

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham held February 18, 2003 at the Town Building in Oak Hill, N.Y.

Present: Robert Young – Supervisor
Gary Hulbert - Councilman
William A. Carr, Jr. – Councilman
Robert Elpel - Councilman
Linda Sutton – Councilwoman

Recording Secretary: Charles Soderblom - Town Clerk
Others Present: Wesley Moore - Highway Superintendent

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M. with the Pledge to the Flag. Seven people were present.

Mr. Elpel made a motion, which Mrs. Sutton seconded, to approve the minutes of January 2, January 7, and January 19. The motion carried.

Supervisor Young received a letter from Supervisor Izzo of the Town of Catskill asking for support from the Town of Durham concerning an amendment to distribute the sales tax for Greene County to the County, Town and Village. **Mr. Elpel made a motion and seconded by Mr. Hulbert to write a letter in support of the New York State Senate and Assembly for an amendment to the State Sales Tax legislation which would mandate the distribution of Greene County's portion of the Sales Tax to the County, Town and Villages. All were in favor.**

Supervisor Young also received a letter from Kandy Brown. Attorney Rappleyea explained the correspondence: someone introduced a bill in the legislature seeking to amend the criminal law and criminal procedure law so that juveniles that commit serious crimes are treated as adults. They are asking for support with a resolution. Mr. Elpel thought that the town should not get involved. There was a brief discussion and it was decided that they would discuss it further at the next work session.

Mr. Young received a newsletter from the Chamber of Commerce.

The East Durham Fire Contract was signed.

There will be a meeting of the Emergency Services on February 25 with John Farrell. Mr. Young will be attending.

The Hudson River Greenway meeting is March 12 at the Capitol Building in Albany. They will be here March 18.

The Emergency Preparedness Planning Committee will meet here February 20 at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Young received a report for the year from the Aging.

Mr. Young reported that there was a fire on Rt. 23 at Ulla Darni's home.

Wesley Moore read the Highway Superintendents Report for January. They have used 1500 tons of sand and salt on the small snow storms and wind. The building is almost empty and Wes estimates he has enough left for one storm. Carver will start hauling in Wednesday. It is hard to get salt. He has ordered 200 tons and they have only delivered 35 tons. Mr. Carr asked how much is used for a typical snow or ice storm. Wesley said sand and salt mixed they would use about 180 ton and probably 30 to 40 ton of that is salt. The storm on Monday they did not use a lot of salt. They delivered 3500 gallons of liquid calcium chloride. Wesley said he would only have about \$1300 left in his budget after the bills are paid tonight. The county should be reimbursing for January with about \$8,000 to \$10,000 and February should be about the same. John Farrell's office might be able to reimburse for the storms in December. This last storm was also declared an emergency and he will be doing the paperwork to submit for reimbursement. Richard Lendin resigned February 4, 2003, his position with the Town Highway Department. Wesley has decided to not hire at this time. The new truck will be in by the end of this month.

The police report was filed.

Attorney Rappleyea started his research with regard to the library donation and will report at the next meeting.

Charlie reports that the town has received all of their money from the taxes. We have collected \$1,826,000.

The Task Report was filed. Mr. Cullie reported that they are working on their 2003 Beautification Project. Mr. Carr asked when they would get a response from the police grant application. Mr. Cullie thought within about 10 days.

The Historical Preservation Committee held their meeting on February 8. The Commission approved a change for Gary Layman. They are also waiting for approval on an \$8,000 grant that they applied for.

The justice books need to be audited for the year. Mr. Carr suggested we leave a note for them to bring their books to the next meeting.

Charlie reported that we just approved a subdivision for the Phillips. They did not realize that it had to be filed with the County Clerk within 60 days and he would like the board to reapprove it. Mr. Hulbert had spoken to them and informed them that subdivisions are handled at work session meetings.

Cindy Moore read the assessor's report. Mr. Bennett has suggested that the board increase the senior citizen exemption by \$500. The two school districts have increased their limits. Mr. Carr agreed with the increase. **Mr. Carr made the motion to increase the 2003 limits and seconded by Mrs. Sutton. All were in favor.** The March 1 deadline is approaching and there are still renewals to be completed. We would like to put a notice in the papers informing the public of the renewal date of March 1.

Cindy Moore also requested that a bill in for payment tonight be put on hold for Columbia Greene Humane Society. It was for \$305 for a dog that was turned in there by a town resident, not the dog control officer. Cindy has heard that it was a resident's dog and they did not want it anymore. Tal has checked the contract and there is a provision that a resident can turn a dog in, but the Dog Control Officer and Town Clerk have to be notified within 24 hours and we would have 24 hours to return their call. Charlie and Mert had not been notified. They are going to report to the Humane Society that we believe the money is not owed to them. Mr. Tripp was not in attendance.

Mrs. Sutton asked that we reappoint James Allan to the County Planning Board. **Mr. Carr made a motion to send a letter to reappoint Mr. Allan to the County Planning Board and seconded by Mr. Hulbert. All were in favor.** Mr. Soderblom will send a letter to the Planning Board.

Mrs. Sutton asked if anything had been done about the speed limit in Oak Hill or on Golden Hill Road. Mr. Young reported that Wesley has placed new signs and the state will have to complete a study for speed reduction on Golden Hill Road. **Mr. Carr made a motion that the Town Clerk request in a letter that the state check into the speed limit for Golden Hill Road and seconded by Mr. Hulbert. All were in favor.**

Mrs. Sutton asked if anyone had taken the position to do a dog enumeration. There was further discussion.

Mr. Hulbert brought up communication received from the Office of the Corporation Counsel of the City of New York.

Cindy asked if Tal had heard anything about the Depository Account for the cell Towers. Tal had called twice, but had not received a return call.

Mr. Hulbert made the motion seconded by Mrs. Sutton with all in favor to approve the following transfer:

From:	Highway Surplus		\$7,718.70
To:	DA 5130.200	Highway, Machinery	\$7,718.70

Abstract #303, consisting of Vouchers #150 through #219 in the amount of \$384,079.58 was reviewed and approved for payment. The total amount was broken down as follows:

General Funds	\$ 66,484.18
Highway Funds	\$175,776.70
Fire Protection	\$141,007.00
Street Lighting	\$ 506.70

Mr. Young made a motion seconded by Mr. Carr to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Charles G. Soderblom, Clerk