

TOWN OF HIGHLAND
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 12,2021
ELDRED TOWN HALL

PRESENT SUPERVISOR JEFF HAAS
 COUNCILMAN JAMES GUTEKUNST
 COUNCILMAN FRED BOSCH
 COUCILWOMAN KAITLIN HAAS

Also present, Attorney to Town Michael Davidoff
 Town Clerk Doreen Hanson

Supervisor calls meeting to order

Flag Salute

Moment of Silence for Robert Grab

Roll Call, all board members present.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to approve the January Town Clerk Minutes seconded by Councilman Bosch, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to approve the November and December Financial seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Received and read resignation by Scott Hallock as Deputy Superintendent.

Received and read American Legion Ambulance Corp. monthly report.

Received and read Highland Lake Fire Dept. monthly report.

Received and read Yulan Fire Dept. monthly report.

Received and read Constable monthly report.

Received and read Social Services report by Betty Frazier.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent of Highway Tom Ebers spoke about complaints on mail boxes being taken down by plow trucks, he stated they are being replaced.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

Supervisor Haas stated he had a lengthy conversation with Senator Martucci regarding the Salt Shed and SAM Grant monies due to Town.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Pizzolato did a presentation on the Town of Highland Route 97 Access Project is through the Sullivan County Renaissance, Scenic Byway , the Barryville Chamber of Commerce and would like the Town of Highland to approve.

PLANNING AND SENIORS

Councilman Bosch states the Seniors are still not meeting and everyone is staying in place and waiting to be able to get vaccinated.

YOUTH AND PARK DEVELOPMENT

Councilwoman Haas states we are waiting to see if we can have a Youth Program this summer

CODE

James Hanson states we are ready to set the date for a public hearing on the proposed changes to the Town of Highland Zoning.

James Hanson gives monthly report for the Building/Code Office.

MOTION BY Councilman Bosch to approve a public hearing on March 9,2021 for the proposed changes to the Town of Highland Code/Zoning and advertise the public hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Councilwoman Haas states we submitted the Emergency Response Plan for the Town in reference to Covid-19 ad forwarded it to the Highway Union by 02-4-2021.

BUILDING

Councilman Bosch states with snow the building maintenance is on hold, Joe replaced seven bulbs at the Senior Center.

ENERGY AND ENVIROMENT

Councilman Gutekunst states we are waiting to hear on the LED lights in the Eldred Lighting District.

Old Business

Supervisor Haas states at this time I would like to bring up the appointment to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway Appointment and hear the Boards opinion on delegates for this position. It seems John Pizzolato has been endorsed by a lot of people in the room and I would like Boards feeling on this and moving forward with this appointment.

Councilman Gutekunst states John has been a pretty good representative of the Town of Highland to the Scenic Byway but I am still pretty gun shy with John and his action at the ZBA meeting and how he attacked our Town Clerk and the Board Members and said some pretty direct things.

John Pizzolato states I want to remind everyone that the deadline for the initial application the grant has to be in by March 1,2021

Supervisor Haas asks John Pizzolato if he can work with this Board on projects and keep open the lines of communication with the Board and let bygones be bygones, I can be a knuckle head at times, not saying you are, we have personalities here that sometimes you have to chuck them at the door and work for the greater good of the Town, I believe we had that discussion when you were appointed, we need to keep the lines of communication open and the Town informed. I don't want to let this go another month the grant application is due. I hope I have the Boards support; I am going out on a limb for you, I guess. John Pizzaloto states yes.

MOTION BY Supervisor Haas to appoint John Pizzaloto to the Scenic ByWay, seconded by Councilman Bosch. Councilwoman Haas states with Debra Conway as the alternate, discussion, Councilman Gutekunst states I will approve that as long as John Pizzaloto apologizes to the Board and the Town Clerk for the comments, otherwise I am a no vote.

Councilman Pizzaloto states Ms. Hanson can attribute to the fact that we had an hour and a half conversation clearing the air sort of speak, as I have said this was very costly legal battle to us and the job being criticized was not the individual person and Doreen and I spoke about that in great length. I did speak to Kaitlin and Jim. In the spirit of letting bygones be bygones and in the spirit of making the Town a better place I am willing am able look past it and hope everyone else will as well.

Motion carried all ayes

.RESOLUTIONS

MOTION BY Councilman Bosch to accept the bid for the surpluses furnace in the amount of \$500.00 to George Malavasic, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion Tinka Stoyanova comments maybe if we had put on website, we would have gotten more bids, Town Clerk Doreen Hanson state it was on the Town Website and advertised for two weeks in the newspaper. Motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Bosch to approve the updated Social Media Policy seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to approve the Tax Certiorari Settlement with Millennium seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to Pay Highway Abstract # 14-2020 claims # 188 in the amount of \$ 2,879.43 that have been reviewed by the Supervisor and all Town Board Members, seconded by Councilwoman Haas discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to pay Highway Abstract #1-2021, claims #2 to #19 in the amount of \$24,799.01 that have been reviewed by the Supervisor and all Town Board Members discussion motion carried all ayes

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to pay General Abstract # 14-2020, claims #s 444 in the amount of \$1,250.00 that has been reviews by the Supervisor and all Town Board Member seconded by Councilman Bosch, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to pay General Abstract #2-2021, claims #s 12 to # 55 in the amount of \$19,694.25 that have been reviewed by Supervisor and all Town Board Members, seconded by Supervisor Haas discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to pay Salt Shed Abstract # 1-2020, Claim # 1 in the amount of \$ 340.39 that have been reviewed by the Supervisor and all Town Board Members, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to pay Eldred Street Lights # 2-2021, claim # 1 in the amount of \$ 92.34 that have been reviewed by the Supervisor and all the Town Board Member, seconded by Supervisor Haas discussion motion carried all ayes.

Public Comment.

Executive Session for Litigation

MOTION BY Councilman Bosch to go into Executive Session for reasons of Litigation, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilwoman Hass to come out of Executive Session seconded by Councilman Gutekunst discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilwoman Haas to adjourn seconded by Councilman Gutekunst discussion motion carried all aye.

Respectfully submitted

Doreen Hanson, Town Clerk