

TOWN OF CAMBRIA TOWN BOARD

July 10, 2014

The regular meeting of the Town of Cambria Town Board was held at 8:00 pm on the 10th day of July 2014 at the Town of Cambria Town Hall, 4160 Upper Mountain Road, Town of Cambria, NY

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wright H. Ellis, Supervisor
Matthew Foe, Councilman
Jeffrey S. Hurtgam, Councilman
Joseph Ohol, Councilman
Randy Roberts, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT:

Tamara J. Cooper, Town Clerk
Jon MacSwan, Highway Superintendent
Robert Roberson, Attorney
6 interested individuals

Following salute to the flag, Supervisor Ellis called the meeting to order and the Board members took action upon the following matters:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Ohol, and seconded by Councilman Foe, it was resolved to approve the minutes of June 12, 2014.

Ayes: Ellis, Foe, Hurtgam, Ohol, Roberts

-Motion Carried-

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Having been reviewed by the Town Board, the following claims were presented for payment:

Cemetery Fund	Claim	6-8	\$	352.52
Drainage	Claim	14-16	\$	354.67
General Fund	Claims	254-304	\$	87,928.25
Highway Fund	Claims	109-126	\$	29,633.14
Recreation Fund	Claims	16-34	\$	5,970.17
Refuse Fund	Claim	8 & 9	\$	30,907.93
Sewer Operating Fund	Claims	24 & 25	\$	82.93
Trust Agency Fund	Claims	23-29	\$	12,723.70
Water Operating Fund	Claims	117-131	\$	57,760.31

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Roberts and seconded by Councilman Hurtgam, it was resolved that the abstract of audited vouchers dated July 10, 2014, be approved as read by the Town Clerk.

Ayes: Ellis, Foe, Hurtgam, Ohol, Roberts

-Motion Carried-

ASSESSOR POSITION

Supervisor Ellis indicated that a help wanted ad ran in the Union Sun & Journal and Niagara Gazette for the vacant Assessor Position. The Supervisor has received one phone inquiry and one application and will appoint two Town Board members to conduct interviews. The Town Board anticipates a selection for Assessor position for the August meeting.

COMPERHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Supervisor Ellis reported that Wendel Engineers have received the comprehensive plan changes as recommended by the update committee and expects to receive the draft next week. It will be reviewed one final time and then a public information meeting will be scheduled for the latter part of August.

NIAGARA COUNTY 2014 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Supervisor Ellis indicated that the Town has submitted the final input for the 2014 Hazard Mitigation Plan to the county. It included various hazards, natural and manmade, and what the Town's response would be should they occur. The Supervisor thanked Jim McCann, Building Inspector, Jon MacSwan, Highway Superintendent, and Lynn Schlemmer, Administrative Assistant, for constructing the final draft for the county.

ADDITIONAL SECURITY EQUIPMENT

Supervisor Ellis reported that in the Town Board's effort to deter vandalism at the Town Park, installation of security cameras have been considered. PremCom Corporation has submitted estimates for the cameras and the

Board will consult with the town electrician for other options to provide solar power to operate the cameras. Increased fencing in certain areas has been discussed as well.

TOWN CLERK REPORTS

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the following:

Town Clerk Reports:

- Town Clerk Report June: Total Receipts: \$13,183.64
- Building Inspector Report June: Total fees collected: \$ 2,082.30
Total estimated value of construction: \$329,150.00
- Records room fire suppressant system was installed the week of June 23rd, and the only remaining aspect is to connect it to the fire alarm system which is anticipated to be next week.

HIGHWAY / WATER SEWER REPORTS

The Highway Superintendent, Jon MacSwan, reported as follows:

- Rain has pushed back paving for a couple days. Anticipate Hoover Road to be paved Monday. Finish new shoulders on Diller, bind and pave. Resurface Plank Road and repair and resurface Comstock. Any material remaining will be used on the lower end of Baer Road. Next year Blackman Road will be recycled.
- Four additional picnic tables were made for the Town Park.
- Town Hall parking lot will be repaired and repaved after the summer recreation program has ended.
- Issued a purchase order to have the salt barn repaired.

Supervisor Ellis asked Mr. MacSwan about the Town Hall roof repair. Mr. MacSwan indicated that it held up very well, especially with the excessive amount of rain received.

TOWN POLICY/PROCEDURES REVIEW COMMITTEE

Councilman Foe indicated that the Town Policy and Procedures Review Committee met this morning and had a very productive session. New simpler Area Variance and Use Variance forms have been approved by the committee in anticipation of making it easier for residents to complete.

A meeting with Planning, Zoning and Town Boards will be held on Monday, July 21st to discuss the revisions to the Zoning Ordinance.

ATTORNEY REPORTS

No reports presented.

CONCERNS OF CITIZENS

Craig Powley- Zoning Board of Appeals
4917 Upper Mountain Road, Lockport

Mr. Powley, member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, was present to inquire as to the mindset of the Town Board when originally instituting the Zoning Ordinance, particularly to the limitation of a ½ acre farm pond. He also asked if the mindset of the Board is presently the same. It was indicated that the current Board members were not initially part of the original implementation of the Zoning Ordinance and several changes have been made over the years.

A brief discussion ensued.

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION- SHARED COOPERATIVE INSURANCE INITIATIVE

Supervisor Ellis explained that the Niagara County Supervisors Association is initializing a proposal for a Shared Cooperative Insurance Initiative whereby all Niagara County municipalities including Niagara County will enter into a consortium and will work together on health insurance options. This initiative may help reduce premiums and expand coverage. The Supervisors Association settled on Gallagher Associates to be the consultants to perform a feasibility study. At the end of the study Gallagher Associates will provide an analysis to each municipality. Each municipality has been asked to provide an authorizing resolution recognizing the initiative and the reasons for it.

Shared Cooperative Insurance Initiative Resolution

WHEREAS, the twenty-one (21) municipalities in and including Niagara County have a fundamental, fiduciary responsibility to provide essential services to the constituents they serve at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities of and including Niagara County continue to experience an increase in the costs of various operating expenses, but particularly in employee healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, healthcare costs have risen dramatically and steadily over the past several years; and

WHEREAS, these rising costs translate to lower wages, reduced benefits, more restrictive coverage eligibility and place increased pressure on ever-tightening municipal budgets and ever-increasing burdens on local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Article 47 of the New York Insurance Law authorizes municipalities to form consortiums, or municipal cooperative health plans, in order to share the costs of self funding health plans; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities in and including Niagara County believe that by establishing a consortium, it will provide an alternative approach to stabilizing health claim costs, lowering administrative costs and strengthen negotiating power with health care providers while promoting greater participation of the municipal employees throughout the process; and

WHEREAS, The Niagara County Supervisors Association has issued a Request for Proposals to retain a consultant to provide consultation services to among other things, provide a feasibility recommendation to all interested municipalities in and including Niagara County and to project cost savings over a five and ten year period..

NOW THEREFORE, the Town of Cambria resolves to appoint an individual to sit on an ad hoc advisory committee that will consist of a representative from each participating municipality for the purpose of exploring an insurance cooperative; and

FURTHER RESOLVES to provide the information required by a consultant who will analyze and provide a recommendation to the Town of Cambria whether or not it is in the best interest of the Town of Cambria to join a healthcare benefits consortium in Niagara County and enter into a confidentiality agreement and authorize the chief executive officer to sign such agreement subject to approval of the municipal attorney for the Town of Cambria.

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Foe and seconded by Councilman Roberts, it was resolved to adopt the Shared Cooperative Insurance Initiative Resolution for the Town of Cambria as read by Supervisor Ellis.

Roll call taken:

Ayes: Ellis, Foe, Hurtgam, Ohol, Roberts -Motion Carried-

Councilman Roberts made a note that there will be no cost to the Town to be involved in this venture.

RESIGNATION LETTER- DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR

Letter received from Janelle L. Kroening resigning her position as Deputy Tax Collector for NYS Retirement purposes. Supervisor Ellis explained she will be retiring effective June 29, 2014, and is requesting to be re-appointed to the same position on July 1, 2014.

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Foe and seconded by Councilman Hurtgam, it was resolved to accept the letter of resignation from Janelle L. Kroening as Deputy Tax Collector effective June 29, 2014.

Ayes: Ellis, Foe, Hurtgam, Ohol, Roberts -Motion Carried-

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Hurtgam and seconded by Councilman Roberts, it was resolved to appoint Janelle L. Kroening as Deputy Tax Collector effective July 1, 2014, with annual salary of \$1,398.00 (balance) paid bi-weekly.

Ayes: Ellis, Foe, Hurtgam, Ohol, Roberts -Motion Carried-

JUSTICE TRAINING SEMINAR – ANNUAL MEETING

Supervisor Ellis is in receipt of a request from Justice Amel Jowdy to attend the NYS Magistrates Annual meeting and training seminar in Syracuse, NY óSeptember 20-24, 2014.

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Foe and seconded by Councilman Roberts, it was resolved to approve request from Amel Jowdy, Justice, to attend the NYS Magistrates Annual meeting and training seminar in Syracuse, NY –September 20-24, 2014.

Ayes: Ellis, Foe, Hurtgam, Ohol, Roberts -Motion Carried-

CAMBRIA HOUSING AUTHORITY RE-APPOINTMENT

Supervisor Ellis received a recommendation from Karen Heffler, Chairperson Housing Authority, to re-appoint Richard Eliseo, 4869 Ridge Road, to the Cambria Housing Authority.

Upon a motion duly made by Councilman Foe and seconded by Councilman Ohol, it was resolved to re-appoint Richard Eliseo, 4869 Ridge Road, for a five year term to expire April 2019.

Ayes: Ellis, Foe, Hurtgam, Ohol, Roberts

-Motion Carried-

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by motion made by Councilman Foe and seconded by Councilman Hurtgam.
Time: 8:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara J. Cooper
Town Clerk