

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham held March 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
 Tal Rapplelea – Attorney for the Town

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M. with the Pledge to the Flag. Thirty-two people were present.

Mr. Elpel made the motion seconded by Mr. Carr with all in favor to approve the minutes of February 4th and 18th.

Mr. Young received correspondence from Robert J. Carey, Councilman from the Town of Cairo. He would like to attend our meeting to discuss the idea of an Emergency Shelter in the wake of a possible war with Iraq. Mr. Young suggested a letter be sent to Mr. Carey inviting him to our next work session. Mrs. Sutton suggested we invite him to our next Emergency Preparedness meeting. Dr. Goldstein commented on the Emergency Plan and a meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2003 at 7:00 pm. Charlie Soderblom will write a letter inviting Mr. Carey to the meeting.

Mr. Young had a letter from Insurance Services Office. Mr. Schmidt said they would review the letter and report to the board. It is a scoring on how the code enforcement officers are doing and what kind of education they have and according to the state what category they would go into with the fire department and insurance companies. Their rate is No. 5, in the middle of 0 to 10.

Mr. Young received notification that there was grant money available for the court office. Mr. Young wondered if it should go to the courts office or the grant committee. Mr. Carr said it should go right to the grant committee. Mr. Young thought it would make more sense to go to the Court Cglerk first and then after that to work with the grant committee. Mr. Carr said we have set up a situation where the grant committee will look at all grants that come in and determine if they would benefit the Town and then pass it on to the appropriate unit. **Mr. Carr made a motion and seconded by Mrs. Sutton that all grants will go to the grant committee. All were in favor except Mr. Young.**

Rich Harris from Hudson River Valley Greenway introduced their executive director Carmella R. Mantello. She explained what the Hudson River Valley Greenway is and what it can do for our Town. It is a State agency, which covers 259 municipalities in 13 counties. Ms. Mantello spoke on some of the projects that the Greenway is involved with at this time. Mr. Young wanted to make a motion to join. Mr. Carr thought we should with a member of the county legislature and a member from Catskill to get their input on the Greenway. Mr. Bennett representing the Sportsman

Federation explained that indirectly the Town of Durham is receiving some of the benefits indirectly right now through Greene County. The Sportsmen Federation has received hunter safety videos and duck boxes that have come from Greenway and are used in the Town. Mr. Carr suggested that he could speak with Mr. Mathes and another member could speak to the Town of Catskill. Mr. Young replied that he had chatted with all of the people that he wanted to and it is positive. He would like to join right tonight. Mr. Ohm spoke that based on Greene County's experience with the Greenway; he recommended that we seriously consider becoming a member. Mr. Carr asked how long the County had been a member. Mr. Ohm did not know exactly, but Ms. Mantello thought six months. Mr. Carr also asked how long the Town of Catskill had been a member. Ms. Mantello thought for a long time. Mr. Elpel said that the Farm Bureau was not in favor of the Greenway. **Mr. Young made a motion to join the Greenway.** There was no second. Mrs. Sutton said that she wanted to speak with some people from Greenville first.

Highway Superintendent, Wesley Moore gave his report for February. Since the last meeting, they have used approximately 1150 tons of sand and salt mixture and 825 gallons of liquid calcium. They hauled 380 tons of sand from Callanan when they had time. Carvers delivered 341 ton in the last couple of weeks as part of a 400-ton order. International Salt delivered 148 tons. The new 2003 International Pay star Snow Plow was delivered on 3/12/2003 and was put into service the next day for the snowstorm. They retired the 1974 International Snow Plow, which will go up for sale this spring. March 12 there was a meeting of the Town Superintendents and the County Highway Superintendent with a FEMA representative about the two snowstorms that were designated for reimbursement. The storm December 25 and December 26 and the January 3 and 4 were eligible for reimbursement. Cindy and Wesley have been working on the paperwork. A tentative meeting date is scheduled for next Monday at 1:00 with the FEMA representatives in Cairo. A check should be forthcoming in about 3 or 4 months. The reimbursement will be only on the overtime, equipment, and materials. They do not pay any straight time. In addition, the President Day snowstorm may be covered by FEMA.

