

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham held January 16, 2007, at the Town Building in Oak Hill, NY.

Present: Gary Hulbert - Supervisor
 Robert Elpel – Councilman
 Linda Sutton – Councilwoman
 Jodi Wood – Councilwoman
 William Carr – Councilman

Secretary: Chris Kohrs – Deputy Town Clerk

Others Present: Tal Rappleyea – Town Attorney
 Wes Moore – Highway Superintendent
 Charles Soderblom – Town Clerk

Supervisor Hulbert called the meeting to order at 7:30. There were 18 people present.

Mr. Elpel motioned to accept the minutes of December 5 and 19, 2006, seconded by Ms. Wood. All were in favor motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Moore reported the highway crew has been busy with tree removal, vehicle maintenance and construction of the shed on the side of the salt barn. With the mild winter to date the snow plowing and treatment has been limited. He has received the new dump truck from Robert Greene. The Fisher plow has been mounted on the fire truck. He has received four quotes from three companies for Plasma (metal) Cutter. The lowest bid was \$2,149.00 from Northeast Gas Technologies for a Hypertherm Powermax 1000. Chris Hunt will perform the single phase wiring necessary to run the machine.

Code Enforcement Officer Schmidt reported the two violations and two complaints.

Building Inspector issued one septic, two addition/alterations, two- new structures, four certificates of Compliance/Certification.

The board received the judges' report.

Sergeant Sutton reported his department handled twenty-one complaints, five accidents, three domestics as well as various other calls.

Attorney Rappleyea reported they have closed on the Bond Anticipation for the new truck. That the proposed pellet factory for the Becker Site has decided to move on to another location.

The board received the Site Place review packet for the proposed Maggio Project located on State Route 23. Attorney Rappleyea advised the board to require an escrow account to cover the cost of the town's engineer and attorney fees for the project.

All the filing is complete for the adoption of Hideaway Corners Road. (The board vote to adopt the road at the December 5, 2006 meeting).

Mr. Soderblom reported tax bills were mailed January 4, 2007. There were 2848 bills mailed. To date 15% have been paid \$426,632.56/462 parcels.

Mr. Carr moved that the Town adopt Local Law # 1 of 2007 to increase the senior exemption from \$17,500 to \$18,000. Mrs. Sutton seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried. The public hearing will be held February 6, 2007 7:30 p.m.

Assessor Bennett asked the board to consider adopting the Goldstar Parent Exemption. This program provides parents of service individuals killed in the line of duty a veteran's exemption. This exemption would apply to all past and future causalities. There is a similar exemption already in place for spouses. **Mr. Carr moved that the Town adopt Local Law # 2 of 2007 to adopt the Goldstar Parent Exemption. Mr. Elpel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.** The public hearing is scheduled for February 6, 2007 7:30 p.m.

Assessor Bennett once again asked the board to consider adopting the Disability & Handicap exemption. He explained that it is a very difficult designation to obtain and the income must be less than \$25,000. The disability must be a life altering disability. Additional discussion followed. **Mr. Elpel moved that the Town adopt Local Law # 3 of 2007 to adopt the Disability & Handicap Exemption. Ms. Wood seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.** The public hearing is scheduled for February 6, 2007 7:30 p.m. Attorney Rappleyea will provide the board with additional information regarding who qualifies for this exemption.

Supervisor Hulbert reported that the Tree Planting Grant, which Frasier Associates submitted for the Town of Durham, was denied.

Communication was received from Central Hudson asking the town to assist them in keeping their easements clear.

Resident Mark Darling requested that the board address the "eye-sore" of the Becker site. He would like the board to push the Irish Cultural Center to improve the appearance of the site. He also suggested that the board contact the I.D.A. for assistance in attracting businesses to the town. He also expressed concern on the operations of the Irish Cultural Center. The board explained that would be outside of their jurisdiction.

Mr. Hulbert motioned to approve training for the Code Enforcement Officer Schmidt March 8, 2007 and June 14, 2007, seconded by Mr. Carr. All were in favor motion carried.

Supervisor Hulbert announced that the town was awarded a Qualities Community Grant for \$48,000 for Agriculture and Open Space. Mr. Carr thanked Dr. Goldstein for his work on this grant.

The board audited the books of the court and found no significant issues.

The board audited the books of the Town Clerk and Tax Collector. No significant issues were found.

The board discussed the town hall furnace, which is not operating properly. The board authorized Mr. Moore to request estimates to have the furnace changed.

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

FROM:	A1990-400	Contingent	\$ 1,530.00
TO:	A1420.400	Attorney, Contractual	
FROM:		Surplus, General	\$ 5,400.00
TO:	A1110.400	Court, Equipment	
FROM:	A1990.400	Contingent	\$ 100.00
TO:	A7110.400	Parks, Contractual	
FROM:		Surplus, General	\$ 1,588.00
TO:	A7410.400	Library, Contractual	
FROM:	A1990.400	Contingent	\$ 891.15
TO:	A8020.400	Planning, Contractual	
FROM:		Surplus, General	\$ 3,111.24
TO:	A9060.8	Benefits, Health Insurance	
FROM:		Highway Surplus	\$ 3,000.00
TO:	DA5130.400	Highway Parts, Contractual	
FROM:		Street Lighting Surplus	\$ 189.84
TO:	SL5182.25	ED District # 1, Street Lighting	

Abstract #624, consisting of 2006 Vouchers #954 through #965 for \$64,417.27 was reviewed and approved for payment. The total was broken down as follows:

General Funds	\$ 1,265.72
Highway Funds	\$ 47,877.00
Trust and Agency	\$ 15,274.55

Abstract #625, consisting of 2006 Vouchers #966 through #997 for \$27,380.11 was reviewed and approved for payment. The total was broken down as follows:

General Funds	\$ 16,364.18
Highway Funds	\$ 11,015.93

Abstract #701, consisting of 2007 Vouchers #101 through #128 for \$151,723.22 was reviewed and approved for payment. The total was broken down as follows:

General Funds	\$	60,771.94
Highway Funds	\$	90,359.69
Street Lighting	\$	591.59

On the motion of Ms. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Sutton, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Minutes approved:

Chris Kohrs, Deputy Town Clerk