

# TOWN OF AMITY MINUTES

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

April 14, 2014

**OFFICIAL APPROVED BY THE BOARD**

Present: Supervisor Dana Ross, Councilpersons, Jeff Zenoski, Brian Clendenin Josh Brown, and Miranda VanDyke

Clerk: Richard Winterhalter

Deputy Clerk:

Highway Superintendent: Bill Bigelow

Absent:

Also Present: Exhibit A.

***All Votes taken at this meeting will be by roll call.***

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Dana Ross at 7:01.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The reading of the minutes of the prior meeting was waived.

Motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Councilman Brown. A second was made by Councilwomen VanDyke.

All Councilpersons and the Supervisor voted Aye. There were no Nay Votes.  
Motion Carried 5-0-0.

**Guest:**

John Francisco was given the floor. John passed out the current rules and regulations for Forest Hill Cemetery. Exhibit B. John spoke of monuments and benches that were placed inappropriately. He would like to notify those lot owners that the monuments would need to be moved or removed. He also suggested that some of the cemetery rules and regulations should be modified. He spoke specifically about rules 05 and 10. John will make every effort to locate and notify owners that the monuments would be moved to be in compliance with

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the rules. The Town Clerk will assist John in this effort. John will make suggestions for rules changes. The Clerk will modify them and have a resolution to adopt them for the May Board meeting.

Discussion regarding giving all owners getting a copy of the rules and regulations took place. This is not being done at this time. The Clerk was instructed to provide this document to all new owners. Sexton Francisco will also provide copies when possible.

Also a new procedure will be put in place to keep records of address of lot owners.

The board was also asked if the rates for burials, and graves should be increased. No decision was made.

Discussion took place about getting the letters regarding the monuments sent that would be courteous.

#### **Water District Update:**

Supervisor Ross met with MRB (Consultants), The Town Lawyer and Don Skinner on a Saturday. Master Meters are a current issue that needs to be resolved. MRB, The Town of Amity and the Village of Belmont will be meeting to resolve this issue. He announced that we are still on schedule to approve the Maps at the May meeting. A date for a public hearing will also be set at this time. The board was asked if they had any specific day of the week that would work best for them. No decision was made. Supervisor Ross will set the meeting date that is not on a Tuesday and let the board know.

#### **Rural Residence address signs:**

Jeff Zenoski reported that he has met with the Fire Department, Amity Rescue, EMS and the Sherriff. Amity Rescue and the Fire department would work together to put on a fund raiser. A suggestion was made that Senator Cathy

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Young be sent a letter asking if it would be possible for the State to provide financial assistance with this project. Jeff Lucky the head of emergency services for Allegany County indicated that the current numbering system in the County has some issues. Mr. Lucky recommended that additional action regarding the signs.

Some discussion took place. Supervisor Ross requested a letter be sent to New York State Senator Young requesting financial assistance.

Councilman Zenoski will stay in contact with Jeff Lucky and report back to the board when the numbering issues are resolved.

#### **Part Time Cemetery Employee:**

Superintendent Bigelow reported that he will notify Dave Melenbacker that he would be hired. He will require no training because he already knows the job. No date was given.

Supervisor Ross asked if Bill had interviewed anyone or just looked at resumes. Bill had reviewed all resumes and made his decision based on the noted qualifications.

The Town Clerk will draft a letter to be sent to all applicants that submitted an application. This letter will be signed by the Superintendent.

#### **On Going Business:**

The following were reviewed.

1. Review Abstracts
2. Review DCO report
3. Review Shelter inspection report
4. Town Clerk Report
5. Bookkeeper's Report
6. YTD budget

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Councilman Clendenin questioned the MRB Invoice. He also questioned the abstract for a Temporary Employee getting unemployment. Supervisor Ross explained the claims to satisfaction.

The Highway Abstract had one error. Claim number 56 was short by \$20.00 due to two invoices being submitted while only one was put on the abstract. This was corrected by Clerk Winterhalter.

Supervisor Ross asked if the board was ready to approve the Abstracts.

Councilwoman Van Dyke made a motion to approve General Abstract 4 in the Amount of \$45,995.15f and Corrected Highway Abstract 4 in the Amount of \$19,171.97. The second was made by Councilman Clendenin. All Councilpersons and the Supervisor voted Aye. There were no nay Votes. The motion carried 5-0-0.

Some discussion took place on the DCO report. Supervisor Ross asked if warnings were still being given. The answer was that three warnings were given but at the direction of the Town no tickets are being issued.

No Discussion regarding the Bookkeepers and budget reports.

Clerk Winterhalter explained a \$10.00 discrepancy on the Clerks Report was due to a refund due the Town from DEC has not been issued yet. This will be corrected in next month's report when DEC gives the refund.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Supervisor Ross indicated that the Ruby Kemp property is up for Tax Sale. Some discussion took place. Taxes will need to be paid, recording fees will be paid and some additional money not budgeted, will be required to complete the transaction. Supervisor Ross asked for a motion.