Wesley said that he needs to buy three large culvert pipes. There is no State or County Contracts under this type of culvert pipe. It has an extremely long life span of about 50 to 70 years. He would like to order the 72 x40 culvert from Chemung for \$2,529.01 and the 42x29x40 and 60x50 from Lane Enterprises. The price is \$658.46 and \$2022.66. **Mr. Carr made a motion and seconded by Mr. Elpel to approve the buying of the Culvert pipes as explained by Wesley Moore. All were in favor.** Mr. Carr asked how the use of materials this year compared to previous year. Wesley said it had more than doubled. Wes explained some of the big expenses associated with the storms this year.

Al Schmidt read the Code Enforcement Report. They issued 5 building permits and 15 CO's.

The justice's report was filed.

There was no assessor report.

The police report was filed.

Tal Rappleyea, Attorney for the Town reported that he had sent out a third letter to Guarantee Towers to see if they were going to claim their \$7,000. He has not heard back from them. He said

the next call would be to the Comptrollers Office to see what they recommend. He has sent out letters concerning the Durham Woods Subdivision to the various state departments for due process and he sent a copy of the escrow agreement to establish a deposit for the payment of various fees.

Al Schmidt mentioned that Mr. Sager is going to take back the Oak Hill Trailer Park and Al will be working with him to get the park cleaned up by summertime.

Mr. Young asked if Mr. Schmidt had heard what the hold up was on the cleanup from the fire on Rt. 23. Mr. Schmidt said they were waiting for the insurance company.

Mr. Tripp read the report for February. He said he has no problem doing the dog enumeration and has it scheduled to start on April 12. Mr. Young asked if the resident that had turned in his own dog to the Columbia Greene Humane Society had been straightened out. Mr. Tripp said he has paid a portion and believes he will continue to finish paying.

Mr. Soderblom reported that they have collected \$1,922,000 out of \$2,507,958 to date.

Mr. Cullie reported that the Historical Preservation Commission had their monthly meeting, but there was not any business to be discussed. The Durham Task Force did not have a meeting, but the Durham Library Committee did meet. They discussed the possible hours of operation. The consensus of the committee was: Thursday 3pm to 7 pm, Friday noon to 5pm and Saturday 10am to 2pm. They are trying to work out a budget to be able to pay someone to work. They are awaiting a reply from the Cairo Library on their submission of a contract for their services in assisting us in this project.

Mr. Cullie had been to Senator Swards office this morning. He talked to Lynn Brooks about the status of the police department grant. There will be \$5,000 from the state and \$1,500 from the Town. Eight items out of the requested twelve have been approved. They have to let Lynn Brooks know which items they are going to use and what they will be used for and the approximate cost of each item. A copy of this report has been forwarded to Sgt. Sutton and if the board wants, Mr. Cullie will continue and submit a list back to the Senators office which will in turn be submitted to the Criminal Justice Department. Mr. Carr thought we should rely on Sgt. Sutton to prioritize and list the monies for the items. The Town will contribute their \$1,500.

Guenther Ohm updated the progress of the redistricting task force. They had public meetings and one of the items that people were bringing up was the fact that prisoners were being counted as residents of Greene County. The NYS Constitution states that prisoners are always referred back to their place of origin. The prisoner population has now been dropped and the totals are 45,400 as the population of Greene County. Last night the Government Operations Committee met and presented a plan, which is a 14-member legislature, and it creates a number of districts with one legislator. The larger Towns insisted on having more representation. There are 2 for Cairo, Catskill 4, Athens 1, Coxsackie 2, New Baltimore 1, Greenville 1, and Durham 1. Durham presently is in a district with Windham, Ashland, Jewett and Prattsville. The new plan puts Durham in a separate district with one legislature and they will represent 2,592. The voting percent is 5.72%. Windham, Ashland, Jewett and Prattsville get 1 legislator and Hunter, Lexington and Halcott get 1 legislator. The other plans will leave Catskill with only 3 legislators. This plan had not been submitted to the

Government Operations Committee, so they are going to amend to include this plan and modify to 13 legislators. This will be presented to the entire legislature to see which one will be approved. Mr. Karkheck thought there would not be any benefit to a 14-member legislature. Mr. Ohm said there would be a savings to the tax payer if they stay with the 13-members, as we have now. Their salary is \$12,500 and adding health care and dental plan moves to around \$20,000. Mr. Elpel asked how important is a weighted vote in a general running of the county, how often does it come into play. Mr. Ohm said some of the votes are obvious, but when they are close, that is when it is important. But with a weighted vote you fulfill the requirements of the law, one man-one vote. He also mentioned that some of the legislatures proposed a resolution that would reimburse the Town of Catskill and the Village of Catskill and the Catskill School District, the amount of taxes that they lost when the Main Street buildings were demolished to put up the County Office Building. The amount was \$28,500, which they proposed to pay yearly for as long as the building is used as a County Office Building. Mr. Carr thought this should have been brought up when they first discussed putting the building there. Mr. Karkheck said it had been brought up early, but was very quiet. There was further discussion.

Beth Phillips & Gloria Anander spoke for the Durham Little League. They asked permission to use both fields again from May 1 to June 30. They also wanted to set up a clean-up date for sometime in April. There are approximately 62 children playing this year. The Durham League has been asked to host the All-Star Game this year. She asked the board if there was money to purchase a portable scoreboard. The one that they have looked at is 30 x 16, weighs 14 pounds, and is a wireless remote. It was about \$1100. Mr. Young said he would check into it tomorrow. Mr. Soderblom reminded then not to forget that the High School would be using the Kellegher Field as well.

Mr. Carr made a motion and seconded by Mr. Hulbert to adopt the Emergency Preparedness Guide. All were in favor.

Mrs. Sutton asked about the 911 signs. Mr. Young replied they had made 700 of them with 1400 to make. Mrs. Sutton asked who authorized the making of the signs. There was further discussion. Mr. Young was going to check with Mr. Sacco.

Mr. Hulbert asked the grant committee about a subscription for a grant bi-monthly newsletter. Mr. Cullie said they felt they did not need to spend money on that. Most of the grants they receive are through the mail or the internet.

Mr. Hulbert asked if there was anything that could be done about the extra poles that are still left from the new electrical lines that have been completed. Wesley said you are looking at a 2 to 3 year period, at least, until they are removed because of the reduction in the Verizon work force.

The letters for the speed limit have been sent out for Golden Hill Road and Jennings Road.

Mr. Young has a request for a handicapped sign on Susquehanna Turnpike. The Town will send a request to the County for this sign.

The following transfers were approved on the motion of Mr. Elpel and seconded by Mr. Hulbert:

From: A1990.400	Contingent Fund	\$25.00
To: A1220.402	Supv. Cont. Annual Rep.	
From: DA 5142.100	Snow Per. Svc	\$10,000.00
To: DA 5142.400	Snow Cont.	
From: Highway Surplus		\$10,000.00
To: DA 5142.400	Snow Contr.	

Abstract #305, consisting of Vouchers #158 and #232 through #286 in the amount of \$47,560.81 was reviewed and approved for payment. The total amount was broken down as follows:

General Funds	\$14,458.34
Highway Funds	\$32,289.88
Street Lighting	\$ 517.59

The cash books of Justice Lucente and Justice Tirpak were reviewed by the Board.

Mr. Carr made a motion seconded by Mrs. Sutton to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 P.M.

Minutes approved:

Charles G. Soderblom, Clerk