

The Town of Fenton Town Board held its regular Work Session on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 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
	Richard Pray, Councilman
Highway Superintendent	Randy Ritter
Town Attorney	Albert Millus, Jr.
Town Clerk	Melodie Bowersox
Administrative Asst./Bookkeeper	Susan Crosier

**ABSENT:** Town Board Member Michael Husar, Councilman

**OTHER PRESENT:** Building Inspector Matt Banks

**CPR Recertification Class** – Mr. Hamlin asked Bookkeeper Sue Crosier to contact Earl Drury to set up the CPR Recertification Class for Town Employees to be held at the Town Hall.

**Grant for Port Crane Fire Company** – The Port Crane Fire Company is interested in obtaining a grant through the Senator's Office to install water retention tanks and an electrified sign in Port Crane. A meeting will be set up with the Senator to discuss available grants that the Fire Company could apply for.

### Review Abstract #1, 2017

- Highway Fund: Mirabito Energy Products – Voucher #13 – 604935/Kerosene 224.6 - \$628.88 and 4293733/Diesel 523.8 - \$1,048.91 – Sue and Assistant Bookkeeper Mike Giovinazzo did a review of the kerosene and diesel usage of the Highway Department over the past few months and Mike concluded that approximately \$2,000.00/year of kerosene is being used. Mirabito has been separating the use of kerosene and diesel into two vouchers. The winter mix has not been included in the yearly fuel bids and Mr. Holcomb suggested it be included next year.
- Hillcrest Water District: NYS & W Railway – Voucher #2 – 0039117-IN/Lease #NY176 Annual Fee - \$480.00 – Mr. Holcomb asked if there was a change in the railway lease. Sue replied that there was an increase from last year's rate.
- After a review of the Abstract, **Mr. Pray moved to approve payment of the bills for Abstract #1, 2017**, seconded by Mr. Moss. **Motion carried.**

**VOTE:** Ayes 4 Hamlin, Holcomb, Moss, Pray

Nays 0

Absent 1 Husar

**Senior/Aged Exemptions** – Mr. Hamlin had a two page list of the Senior Residents (65 years of age and older) in the Town of Fenton that have applied for and have been approved for the Aged

Exemption which gives them a discount on their Town and County Taxes if their gross income does not exceed \$31,500.00. This Exemption is in addition to the Enhanced Star Exemption. The list included the Residents' name, address, assessed value, and the class code. He also had labels made up from the list. Mr. Hamlin would like Sue to scan the list to the Town Board to review for consideration for the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant).

**CDBG/RFP** – The RFP (Request for Proposal) for a Program Administrator for the CDBG needs to be advertised the beginning of February. The proposals would be due back to the Town three weeks from the time it is advertised/posted. The proposals would then be reviewed by the Town Board at the Work Session on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. Mr. Hamlin asked Sue to have Mike Giovinazzo email Atty. Millus the information regarding the RFP to be advertised in the Press and Sun-Bulletin.

**Sales Tax** – Mr. Hamlin attended a Department Head meeting which included a discussion on a County hiring freeze, travel cuts, and sales tax. The Town did well over \$149,000.00, better than was anticipated, which was great news.

**Griffiths Engineering** – Mr. Hamlin spoke to Dan Griffiths of Griffiths Engineering and he said that the fee the Town is charging (\$30,000.00/year) is fine. Dan said that additional litigation costs may be incurred if they have to go to court over the Charles Praefke situation. Griffiths Engineering spent \$4,528.04 over the \$15,000.00 that was billed to the Town, mainly due to the issues with the Fenton Free Library. Dan and John Mastronardi are very responsive to requests and questions. Assistant Town Engineer Rick Armstrong seems to be working out well on Thursdays with the Residents. Mr. Hamlin recommended that the Town continue to use Griffiths Engineering.

**DLA/Lee Hartman – Public Hearing, Zoning & Weight Limit** – There was a discussion as to whether the current weight limit (eight tons) on Hoyt Avenue needs to be changed to accommodate the truckloads that will be brought in and out of the proposed project of Lee Hartman's at the DLA. Mr. Hamlin will talk to Lee and ask him how often the tractor trailers would be using Hoyt Avenue. Atty. Millus said there is still the zoning issue which needs to be discussed further with Attorneys Sarah Campbell and Ken Kamlet who are representing Lee.