A motion to submit a bid for this property was made by Councilman Clendenin. The second was made by Councilman Zenoski. All Councilpersons and the Supervisor voted Aye. There were no nay votes. The motion carried 5-0-0. Supervisor Ross will complete the paperwork and submit a bid on or before the bid deadline.

Resolution 2014-016 to appoint Doug Serra as an alternate to the planning board was presented by Supervisor Ross. Supervisor Ross made the motion to pass this resolution. The second was made by councilman Clendenin. All councilpersons and the Supervisor voted Aye. There were no Nay votes. The resolution passed 5-0-0.

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Resolution 2014-017 to appoint Barb Zlomek as an alternate to the planning board was presented by Supervisor Ross. Supervisor Ross made the motion to pass this resolution. The second was made by councilman Clendenin. All councilpersons and the Supervisor voted Aye. There were no Nay votes. The resolution passed 5-0-0.

Supervisor Ross announced that a planning board meeting was scheduled for Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the Horn Room at Town Hall. This will be a kick off meeting. Everyone is invited to attend.

#### **Highway Superintendent Report:**

Patching pot holes receded pipes that were frozen. Met with DEC annual safety meeting was brought up to date on OSHA requirements for yearly training. An issued was noted behind shop this will be taken care of. Looked at pit located by Laidlaw's on Phillips Creek. This is out of Amity's jurisdiction. It will be taken care of by other companies. Want to do something about the gas main that is showing. Bill is having second thoughts about which truck to sell. He indicated the red on is scaring him. We will not get as much for this one as the other. West Almond is interested in one of the trucks. They are going to look at the truck again. Bill requested opinions from the board. None was given. Some discussion regarding a rotational basis for all town trucks. A 7 year rotation was suggested. Took some trees down at Forest Hill. Fixed stone Fence on cemetery Hill. One burial done this month. Looked at the situation on Ackerman Hill. The Supervisor had also looked at this. Road is not caving in but can extend the shoulder another 6 feet which will be done. Ackerman Hill is un plowable so something is going to have to be done. A breakdown of roads that required resealing was provided. Some of the financial requirements will be provided by CHIPS.

Starting these projects will be started as soon as the weather permits.

Lisa Clark was contacted regarding mowing Forest Hills. The cost of contracting would be prohibitive.

Some discussion took place regarding having inmates do some of the cemetery work.

Update on the new truck was given. The truck should be out of paint shop this week. Supervisor Ross asked some questions regarding the truck. Superintendent Bigelow answered to satisfaction.

Discussion regarding the use of this CHIPS money.

#### **Round Table:**

Clerk Winterhalter asked if the rules and regulations were to be updated and ready for next meeting.

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Councilwomen VanDyke gave an update on the new fire hall. Several locations have been reviewed and rejected. A suitable site is still being sought. The location of the fire hall at this time has been rejected due to the erosion of the River causing problems. Two new locations are by BOCES and Hood Road.

She indicated that there is not a suitable location anywhere in the Village of Belmont.

The next regular board meeting will be held the 12<sup>th</sup> of May at 7:00PM at Town Hall.

### **Open to Public.**

Fred White asked what was wrong with the old Fire Hall. Councilwoman VanDyke explained in more detail why the current fire hall is not suitable due to several factors regarding size of trucks and erosion as well as the erosion and damage to the actual building.

Dave Gominik also asked some questions regarding the current location. Councilwoman VanDyke answered these questions. Part of the problem is that as erosion continues the entire building could be in the flood zone. Dave indicated that the dam should be maintained. It was explained that the Town does not maintain waterways.

He also wanted to know why the DCO was not issuing tickets. It was explained that the court not enforcing the tickets. Some additional discussion took place. Supervisor Ross indicated that the Town will look into other ways to enforce this. A Change in town law would be required.

Mr. Gominik also discussed some additional issues about the portion of Ackerman Hill that is seasonal that should be addressed by the board. The board agreeded that some additional warnings could be posted. Also mentioned was that a driver on that road should have the vehicle under control. A driver should not be driving

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on that road in the Winter since it is a seasonal road which is not maintained by the Town.

Robert Thompson asked about the speed limits near the Scio Town Line. He asked if the Town would put up new speed limit signs. The Town will attempt to determine what the speed limit should be. Mr. Thompson told the town that a portion of a road was salted and sanded then the plow driver returned and plowed it back off. Additional discussion took place.

More discussion took place between the public and the Supervisor about the Master Meters. Supervisor Ross explained what the master meters were for and the cost of these meters

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Zenoski. The second was made by Josh Brown. All Councilpersons and the Supervisor voted Aye. There were no Nay votes. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

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Sincerely, Richard Winterhalter Town of Amity Clerk

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Christina VanCuren Deputy Town Clerk

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