

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Mooers held October 13, 2015 at the Mooers Office Complex commencing at 7:00 PM

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

Recording Secretary: Brandi B. Lloyd, Town Clerk

Others Present: Kaleigh Mills, Dog Control Officer

Absent: Mary Myatt, Councilperson

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 September 8, 2015 Minutes as well as their copies of the September 9, 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 Barcomb then made a motion to accept the September 8, 2015 Minutes as well as the September 9, 2015 Minutes as written and Councilperson Perras seconded the Motion. The result of a Roll Call was 4 AYES and 0 NOES, therefore Supervisor Menard declared Minutes accepted as written.

Highway: Highway Supervisor Eugene Boulerice said they have almost completed the paving on Monty Road with just a few areas left to shim. He added that they will be starting work on the sand soon. Highway Supervisor Boulerice said the next payment to Graymont will be due November 6th, which is before the next board meeting. He asked the Board if the bill could be paid when it arrives. Therefore Supervisor Menard made a motion to pay the Graymont invoice as soon as it is received. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Barcomb. The result of a Roll Call was 4 AYES and 0 NOES, therefore Supervisor Menard declared the motion carried. Highway Supervisor Boulerice said he attended a meeting recently and was informed that the Town, after review, lost three and half miles of roads that qualify as roads. He said the formerly named Missile Base Road was never officially made a road and that Orr Road as been deemed impassable. Highway Supervisor Boulerice said he would look into it and thought a resolution at a future meeting reinstating both the formerly named Missile Base Road and Orr Road as roads should fix the issue. Supervisor Menard asked Highway Supervisor Boulerice if North Star Road was a Town or County Road. Highway Supervisor Boulerice explained that a portion was County and another was Town. Supervisor Menard said he was contacted by a gentleman that lives on North Star Road requesting that there be a speed limit. Supervisor Menard said, for now, the gentleman has spoken with the State Police and they will be more present in the area.

Library: Mrs. Jackie Madison said the library will hold Fright Night on October 24th. She said they are working on getting another bid, but the bidder had questions regarding deeded rights to the well, property lines, and sprinklers. There was some discussion. Supervisor Menard said Mrs. Madison should speak with Mr. Jess Dixon, Code Enforcement Officer. Supervisor Menard asked Mrs. Brandi Lloyd to read the letter received from the Board of Trustees of the Mooers Free Library regarding the resignation of Mrs. Sue Evans as President. The letter also mentioned that the Board of trustees would officially accept Mrs. Evans resignation and vote in Mr. Gene Bushey as President at a special emergency meeting on October 14th. There was some discussion regarding the upcoming emergency meeting, the appointment of Mr. Bushey, and the by-laws of the Mooers Free Library. The next regular meeting of the Mooers Free Library is October 21st.

Dog Control: Mrs. Kaleigh Mills submitted the report for September. The September report showed 11 complaints for the month. Mrs. Mills said the invoice from Palmer's was a little higher due the fact that the State Police requested her assistance with a dog in Mooers that eventually had to be euthanized. Mrs. Mills said a total of five dogs so far have been vaccinated and transferred to Canada. She added that all have been placed in homes.

Beautification Committee: Supervisor Menard asked if anyone from the Beautification Committee would like to address the board. Mrs. Myrtle Hawksby said they would like to put up a poster on election day at both polling places explaining why the funds in the referendum are being requested. The Board agreed.

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 said that they had a total of five calls for the month of September, four in Town and one mutual aid call. He added that they have had a total of 87 calls for the year.

EMS: Supervisor Menard asked if anyone from EMS would like to address the board. Supervisor Menard introduced Mr. Corey Thompson, Captain of Champlain EMS. Supervisor Menard explained the three different options being presented to the Town and the cost of each. Mr. Thompson explained that CEMS is not a district, that they are a not for profit. He added that CEMS, therefore, should not be a separate line in the budget. He said that the contracts with the Town of Champlain and the Town of Mooers are two separate contracts. Mr. Thompson explained that over the years CEMS has added extra paid staff at no extra cost to the Town. He said they were able to fill the gaps with billing rate increases. He said raising the billing rates by 50% only resulted in a 7.4% increase in revenue. Mr. Thompson said the gaps in revenue can no longer be filled in with rate increases. He gave an example of CEMS billing the patient's insurance company. He said they receive a payment of \$400.00 and it's considered paid. He added that they legally have to send a second notice to the patient, but they do not pursue the "balance." Mr. Thompson said another reason for increase cost is that the volunteer pool is scarce, especially in the Town of Mooers. He said CEMS had 624 calls last year, dropping only 11 calls. He said hears about those dropped calls a lot. . He added that he cares about the 11 calls that were missed. Mr. Thompson asked if there were any questions. There was some discussion. Mr. Thompson said he would be more than willing to meet with two Board members along with the executive Board of CEMS to discuss a three year plan. Supervisor Menard agreed that would be a good idea. Mr. Thompson explained the importance of the second paid ambulance. He said the second ambulance went out when the first ambulance was already in use 89 times last year and 61 times so far to date this year. He added that it would be his wish to sustain the second ambulance. Supervisor Menard said he would be in touch with Mr. Thompson regarding a date to meet.

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 September showed total receipts of \$14,597.28 with \$8,616.00 going to the State, \$0.00 to the County, and \$5,981.28 to the Town of Mooers.

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 September report showed a total of six building permits issued, 18 calls answered, and one certificate of compliance.

Old Business:

Old Business 1: Supervisor Menard said the wells have been removed and filled from the property where the building collapsed. He said the Town will pay the invoice and then turn the receipt in to the County for reimbursement.

Old Business 2: Supervisor Menard said inmates from Altona Correctional prisoners are working on cleaning up the Old Riverside Cemetery.

Old Business 3: Supervisor Menard said the Board needed to decide if they would like to go with a Tax Assessor through the County or out on their own. He added the Town could save about \$10,000.00 if they went on their own. Councilperson asked if there was anyone interested. Supervisor Menard answered that there was interest. Highway Supervisor Eugene Boulerice asked if the position was appointed or elected. Supervisor Menard explained that it is an appointed position. There was some discussion. Therefore Councilperson Barcomb made a motion for the Town Board to appoint their own Tax Assessor. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Perras. The result of a Roll Call was 4 AYES (Supervisor Menard, Councilperson LaValley, and Councilperson Perras) and 0 NOES, therefore Supervisor Menard declared the motion carried.

Old Business 4: Supervisor Menard explained that one of the first steps with the Water and Sewer Feasibility Study is sending out a survey to residents in the projected area to be possibly be receiving water/ sewer. Therefore Councilperson Perras made a motion to proceed with mailing the surveys. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Barcomb. The result of a Roll Call was 4 AYES (Supervisor Menard, Councilperson LaValley, and Councilperson Perras) and 0 NOES, therefore Supervisor Menard declared the motion carried. Supervisor Menard said there will eventually be a committee formed to help keep the community informed as the project progresses.

New Business:

Town Business 1: Supervisor Menard said the contract with the Town of Chazy for shared Dog Control services was being renegotiated. He said the contract was \$8,500.00 for 2015, which the Town of Chazy has yet to pay to date. He said the proposed contract for 2016 is \$9,400.0. He added that Chazy came back with an offer of \$8,956.00, which is just a 2% increase. Mrs. Mills, DCO, explained that the Town of Chazy is harder to deal with than Mooers. She added that the Town of Champlain, which she contracts with separately, matches what the Town of Mooers pays. Supervisor Menard asked the Board if they would like to stay with the original amount proposed of \$9,400.00. Both the Board and Mrs. Mills agreed.

Town Business 2: Supervisor Menard read a letter received from the Board on Electric City and Environmental regarding the proposed Bull Run Windmill Project. He added that according to Article 10 the Supervisor is to appoint peoples as ad-hoc to provide a public voice on the project. He added that any person serving as ad-hoc must be a public member and not hold a state or local office. He said the Town would have to start considering candidates to be ready if the project goes through. He said four people would be chosen and then they will pick to people from the four candidates. Supervisor Menard said anyone interested should see him or Board member.

Town Business 3: Supervisor Menard said there is training being held in Beekmantown on October 14th. He explained that it is workplace violence and sensitivity training. He said it is required that all Board members and elected officials attend this training once per year.

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.

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

Public Comment 1: A lady in attendance said the Troopers had recently been called because the stairs of the library were vandalized. She said the three children involved were told that they were no longer welcome at the library. She asked if the stairs could be repaired. Supervisor Menard said he would look into it. Supervisor Menard asked Mrs. Madison if the wi-fi had to stay on at all times. She answered that it could be turned off, but there are people in the community that rely on it. rev. Rev. Sally White, in attendance, said she appreciates the service, but there are more and more issues with having public wi-fi readily available. There was some discussion. Mrs. Madison said she doesn't want to see anybody harmed, but that there are even children that need the access to wi-fi for homework. Re. Smith asked if it could be turned off at certain times. Mrs. Madison said turning it off could cause problems. She said she could look into requiring a log in to access the wi-fi, possibly with a library card.

Rev. white said anything that would prevent or cause harm would be an important measure to take. There was some discussion. Supervisor Menard said he would like Mrs. Madison to look into ways to have the wi-fi more secured.

Voucher: The Audited Vouchers to be paid off the Abstracted Vouchers on October 13, 2015 are as follows:

General - Townwide -----(Vouchers 1081 - 1104)-----	\$ 20,172.04
Highway - Townwide -----(Voucher 739 - 761)-----	136,038.52
Mooers Forks Lights----- (Voucher 1103)-----	357.92
Mooers Lights -----(Voucher 1103)-----	610.80
Trust & Agency -----(Voucher 140 - 142)-----	10,899.87
Union Cemetery----- (Voucher 2 - 3)-----	472.49
Riverside Cemetery----- (Voucher 2)-----	117.94
Total of Abstracted Vouchers Paid-----	\$168,669.58

Adjourn: Councilperson Barcomb made a motion for the meeting be adjourned. Councilperson LaValley seconded the motion. All in favor. Thus, Supervisor Jeff Menard declared the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:54PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

BRANDI B. LLOYD, TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR