

The Town of Fenton Town Board held its regular Work Session on Wednesday, March 29th, 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 Michael Husar, Councilman Thomas Moss, Councilman
	Highway Superintendent	Randy Ritter
	Town Attorney	Albert Millus, Jr. (arrived at 6:29 PM)
	Town Clerk	Melodie Bowersox
	Administrative Asst./Bookkeeper	Susan Crosier

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

Cheryl Mammano – Historian Applicant – Barbara Guernsey has resigned as the Town Historian and has recommended Cheryl Mammano for the position. Cheryl has applied for the Town Historian position. Mr. Hamlin met with her. She has great experience which included the positions of Curator and Director of a museum. She has also been serving on the Fenton Historical Advisory Committee (FHAC). Her resume has been forwarded to the Town Board Members. **Mr. Hamlin made a motion to accept Cheryl Mammano as the new Town Historian**, seconded by Mr. Moss. **Motion carried.**

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

Cheryl asked what the Town Board's expectations were of her. Comments were made from the Board:

- Creating an interest in the Town's history is a difficult challenge but Barbara, with the assistance of the FHAC, did a good job in doing this. Continue with this. Cheryl said they created a Facebook page which helps to pique the interest of the community.
- Do outreach into the community with a Historian role such as utilizing our Library more with presentations, reaching out to the school districts – showing the young people the history of where they live – using the Civics more, etc.

Barbara will be serving on the FHAC and continues to do work on the Fenton Website. Mr. Husar would like the Town Board to consider giving her a little stipend for her continued work for the Town; this will be discussed further. Mr. Holcomb mentioned that Barbara recently spent a considerable amount of time on updating the Website. He also said that the Supervisor's page needs to be updated more than once per year. Also, the Assessor's page needs further updating and the Highway Department's page is going to be updated with the latest information.

Review Abstract #3, 2017

- General Fund: Peranich & Shelp Construction - Voucher #163 - 2017-0133/Library Beam Repair - \$11,589.00 – Mr. Moss said that everything went well with the Library repair. Peranich & Shelp Construction charged us less than what was proposed because it did not take as much time to do the repair.
- Mr. Holcomb asked Bookkeeper Sue Crosier if there had been many calls recently for the repair of light fixtures in the Lighting Districts. She replied no. Highway Superintendent Randy Ritter asked if the street light on the Nowlan Road Extension is going to be fixed. This problem goes back to when Jeff Kraham was on the Board. Panko was involved in the issue and Randy said if they need a street light box, he has one available for them to use. Randy is concerned because there is a box over the wires that are still live. Mr. Holcomb asked Sue to follow up with Panko on the situation then check with NYSEG to see if they are charging us for this light.
- After a review of the Abstract, **Mr. Holcomb moved to approve payment of the bills for Abstract #3, 2017**, seconded by Mr. Moss. **Motion carried.**

VOTE: Ayes 4 Hamlin, Holcomb, Husar, Moss
Nays 0
Absent 1 Pray

SAM Grant Time Frame – Mr. Hamlin spoke to Chuck Shager, the Comptroller for the City of Binghamton, who told him that it takes approximately two years to receive the monies from the SAM Grant, the reimbursable grant the Town will be receiving for the Library and the Well Refurbishment.

Our Court... – The Town Board asked Judge Ambrose Madden to approve Ms. Rebecca Hartman as the new Court Clerk. In the last letter received from the Judge, he seemed reasonable; however, Mr. Hamlin and Mr. Husar have met with the Judge and he has made inconsistent statements following the meeting in emails sent to Mr. Husar. Atty. Millus said that the Town Board has the right to choose the Court Clerk and if the Judge does not consent, the Board is well within their rights to tell him to do his own clerk work. Mr. Husar has confirmed with Greg Gates of the NY Courts Sixth Judicial District that the Town has the right NOT to give the Judge a Court Clerk but the Town does need his consent to appoint a Court Clerk. Mr. Husar read some of the email correspondence between the Judge and the Town Board, one of which the Judge said, "If I have no other option than to accept Ms. Rebecca Hartman as Court Clerk, then a meeting should be set up to schedule her hours, her training, her probationary period, and what exactly is expected with a Committee and Judge." One of Mr. Husar's emails included information on the Court Clerk's schedule, probation period, monthly evaluations, and the following of all Town Policies. After a lengthy discussion about the situation, **Mr. Moss made a motion to appoint Ms. Rebecca Hartman as the new Court Clerk**, seconded by Mr. Holcomb. **Motion carried.**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilman Mr. Holcomb aye

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

Ms. Rebecca Hartman will start work on Monday morning, April 3rd, 2017. Mr. Husar will notify the Judge via email and copy the Town Board in on it.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Update: THOMA Meeting – Thursday, 3/30/17, 10:30 AM – There will be a meeting with the representatives from THOMA in regard to the CDBG on Thursday, March 30th, 2017, at 10:30 AM at the Town Hall. Mr. Moss will not be able to attend.

Highway Department During Storm – Mr. Hamlin commended Randy and his crew for the job they did during the recent snow storm. They also received compliments by means of a thank you note from Chenango Valley Superintendent of Schools David Gill.

Broome County Dog Shelter Contract Renewal – Atty. Millus sent an email to Peter Roseboom indicating that our liability carrier would like to see a reciprocal indemnification clause added to the Broome County Dog Shelter Contract by which the County would indemnify the Town for any negligent act by the County while the dogs are in its possession. He is waiting to hear back from Peter.

Credit Card – Mr. Holcomb and Town Clerk Melodie Bowersox have been looking into two or three more credit card companies for the Clerk's Office and for the Water Billing. Basically we are looking for the best fee structure for transactions. Mr. Holcomb is waiting to receive statements from one of the companies to audit the process. He asked Assistant Bookkeeper Mike Giovinazzo about the possibility of the Town absorbing fees instead of the customer paying the fees. Mike found that Towns struggle with this issue but that they are allowed to charge the customer the fees; however, because they are allowed to charge the fees, the default is not to charge the customer. We can do it either way. The fee you charge cannot exceed the actual cost to you. Mr. Holcomb discussed the different options that are being looked into with the Board and he will bring it back to the Board after he receives further information on it.

Add ATVs to "Town of Fenton Snowmobile Law" – Mr. Holcomb sent an email to the Town Board Members and the consensus of the Board seemed to be to modify the "Town of Fenton Snowmobile Law" to allow ATVs to drive on the sides of the roads that are listed in the current Code as snowmobile accessible roads. Also, Mr. Holcomb noted that the current Code does not give any guidance as to how they should be driven; for instance they should not be driven down the center of the road, rather, they should be on the shoulder of the road when going from parcel to parcel. The Code could be changed from just snowmobiles to

snowmobiles and ATVS. Also, NYS Regulations should be followed, such as the ATVs must be licensed, helmets must be worn, etc. Atty. Millus will put together a draft for review.

Griffiths Engineering – Mr. Holcomb would like clarification on where the Town is with Griffiths Engineering and their bills. There was a discussion about what Griffiths was paid last year and what they are being paid this year. Mr. Hamlin said there is no contract with them but there is an agreement with them for \$30,000.00 for the year and there should be no additional invoices. Last year they were over the budget because of extra projects we asked them to be involved with. Mr. Hamlin will talk to Griffiths to see if they could send itemized bills and/or identify what a “special” project is. If necessary, he will have them come in to speak with the rest of the Town Board.

Dumas Hill Road – “No Parking” Signs – Randy will put the “No Parking” Signs up on Dumas Hill Road, as discussed at the March 2nd, 2017 Town Board Meeting.

Natural Gas Compressor Station/Binghamton Precast – Mr. Husar is concerned about the traffic with the Natural Gas Compressor Station project and Jay Abbey’s new Binghamton Precast Plant on the West Service Road. He wondered if Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study (BMTS) had been notified yet about the project. Mr. Holcomb mentioned the Town “Road Protection Program” that Delta Engineers put together and his concern about the weight of the gas trucks on the road, suggesting that there should be some sort of bond set aside for the maintenance of the road. Mr. Hamlin suggested Mr. Holcomb discuss the Board’s concerns with Assistant Town Engineer Rick Armstrong.

At 7:29 PM, Mr. Hamlin adjourned the meeting.

Melodie A. Bowersox, Town Clerk