TOWN OF AMITY MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

May 8, 2017

OFFICIAL MINUTES

**Present:** Supervisor Dana Ross, Councilpersons: Barb Zlomek, Donald Skinner, Miranda Gates, and Josh Brown

**Town Clerk:** Kristine Young

**Deputy Clerk:** Christina VanCuren

**Highway Superintendent:** Bill Bigelow

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

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Dana Ross at 7:03 PM.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and to accept those minutes with corrections was made by Councilperson Gates. A second to the motion was made by Councilperson Skinner. All Councilpersons and the Supervisor voted Aye. There were no Nay votes. The motion was carried 4-0-0.

**GUESTS:** Steve Biancuzzo and Kevin Scott from Belmont Youth League. See Exhibit A for other guests. Steve was past president of the association and currently Kevin Scott is president. The league used to mow the lawns behind the old school until the soccer games were moved to Angelica school. They had a small building and lawn mower at the school which the Belmont Betterment Association asked them to move off their property about 2 years ago when they had an interested buyer for the property. Mr. Biancuzzo recently noticed the building had been removed and found out the lawnmower has also been removed by the Town Highway Department. They have no use for the shed but want the lawnmower back.

Councilperson Skinner stated the Highway Department asked the BBA if they could take the lawnmower to use at the little league field instead of unhooking the lawnmower at the cemetery and bringing it to the field. The BBA gave permission for the Highway Department to remove the building and lawnmower and kept them at the town barns. The Highway workers made repairs on the lawnmower to get it running.

After much discussion, Supervisor Ross indicated it was a total communication issue. In March or April each year, the league should come to the Town Board meeting to notify the town of what their plans are for the season. Everyone agreed to work together. Kevin is to meet with Superintendent Bigelow to decide the outcome of the lawnmower. Brian Fanton was present and he will be the president of the youth league starting next year.

**SUPERVISOR ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Phillips Creek Project should be started next month. The County will provide the equipment and operator and the Town will provide the fuel for equipment. The Governor’s Office looked at the trees along the Belmont Falls because someone from the community complained about it and they want the cleanup done. The Department of Transportation will not do it. Permission has been given by the DEC for the cleanup. There were estimates from Whitford of $22,840.00 and CPA of $39,000.00. A third request was not received back. There is a concern that trees and debris will return after cleanup. The Town has $10,000.00 in contingency funds so at this time we are unable to hire the work done. A motion was made by Supervisor Ross to table the idea of doing work on the dam unless the State or a community organization is willing to pay for it. A second to the motion was made by Councilperson Zlomek. All Councilpersons and the Supervisor voted Aye. There were no Nay votes. The motion was carried 5-0-0.

On May 18, 2017 at 10:30 am there is a webinar from Academy for NYS Local Officials Multi Year Planning if anyone is interested.

**HIGHWAY SPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Exhibit B. Superintendent Bigelow reported the Highway Department finished cutting brush on Back River Road and took down 3 trees that were damaged by wind, finished sweeping the roads, installed cofferdams on Cooley Hill Rd, hauled in stone, cleaned up tree limbs at Wilmac Park, installed the plow frame on new tractor, did 3 burials, installed rip rap on cofferdams on Saunders Hill Rd and Feathers Creek Road, cleaned up a tree at Amity Lake and one on Feathers Creek, dug and poured foundations for 4 graves, and picked up new dump body for the 2004 Peterbilt which will be installed soon.

The trees at the cemetery have not been taken down by True Cut yet. It is hoping this will get done before Memorial Day. The pole barn needs to be enclosed and Robin Hood from Caneadea gave an estimate of $4,200.00. There are funds available for this so work will be done. Gary Ordway will be having surgery and will be off for an extended period of time on compensation. Wayne Robbins from Belfast has been hired temporarily to fill his position.

**APPROVAL OF ABSTRACTS:** A motion to accept the General Abstract 05 in the amount of $21,624.82 and Highway Abstract 05 in the amount of $32,815.69 was made by Councilperson Gates. A second was made by Councilperson Brown. All Councilpersons and the Supervisor voted Aye. There were no Nay votes. The motion was carried 5-0-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Supervisor Ross announced there would be a public hearing next month on the franchise with Spectrum (formerly TWC).

The Town Hall building project will be started with an estimated cost of $34,000.00 to be shared with The Village. The Village would like to do the full repairs this year but we cannot afford to pay our share this year. Supervisor Ross recommended the project be done in 3 phases: 1) roof repair/chimney repair with liner, 2) masonry on windows/joints and 3) steps/columns in the front of the building. Phase 1 & 2 will be done first at an estimate of $10,900 which is our share. That would leave approximately $6,000.00 in contingency funds for the remainder of this year. A motion was made by Supervisor Ross to agree to do Phase 1 & 2 and budget for next year monies for the columns and front steps. A second to the motion was made by Councilperson Gates. All Councilpersons and the Supervisor voted Aye. There were no Nay votes. The motion was carried 5-0-0. Councilperson Skinner will return the signed contracts to the providers.

Regarding the water project, Councilperson Skinner will meet with John Francisco, Deputy Supervisor, and Dave Doyle and a village representative before sending information to the lawyer.

Supervisor Ross will discuss putting a gate at the pond on Norton Street with the lawyer.

**NEW BUSINESS**: Supervisor Ross stated we need to have a usage agreement at Wilmac Park starting next year. Supervisor Ross will meet with Brian Fanton to develop the agreement. The buildings belong to the Town. Superintendent Bigelow may need a key to get in the buildings to check water/utilities. Buildings need to be winterized. The Highway crew will continue mowing the fields before ball games.

Councilperson Skinner brought up the pond on Norton Street. That property is a separate parcel from the cemetery. It was questioned as to why the Town still owns it and why we don’t put it up for sale and stop paying liability insurance on that property. There was no answer as to why the Town still owns it.

Councilperson Skinner also feels we should have 2 meetings per month except for the summer months. It was suggested we keep it in mind for next year.

Councilperson Brown had indicated there are people planting bushes and flowers at the cemetery. Superintendent Bigelow indicated there are a lot of lights in the way of mowing as well. This is not allowed and Supervisor Ross will discuss this with his Deputy Francisco. It was brought up by Superintendent Bigelow the cemetery records are a nightmare. Some sections are laid out in different directions. It’s difficult to know which way to place the remains if the Sector is out of town. It was suggested we organize a mapping cemetery group. The County, BOCES or Alfred State may be able to help with mapping.

**ROUND TABLE:** Councilperson Gates announced that she would not be running for reelection after this year.

Superintendent Bigelow indicated the Philips Creek project will start in June. The permit has been applied for and the DEC and Army Corp of Engineers are involved.

According to the Town Clerk there have been more complaints regarding the Tax Assessor. Taxpayers have received letters from her indicating they didn’t return their renewal for Enhanced STAR application. Supervisor Ross said we cannot take any action until her term is up.

The use of tablet agreement has not been done. This will be done and presented at the next meeting.

SupervisorRoss made a motion to go into executive session at 9:10 pm regarding negotiations with the Highway department contract. Executive session ended at 9:40 pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next regular meeting will be held the June 12, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

**ADJOURN MEETING:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilperson Gates. A second was made by Councilperson Zlomek.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:42 pm.

SS

State of New York

County of Allegany

IN TESTIMONY HEREOF, I Kristine Young have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Town of Amity.

Sincerely,

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Kristine Young, Town Clerk of Amity