

**TOWN OF WESTFORD  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
MAY 1, 2015**

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

Highway Fund #37 - #45 = \$8,956.06, as set forth in Abstract 5H.

General Fund #73 - #85 = \$4,071.72, as set forth in Abstract 5G.

Supervisor Davis called the regular meeting of the Westford Town Board to order at 7:10 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance recited in unison.

Town Board Members present: Supervisor Brad Davis; Councilpeople Ralph Ritton, Phillip Strong, Robert Huntington.

Absent: Councilwoman Delphine Kerzick.

Other Town Officials present: Highway Superintendent Martin Peeters, Assessor Douglas Gohde, Judge Michael Fay, Town Clerk Louisa Platt.

Guests: Sign in sheet on file at Town Clerk office.

Minutes of the April 3, 2015 Town Board meeting were read. Motion by Councilman Huntington to accept as read. Seconded by Councilman Ritton. All in favor. Carried.

At this time, Otsego county Representative Donald Lindberg spoke on the following issues:

The County has started a Traffic Diversion Program. He explained that the District Attorney will no longer reduce traffic infringements. At a cost of \$200.00, people can request a reduction on the computer. Towns will receive \$100.00 reimbursement from the \$200.00 fee. There are eligibility requirements and forms to complete.

The County budgeted \$3,550,000.00 for garbage, however with 2.18% revenue the County will be coming up short on the Garbage budget.

The County Public Safety Committee approved to give each Fire Department \$10,000.00 to use towards radios etc., however this has not yet been approved through the budget.

The 911 Center is now in the Meadows building. They are currently attempting to replenish the four positions that left while the system was under the Sheriff Department.

The new radio system was discussed. The Town Highway radios do not need to be upgraded. Councilman Ritton explained that Westford Fire Department has to come up with \$37,000.00. This minus \$10,000.00 if received from the County, brings their costs to \$27,000.00. Efforts are currently being done to get a grant, however it is too soon to know if it is approved.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Councilman Strong reported that he talked with Becky Sears and explained why she is not entitled to the additional reimbursements she billed and advised her to come to the September Preliminary Budget meeting if she wants to add anything to the Dog Control Officer account.
2. Town Board members signed a letter of appreciation to be sent to Parratt-Wolff, Inc. in East Syracuse for their generous contribution of installing a new water supply well.
3. No action taken on Highway Department trucks at this time.

4. According to the NYS Department of Labor, because James Lord quit to accept another job (which they consider as good cause), he can be eligible for unemployment benefits. Since Mr. Lord worked a total of five days for the Town, Supervisor Davis will follow up to confirm if this falls within the minimum number of days employment is required for benefits.
5. The Fire Department held a community health awareness day with NICAM seeing 30 people for health screenings. They are currently working to coordinate scheduling a Farm Safety program for farm families.
6. Supervisor Davis talked with Liz Mackey concerning the possibility of a free rabies clinic. She will look into it and get back to him in mid-May. Representative Lindberg will have County Public Health also contact Supervisor Davis.
7. When construction is completed in the Town Hall, Nancy Scott will take care of cleaning the rugs. The large garbage pails will be put into reserve for events with crowds and smaller ones will be set out for everyday use.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Westford may be eligible to receive up to \$17,240.77 of Extreme Winter Recovery CHIPS money. Discussion followed concerning monies spent on paving and crusher run. Supervisor Davis will check with Binghamton to see if and what reimbursement the town is eligible to receive.
2. The Town received a FOIL request from CSEA asking for employee information.
3. Councilman Strong expressed concern of rumors circulating that there is no money left to complete the JCAP project and asked for a balance clarification to stop any more rumors. \$10,500.00 was received through the JCAP grant. Of this, \$4,476.78 has been spent leaving a balance of \$6,023.22 to complete the project.
4. Councilman Strong also expressed concern about another rumor that the Town is getting rid of the Transfer Station and garbage. Discussion followed. It was noted that these are just rumors, not facts.
5. Councilman Strong and Highway Superintendent Peeters requested approval to bring in a mechanic, one day a week, to take care of repairs the Highway Department employees cannot do. Names, liability and work time was discussed. Superintendent Peeters will contact various mechanics to see if interested and if so, if they will be available at the Town's beck and call.
6. From the floor, W. Jay Palmer requested that the construction debris be cleaned up for the July 19<sup>th</sup> Westford Alumni. They will need access to the Historical Room.
7. On rainy days, the driveway into the Transfer Station can become muddy and hazardous for residents. Superintendent Peeters will put road dust control on it.
8. The Town will offer the opportunity to residents to purchase road dust oil for their roads again this year. Superintendent Peeters will contact the Town Clerk with the details to advertise in the Daily Star.

9. Councilmen Ritton and Huntington will see that the baselines are cleaned up and field mowed for upcoming activities at Gopher Field.
10. Worcester Free Library is seeking donations. Councilman Strong suggested seeing a copy of their budget before making any decisions. Councilman Huntington will bring a copy of their budget to the next meeting.
11. From the floor, Otsego County Coordinator Kevin Ritton explained the 911 Center moved 500 feet into a new room at the Meadows. \$900.00 was spent from the EOC office and \$50,000.00 from Buildings and Maintenance on construction, the move, etc . This came out of a \$1,000,000.00 grant received for the 911 Center.
12. Concerning the previous condition of Middlefield Road, Mr. Ritton wanted to bring awareness to the Board of tire damage caused by the road condition and asked if the town had any means to reimburse. The Town Board acknowledged they are aware of the damage done, however the town does not reimburse for this.
13. Assessor Gohde is available for tax payers to review and discuss assessments.
14. Judge Fay asked if the Town Board would consider paying the Judge's salary by the hour. Supervisor Davis suggested to bring it up at the September Preliminary Budget meeting.
15. Councilman Ritton advised that Jeremy Wyckoff is looking into securing a free submersible pump for the new well.

Since there was no further business to come before this meeting, motion by Councilman Ritton to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Huntington. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Louisa M. Platt  
Town Clerk