

**Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Mooers held January 14, 2014 at the Mooers Office Complex commencing at 7:00P.M.**

**Present:** Jeff Menard, Supervisor  
Steve Barcomb, Councilperson  
Mary Myatt, Councilperson  
Gerald LaValley, Councilperson  
Cory Ross, Councilperson

**Recording Secretary:** Brandi Lloyd, Town Clerk  
**Others Present:** Kaleigh LaBombard, Dog Control Officer  
Eugene Boulерice, Highway Supervisor  
Jess Dixon, Code Enforcement Officer  
Jaclyn Madison, Librarian

**Absent:** none

**Meeting:** Supervisor Jeff Menard called the Meeting to Order at 7:00PM, then he asked Brandi Lloyd to lead them in the "Pledge of Allegiance", which she did.

**Minutes:** All the Board Members were asked if they had read their copies of the December 31, 2013 Minutes. They all replied yes. Supervisor Jeff Menard then asked if there were any omissions or corrections, there were none. Councilperson Steve Barcomb then made a motion to accept the December 31, 2013 Minutes as written and Councilperson Gerald LaValley seconded the Motion. The result of a Roll Call was 4 AYES and 0 NOES, therefore Supervisor Jeff Menard declared Minutes accepted as written. All the Board Members were asked if they had read their copies of the January 3, 2014 Minutes. They all replied yes. Supervisor Jeff Menard then asked if there were any omissions or corrections, there were none. Councilperson Gerald LaValley then made a motion to accept the January 3, 2014 Minutes as written and Councilperson Cory Ross seconded the Motion. The result of a Roll Call was 4 AYES and 0 NOES, therefore Supervisor Jeff Menard declared Minutes accepted as written.

**Highway:** Highway Supervisor Eugene Boulерice handed in the report for December for State Roads. He mentioned that it was not too good, but they were hoping to even out before the end of the year. Highway Supervisor Boulерice also handed in the end of year report for 2013, reporting the State Contract amount of \$278,475.22 minus Total Expenses of \$126,914.62, leaving a balance of \$151,560.60.

**State Contract:** Town of Mooers received necessary paperwork to extend their Municipal Snow & Ice Agreement Extension for 2014 - 2015 season, and Total NYS Municipal Snow & Ice agreement will be \$278,475.22, including \$5,569.50 per line mile for 50 miles; therefore Councilperson Barcomb made a motion that the following be adopted:

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF MOOERS ACCEPT THE NYS MUNICIPAL SNOW & ICE AGREEMENT EXTENSION FOR THE 2014 - 2015 SEASON**

Councilperson Ross seconded the motion and result of a Roll Call was 4 AYES (Councilperson Ross, Councilperson Barcomb, Councilperson Myatt, Councilperson LaValley, Supervisor Menard) and 0 NOES, therefore Supervisor Jeff Menard declared **Resolution #013-2014** adopted.

**Library:** Mrs. Jaclyn Madison asked when the construction on the new library would begin. She also mentioned that the bricks for the building that just recently collapsed may be useful. Supervisor Menard said that, as far as the bricks, the owner of the building has been contacted. Mr. Dixon said he would be able to answer a lot of her questions when he address the issue later tonight. Supervisor Menard answered that construction on the new library would have to wait on the weather.

**Code Enforcement Officer:** Mr. Jess Dixon turned in the end of the year report for 2013, reporting a total of 56 permits issued with a total projected construction cost of \$1,110,900.00. He added that there were a total of seven violations for the year with a couple of them going to court. Mr. Dixon then addressed the January 11, 2014 collapse of the old funeral home building on Route 11. He said he had been contacted by Shan Moore of the Press-Republican asking how the clean-up process would be handled as well as several other questions. Mr. Dixon said, legally, his hands are tied. He said the

building had been condemned between owners of the building, but that the realtor still sold the property. He added that the current owner did work on the bricks that were starting to fall, but the work stopped. Mr. Dixon said the owner informed him that he was waiting for investors. Mr. Dixon said that a bulge in the building was noticed and that Mr. Boulerice had the building roped off. Mr. Dixon reported that the owner, once in receipt of letter from the Town, has 30 days to start the removal of the debris and 60 days to complete the clean-up process as per Local Law #1-2011. Mr. Dixon added that if it is not completed at that time, the clean-up of the property becomes that of the Town, with any expenses being assessed against the property taxes. He said he did not see any major issues with the clean-up as far as asbestos being a factor. Mr. Dixon said he has had some communications with the owner via e-mail stipulating remediation measures. Mr. Dixon said this situation will set a precedence for other buildings that may need to be taken down. Supervisor Menard said that someone could test the building for asbestos. Councilperson Ross said that in the 90's when the property was sold it had been looked at and it was a very good possibility that the asbestos was taken care of at that time. Mr. Dixon said he and the Town have received many calls about taking the bricks. Supervisor Menard said it is private property, it's trespassing, and that bricks cannot be removed at this time. He added that he had no problem with an individual picking up a brick or two. Supervisor Menard asked if the building should possibly be fenced or gated off and if the Town would be held liable. Mr. Dixon said he would look into it. Mr. Dixon then discussed the possibility of a Planning Board. He said he currently has four people interested and he may put a request for others interested to contact him in the paper. Mr. Dixon said the software for his office had been ordered. He added that he has asked Jessica Bulriss to assist him with the new filing system as she is filling in for Crystal Bulriss as Court Clerk while Crystal is out of town.

**Dog Control:** DCO Kaleigh LaBombard reported that she currently has three dogs in the shelter. Ms. LaBombard handed in the itemized report for December 2013 which showed the following: eight dogs came in from Altona, zero dogs came in from the Town of Mooers, one dog came in from Chazy, and a total of 27 reports/ complaints were received.

**Beautification Committee:** Supervisor Menard asked if anyone from the committee would like to address the board. No person was present for the committee wishing to address the board at this time.

**Youth Program:** Supervisor Menard asked if anyone from the youth program would like to address the board. No person was present for the youth program wishing to address the board at this time.

**Fire Department:** Mr. Chris Bulriss, Fire Chief, handed in the December report. Mr. Bulriss added that it was a busy month with 17 calls for Station 1 and two calls for Station 2. There were 12 calls in the Town and five for Mutual Aid. The average response time was 2.8 minutes. He also reported that in 2013 the Fire Department alone answered 138 calls. Mr. Bulriss asked Mr. Boulerice about putting a dry hydrant on Deer Pond on Cannon Corner Road. Mr. Boulerice said it is a County road and he might have to get permission and expected to be able to do so sometime in the summer. Mr. Bulriss requested that the Brush Truck (year 1991) be upgraded this year. He said the Fire Department is willing to pay \$25,000.00 and he estimated the cost to be between \$50,000.00 - \$55,000.00. Supervisor Menard said the issue would be tabled for now for further discussion. Mr. Bulriss reported that there is the need for five sets of turn out gear.

**EMS:** Supervisor Menard asked if anyone from EMS program would like to address the board. No person was present wishing to address the board at this time.

**Town Historian:** Supervisor Menard asked if the Town Historian would like to address the board. Mrs. Carol Nedeau reported that it is all old news.

Supervisor Menard asked if anyone would like to address the Town Board.

**Public Comment 1:** Mr. Larry Rabideau said he helps to take care of the sidewalks in Mooers Forks. He said that they are receiving quite a bit of feedback regarding where they put the snow and some complaints about the snow being pushed onto homeowner's yards. Supervisor Menard said he would talk to those with complaints. Mr. Rabideau asked if the sidewalks could possibly be addressed like Plattsburgh does. He said Plattsburgh gives homeowners 24 hours to clear the sidewalk in front of their property and failure to do so resulted in a fine. Supervisor Menard said he would hate to punish everyone over a few complaints. Supervisor Menard asked Mr. Rabideau where exactly he plows. He said he plows from the Church on the corner to Blackman Corners. Mr. Rabideau said he would be willing to haul the snow away, but it would be an added cost. Mr. Dixon said, the legality of it is, within the Zoning laws, has 65 foot set-back from the center line of a State road. He added that the Town is within its rights to put the snow wherever they need to put it.

**Public Comment 2:** Mr. Dragoon asked Mr. Boulерice if he thinks it is a waste of money having those clearing the sidewalks get up at 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning, which they did. He said he thought the Board had no idea what was going on and that he doesn't think that Mr. Boulерice realized that the sidewalks had to be shoveled to the steps. Mr. Boulерice answered that it has nothing to do with him. Mr. Dragoon said he realized that, but that he was addressing him because Mr. Boulерice is more or less the one in charge. Mr. Boulерice explained that it got dropped on him and that he had explained to the Board that he had his hands full with the Highway. He added that then the Board hired people and dropped it on him. Mr. Dragoon then asked if there was more to it than he thought there was. Mr. Boulерice agreed. Mr. Dragoon said the Board thought it was nothing but a waste of money, according to the papers and Mr. Ross. Mr. Dragoon said he hopes that Mr. Boulерice keeps track of the time to see how much of it is a waste of money. Supervisor Menard said he agreed that the clearing of sidewalks is a lot of work. Raymond Phair then asked that he thought the skid steer was going to be used to do the sidewalks in Mooers Forks. Mr. Dragoon said that the figures in the paper said it would be used for Mooers Forks. Mr. Favreau said that the former Supervisor, Mr. Ross, was here and he could address the question. Mr. Ross said that Rabideau Brothers already take care of Mooers Forks and that the skid steer is to be used to take care of the sidewalks in Mooers. Mrs. Phair asked if that should have been put out to a bid to all local contractors that plow, as far as Rabideau Brothers taking care of the Mooers Forks sidewalks. She added that she thought the skid steer was to be used for both Mooers and Mooers Forks and that the talk in the Town is that the trailer the Town purchased is not big enough to fit the skid steer on. She said to correct her if she is wrong, but that is the talk around Town. Mr. Ross said that the work done in Mooers Forks by Rabideau Brothers had never been put out to bid in the past. He added that it is a work in progress and that he feels progress is being made. Mr. Ross said the intent in changing the way the sidewalks were maintained was to save the Town money. He said the Town was in need of a skid steer as the Town was renting one to use. Mr. Ross said that was the intent, to save the Town money over time and not to take the work away from anyone or to give it anyone. Mrs. Miller said it was put out to bid in the past. Supervisor Menard said that the expense is noted and next Fall it will be re-evaluated. He added that if it is going well and the Town is making money it will continue. Supervisor Ross said that is why the Board is here, for the best interest of the Town and to spend money wisely, and do what is right for the Town. Mr. Dixon asked if Mooers and Mooers Forks were two separate Districts in the Budget. Supervisor Menard said it is all one budget. Mr. Ross said that they are two separate districts in the budget.

**Highway 2:** Supervisor Menard said that he had received a book from Uni-First and asked Mr. Boulерice to set-up a meeting to take care of renewing the uniforms contract.

**Code Enforcement Officer 2:** Mr. Dixon said that according to the local law, the Town Board had to be in agreement of the remediation of the area where the building collapsed. He added that taking care of it tonight would make the process that much quicker. Mr. Dixon said that if anyone needed any documents pertaining to the event that he had them all. Supervisor Menard reminded everyone that the building collapsed Saturday night, January 11th. He added that more than half of the roof came down as well as most of the front of the building and that it was just too unstable. Supervisor Menard said they were able to get Luck Brothers to finish knocking the building down. He said, as of now, the Town will have to pay the bill from Luck Brothers, but it will be assessed against the property taxes. He added that if the Town has to clean it up, they will do so and any costs will be on the property taxes as well. He said if it sold, then it will have to be paid at that time. He said that if the current owner does not pay taxes, the property will go to the County. Mr. Dixon said the County may just end up having the Town take ownership of the property. Mr. Dixon read an overview of Local Law #1-2011.

**Highway 3:** Mr. Boulерice asked if the sidewalks in front of the Methodist Church were to be done by the Town or if they had been done by Dragoons in the past by Dragoons donating their time. He asked why the Town was clearing the snow in front of LaBarge's office and the old Post Office. Mr. Dragoon said they did donate their time to clear the church's parking lot. He said they also took care of the snow in front of LaBarge's, but never had anything to do with the old Post office. Supervisor Menard asked if LaBarge's paid Dragoons for snow removal. Mr. Dragoon said yes. Supervisor Menard suggested possibly sending a letter to the owners letting them know what snow removal they are responsible for.

**Vouchers:** The Audited Vouchers to be paid off the Abstracted Vouchers on January 11, 2014 are as follows:

General - Townwide-----	(Vouchers 405 - 427)-----	\$ 19,309.35
Highway - Townwide-----	(Voucher 228 - 250 )-----	52,945.02
Mooers Fire Protection -----	(Voucher 421, 423, 427 - 435)-----	6,796.49
Mooers Forks Lights-----	(Voucher 413)-----	456.28
Mooers Lights -----	(Voucher 413)-----	<u>799.28</u>

**Total of Abstracted Vouchers Paid-----\$80,306.42**

**Adjourn:** Councilperson Barcomb made a motion for the meeting be adjourned. Councilperson Ross seconded the motion and the result was 5 AYES (Supervisor Jeff Menard, Councilperson Mary Myatt, Councilperson Steve Barcomb, Councilperson Gerald LaValley and Councilperson Cory Ross) and 0 NOES. Thus, Supervisor Jeff Menard declared motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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BRANDI B. LLOYD, TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR