

The Town of Fenton Town Board held its regular Work Session on Wednesday, December 21st, 2016, at 6:00 PM at the Fenton Town Hall, 44 Park Street, Port Crane, New York.

PRESENT:	Town Board Members	David Hamlin, Supervisor Gary Holcomb, Deputy Supervisor Thomas Moss, Councilman
	Highway Superintendent	Frank Root, Jr.
	Town Attorney	Albert Millus, Jr. (arrived at 6:10 PM)
	Town Clerk	Melodie Bowersox
	Administrative Asst./Bookkeeper	Susan Crosier

ABSENT:	Town Board Member	Michael Husar, Councilman Richard Pray, Councilman
----------------	-------------------	-------------------------------------------------------

OTHERS PRESENT: seven residents

PUBLIC HEARING – NEW WATER RATES

Mr. Hamlin read the following Public Hearing Notice at 6:02 PM:

Please take notice that the Town Board of the Town of Fenton, Broome County, New York, will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall, 44 Park Street, Port Crane, New York, to consider the adoption of Introductory Local Law No. 6 of the year 2016 entitled "a local law to amend the Fee Schedule of the Town of Fenton to reflect revised water usage rates". The proposed local law, if adopted, would amend the Schedule of Fees found at Section A154-2(B) of the Town Code to provide that the water usage rates for the Hillcrest Water District shall be as follows: for service within the district, \$51.00 minimum up to 1,000 cubic feet and \$2.00 per 100 cubic feet thereafter; for service outside the district, an amount as negotiated with specific outside users. The amendment would become effective with the February 10, 2017 water billing. A copy of the proposed Local Law may be inspected or obtained from the Town Clerk at said Town Hall. At the public hearing, all interested persons will be heard either in favor of or against said Local Law.

Dated: Port Crane, New York BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
December 6, 2016

There were no comments during the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing closed at 6:03 PM

Hillcrest Fire Company – Patrick Farrell, Sarah Farrell, Kathy Korell, Derin Kraack, and Alicia Kraack addressed the Town Board in regard to their membership with the Hillcrest Fire Company. Patrick served as a second Vice President on the Board and as a Firematic Captain. Sarah served as a first Vice President on the Board and as a Med Captain. Kathy served on the

Board for several years and also as the IT person. Derin and Alicia have been members for a little over a year (but have been in the firematic service for over 22 years.) Several members were moved from an 'Active' status to an 'Associate' status at the Hillcrest Fire Company and Patrick, Sarah, Kathy, Derin, and Alicia believe it was done with malice. It was given without reason to them and when asked why, the answer was, "We do not have to give you one." No official notice was given to them of this status. They do not know who the current acting President of the Board is, but they should have received written notification from the President of their new status. Chief Rick Larson has sent text messages to some of the individuals as notification but not to all of the individuals. They were locked out of the station, with no access to get in, their electronic key cards were turned off, and they were not able to obtain their personal identification/med equipment/personal items in the Department. The only thing they can do is attend a meeting. Subsequently what they believe it has done to the Town's med service and fire service in the Hillcrest Fire District is cut it in half. They distributed a roster with the membership as of September 30th, 2016, to the Town Board which they made notations on. There are nine members left in the department that are under the age of 18 and they do not have the experience that those who have been put on 'Associate' status have. They are aware of 12 individuals who plan to resign from the Department because of the 'Associate' status. Sarah and the Med Lieutenant were removed which comprised the Med Team. For fire calls, the two captains were removed. Rick Larson is the Chief but he is out of town consistently. The son of the chief, the Lieutenant, lives in Johnson City. They feel that the Town's daytime coverage is pretty much non-existent with these 12 individuals resigning, as they were available during the day. Also, the nine members left in the department that are under the age of 18 are in school during the day. Drivers have to be 21 years of age. They feel the Fire Company is not being run as a business. In March a new Board was elected and the By-laws Committee was charged with fixing a lot of inconsistencies in the by-laws or ones that were conflicting with one another which started some issues with the Chief and his son who moved out of the district; this is when much of the contention began. Sarah further explained a situation that happened earlier in the year when she served on the Board that may have precipitated their status being changed.

Mr. Hamlin said that he hated to see it come to this and he commended them for their service, but if they are not comfortable in the situation, he understood why they needed to do (resign) this.

Mr. Moss – Do you believe the change in status was done within the capacity of the by-laws? It is up for interpretation. "Any active member can be placed in the 'Associate' class upon his or her request or at the discretion of the membership." That by-law has always been used in the past for when someone is going to college, is being sent away for a job, or is moving away and coming back but does not want to completely resign from the Fire Department.

Mr. Moss also asked if they had the minutes of the meeting where all of this transpired; they gave a copy of the minutes to Mr. Hamlin.

Mr. Moss – Were you all present for the meeting? No, not all of them were present for the meeting.

