

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting
Hermon Town Board
Tuesday, October 8th, 2024 at the Hermon Town Hall

Present: Supervisor Cathy Race

Town Board members Sheri Smith, Victoria Day, Frank Ashley and Harold Blandin.
Also present Larry Denesha, Shain Brunet, Mike McQuade and Chris Velez, Brent McCadam, Kylie McAdam, Steve Allen, Kate Stransky and Cordelia, Kim Matthews, Bruce Bigelow and Amy Smith

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

A special public water hearing was scheduled for 6-6:15 pm. No public comments were offered in person but Councilmember Sheri Smith relayed that Yvonne Stewart would like an explanation as to why her building (the old Lone Wolf) is charged so much for water. Yvonne would like her water bill cut down because she doesn't run it anymore. A copy of the water law will be passed along to Yvonne. This meeting was closed at 6:15 pm and the regular Board meeting was called to order. Minutes of the previous meeting as submitted were approved on a motion made by Sheri Smith. Seconded by Victoria Day. All in favor and carried.

REPORTS:

- **Legislator Larry Denesha** is present and provided the following information to our Board: Sales tax revenue is running about the same as last year at this time. The County has signed a contract with a company to provide CDL training for any interested County residents. Since this program began in 2022 the County has kept about 24 of the 28 people who completed the course as employees. Adopted a Local Law for 12 & 13 year olds to hunt deer. Each County has the option to do this, it is not a State Law. SLC did meet the threshold for storm damage reimbursement through FEMA. Immigration and border enforcement is becoming a problem in the Massena area (Northern Border). Many places people can simply walk across into the USA, there are very few checkpoints along this border. It is documented that within the last year there have been 20,000 immigrant encounters—, this number only includes encounters, most likely double this amount have crossed with no encounters. The Emergency Services renovation on Court Street is moving along well, is on schedule and is under budget. It is expected to be finished mid-December and an open house will be held. The County is doing contract negotiations right now. He also reported that the old jail is being used for storage after receiving a grant – the old jail is listed in the National Historic Places. Brief mention was made of the homeless people now living in Canton.
- **Code Enforcement/Assessor Report:** Mike McQuade provided a report but also states that it has been a slow month. There was only one building permit issued and gave updates on several building projects not complete yet. Mike also mentioned he would like the Board to consider purchasing code enforcement/assessor software for him to use in the future. He states many other towns use it and it is very efficient in tracking projects, people can apply for building permits online and notify him through the system with project updates/issues.
- **Dog Warden's Report** - Dan Moyer: DCO was not present but did provide a written report.

- **Court Report** - Chris Velez is present and also provided a written report. He gave a brief overview of Court activities and took in \$140 in fines this month. He also submitted a budget report and explained his requests.

- **Historian's Report** - Lenore Zaubere is not present but did provide a written report.

- **Library** - Kate Stransky and Kim Matthews are both present and also provided a library usage report. There will be a craft fair on November 9th. Sheri Smith alerted the library and board members that she has reached out to several hospitals in hopes of finding a replacement for Dr. Burke's office in the basement. Kim Matthews wanted to thank Cathy, Vicki and Sheri for coming to their board meeting last month as well. Kim questioned what happened to the fund balance for the library that is listed on the 2024 budget. Cathy explained there was no fund balance or CD to back up the notation on the 2024 budget. Karen is going to look through the minutes to see if it was noted and Cathy has reached out to Community Bank to get history on the Library CD that now has a balance of zero.

- **Highway Report** - Shain Brunet is present to speak and also provided a written report. He explained that they are continuing to repair roads from the storm where there were washouts...Pond Road, Alverson Road and Cook Road. He sent some trucks to Hammond to help them and also helped DeKalb with their shoulders and blacktop. They are hauling sand right now to stockpile for winter, the roadsides have been mowed for the last time this season and they changed a culvert at this end of the East DeKalb Road that had collapsed. Also, he and his crew ended up repairing the Evans Road by using all the dirt being removed from the Village streets for the water project and re-used the old culvert. He explained there was no cost for the dirt, just time and fuel to haul it. There was about 200 loads hauled and he had help from Edwards, DeKalb, Fowler, Gouverneur and Depeyster. He would like to send out thank you cards to the towns for helping us with this project. Lastly, he got a quote for a new set of forks for the loader at a cost of \$4,100. He did not put this out for bid because it is a specific item that can only be purchased from the company he purchased the loader from. A motion was made by Harold Blandin and seconded by Victoria Day., All in favor and carried. authorizing Shain to order the pallet forks at a cost of \$4,100. Cathy wanted to note in the minutes that there had been questions about the old white truck being sold and questions about where the money went. The truck was sold for scrap at Taillon's in Madrid for \$348 and the money was deposited into the Town's bank account.

- **Water/Sewer Report** - Chris Stransky
Gallons Pumped: 3,063,700
Hermon 2,436,900
DeKalb 626,800
Total Discharge 1,781,000

Chris just finished the lead lining survey for NYS. The DEC is going to approve the sewer plant inspection and project wise we are plugging along. It should be noted that there will be no more digging in the streets by Fiacco's after next week so we can get them paved with a base coat before winter and before the paving plants shut down for the winter. Fiacco's will still be working but not on the streets.

- **Town Clerk's Report** - Karen Wayering is present and provided a written report.

- **Supervisor's Report** - Cathy Race is present and also provided a written report. Several budget issues were discussed. There was discussion about changing the rate of pay for the bookkeeper from a flat rate of \$15,000 per year to a per hour amount after a couple of Board members showed concern. Cathy will get in touch with Kristin to see if she would be willing to work at an hourly rate. We added \$2,400 to the judge's accounts, leaving us with a .91% tax increase. Cathy also notes that we are pursuing FEMA reimbursement at this time with regards to the storms.

ACTIONS:

- **Resolution 14-2024** to accept the Teamsters contract was made by Victoria Day and seconded by Harold Blandin, all in favor and carried.
- **Resolution 15-2024** authorizing Supervisor to sign Pay Apps #2, #3, and #7 was made by Harold Blandin. Seconded by Victoria Day. All in favor and carried.
- **Resolution 16-2024** authorizing and approving the purchase of a new Rockland Pallet Forks for the Highway Department by Harold Blandin. Seconded by Victoria Day. All in favor and carried.

- **Resolution 17-2024** to approve the addition of the omission of tax in the amount of \$368.15, without interest, to our 2025 tax roll. Motion made by Victoria Day and seconded by Frank Ashley. All in favor and carried.
- **Resolution 18-2024** was made by Frank Ashley to transfer \$49,000 from the General account into the highway's stone account, which was expended during storm clean up. This was seconded by Victoria Day. All in favor and carried.

Motion was made by Sheri Smith to accept the Officer's Reports. Seconded by Harold Blandin All in favor and carried.

Motion to pay bills was made by Victoria Day. Seconded by Harold Blandin. All in favor and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: A guest questioned if and when the metal bin would be moved back to its normal spot on the Marshville Road. She explains that there are people coming all hours of the day and night looking through the bin with flashlights, which scares her children. Shain explained that he was waiting for the stone pile to be gone before moving it. Now that the stone is pretty well cleaned up and that people are hanging around there at night, he will move the metal bin back to where it was.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:05 p.m. by Harold Blandin and seconded by Victoria Day. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Wayering
Town Clerk