**1001 Chenango Street** – Atty. Millus sent an email to the Town Board Members in regard to 1001 Chenango Street. Jim Broughton was also notified because he is interested in purchasing the property and putting a two family building on the property.

**1041 Chenango Street** – 1041 Chenango Street is in foreclosure and there was a bankruptcy filing on the property a few years ago. Atty. Millus does not know if the building can be salvaged. Building Inspector Matt Banks was asked to take a look at it. Atty. Millus will pass information on to Matt that he has on the property. Mr. Hamlin will check the taxes status.

**Microbrewery Project** – Mr. Hamlin had a meeting with the Ag District Committee last Friday. The property where the Microbrewery is located was approved as an Ag District. It will go before the legislature in March at which time it will be formally in Ag District #4. A meeting is scheduled prior to the Planning Board Meeting with Atty. Tina Fernandez, Chuck Rhoades of the Microbrewery Project,

Alan Pope who represents Chuck, John Mastronardi of Griffiths Engineering, Mr. Hamlin, and Mr. Holcomb. After the ZBA Meeting that was held on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017, it was determined that an H & H test was to be done which simulates various flood levels and based on certain points, it can determine what impact it will have on surrounding areas. Atty. Millus said the question was whether the project complied with the zoning and New York State Ag and Markets has special rules dealing with agricultural operations that can be engrafted into your Town zoning law. Atty. Millus and Atty. Fernandez concluded that the applicant seemed to comply with the requirements with the Town's Agricultural Residential Zoning when the Ag and Markets rules were applied so the Planning Board accepted it as being properly zoned. Charles Praefke is challenging that use and appealed that decision to the ZBA. Atty. Millus questioned whether Charles had a stand to appeal the decision. Mr. Holcomb replied that he does have a stand if he can prove that it has an impact on the value of his property, according to a document entitled "Guidelines for Applicants to the ZBA" that the ZBA includes with the 'Application for an Appeal or Variance' that is handed out to applicants who appeal to the ZBA. Atty. Millus asked for a copy of the document to review.

**Seasonal Cabins** – Matt had a Resident inquire about building a seasonal cabin on his vacant lot on the river to use during the summer. The Town Board said it would have to meet the Town Building Code requirements. Matt said he thought there was an exception for seasonal cabins that he would look into further. The Board did not finish defining Outdoor Recreational Use so there are still some unanswered questions on this topic. Matt will inform the Resident that he is looking into the situation but that a camper cannot be parked on the vacant lot (a camper cannot be parked on a vacant lot and lived in seasonally – it would have to be parked in a campground).

**CAC Lock Project** – Mr. Hamlin spoke to someone who informed him that the only way to apply for grant money for the Lock Project is through the NYS Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. No Towns or individual Committees/Boards would be able to apply. Also, he said that no one should be on the premise without the State's permission.

**Wood Burners** – Mr. Holcomb asked the CAC to review the current Town ordinance and 'WoodMaster Flex Fuel Furnaces', as a Resident has asked about installing one at his residence. Mr. Holcomb is waiting to hear back from the CAC on their recommendations to the Town Board as to whether the moratorium could be lifted or remain in effect.

**Hillcrest Fire Company** – Mr. Moss has had some conversations with the individuals who attended the Work Session on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 with regard to the recent situation at the Hillcrest Fire Company and they were inquiring as to where the Town Board stands with the situation. He asked if a report could be obtained from Broome County Emergency Services on the Company's run times, calls, responses, etc. over the past year and Mr. Hamlin said the head of Broome County Emergency Services could be contacted. Mr. Hamlin also suggested that the Town Board meet with Fire Chief Rick Larson and Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Corey. He spoke to Rick via phone and Rick said that everything is fine at the Fire Company and that they have enough coverage. The Board does not want to become involved in the Fire Company's politics but does want to make sure that the Fire Company is providing ample fire services and meeting the contract requirements that they have with the Town.

**Water Meter Pit Bids** – Mr. Pray does not want Atty. Millus to release the Water Meter Pit documents for bid until he notifies him. He needs to further discuss the documents with Hillcrest Water and Sewer Operator Dave Grunder and Assistant Hillcrest Water and Sewer Operator Greg Starley.

**At 7:07 PM, Mr. Hamlin adjourned the meeting.**

Melodie A. Bowersox, Town Clerk