

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Mooers held September 13, 2013 at the Mooers Office Complex commencing at 7:00P.M.

Present: Cory Ross, Supervisor
Earl Robinson, Councilman
Steve Barcomb, Councilman
Eugene Bushey, Councilman
Gerald LaValley, Councilman

Recording Secretary: Brandi Lloyd, Town Clerk
Others Present: Kaleigh LaBombard, Dog Control Officer
Jackie Madison, Librarian
Eugene Boulerice, Highway Supervisor
Jess Dixon, Code Enforcement Officer
Jim Coffey, attorney

Absent: none

Meeting: Supervisor Cory Ross 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 August 13, 2013 Minutes. They all replied yes. Supervisor Cory Ross then asked if there were any omissions or corrections, there were none. Councilman Gerald Lavalley then made a motion to accept the August 13, 2013 Minutes as written and Councilman Eugene seconded the Motion. The result of a Roll Call was 5 AYES and 0 NOES, therefore Supervisor Cory Ross declared Minutes accepted as written.

Highway: Highway Supervisor Eugene Boulerice reported that paving on Maple Street has started. He added it should be completed within a week or two and that they would be paving Depot Street as well. Mr. Boulerice said, with the completion of Depot Street, the roads in the Village would be complete. He also reported that work on the property for the new library was going well and that most of the roots have been scrapped and they were starting to bring in fill.

Fire Department: Mr. Raymond Phair, Fire Chief, handed in the August report. He added that the Labor Day Field Day and parade went well. He said that the exact numbers were not yet available, but it was a good. Mr. Phair also reported that the 2002 Pumper is out of service at the time. He thanked Dragoon's Farm Equipment for trucking the pumper, free of charge, to the garage to be repaired. Mr. Phair also thanked Jess Dixon, Code Enforcement Officer, for the letter he sent to the Fire Department before the Field Day event regarding some of the fire codes. Mr. Phair then discussed the concern of the East Street Bridge in Town. He said several cars have gone over it recently and was wondering what could be done about this hazard. Mr. Boulerice said that the bridge actually belongs to a snowmobile club and that the club puts gates up to block the entrance, but that someone keeps pulling down the gates. Mr. Dixon agreed that more action needed to be taken to make it impossible for cars to attempt to cross the bridge. He added that if something did happen, the snowmobile club would not pay. Mr. Dixon said that possibly a better gate, something more permanent could be installed. Mr. Boulerice suggested that the entrance to the bridge be made just wide enough for the snowmobiles and groomer to go through, but not cars. Mr. Dixon suggested a gate with a solid steel extension with a pivot point that locks that only the groomer would have the key to. He added that he has had calls about the bridge as well. Mr. Phair concluded by stating that the recent trailer fire on Letson Road is suspicious and is being looked into. The August report contained the following: Station #1 had 9 calls, Station #2 had 2 calls, Town had 5 calls and Mutual Aid had 4 calls with an average response time of 2.4 minutes. ---- Incident types were Trailer=1----MVA=1----Vehicle Fire=1----Other=2 (1 EMS Assist, 1 Good Intent). Mutual aid to Altona=1----Champlain=1----Hemmingford=1----St. Bernard=1. Mutual Aid from Altona=1---Champlain=1. Vehicle 251(Pumper) used 3 times, vehicle 252(Brush Truck) used 4 times, vehicle 253(Squad) used 1 time, vehicle 254(Pumper) used 2 times, vehicle 257(Heavy Rescue) used 3 times, vehicle 258(Tanker) used 2 times, vehicle 259(Pumper) used 2 times, and vehicle 25-AIR(Air Truck) used 2 times. Gallons of diesel fuel used and gallons of gasoline used not reported.

Dog Control: DCO Kaleigh LaBombard reported that she currently has two dogs in the shelter. In addition to the itemized report for August 2013, Ms. LaBombard announced that the fundraiser will be held on October 6, 2013 at 2pm at Time After Time Reception Hall in Champlain (the former Legion). She said the hall is free of charge and there will be basket raffles and a bake sale to help raise funds. Ms. LaBombard handed in the itemized report for August 2013 which showed the following: four warning letters mailed, two dogs picked up, two dogs transferred to veterinarian for rabies shots, one dog adopted, and an additional 24 calls received.

Code Enforcement Officer: Mr. Jess Dixon handed in the Building Permit report for the month of August 2013. Mr. Dixon reported that last month there were a total of six building permits issued, a total of 55 calls, and three violations with an order to remedy issued. Mr. Dixon added that he has been in touch with Mr. Jim Moser regarding DMR permits for mines. He said any time there is a permit issued, a run-off evaluation needs to be done. Mr. Dixon and Mr. Moser will be inspecting a pit on Friday, September 13, 2013 and the report will go to the DEC.

Library: Mrs. Jaclyn Madison reported that the library will be receiving a \$300.00 donation from the Champlain Telephone Company. Mrs. Madison gave an update on the New York State Construction Grant. She said that \$27,420.00 had been received, which is 90% of the awarded grant amount of \$30,476.00. The remainder of the grant monies will be received at completion of the new library. Mrs. Madison added that the library has also received a grant funded by the Arts for a free writing workshop. She submitted a flyer with the information. The writing workshop, open to the public, will be held October 8th and 9th from 11am-1pm. Mrs. Madison also thanked everyone for all of their hard work on the property where the new library will be built. She said she has been watching the trees come down and is also taking pictures of the progress. Mrs. Madison added that she will be posting a timeline of the progress of the new library on the website.

Letter from New York State Department of Public Service: Supervisor Ross read the letter received from the New York State Department of Public Service. The letter was sent to raise awareness of the Lifeline Discount Telephone Service Program, a program designed to make basic telephone services more affordable for income-eligible consumers, and to encourage eligible consumers to enroll. Supervisor Ross said the information was available at the Town office if anyone would like to learn more about the program.

Fire Department 2: Supervisor Ross discussed the Mooers Volunteer Fire Department's request last month for five sets of turnout gear five pagers. He said the request was tabled to ensure there was enough money in the budget. He added that there is plenty of money in the account for the purchase. Mr. Phair, Fire Chief, clarified that when making the request at last month's meeting he was asking to purchase the equipment with funds from the Fire Department's budget and not from the Town itself.

Highway Department 2: Supervisor Ross read and discussed the invoice from Zachary Risk Management for County wide quarterly group safety classes for the Highway Department in the amount of \$400.00. Mr. Boulerice said the Highway Department participates in these safety classes each year and that the last class for 2013 will be on September 30th. He said that this invoice is for next year's classes.

Association of Towns Invoice: Supervisor Ross reported that the annual dues to the Association of Towns for \$900.00 is due. Councilman Bushey made a motion to continue membership and pay the dues. Councilman Robinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Williamson Law Book Contracts: Supervisor Ross said that the annual software support contracts with Williamson Law Book are due for renewal. He explained that these contracts are for municipal accounting software at a cost \$907.50 and for the payroll software at a cost of \$726.00. Supervisor Ross made a motion to pay this bill. Councilman Bushey seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Dixon then spoke about IPS, a software company that many of the other Code Enforcement Officers use in New York state. He said that it comes with the all codes already programmed into the software. Mr. Dixon added that Mrs. Rena Bosley, Secretary to the Supervisor, asked him to look into IPS Company and the municipal accounting software that they may offer. He said he is waiting to hear back from IPS as far as what is offered and at what cost.

Clinton County Real Property Office: Supervisor Ross explained that the contract for assessment services with Clinton County is due for renewal. He said that, according to the agreement, the Town agrees to pay the County annually \$12.50 for each parcel contained in the completed tax roll. Councilman Barcomb made a motion to renew the contract. Councilman Robinson seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Town Court: Supervisor Ross reported that a letter of resignation had been received from Judge Jeffery L. Menard from the office of Town Justice in the Town of Mooers effective August 31, 2103. Councilman Robinson made a motion to accept the resignation. Councilman Bushey seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Riverside Cemetery: Supervisor Ross mentioned that last month the fence around the Riverside Cemetery was discussed. He contacted Mr. Mark Colgan, the person in charge of the grounds. He said Mr. Colgan does not mind if volunteers would like to repair or replace the fence. Supervisor Ross said that Mr. Colgan would like some sort of fence to remain though, as it keeps those riding four-wheelers off of the grounds.

Library 2: Town Board of the Town of Mooers determined at a previous meeting that it is necessary for the Town to construct a new Town Library for its residents and determined that the parcels of real property located at 2474 Route 11 in the Town (Tax Map No. 30.20-1-22) were suitable for the construction of a new Town Library. Supervisor Ross explained that, after looking further into the property, it was discovered that there were judgments on the property that had to be paid, totaling more than the \$10,000.00. Supervisor Ross said he spoke with and polled the Board and that they had agreed on a renegotiated price of \$13,000.00; therefore Supervisor Ross made a motion that the following be adopted:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN BOARD HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE SUPERVISOR OF THE TOWN OF MOOERS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2474 ROUTE 11 IN THE TOWN (TAX MAP NO. 30.20-1-22) FOR THE PRICE OF \$13,000.00, SUBJECT TO THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN RESOLUTION #029-2013 ATTACHED

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bushey. Councilman Robinson asked that, before agreeing on the purchase of the property, how the Town could ensure that the property would indeed be free and clear. Mr. Jim Coffey, Town of Mooers attorney, explained that the owner of property will receive a net check. He said the owner gets a check after all judgments on the property have been paid and that the town also has title insurance on the property. Mr. Jeffery Menard asked to speak. He said that he recalled the original purchase price being \$8,000.00 and now it is up to \$13,000.00. Mr. Menard said he did not think the property is worth what the Town is paying for it. The result of a Roll Call was 5 AYES (Supervisor Cory Ross, Councilman Robinson, Councilman Barcomb, Councilman Lavalley, and Councilman Bushey) and 0 NOES, therefore Supervisor Cory Ross declared **Resolution #036-2013** adopted.

Board of Assessment Review: On Grievance Day, held the First Tuesday in June, the Town of Mooers needs members of the Board of Assessment Review to hear any complaints brought by property owners regarding changes to their assessments. If the Town of Mooers does not have members for a Board of Assessment Review, the County will be present on Grievance Day to hear complaints; therefore Supervisor Ross made a motion that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE BE APPOINTED TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Shelia Miller-----October 2009 to September 2014

Harry Gonyo-----October 2010 to September 2015

David Kokes-----October 2010 to September 2015

Robert Arruda-----October 2013 to September 2018

The motion was seconded by Councilman Bushey. The result of a Roll Call was 5 AYES (Supervisor Cory Ross, Councilman Robinson, Councilman Barcomb, Councilman Lavalley, and Councilman Bushey) and 0 NOES, therefore Supervisor Cory Ross declared **Resolution #037-2013** adopted.

Town Business 1: Motion was made by Supervisor Ross to approve payment of vouchers 139- 158, 242- 270. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bushey. All in favor. Motion carried.

Vouchers: The Audited Vouchers to be paid off the Abstracted Vouchers on July 9, 2013 are as follows:

General - Townwide-----	(Vouchers 242 - 263)-----	\$ 14,162.11
Highway - Townwide-----	(Voucher 139 - 158)-----	138,346.24
Mooers Fire Protection -----	(Voucher 264 - 270)-----	2,786.77
Mooers Forks Lights-----	(Voucher 257)-----	541.14
Mooers Lights -----	(Voucher 257)-----	<u>961.70</u>

Total of Abstracted Vouchers Paid-----\$156,797.96

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

Public Comment 1: Mr. Frank Dumas explained that this year will be the 11th annual Roxanne Dumas/ Louanne Dragoon Soccer Tournament. He said that back when it started there was a committee and Mrs. Shelly Brooks was the treasurer and that she is stepping down. He said there never has been much communication between the committee and the Town, not that there was anything negative, but the tournament has always ran so smoothly. He said with Mrs. Brooks wanting to step down from the committee, they would like to know where the responsibilities lie. He asked if it even needs to be under the Town. Mr. Dumas added that they would like to run it, just as family. He added that he wasn't sure how to go about it as it was as the Mooers Booster Club when it started years ago. Mr. Dumas said the group has given out thousands and thousands of dollars in scholarships over the years. He said having an outside party, someone not related to the Dumas and Dragoon families, handling the money has been a good practice as not to be accused of misuse of funds. Mr. Dumas said that they have an accountant in the family willing to take over for Mrs. Brooks. He added that Mrs. Brooks has done a wonderful job. He said that if the tournament goes well, they typically gross \$8,000.00- \$10,000.00. Mr. Dumas asked if there was a way to separate this event and the funds from the Town and have the family run the event and the scholarship fund themselves. He added that from the beginning they have always been willing to do anything to help the youth of Mooers. Mr. Dumas said the family would be willing to pay the insurance if needed for the weekend event. Mrs. Myrtle Hawksby said that the costs could be astronomical. Supervisor Ross said he did some research on the issue and that over the years the original committee of five had all but disappeared with exception of Mrs. Brooks. He added that Mrs. Brooks is still the chairperson of the committee. He said re-establishing a committee would be good and that it is up to the committee itself to appoint a chairperson, treasurer, and so forth. Supervisor Ross said, according to the Town, the committee currently consists of Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Harry Gonyo and Mr. Jim McComb. Someone said that Mr. McComb no longer wants to be on the committee. Mr. Dumas said that the family does not want to be told what they can and cannot do for the tournament. He said that he'd like it to remain the family running the soccer tournament with the support of the Town. He said, right away, they would like to take the burden off Mrs. Brooks. He said they are going to need checks for the tournament soon. He said they would like Mr. Ryan Dragoon to be the treasurer. There was some discussion. Supervisor Ross said he would like a five person committee to be formed as was originally done in 2002. He said that possibly with a new committee being formed, the Booster Club could start to do more events. Mr. Dumas said that if that is the case, there would have to be separate accounts. He said that the money raised at the tournament, in honor of the two women (Louanne and Roxanne), needed to be kept private. Supervisor Ross said that, for the tournament this year, Mrs. Brooks will remain the Chairperson and is willing to write any checks needed as in past years. He added that Mrs. Brooks would like to make sure there is a committee formed and then step down. Mr. Dumas asked Supervisor Ross to call Mrs. Brooks with an update of tonight's discussion. He asked if the trailer could be picked up from her house. Supervisor Ross said it would not be a problem and that there is a paper that the Town would need signed before they took possession of the trailer. Mr. Tyson Dumas, Mooers Youth Commission, said that there are 34 teams in the upcoming tournament (September 21, 2013).

Public Comment 2: Councilman Robinson asked a question about what account the turnout gear would be coming out of. Mr. Phair clarified that, when he requested the purchase, he was doing so from the account of the Fire Department.

Public Comment 3: Councilman Robinson said that he had talked to one of the Fire Department members and the Fire Department would like to help prepare the lot for the new library. He asked Mr. Boulerville if anyone had contacted him. Mr. Boulerville answered, no. Councilman Robinson said they could conduct some training session while in the process. Mr. Boulerville said that the trees, for the most part, have already been removed and cut. He added that there is some more brush to cut. Supervisor

Ross asked if having members of the Fire Department work on the property would pose an insurance issue. Mr. Phair explained that the Fire Department is covered for such functions. Mr. Boulerice added that he needed to get in touch with Mr. Evans to see if there may be some trees to remove along Mr. Evans' property line.

Public Comment 4: Councilman Robinson reported that North Country Honors Flight had a float in the recent Labor Day parade, He explained that the organization sends World War II veterans to see the WW II Memorial as well as other sites in the Washington D.C. area. Councilman Robinson added that several members in our community are WW II veterans and he would like to see the Town of Mooers donate \$300.00 to sponsor one veteran's day trip to Washington D.C. Supervisor Ross asked what would be done if there was more than one WW II veteran of the community that would like to go. Councilman Robinson explained that it is North Country Honor Flight's goal to eventually be able to sponsor any and all veterans that would like go. Supervisor Ross questioned the legalities of the Town donating tax money in general. Mr. Coffey said that, first of all it is a very worthy cause, and he would send an e-mail to the Association of Towns to get an answer. He added that as far as he understands, the Town can donate to an organization if they so choose, but they can't donate to an individual. Councilman Robinson clarified that donated funds go directly to the organization. Councilman Robinson said he would get more information and send Mr. Coffey an e-mail.

Adjourn: Councilman Robinson made a motion for the meeting be adjourned. Councilman Bushey seconded the motion and the result was 5 AYES (Supervisor Cory Ross, Councilman Earl Robinson, Councilman Eugene Bushey, Councilman Steve Barcomb and Councilman Gerald LaValley) and 0 NOES. Thus, Supervisor Cory Ross declared motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

BRANDI B. LLOYD, TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR