

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Mooers held September 8, 2015 at the Mooers Office Complex commencing at 7:00 PM

Present: Jeff Menard, Supervisor
Steve Barcomb, Councilperson
Gerald LaValley, Councilperson
Donald Perras, Councilperson
Mary Myatt, Councilperson

Recording Secretary: Brandi B. Lloyd, Town Clerk

Others Present: Kaleigh Mills, Dog Control Officer

Absent: none

Meeting: Supervisor Jeff Menard called the Meeting to Order at 7:00PM, then he asked Mrs. 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 August 11, 2015 Minutes. They all replied yes. Supervisor Jeff Menard then asked if there were any omissions or corrections, there were none from the Town Board. Councilperson Perras then made a motion to accept the August 11, 2015 Minutes as written and Councilperson Myatt seconded the Motion. The result of a Roll Call was 5 AYES and 0 NOES, therefore Supervisor Menard declared Minutes accepted as written.

Highway: Highway Supervisor Eugene Boulerice was not in attendance.

Library: Mrs. Jackie Madison said the library received \$300.00 from the Champlain Telephone Company. She added that \$2,500 had also been received. Mrs. Madison said the Mooers Volunteer Fire Department Labor Day Celebration and parade were excellent and she thanked them for all of their hard work and inviting them to participate. Mrs. Madison said the Library Board will be sending a letter to the entire community. Supervisor Menard said another quote to complete the interior of the new library had been received from S&B. He said the quote is for \$110,000.00. Mrs. Madison mentioned that Mr. Evans is willing to pay for the well. She also said that she is pushing for USDA funding. Supervisor Menard invited Mrs. Madison to attend the meeting being held on Wednesday, September 9th to discuss the water feasibility study. He said Ms. Liz Tedford will be in attendance and she may have some advice on obtaining more grant money. Councilperson Perras mentioned that the Plattsburgh library had just received funding of more than six figures and suggested that there is more grant money available. Mrs. Madison agreed and said public libraries are usually awarded more grant money than that awarded to other types of libraries. Supervisor Menard said last month it was mentioned that neighbors of the library had cut trees down on library property. He said, in the future, this is not to be done and the Town is to be informed. He added that the Town would be liable if anyone was hurt while cutting down the trees and it needs to be handled by employees of the Town. Mrs. Madison asked if Mr. Brad Vassar, a neighbor, could continue to mow the lawn. Supervisor Menard said that would be fine.

Beautification Committee: Supervisor Menard asked if anyone from the Beautification Committee would like to address the board. Mrs. Myrtle Hawksby said the lady that graciously waters some of the flower pots in Town is being vandalized. She said the lady leaves her watering can out near the flower pot and it has been broken on more than one occasion.

Dog Control: Mrs. Kaleigh Mills submitted the report for August. The August report showed 20 complaints for the month with four dogs currently in the shelter. Mrs. Mills said there is some damage to the shelter caused by the dog that kept getting out last month. Mr. Brandon Mills said it is mostly the foam insulation. Mrs. Mills said it will need repaired before winter. Supervisor Menard said he received a call from a lady on Angelville Road complaining about dogs barking. Mrs. Mills said she was aware of the situation. She explained that she answered a complaint about the same dogs last month and discovered the owner had 21 dogs, all not licensed. Mrs. Mills said she ordered the dogs to be licensed immediately and they were. She said the police are now aware of the situation and are monitoring the owner for possible cruelty to animals.

Youth Program: Supervisor Menard asked if anyone from the Youth 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 anyone from the office of The Town Historian would like to address the board. No person was present wishing to address the board at this time.

Fire Department: Mr. Dan Dumas, Fire Chief, was not present. Supervisor Menard read from the report submitted by Mr. Dumas that they had a total of nine calls for the month of August, seven in Town and two mutual aid calls. He added that they had a couple of medical assist calls as well.

Dog Control: Mrs. Mills said she forgot to mention that she has been in touch with the Quebec SPCA and they have offered to take in any dogs she is unable to find homes for. She added that, in order for the dogs to cross the border, they must have first received their rabies vaccination. Mrs. Mills said having a dog put to sleep costs \$30 and she could have them vaccinated for just \$15. She asked if the Board would give her permission to start working with the SPCA. Mrs. Mills said the dogs have to stay in the shelter for 30 days before going across the border, but the Quebec SPCA has offered to help provide dog food for the extended stay. Mrs. Mills said there is actually a shortage of dogs in this area of Quebec. The Board agreed it was a good idea.

EMS: Supervisor Menard asked if anyone from EMS would like to address the board. No person was present wishing to address the board at this time. A report was not submitted by EMS. Supervisor Menard said he met with Mr. Corey Thompson, Captain of Champlain EMS, and a couple of the Board members regarding coverage for the Towns of Mooers and Champlain. He said they gave him three different proposals. He said he currently costs Champlain EMS \$333,165 to operate for one year. He said they would like reimbursement of \$275,970 from the Towns of Mooers and Champlain to cover the salaries of the employees. Supervisor Menard said the Town of Mooers pays 35% of the budget to run the EMS and Champlain covers the other 65%. He said currently the residents of Mooers pay .46 cents per \$1,000 and that Proposal A would increase the amount to .66 cents per \$1,000. Supervisor Menard explained that, on a home valued at \$150,000, it would be an actual cost of \$30 more to the taxpayer. He added that it is a misconception that Champlain EMS charges those for use of the ambulance. He said they do charge, on average about \$1200 - \$1600, but the majority of insurance companies only pay Champlain EMS \$400. Supervisor Menard said Champlain EMS does not make money on ambulance calls. He added that Mooers has gotten, in his opinion, a good deal over the past few years and that Champlain EMS does a great job covering the Town of Mooers. Supervisor Menard went over three different proposals of coverage from Champlain EMS and the impact it would have on taxes. He said Proposal A, at the .20 cent increase, includes coverage from 7am - 5pm in Mooers as well as coverage from 9pm- 7am on alternate evenings with coverage in either Mooers or Champlain. He added Mooers would have coverage in Town five night each week. Supervisor Menard said Proposal B would increase taxes by .18 cents per \$1,000 and would include coverage from 6am - 6pm with coverage in Mooers four nights and three days each week. Supervisor Menard said Proposal C would increase taxes .05 cents per \$1,000 and would include coverage in Mooers four nights and four days each week and Mooers would have to supply a driver. Councilperson Barcomb asked if the proposals would go to a vote. Supervisor Menard said the decision is that of the Board and he would like to see the Board members speak to people in the community and get their input on the three proposals. Mrs. Myrtle Hawksby, in attendance, said that some people are indeed charged for using the ambulance. She added that the insurance company pays a portion of the bill, but then the individual receives an invoice for the balance. There was some discussion. Mrs. Hawksby asked the Board to look into how often Champlain EMS is actually getting paid the full amount billed for ambulance use. Supervisor Menard said if the individual is unable to pay the balance, Champlain EMS does not pursue the matter. Mr. Roger Favreau confirmed that, as an organization, Champlain EMS does not pursue those that are unable to pay the balance due for using the ambulance services. There was some discussion.

Code Enforcement Officer: Supervisor Menard asked if anyone from the Office of Code Enforcement would like to address the board. No person was present wishing to address the board at this time. Supervisor Menard read from the report that had been submitted by Mr. Jess Dixon. The August report showed a total of three building permits issued, zero violations, 18 calls answered, and two certificates of occupancy.

Court: Supervisor Menard asked if anyone from the Court would like to address the board. No person was present wishing to address the board at this time. The Justice Fund report for August showed total receipts of \$9,416.02 with \$6,096.00 going to the State, \$10.00 to the County, and \$3,310.02 to the Town of Mooers.

Old Business:

Old Business 1: Supervisor Menard said the Town had received a couple of estimates to repair the restrooms at the Recreational Park. He said Mr. Leon Menard submitted an estimate of \$680.00 to replace all four toilets. He said S&B Construction also submitted an estimate with a few different options, one to replace all four toilets for \$720.00. Supervisor Menard went over the details of the options. Councilperson Perras said there is also a drain that need to be fixed. Councilperson Myatt asked if the Roxanne Dumas/ Louanne Dragoon families, the families that sponsor the annual soccer tournament, offered to pay half of the invoice for the repairs. Supervisor Menard confirmed they had. Councilperson Lavalley asked if there were funds available to pay for the repairs. Supervisor Menard said there were. There was some discussion. Therefore Councilperson Barcomb made a motion to accept S&B Construction's estimate to repair the restrooms at the Recreational Park; replace two toilets, repair two other toilets, and repair the drain. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Myatt. The result of a Roll Call was 5 AYES and 0 NOES, therefore Supervisor Menard declared the motion carried.

Old Business 2: Supervisor Menard gave an update on the cemeteries. He said the deeds were all signed today and transferred to the Town officially. He said Mr. Tracey Lamere is finding out if the inmates can finish the mowing and trimming of the Old Riverside Cemetery. Supervisor Menard said the Board has hired three people to mow the cemeteries. He said the two DeLong boys will be mowing Riverside Cemetery and Jordan Lamere has been hired to mow Union Cemetery. Supervisor Menard said there is not much money available in the Riverside Cemetery account. He said St. Ann's is letting Mooers use their mower and that the Town paid to have new blades put on their mower. Councilperson Myatt asked if there was money in the budget to purchase a mower. Supervisor Menard said he would check He said the Town could also look into getting a loan from the Division of Cemeteries in Albany.

New Business:

Town Business 1: Supervisor Menard said the Town received an invoice for the Town of Ellenburg for fees related to their swim program. He said apparently some children from Mooers Forks attended swim classes at NAC. He said the invoice is for \$1200.00 . Supervisor Menard said the Town of Mooers has an agreement with NCCS not NAC. He added that the families nor NAC got prior permission from the Town. Councilperson Myatt asked if the Town could still be responsible for the bill. She also asked if the parents should be asked to pay for some of the charges. There was some discussion. Supervisor Menard said he would look into it further and discuss it again next month.

Town Business 2: Supervisor Menard said there will be a meeting discussing "Planning and Zoning for Solar" held at the Town of Plattsburgh Office on October 2nd from 9:30am-12:30pm. He added that there is also a "Retirement System" informational meeting on September 17th.

Town Business 3: Supervisor Menard said the church would like to know if the Town would be interested in the Church Center. He added the church is willing to donate it to the Town. Supervisor Menard said the building is in need of many costly repairs. He said he doesn't believe the Town has the money to pay for the repairs. The Board agreed not to accept the church's offer of donating the Church Center to the Town.

Town Business 4: Supervisor Menard explained that the Town received a letter from Clinton County to renew the contract for the Tax Assessor. He said the current contract amount is \$28,387.50. He said the Town has 2271 parcels and is charged \$12.50 per parcel through the County. Supervisor Menard said, in reading the contract, he is concerned that the Town is held responsible to pay any lawyer fees if any occur regarding the Tax Assessor. Mr. Larry Wolff, in attendance, who is currently the Assessor for the Town of Ellenburg, offered some insight into the Town hiring their own assessor. He said the Town of Ellenburg pays the County \$2.00 per parcel for one of the County's Assessors to help the Town Assessor and print the Tax Roll each year. There was some discussion. Supervisor Menard said the Town could potentially save around \$9,500.00 if they hired their own Assessor and did not go through the County. There was some discussion. Supervisor Menard asked the Board to consider the options and they would discuss it further next month.

Town Business 5: Supervisor Menard said a Special Meeting is scheduled for September 9th at 6pm to discuss the Feasibility Study. He added that the Town will need people in the near future to be on a committee as the project progresses.

Town Business 6: Supervisor Menard said the Highway Department is still having issues with the uniforms from Unifirst. He said Unifirst is also charging more than what was agreed to in the contract. There was some discussion. Supervisor Menard said he would look into it.

Town Business 7: Supervisor Menard said the Town received a letter from the Adirondack Folk School requesting the Town consider making a donation of \$250- \$500. Supervisor Menard said he believed that a Town was not allowed to make donations. The Board agreed not to send a donation.

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

Public Comment 1: Mr. Favreau said he recently read in the paper that there is a lack of people willing to become volunteers. He said Champlain EMS answered 550-600 calls last year and missed just ten of those calls. He said the missed calls were all from 5-9pm, when the EMS is not manning the station. He added that volunteers are hard to find creating the need to pay for more EMS services.

Public Comment 2: Mr. Jon LaBarre, in attendance, reminded everyone to contact him if they should have any questions or concerns regarding the windmill project.

Voucher: The Audited Vouchers to be paid off the Abstracted Vouchers on September 8, 2015 are as follows:

General - Townwide -----(Vouchers 1057 - 1080)-----	\$ 13,530.34
Highway - Townwide -----(Voucher 727 - 738)-----	26,031.18
Mooers Forks Lights----- (Voucher 1076)-----	344.19
Mooers Lights ----- (Voucher 1076)-----	584.64
Trust & Agency -----(Voucher 137 - 139)-----	10,899.87
Union Cemetery----- (Voucher 1)-----	<u>32.86</u>
Total of Abstracted Vouchers Paid-----	\$51,423.08

Adjourn: Councilperson Barcomb made a motion for the meeting be adjourned. Supervisor Menard seconded the motion. All in favor. Thus, Supervisor Jeff Menard declared the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:11PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

BRANDI B. LLOYD, TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR