

**Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Mooers held
December 8, 2020 at the Mooers Office Complex commencing at 7:00 PM**

Present: Jeff Menard, Supervisor
Donald Perras, Councilperson
Randy LaCount, Councilperson
Irving Breyette, Councilperson
Christopher Bulriss, Councilperson
Kris Gilmore, Highway Superintendent

Recording Secretary: Kelly L. McDonald, Town Clerk

Others Present: Myrtle Hawksby, Beautification
Larry Wolff, Tax Assessor
Art Menard, Library
Todd Gumlaw, Fire Chief
Jason Poulin, Code Enforcement Officer

Meeting: Supervisor Jeff Menard called the Meeting to Order at 7:00PM. Supervisor Menard asked Mrs. Kelly McDonald to lead them in the "Pledge of Allegiance," which she did.

Friends of the North Country-

Susan Picard from Friends of the North Country is attendance to discuss their program. There are different kinds of grants available to people, one is rehabilitation and the other is replacement. Mrs. Picard discussed the qualifications and requirements for this program. The Town of Mooers is able to apply for state grants to allow more towns people to be assisted. Friend of the North Country can apply for this grant on the town's behalf.

Champlain Telephone Company-

Representatives from CTC were present to discuss their IT services and what it would cost the town. The Highway Departments information was not included so they will look at it and follow up with an updated price.

Highway: Superintendent Gilmore discussed COVID-19 Plans and Shared Services, what would happen if our guys are sick or quarantined or other towns. Supervisor Menard is going to talk to our Lawyer to see what his thoughts are. Superintendent Gilmore said they may need to hire a couple more people on call just in case.

The ditch on Park Lane was discussed. Superintendent Gilmore said he was waiting to hear back from the state guys. Can it be diverted with a culvert?

The County Snow Contract was discussed. According to the County the Town is being paid for .73 miles the Town doesn't plow. The County wants to amend the contract. A decision needs to be made on whether to revise it or keep it the way it is. It is a difference of about \$5,000.

Councilperson LaCount made a motion to keep the contract as it.

Councilperson Breyette Seconded the motion.

The result of a Roll Call was 4 AYES (Councilperson Perras, Councilperson LaCount, Councilperson Bulriss, and Councilperson Breyette), and 1 NOES (Supervisor Menard).

Library: Mr. Art Menard discussed that they were still open 25 hours a week. There was a community member that was upset over the phone about not being able to use the computer, but Mr. Menard said there were ways to help. There is a laptop that they could have used outdoors. There is also the ability to print from email. There are options available, people just have to inquire. Mr. Menard gave the Board a copy of the Library's Budget.

Beautification: Councilperson LaCount asked if the Beautification Committee was going to put lights up. Mrs. Crystal Bulriss said they were waiting until next year for to purchase the new decorations. The power company has not fixed the boxes yet. They are also thinking of doing all white snowflakes next year.

Assessor: Mr. Larry Wolff, Town Assessor, discussed that the state wants the assessments to go up throughout the town. Mr. Wolff said he was going to meet with a few people to see what can be done.

Fire Department: Supervisor Menard read the fire report for the month of November 2020, submitted by Mr. Todd Gumlaw, Fire Chief. Councilperson Bulriss said many of the trees down are along the LaValley Road, could a letter be sent to the County for evaluation to remove them. Supervisor Menard discussed the Fire Protection Contract, that it would be effective for 3 years to allow them to plan ahead.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT AND SIGN FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT

Whereas; at the December 8, 2020 Town Board Meeting the need to renew the Fire Protection Contract, and

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF MOOERS ACCEPT THE FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT AS WRITTEN AND THE CONTRACT BE SIGNED

Motion: Supervisor Menard

Seconded by: Councilperson Perras

Discussion: no

Roll Call: The result of a Roll Call was 4 AYES (Councilperson Perras, Councilperson LaCount, Supervisor Menard, and Councilperson Breyette), 1 ABSTAIN (Councilperson Bulriss), and 0 NOES.

Therefore; Supervisor Menard declared Resolution #27-2020 is adopted.

Code Enforcement: Mr. Jason Poulin, Code Enforcement Officer, proposed raising fees for permits. Each Board Member received a copy of proposed changes to review. The Town's prices are some of the lowest in the County. There are other things that could be charged for as well, such as building without a permit. There is also discussion of registering renters and doing inspections between tenants. Supervisor Menard discussed the letter sent to Mrs. Theresa Goodman. The process is moving forward.

Old Business:

1) Decommissioning Report on #5- The difference between this agreement and the other ones is that the company will be holding this money, whereas before we held the money. They will be sending financial statements on the money. There was further discussion on running them if the company walks away, which the town cannot do. There were no motions or votes to accept this agreement at this time.

New Business:

1) Supervisor Menard discussed that all public employers need a Pandemic Contingency Plan, multifaceted an available to the public. Some towns are hiring engineers to complete the plans for their towns. The Town received a proposal to complete this for \$5,000, Supervisor Menard is going to see if other local towns would like to see if they can do this together?

2) RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH PETTY CASH FUND FOR THE OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

Whereas: The collection of 2021 Land Taxes begins January 1, 2021 and

Whereas: There is the need for the office of the Tax Collector to have change for payments of taxes

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THE TAX COLLECTOR BE ALLOTTED THE SUM OF \$300.00 FOR PETTY CASH FOR THE 2021 TAX SEASON

Motion: Councilperson Bulriss

Seconded by: Councilperson Breyette

Discussion: none

The result of the Roll call was 5 AYES (Councilperson Perras, Councilperson LaCount, Supervisor Menard, Councilperson Bulriss, and Councilperson Breyette) and 0 NOES.

Therefore; Supervisor Menard declared **Resolution #28-2020** adopted.

3) RESOLUTION #29-2020 FOR Interfund Advance

The Town Board of the Town of Mooers duly convened in regular session, does hereby resolve as follows:

As the Highway Department’s checking account does not have enough money to cover the monthly bills and mid-month payroll;

There must be an Interfund Advance of \$30,000 from the General checking account to the Highway checking account.

This money will be paid back as soon as the end of the year revenue comes in.

This resolution will take place immediately.

Motion: Supervisor Menard

Seconded by: Councilperson Perras

Discussion: no

The result of the Roll call was 5 AYES (Councilperson Perras, Councilperson LaCount, Supervisor Menard, Councilperson Bulriss, and Councilperson Breyette) and 0 NOES.

Therefore; Supervisor Menard declared Resolution #29-2020 adopted.

Public Comment:

1) Mr. Gary Cardin asked if voting on the Decommissioning fee was tabled until next month. Supervisor Menard said yes. The concern is with not having the money in our own account.

Executive Session:

Supervisor Menard made a motion to enter Executive Session at 9:15PM to discuss an employee issue. Councilperson LaCount seconded the motion. The result of the Roll Call was 5 AYES (Councilperson Perras, Councilperson LaCount, Supervisor Menard, Councilperson Bulriss and Councilperson Breyette), and 0 NOES. Therefore, Supervisor Menard declared the motion carried and the Board entered Executive Session.

At 9:37PM the Board returned. While in Executive Session the Board discussed an employee that has 5 vacation and 3 personal days that are going to run out at the end of the year. The employee asked if the town could extend these days to next year. Per the CSEA Contract it states it has to be used before the end of the year. Supervisor Menard entertained a motion to stick with the contract or void.

Councilperson Breyette made a motion to stick with the contract.

Councilperson Perras seconded the motion.

The result of the Roll Call was 5 AYES (Councilperson Perras, Councilperson LaCount, Supervisor Menard, Councilperson Bulriss and Councilperson Breyette), and 0 NOES.

Supervisor Menard declared the motion carried and the CSEA Contract followed regarding the time.

The Board is going to wait on voting for the IT Services once they look at the Highway Computer Systems.

There will be a meeting December 31, 2020 at noon to finish out the year. This will go into the newspaper.

Vouchers:

General Fund	Voucher 213-231	\$10,079.65
Highway	Voucher 213-227	\$18,575.70
Mooers & Mooers Forks Light	Voucher 229	\$1,135.43
Trust & Agency	Voucher 54-58	\$17,924.42
Total of Abstracted Vouchers Paid		\$47,715.20

Adjourn: Councilperson Bulriss made a motion for the meeting be adjourned; Councilperson Breyette seconded the motion. All in favor. Thus, Supervisor Menard declared the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly L. McDonald, TOWN CLERK