

The Town of Fenton Town Board held its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2016, at 7:00 pm, at the Fenton Town Hall, 44 Park Street, Port Crane, New York.

PRESENT: Town Board Members David Hamlin, Supervisor
Gary Holcomb, Deputy Supervisor
Michael Husar, Councilman
Richard Pray, Councilman
Thomas Moss, Councilman
Highway Superintendent Frank Root, Jr.
Deputy Highway Superintendent Randy Ritter
Town Attorney Albert Millus, Jr. (arrived at 7:09 pm)
Town Clerk Melodie Bowersox

OTHERS PRESENT: Building Inspector Matt Banks, Planning Board Chair John Eldred, ZBA Member Cindy Cook, four students and eight Residents. Also present were Broome County Legislator Cindy O'Brien and Children's Home of Wyoming Conference CEO George Dermody.

George Dermody led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING – PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR 2017

Mr. Hamlin addressed the Board and the Public at 7:01 pm regarding the following Public Hearing Notice:

The Preliminary Budget of the Town of Fenton for the year 2017 including estimates for the Hillcrest and Port Crane Fire Protection Districts, the Hillcrest and Port Crane Lighting Districts, Hillcrest Water District No.1, the Porter Hollow Sewer District, and the Consolidated Hillcrest Sewer District has been completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk.

The Town Board of the Town of Fenton will meet to review said budget and hold a Public Hearing thereon at the Town Hall, (Donald J. Grunder Building), 44 Park Street, Port Crane, New York, 13833, at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at the regular Town Board Meeting which has been changed from Wednesday, November 2, 2016.

The Preliminary Budget contains proposed salaries for certain Town Officers as follows:

Supervisor	\$20,000.00
Town Board members (3 each at \$8,000.00; 1 at \$10,000)	\$34,000.00
Town Clerk	\$34,722.00
Superintendent of Highways	\$59,194.08

At the Public Hearing, Town residents will have the opportunity to make written and oral comments either in favor of or against the budget as compiled or any items contained therein.

A copy of the Preliminary Budget is available for inspection or copying at 25 cents per page by any interested person at the Town Clerk's Office during regular office hours.

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FENTON

Melodie A. Bowersox, Town Clerk
Dated: October 28, 2016

Mr. Hamlin – The Town was successful in achieving the County’s proposed Tax Cap. The increase in employee Health Insurance, which the employees pay 15% of, increased by 14%. A 2% increase was given to non-elected Town employees and the Town Clerk. The Town was advised to leave the Highway employee salaries as is since the Highway employees may become unionized next year. Sales Tax Revenue was budgeted very conservatively. The Highway Tax was calculated slightly over \$2.13 per 1,000, which was very close to last year’s rate. Highway Superintendent Frank Root is retiring and Deputy Highway Superintendent Randy Ritter will be coming on board as his replacement.

There were no Residents’ comments during the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing closed at 7:05 pm

RESIDENTS’ TIME (7:05 pm)

Dave Gunster – Dave Gunster asked about the status of 39 Canal Street. Mr. Husar said he did not appear at his initial court hearing. There was no warrant issued, but Justice Madden had him served with a new trial date of November 17th. Zoning Enforcement Officer John Broughton has continued to gather documentation.

Residents’ Time closed at 7:08 pm

CHILDREN’S HOME UPDATE

George Dermody, CEO of the Children’s Home of Wyoming Conference, was present to address the Board and Residents. George reported that the Children’s Home as an organization is in a period of growth. The growth is at their Hillcrest site as well as other campuses, including a couple of locations in Binghamton and a new program which includes working with children in their homes within a ten County radius. The Home is currently running some commercials on the radio and television. The size of the Hillcrest campus has not grown in size, but after a period of contraction in programs the campus is beginning to move toward a fuller capacity. Over the past couple of years there were two buildings on the Hillcrest campus that went dormant. The Administration and the Board have been working to utilize those buildings again. One of the buildings opened this past May as a non-secured detention facility. Where in the past the programs accommodate a larger number of students, programs now are more targeted for specific needs of specific children. The former non-secured detention facility housed 16 children and was down to 12 children at the time that it closed. The current program, working with the Department of Social Services and the Sheriff’s Department, has opened with six beds in an effort to provide a more targeted need. The remaining empty dormitory when built was intended to accommodate 16 children. The Home is working with the Office of Children, Youth and Families along with the Department of Social Services to create a specialized program to serve eight children. In creating this new program the capacity of one of the current programs will be reduced. In the past there have been as many as 54 children living on the Hillcrest Campus at one time. Current numbers are greatly reduced to a licensed maximum capacity of 48 children between two programs (quantity of 36 in the Residential Treatment Center and a

quantity of 12 in the Diagnostic Assessment Program). There are approximately 90 children educated on campus daily (Day School) with a State mandated capacity of 108. There are also a number of children that attend Public School. The Children's Home now employs 300 people on all sites combined. Starting salaries have just been raised and tuition reimbursement has been increased. Childcare reimbursement has also been enhanced for employees with children in daycare. Public visitation is encouraged. There was an Open House recently that was not heavily attended, but publicity for the event was most likely not started early enough. The 2nd Annual Tree Lighting is scheduled for Thursday, December 1st from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The Public is invited to join in on the festivities and meet their young people with the hope of the annual event becoming a community tradition. George also expressed how sincerely grateful the staff and children are for the generosity of the community during the holidays last year. George offered his business cards and asked that he be contacted if anyone would like a tour of the Hillcrest Campus. He also requested that he be contacted to discuss any issues or concerns people may have. Issues and concerns are taken very seriously but cannot be addressed if he does not know about them. At the end of the presentation all questions of the Town Board and Residents were answered.

TOTAL BILLS – ABSTRACT 10, 2016 approved during the October 26th, 2016 meeting:

FUND	VOUCHER #s	AMOUNT
General	498 – 543	\$21,950.78
Highway	345 – 379	\$34,596.63
Hillcrest Water	181 – 198	\$19,668.02
Hillcrest Sewer	36 – 38	\$13,227.75
Porter Hollow Sewer	14	\$115.00
Port Crane Light District	17 – 18	\$1,059.01
Hillcrest Light District	17 – 18	\$2,328.92
Capital Projects	9	\$116,660.00
Trust & Agency	12	\$4,026.82

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- The Town Board completed their work on the Budget. The Public Hearing needed to be scheduled for after the Election which is why the Town Board Meeting was postponed until this evening.
- Mr. Hamlin and Mr. Holcomb have been working with Atty. Millus and John Fish on a CSEA proposal to unionize the Highway Department. A conference call or meeting in Albany for further discussion will be the next step. The biggest concern is to protect the Residents from a tax increase.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

- Report was read by Atty. Millus.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

- Monthly Report was read by Melodie Bowersox.
- Total Local Shares for October 2016 were \$3,073.25

TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Pray provided the following information after speaking with John Mastronardi of Griffiths Engineering today:

- Bid documents have been completed for the refurbishment of Well #3, the Meter Pit and the Vault Project. These documents have been sent to Mr. Pray for review.
- In discussing the placement of the new meter with the Broughtons, there are discussions regarding whether the old meter will be removed from the sidewalk.
- Cost estimates for the storm sewers in Port Crane are being worked on.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds – Mr. Moss reported the majority of the roof work has been completed. There is a list of interior damages to the building that were done during construction which will be worked through in the next couple of weeks. There will be an additional list of items that need to be buttoned up before the roof is officially complete. Assistant Engineer Rick Armstrong is planning to inspect the roof tomorrow so that he can communicate these items to the contractor. Rick feels this second list of roof items will be completed by the end of the year. A new faucet has been installed in the Kitchen. The new locks have been installed for the Records Room and a process is being put into place regarding access.

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

Highway and Solid Waste – Mr. Holcomb reported some bulbs were replaced in the pedestrian tunnel that runs underneath NYS Route 88 to Ballyhack Road. An inspection was done on the tunnel by the DOT to determine its condition from an infrastructure standpoint before any additional costs would be considered for converting over to LED lighting. The last inspection was done in 2014. This year's inspection came back that the tunnel was in generally good condition. One quote has been reviewed to convert to LED lighting and another quote is being looked at. The payback on conversion has been determined to be less than two years. Frank Root reported the crew is trying to finish up some projects for the year within the remaining budget. Additional paving in Hillcrest will not take place until the Spring due to budget constraints. The CHIPs money application has been submitted for year 2016 in the amount of \$135,535.38. The Highway Department was able to move several pieces of surplus equipment this year through an online auction which generated approximately \$25,000. A Loader, a Pickup and a Bucket were sold, and Frank anticipates selling a Badger tomorrow. Some of the items were submitted to the auction more than once to receive an acceptable bid

for purchase. Frank said the Town of Colesville has been using our Athey Loader which Randy Ritter will most likely negotiate and sell to them next year.

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. Hamlin.

Historical Advisory Committee – Report was read by Mr. Holcomb.

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

VOTE: Ayes 5 Hamlin, Holcomb, Husar, Moss, Pray
Nays 0

MINUTES

Mr. Holcomb made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 28th, 2016 Work Session and the October 5th, 2016 Town Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Moss. **Motion carried.**

VOTE: Ayes 5 Hamlin, Holcomb, Husar, Moss, Pray
Nays 0

OLD BUSINESS

- **MEGA/Alternative** – Mr. Pray has information on a MEGA alternative that he will forward to Mr. Hamlin for review.
- **Barn Issue 5992 NYS Route 79** – Mr. Hamlin said property owner Ryan Findore was in a serious car accident in October. Ryan has been very good about keeping in touch with Building Inspector Matt Banks, although Matt has not been able to visit the property and inspect the progress without permission. The consensus of the Board was to give Ryan until May 1st, 2017, provided Ryan gives Matt permission to inspect the property at any time.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Hillcrest Fire Company applications** – Hillcrest Fire Chief Rick Larson said he has three applications pending for submission next month.
- **Approval of the 2017 Budget – Mr. Husar made a motion to approve the 2017 Budget as presented**, seconded by Mr. Pray. **Motion carried.**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilman Mr. Holcomb aye
Councilman Mr. Husar aye
Councilman Mr. Moss aye
Councilman Mr. Pray aye
Supervisor Mr. Hamlin aye

- **DLA Purchaser** – Mr. Hamlin has several conversations with individuals interested in purchasing the DLA. The individual that purchased the site dismantles old phone systems and sell the parts. Mr. Hamlin is in the process of requesting a meeting with

the buyer, the Town Board and the Planning Board to discuss any concerns. Hillcrest Fire Chief Rick Larson asked that he be invited to the meeting as well.

- **Resolution #2016-20 Resolution to Correct Walnut Street and Owens Road Lengths – Mr. Holcomb made a motion to adopt the following Resolution:**

WHEREAS, the Town of Fenton has been maintaining Walnut Street from dead end to dead end, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Fenton has been maintaining Owens Road from Pigeon Hill Road to the dead end, and

WHEREAS, the Town Engineer has determined the reported lengths of these roads has been in error, and

WHEREAS, it is important for CHIPS calculations for the lengths of these roads to be recorded accurately,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the recorded length of Walnut Street be changed from .014 miles to 0.23 miles, and the recorded length of Owens Road be changed from 0.30 miles to 0.43 miles, seconded by Mr. Husar.

Motion carried.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilman Mr. Holcomb aye

Councilman Mr. Husar aye

Councilman Mr. Moss aye

Councilman Mr. Pray aye

Supervisor Mr. Hamlin aye

At 8:21 pm, **Mr. Pray made a motion to adjourn the meeting**, seconded by Mr. Holcomb.
Motion carried.

Melodie A. Bowersox, Town Clerk/sf