Mr. Hamlin suggested they look for an attorney, as they can no longer speak to the Hillcrest Fire Company Attorney, Cheryl Sacco, because she advised them that she represents the Fire Company's Board and cannot speak with them about the situation.

Patrick, Sarah, Kathy, Derin, and Alicia are concerned that the Hillcrest fire protection has been compromised. Mr. Holcomb said that the Town does have a contract with the Fire Company to provide services for the Town and it is the Company's responsibility to convince the Town that the Company has the capability to fulfill that contract. If there are cases where the Company has not fulfilled that contract, then the Town has cause to say to the Fire Company we have to find another place to obtain services. (Mr. Holcomb noted that the contract does not cover med coverage only fire coverage.) Atty. Millus agreed that the Town's main interest is making sure the Town has the proper protection. Mr. Holcomb suggested that the Town Board contact whoever is in charge and set up a meeting to discuss the matter.

Review Abstract #12, 2016

- Mr. Holcomb asked how much we pay Griffiths Engineering per month. Bookkeeper Sue Crosier replied that they have not been paid per month but that they have been paid twice over a period of six months.
- Hillcrest Water District – Voucher #216 – 'Tn of Fenton Water Reserve' – Transfer for Water Pump Up – \$1875.00 – This is set up for every four months and then it is repaid.
- After a review of the Abstract, **Mr. Holcomb moved to approve payment of the bills for Abstract #12, 2016**, seconded by Mr. Moss. **Motion carried.**

VOTE: Ayes 3 Hamlin, Holcomb, Moss

Nays 0

Absent 2 Husar, Pray

THOMA/CDBG Grant – The Town received information regarding the THOMA/CDBG Grant. The total amount to be awarded is \$500,000.00. There will be an administration fee to come out of that amount and then up to \$25,000.00/home that qualifies. Mr. Hamlin would like qualified Broome County contractors used, not Cortland contractors. Advertising for contractors will be done in the Press and Sun-Bulletin in the late winter, early spring. We can also advertise on the Town's website and in the Town's newsletter, which Mr. Hamlin would like put out by April 1st, 2017. Credit references and personal references will be necessary to qualify as a contractor. Bidding for the RFP Administrator will be done; THOMA will bid on the RFP Administrator but the Town may choose the lowest bidder. If residents call to inquire of the status of the grant, they can be informed that the Town was awarded the grant and that more information will be forthcoming. Their names, addresses, and phone numbers may be obtained for follow up.

Senator Akshar & Grant for Library & HC Water – Assistant Bookkeeper Mike Giovinazzo and Sue have worked on the grant for the Fenton Free Library and Hillcrest Water Department. Sue had grant paperwork for Mr. Hamlin to sign.

Resolution #2016-25 Budget Modification in Highway Fund for Loader and Pick-up Truck – Mr. Holcomb made a motion to adopt the following Resolution:

Authorization to amend the 2016 Highway Fund budget to help cover the cost of a loader and a pick-up truck that were purchased during the year by applying \$21,100.00 from the sale of Surplus Equipment (a/c DA2665) and applying \$55,000.00 from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve (a/c DA878) to appropriation account line item Machinery/Equipment (a/c DA5130.200).

Seconded by Mr. Moss. **Motion carried.**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilman Mr. Holcomb aye

Councilman Mr. Husar absent

Councilman Mr. Moss aye

Councilman Mr. Pray absent

Supervisor Mr. Hamlin aye

Basically the budget was over \$90,000.00 on that line item because of the loader and pick-up truck so the revenue from the Surplus Equipment Fund that was from the equipment that was sold this year and the reserves from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund will be used. A repayment schedule will be set up to start in 2018 to reimburse the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund because nothing was put in the budget for 2017 for this line item.

Department Assignments – In 2017 each Town Board Member is going to be the Chairperson for two departments as listed below:

Mr. Holcomb: Building Inspector/Highway

Mr. Husar: Assessor/Justice Court

Mr. Moss: Buildings and Grounds/Constable

Mr. Pray: Dog Control Officer/Water and Sewer

Abstract 13, 2016 – An additional meeting is needed to approve Abstract 13 and the remainder of the payables for 2016. The meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19th, 2017, at Noon.

Social Security Numbers – Mr. Holcomb would like Sue to check with the County to see if social security numbers are required when a payroll certification report is done. The software does generate a report with the social security numbers on the report when it is emailed to the County but if the County does not need the numbers, then we could redact the numbers. If the

County does need the numbers, then Mr. Holcomb is suggesting that the report be mailed instead of emailed.

Vote on Public Hearing – New Water Rates – Mr. Holcomb made a motion to approve Local Law No. 6 of the year 2016 entitled “a local law to amend the Fee Schedule of the Town of Fenton to reflect revised water usage rates,” seconded by Mr. Moss.

Motion carried.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

At 7:23 PM, Mr. Hamlin adjourned the meeting.

Melodie A. Bowersox, Town Clerk