

The Town of Fenton Town Board held its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, at 7:00 pm, at the Fenton Town Hall, 44 Park Street, Port Crane, New York.

PRESENT:	Town Board Members	David Hamlin, Supervisor Michael Husar, Councilman Richard Pray, Councilman
	Town Engineer	Richard Bassler, P.E.
	Town Clerk	Melodie Bowersox
ABSENT:	Town Board Member	Gary Holcomb, Deputy Supervisor
	Town Attorney	Albert Millus, Jr.
	Highway Superintendent	Frank Root

There were 20 Residents present at this evening's meeting, including Building Inspector Matt Banks, Conservation Advisory Committee Chair André LaClair, Planning Board Chair John Eldred, Zoning Board of Appeals Member Cindy Cook and Zoning Board of Appeals Member Mike Ward. Also present were Cindy O'Brien from the Broome County Legislature and Broome County Legislative Assistant Christopher Dziedzic.

Christopher Dziedzic led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Hamlin asked for a Moment of Silence in remembrance of Town Board Member Jeffrey Kraham, who passed away on March 4th.

Cindy O'Brien was introduced as the new County Legislator for District 10, replacing Jerry Marinich, serving all of the Town of Chenango and the Hillcrest area. Cindy came to address any Residents' concerns and to provide her contact information. She will be running in the November election to maintain her seat.

RESIDENTS' TIME (7:11 pm)

Tom Bendick – Tom Bendick came with concerns about the property at 262 Vincent Hill Road. Mr. Hamlin said it was on the Agenda and will be discussed later in the meeting.

Joseph Zachar – Joseph Zachar said 'No Parking' signs were erected on Canal Street across from the Post Office in an effort to deter parking from in front of his property and from blocking his driveways. Tammy Zachar asked the Board how to handle offenders in violation of the signs in the future, to which Board Members replied that complaints would go through the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Hamlin asked that she contact him directly if any issues arise with law enforcement handling the situation.

Al Seymour – Al Seymour inquired about the status of 310 Ballyhack Road, as the roof has started caving in. Mr. Hamlin asked that Matt Banks discuss this property with Atty. Millus.

Residents' Time closed at 7:15 pm

TOTAL BILLS – ABSTRACT 3, 2016 approved during the March 30th, 2016 meeting:

FUND	VOUCHER #s	AMOUNT
General & Fire	116 – 184	\$62,262.22
Highway	84 – 140	\$157,478.61
Hillcrest Water	39 – 60	\$14,038.35
Hillcrest Sewer	5 – 8	\$2,844.76
Porter Hollow Sewer	2 – 4	\$94.31
Port Crane Light District	3 – 4	\$1,010.41
Hillcrest Light District	3 – 4	\$2,265.60
Capital Projects	0	\$0.00
Trust & Agency	4	\$4,026.82

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

- Mr. Hamlin attended a meeting on March 24th. Topics discussed were forms of consolidation among the small towns and the tax cap for the upcoming year of 0.33%. Sales tax was down 2%, but the Town’s share will be raised to 30%. Retirement will remain flat for 2017, along with election costs being a flat rate as they were last year. Also discussed was that the City of Elmira is on the verge of going bankrupt with services being absorbed through the County, including Fire, Police and DPW in an effort to assist in keeping the City solvent.
- Mr. Hamlin attended a meeting today in Whitney Point to discuss a grant through the First Ward Action Council for roof replacements. Mr. Husar will contact them for more information.
- Meetings have been held with the Court and the Highway Department to discuss issues.
- Mr. Hamlin is looking for estimates from the Board Members for projects in their departments in preparation for his meeting with Senator Akshar. The Town will be applying for a \$50,000 grant through the Senator’s Office.

TOWN ATTORNEY’S REPORT

- There was no Town Attorney’s Report.

TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

- Monthly Report was read by Melodie Bowersox.
- Total Local Shares for March 2016 were \$1,624.75.

TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Report was read by Dick Bassler.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds – Buildings and Grounds was handled by Jeff Kraham, but all Town Board Members have been helping out. Mr. Hamlin reported there was an issue with the boiler last Monday as a result of the power going out over the previous weekend. Sentry Alarms has submitted a proposal that would hook an alarm to the thermostat. Minor work is still taking place in the Crime Lab. Roof bids are in process. Mr. Husar inquired about contact information supplied by Jerry Sabato for the Crime Lab purchasing a generator. Mr. Hamlin said he communicated to the Crime Lab that they have to determine what they need and where to purchase it. Also communicated was that it would need to be LP powered, located out back and not visible from the front of the building.

Water and Sewer – Report was read by Mr. Pray.

Highway and Solid Waste – Mr. Hamlin reported the Town saved a lot of money due to the mild Winter we had. The Highway Department is preparing for some paving and shoulder work. An outline of upcoming road work will be included in the Newsletter. Mr. Husar added the sweeper has been out and solid waste pick-up has begun. Wood Day at the Landfill will be Saturday, April 30th and general debris drop-off will be Friday and Saturday May 6th-7th at the Highway Department in Port Crane and the Depot in Hillcrest.

Community/Public Safety – Reports from the Dog Control Officer, Building Inspector, Justice Office and Zoning Enforcement Officer were forwarded to the Board prior to tonight's meeting and read by Mr. Husar.

Conservation Advisory Committee – André LaClair reported open action items were discussed at last night's meeting, as he is winding things down as Chair with two remaining meetings. André gave the Committee a progress report on the status of website posting of an informational brochure containing points of contact for Residents interested in land habitat management on their property. An overview was given on Forest Tax Law and Ag Assessments. There was ongoing discussion about the canal, and André asked whether a canal project would fall within a project covered under the grant through Senator Akshar's office. Safety is definitely an issue along the canal roadway and the Town may want to consider an action plan to prevent any further deterioration. André suggested the Committee think about hiring an Intern to assist in facilitating a Town Watershed Study. André will be contacting Binghamton University again to see if there is any interest. Dennis Molter has resigned from the Committee due to a job change and extensive traveling. The Committee is now looking for two new members. Mr. Hamlin noted he, Mr. Holcomb and Mr. Pray attended the Press Conference at Chenango Valley State Park when the Lieutenant Governor and the State Parks Commissioner announced the \$2.2 million project at the Park. He questioned whether there might be interest in assisting the Town with the project since the area borders along State Park property.

Mr. Pray made a motion to approve all committee reports as submitted, seconded by Mr. Husar. **Motion carried.**

VOTE: Ayes 3 Hamlin, Husar, Pray
Nays 0
Absent 1 Holcomb

MINUTES

Mr. Husar made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 24th, 2016 Work Session and the March 2nd, 2016 Town Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Pray. **Motion carried.**

VOTE: Ayes 3 Hamlin, Husar, Pray
Nays 0
Absent 1 Holcomb

OLD BUSINESS

- **262 Vincent Hill Road** – Wilfred Quinones, owner of 262 Vincent Hill Road, was in attendance. Matt Banks told him he had until the end of the Summer to take care of it, but he then received a letter from Atty. Millus that stated he had 60 days. Wilfred is attempting to obtain a personal loan to demolish the old structure, with the understanding that the Town could also demolish the structure and add the costs to his property County tax bill. Mr. Hamlin explained the total cost of the demolition would be added to the tax bill to be paid all at once. If the bill is left unpaid for two years, the County forecloses on the entire property. Mr. Hamlin suggested Wilfred be given until the end of June and asked that he keep in touch with the Board in the meantime to communicate his progress.
- **Town Engineer** – Based on Dick Bassler's report, the Town will pursue a conversation with Alexander Urda to determine his interest in the Town Engineer's position. Mr. Husar asked Dick Bassler about Gary Holmes, but Dick did not know him.
- **Updated Fine Schedule Public Hearing 4/27/16** – The Public Hearing for the updated Fee Schedule is scheduled for the Work Session on Wednesday, April 27th. Atty. Millus is working on getting this advertised.
- **Telecommunications Pole** – Dick Bassler said the telecommunications pole in the works on NYS Route 7B may create a big problem. The DOT issues their own permit and the Town still has their own Telecommunications Law to work with. The question will be how to create a Telecommunications District in a State right of way.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Interviews for Council Seat (Date & Time)** – Mr. Hamlin would like to begin interviewing for the open Town Board Member Hillcrest seat. He asked the Board to start thinking about their availability and e-mail him so he can set up some interviews. Mr. Hamlin noted the individual that takes the position will need to run in November in order to maintain their seat.
- **THOMA Exit Conference** – Mr. Hamlin, Mr. Holcomb and Mr. Pray participated in the exit phone conference call with New York State in regard to the THOMA Grant for 2015. It appeared the initial portion of the application was weak and that they were looking for

more detailed survey of all the properties in the Town and the percentages of those that fall into certain categories. The report submitted only targeted a particular group of Residents' homes surveyed that responded to the survey request. Rich Cunningham (THOMA) will be attending the April 27th Work Session to discuss the 2015 denial and the reapplication for 2016.

- **One Rebate Check in 2017** – Beginning in 2017, new homeowners in New York State will not be receiving a rebate check. They will be receiving a tax credit to be used on their income tax return.
- **Storage Trailers on Service Road** – Mr. Husar commented the storage trailers on the Service Road seem to be getting stacked higher. Other towns charge a fee for the use of storage trailers in an effort to equal things out with companies that build an actual warehouse. Mr. Husar said the Town may want to revisit the possibility of an initial fee and an annual fee for the use of storage trailers.
- **Port Crane Fire Company Application** – An application was received by Port Crane Fire Company from Jordan Furman. **Mr. Husar made a motion to approve the application**, seconded by Mr. Pray. **Motion carried.**
VOTE: Ayes 3 Hamlin, Husar, Pray
Nays 0
Absent 1 Holcomb
- **Fenton Free Library** – Korin Spencer, Director of the Fenton Free Library, thanked the Board for hiring someone to assist with some of the maintenance at the Library. Mr. Holcomb assisted with some projects as well. Korin also confirmed the 5K Race for Saturday, June 4th. Runner and Sponsor paperwork along with a map of the proposed route are ready and copies will be left for the Town Hall Lobby.

At 8:10 pm, **Mr. Husar made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss the status of a personnel matter**, seconded by Mr. Hamlin. **Motion carried.**

Melodie A. Bowersox, Town Clerk/sf