

**Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Mooers held
March 13, 2017 at the Mooers Office Complex commencing at 7:00 PM**

Present: **Jeff Menard, Supervisor**
 Gerald LaValley, Councilperson
 Donald Perras, Councilperson
 Mary Myatt, Councilperson
 Eugene "Dickie" Boulerice

Recording Secretary: **Jessica K. Bulriss, Town Clerk**

Others Present: **Kris Gilmore, Highway Superintendent**
 Kaleigh Mills, Dog Control Officer
 Myrtle Hawksby, Beautification Committee
 Art Menard, Library

Absent: **None**

Meeting: Supervisor Jeff Menard called the Meeting to Order at 7:00PM, he then asked Mrs. Jessica Bulriss 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 February 14, 2017 Minutes. Supervisor Jeff Menard stated there was one corrections that was already discussed. Councilperson Perras made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Menard. The result of the Roll Call was 4 AYES (Councilperson Perras, Supervisor Menard, Councilperson LaValley, Councilperson Myatt) 1 ABSTAIN (Councilperson Boulerice) and 0 NOES. Therefore Supervisor Menard declared the motion carried and the Minutes accepted.

Highway: Highway Superintendent Kris Gilmore stated that there is a culvert washed out on Howard road and they can replace it with an aluminum culvert available instead of cement culvert for \$20,000. Councilperson Boulerice stated that was a good price. Supervisor Menard asked if they put it in. Superintendent Gilmore replied that it comes in pieces and has to be bolted together. Councilperson Boulerice asked if he would need a crane to install the culvert. Superintendent Gilmore replied that he did not think they would need one. Superintendent asked if he could use the CHIPS money to purchase the culvert and replace it first thing in the spring. Supervisor Menard made a motion to use the CHIPS money to purchase the culvert. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Boulerice. The result of the Roll Call was 5 AYES(Councilperson LaValley, Councilperson Myatt, Supervisor Menard, Councilperson Boulerice, Councilperson Perras) and 0 NOES.

Superintendent Gilmore stated that the second military truck is in Vermont getting the plow equipment installed and the first one is having the frame extended. Superintendent Gilmore said that he thinks they will get more use out of them with the frame extended. He also said that it will only cost the price of the two scrap trucks.

Supervisor Menard stated that the problem on the Barcomb road has been taken care of. The culvert has been cleaned.

Superintendent Gilmore stated that one of the Highway employees backed a plow truck into another employee's pickup truck. He said there was about \$1500.00 in damages done. Supervisor Menard said that we have a \$1,000.00 deductible so he asked the Board if the Town should turn it into our insurance company or just pay it. Councilperson Perras made a motion to pay for the damages and not turn the claim in to the insurance company. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Menard. The result of the Roll Call was 5 AYES (Councilperson Perras, Councilperson Boulerice, Supervisor Menard, Councilperson Myatt, Councilperson LaValley) and 0 NOES.

Supervisor Menard said that there is a spread sheet regarding energy cost. He also said that it was a good idea to install a gate and limit access because usage is significantly less than it was last year. Supervisor Menard read the report. Gasoline usage went from 6,118 gallons in 2015 to 3,903 gallons in 2016. Diesel fuel went from 23,530 to 23,084. Fuel oil went from 8,471 to 7,251. Electricity went from 169,888 kilowatt hours to 150,601. Propane went from 476 to 533.

Library: Mr. Art Menard stated that they have received money from the town for their operating costs and their operations budget is very sound. He also said that in December the septic was done and paid for. They were also thinking of doing the well at the same time, but held off because of funds. They had \$2,300.00 left and now they have just over \$3,000.00. Mr. Menard also said that he would like to thank the Ladies Auxiliary and the Firemen for the purchase of a brick. He also said that they have raised over \$5,000.00 so far with the "brick by brick" fundraiser. He stated they will be making their big fundraising push in April, May, and June. They are hoping to raise \$10,000.00 per month. They will be using the funds to finish the library, vestibule, and bathrooms first. They will finish the community room as the funds come in. Mr. Menard stated that they would like the old library to go out for bid again. He also said that the town Historian overflow could go into the community room. Supervisor Menard stated that he mentioned the problem with the neighbor at last month's meeting. Mr. Mike Reeves, present, asked how the community will know where the library is located. Mr. Menard said that there will be road signs like there are in other communities. Supervisor Menard said that it will also be on the Town's website. Councilperson Myatt asked if the trees can be cleaned up.

Dog Control: Mrs. Kaleigh Mills stated that they were inspected by New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. She said that they passed, but the inspector suggested that they fix the outside kennels. Mrs. Mills said that most of the panels are from the previous dog control officer and they are in pretty bad shape. She also said that the month of January was pretty slow, but February was busy for the Town of Chazy. There are currently four dogs in the shelter. Supervisor Menard suggested that she talk with Mr. Mike Denault regarding the panels. Mrs. Mills also stated that she would like the Board's permission to attend training May 2nd and 3rd in Genesee County. Supervisor Menard agreed.

Beautification: Mrs. Myrtle Hawksby, present, stated that she does not have anything for the Beautification Committee. She also stated that the Ladies Auxiliary will be sending out a mailer in the beginning of April and she would like to know if the Town Board would like to put anything in it. The write up would have to be turned in the first week of April and they would have to pay for their own portion of the printing. Superintendent Gilmore informed Mrs. Hawksby that he has the bows for the wreaths.

Tax Assessor: Supervisor Menard asked if anyone from the office of the Assessor would like to address the board. No person was present 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 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. Danny Dumas, present, stated that there have been some changes in the mutual aid for Clinton County beginning April 1, 2017. Mr. Dumas said that previously, for structure fires only, mutual aid was automatic based on district. The southern part of the county has been running the changes on a trial basis for about six months. The changes will involve the same mutual aid districts but will require mutual aid for every structure fire, chimney fire, car fire, brush fire, car accident, downed aircraft, automatic alarm, or unknown type of fire. The Mooers Fire Department will be required to provide mutual aid for Champlain, Altona, Ellenburg Depot, Chazy, and West Chazy. They will in turn provide mutual aid for the Mooers Fire Department. Mr. Dumas said that this new policy is going to drive their call volume way up. Mr. Dumas stated that he is very proud that the Mooers Fire Department is considered one of the best in the county based on re-tones. Mr. Dumas said they changed the policy because there isn't enough help, but they will be asking the same people to help just a lot more. He said that they are going to try their best. He also stated that it will not affect insurance premiums, but there will be a greater risk due to the increase in call volume. Mr. Dumas stated that one good part of the new policy is that for structure fires there will be two automatic mutual aid departments instead of one. Supervisor Menard read the reports for the months of January and February. There were seven calls in January. Five calls were in the town and two were mutual aid. There were nine calls in February. Seven calls were in the town and were two mutual aid.

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. Supervisor Menard stated that he spoke with Corey Thompson and was told that there would be a crew standing by at the Mooers station and the Champlain station standing by tomorrow night due to the storm. There will be coverage

from 6pm to 6am. He also read the call report for January 2017. There were 100 calls. Champlain had 849 loaded miles, Mooers had 428, and Rouses Point had 523.

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. Supervisor Menard read the report for the month of February 2017. The report showed a total of \$6,657.00 with \$4,605.00 going to New York State, \$100.00 going to Clinton County, and \$1,952.00 going 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.

Cemeteries: None

Old Business:

Old Business 1: Councilperson LaValley suggested that the old library go out to bid. Supervisor Menard agreed. Councilperson Perras asked if we have thought of repurposing the building because the offers that we have received have not been good. Councilperson LaValley stated that it would still need to be made handicap accessible. Supervisor Menard established April 6th as the cut off for receiving bids for the old library. Mr. Mike Reeves, present, stated that someone from New York State Department of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation will be coming to Mooers in the spring to look at the historic parts of our town. Mr. Reeves suggested that the town hold off on selling the old library until this visit to see what they have to say about the building. Supervisor Menard agreed and stated that he would be surprised if we received any bids on the library. There was more discussion regarding the old library. Councilperson LaValley made a motion to put the old library out for bid. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Myatt. The result of the Roll Call was 5 AYES (Councilperson LaValley, Councilperson Myatt, Supervisor Menard, Councilperson Boulerville, Councilperson Perras) and 0 NOES. Therefore Supervisor Menard declared the motion carried.

Old Business 2: Supervisor Menard stated that he, Councilperson Perras, and Mrs. Rena Bosley had a two hour phone meeting with Public Sector HR Consultants LLC. regarding the employee handbook.

Old Business 3: Supervisor Menard stated that he received an open letter, which he read.

OPEN LETTER TO: Supervisor Jeff Menard and the Town Council of Mooers, NY,

On the first week of November last, five of us citizens of Mooers, gathered in the basement of the Methodist church to discuss the advantages of rehabilitating the abandoned bridge as a step toward preventing further eroding of the Old Village identity. We all concurred that our once vibrant farm community is devolving into a "ghost town." The recent (Friday, March 10, 2017) meth lab bust on East Street has made that rapid deterioration all the more visible. Unless and until the tide can be stemmed the insidious cancer, which is social decline, will spread into every neighborhood and home.

That said we cannot focus on the negative, but take positive steps to counter the disease. We five are certain that decline can be staved off and that our community is not condemned to constant erosion. We are also convinced that keeping our distance is not the answer. We must act in consort and at the root of the problem, which began, in our opinion, with the conversion of private homes into low income and welfare residences.

Clearly we cannot tell folks what to do with their property, nor can we yet, tell the County not to sell Tax burdens to those whose intentions are to create secure incomes for themselves by converting large homes into apartments. At the other end of the spectrum would be an over abundance of empty homes that do not sell, which is equally disastrous nor should we be dismissive of the needs of the indigent by removing all low income and welfare housing. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT STAND STILL!

Our avenue to success is two fold; we address our outward appearance and follow the lead of the "Beautification Committee" by making visual change as they are doing with the Memorial Park project, seasonal decorations, and the flower barrels that line our main roads during Spring and Summer. Beyond that we can create an infrastructure that is appealing to a commuter society and potentially attract a manufacturing firm like NOVA Bus or Bombardier. The latter is for tomorrow but the former can be acted on today.

The five of us, who met in November of '16, have begun making plans for the abandoned bridge, the Old Cemetery, installing a new foot bridge on Fee Road, re-purposing the open area by the river adjacent to the bridge, and creating a River Pathway starting and ending in the Old Village.

To make the above dreams reality we are pursuing outside funding and wish to be gathered under the umbrella of Mooers Municipal Government to thereby claim Tax exempt status before we open a bank account or receive further funds specified by donors for a chosen project.

Please grant our request that we may begin in earnest to bring about change.

Sincerely,

Don Perras

Myrtle Hawksby

Rev. Sally White

Beverly Perras

Michael Reeve

Supervisor Menard stated that he thinks they have a grand plan.

Supervisor Menard made a motion to set up a committee to develop a comprehensive plan for the town. Councilperson Boulerville seconded the motion. The result of the Roll Call was 5 AYES (Councilperson Perras, Councilperson Boulerville, Supervisor Menard, Councilperson Myatt, Councilperson LaValley and 0 NOES. Therefore Supervisor Menard declared the motion carried.

New Business:

New Business 1: Supervisor Menard stated that Mrs. Andre Labarge will be present at next month's meeting to go over the insurance proposal along with Northern Insuring.

New Business 2: Supervisor Menard said that he received a call from Harry Terasco. He is affiliated with the Shriner's Circus and they would like to have a circus in Mooers at the Rec Center. He said that it won't cost the town anything and all proceeds go to the Shriners Children's Hospital. Councilperson Perras asked if they would be covered under the town's insurance or do they have their own. Supervisor Menard replies that they have their own insurance. There was more discussion regarding the circus. Councilperson LaValley made a motion to allow Shriners to have a circus at the Mooers Rec Park. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Perras. The result of the Roll Call was 5 AYES (Councilperson LaValley, Councilperson Myatt, Supervisor Menard, Councilperson Boulerville, Councilperson Perras) and 0 NOES. Therefore Supervisor Menard declared the motion carried.

New Business 3: Supervisor Menard stated that he received a letter from Mr. Steve Sample, which he read. Mr. Sample would like to acquire 30+/- feet of road frontage and 280 feet in depth between the "Boas house" and the fire station parking lot. He would like to acquire this property because a developer has contacted him and would like to put a Dollar General at that location, but currently there is not enough road frontage. Mr. Sample would compensate the Town of Mooers by giving them the balance of the partial, 1.2 acres of land. Mr. Sample wrote that he understands that the Fire Department would need access to shed located behind the parking lot. Mr. Sample also wrote that Sample Holding Co. would bare all costs associated with surveying and deed transfers. There was more discussion regarding Mr. Sample's request. Councilperson Boulerville made a motion to show intent to transfer property to Mr. Sample. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Myatt. The result of the Roll Call was 5 AYES (Councilperson LaValley, Councilperson Myatt, Councilperson Boulerville, Councilperson Perras, Supervisor Menard) and 0 NOES. Therefore Supervisor Menard declared the motion carried.

New Business 4: Supervisor Menard said that he received a letter from the DOT regarding an emergency shared services agreement which he read. The letter requested that we renew the agreement. Supervisor Menard made a motion to renew the emergency shared services agreement for a period of four years. The motion was seconded by Councilperson LaValley. The result of the Roll Call was 5 AYES (Councilperson Perras, Councilperson Boulerville, Supervisor Menard, Councilperson Myatt, Councilperson LaValley) and 0 Noes. Therefore Supervisor Menard declared the motion carried.

New Business 5: Supervisor Menard said that when he was in NYC he went to a competitive bidding class. He said that you have to go out to bid for any machinery over \$20,000.00 or construction over \$30,000.00. He said that you must include the price of the equipment that you are trading in. He said that it also includes items such as tires. If you spend more than \$20,000.00 per year on tires that must also go out to bid. Councilperson Perras asked if that included culverts. Superintendent Gilmore replied that it counts on everything. There was more discussion regarding the bidding process.

Public Comment :

Public Comment 1: Superintendent Gilmore asked Mrs. Jessica Bulriss if the road postings have been put in the paper. Mrs. Bulriss replied that the road postings have gone in the paper.

Voucher: The Audited Vouchers to be paid off the Abstracted Vouchers on October 11, 2016 as follows:

General - Townwide -----(Vouchers 48-70)-----	\$11,685.47
Highway - Townwide -----(Vouchers 37-61)-----	\$81,643.69
Trust and Agency----- (Vouchers 45-48)-----	\$13,954.85
Mooers Forks Lights----- (Voucher 62)-----	\$657.55
Mooers Lights ----- (Voucher 62)-----	\$380.82

Total of Abstracted Vouchers Paid-----\$108,322.38

Adjourn: Councilperson Perras made a motion for the meeting be adjourned. Councilperson Boulerville seconded the motion. All in favor. Thus, Supervisor Jeff Menard declared the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

JESSICA K. BULRISS, TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR