soil, etc. The students will return to help develop the well. Drinking water qualities for municipal buildings fall under the New York State Department of Health regulations. If the well is used for drinking water, it will need to be tested, approximate cost is \$2,000.00. Mr. Wyckoff is looking into getting all or part of the testing done for free. It was noted that if town had to pay for the work that has been done so far, it would have cost \$10,000.00.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Councilman Huntington to donate \$500.00 to Tri-Town Baseball. Seconded by Councilman Ritton. All in favor. Carried. Town Board members then signed the voucher. It was marked bill #57 in the General fund. The total for Abstract 3G was amended to \$6,783.15.
2. Town Board members agreed that Councilman Huntington should be compensated whenever he mows Gopher Field.
3. Supervisor Davis suggested a Town logo decal be placed on all Town vehicles. Councilman Ritton will get information from the place where the Fire Department got theirs. The legality of not having a logo on the trucks was discussed.
4. Discussion followed considering replacing two plows and the 1991 Mack truck. Superintendent Peeters suggested the truck should have a jake-brake and differential lock. Councilman Huntington will research availability and costs of trucks. Further discussion included looking at a fleet with the town of Maryland.
5. The new minimum wage proposal was discussed. Mr. Oberacker mentioned that municipalities are not bound to pay minimum wage.
6. Jeremy Wyckoff is going to prepare a letter thanking those involved with drilling the well. Supervisor Davis will review it, and put it on town letterhead for the Town Board to sign.

Since there was no further business to come before this meeting, motion by Councilwoman Kerzick to adjourn. Seconded Councilman Ritton. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Louisa M. Platt,
Town Clerk