

TOWN OF HIGHLAND
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
ELDRED TOWN HALL
MARCH 9,2021

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

ALSO, PRESENT ATTORNEY TO TOWN MICHAEL DAVIDOFF
DOREEN HANSON TOWN CLERK

Supervisor calls meeting to order

Flag Salute

Moment of Silence for Jim Paolini

Roll Call, all board members present.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to approve the February Town Clerk Minutes seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Bosch to approve the February Financial seconded by Councilman Gutekunst, discussion motion carried all ayes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Received and read from the Sullivan County Legislator Road Side Litter Pluck.

Received and rede Constable monthly report.

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 Town Deputy Hoffman read Doreen Hanson Retirement letter.

HIGHWAY

Just putting away snow stuff and getting ready for spring. First week in 3 months we didn't have to go out.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

Supervisor Haas reports, I would like to report on some Zoom meetings that were on this past week, that has to do with the American Rescue Plan and what it will bring for the Town of Highland. It hasn't been totally ratified yet and put into place. On being on Zoom with Congressman Antonio Delgado it looks very positive that we will be able to cleanup some of our COVID related issues that are manifesting themselves again from last year to this year. It is basically the shortfalls in the grant funding that we had restricted from us to the tune of a couple hundred thousand dollars, we are going to be patiently waiting for Congress to pass that bill and the President to sign the bill. It will be a great help to the Town of Highland, we are in great financial strengths and this will put us where we need to be.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PLANNING AND SENIORS

Councilman Bosch states that the VFW will have their first meeting this Saturday, March 13, 2021 at the Senior Center.

YOUTH AND PARK DEVELOPMENT

Councilwoman Haas states that later in the agenda there will be a Zoom with Sullivan Renaissance Allison Capella, to discuss any questions and would like to discuss during this part.

Allison Capella, Community Development Program Manager at Sullivan Renaissance. I see that you are interested in the Community Impact Grant Silver Feather Award for the Barryville area. The projects that qualify for the grant just to give you an overview, so the Silver Feather Community Impact Grant is one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars, that consists of fifty thousand from the Renaissance fund, fifty thousand dollars from the _____ fund which is the community foundation of Orange and Sullivan and then a twenty-five thousand dollars in a municipal match. The municipal match can be made up of funds, in-kind services or donations. This program was started last year is for very impactful projects and capital improvements within the county. Applications are due in by April 1, 2021 and the grant review is April 23, 2021. Councilwoman Haas stated that we have a couple of presentations that John Pizzolato has given to the board and also a couple of extensive meetings. The grant has to be applied for by the town. The focus for the town and the projects that don't have any additional municipal partners, the community based partners would be the Town of Highland Riverside Park Project, also Health and Wellness, bringing Community Art to Barryville, and accessibility to the walking paths and bringing historical aspects through the Kate Project.

Councilman Bosch asked, how does the grant get administered, and who pays all of the bills? Where does the reimbursement flow back to whoever is paying the bills? Allison Capella states this is a municipal grant, reimbursement to Sullivan Renaissance. Money is due upfront. Silver Feather Grant has a little more flexibility than the Golden Grant. The town would be paying the bills and submitting reimbursement to us and then submitting progress reports.

John Pizzolato states that some of the community partners have funds available immediately and that would be like a contribution grant. The Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce has a separate beautification fund that could procure some of the funding.

Councilman Gutekunst asked, when is the board going to get details of this project? Councilwoman Haas states we have the preliminary application that we have to review to submit. What are the costs proposed and who is going to administer those costs? John Pizzolato states the applicants would be the Town of Highland, The Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce, Upper Delaware Scenic Byway. Councilman Gutekunst asked if we are putting in twenty-five thousand? Allison Capella states that twenty-five thousand could be in in-kind services and donations. The town doesn't have to come up with that twenty-five thousand dollars, there are different ways to meet that.

Debra Conway states that the Kate Project has already spent thirty thousand dollars and could that be passed as in-kind services? Allison Capella responded with passed in-kind services doesn't count for this project.

Code Enforcer Hanson states that Councilman Gutekunst and the town is looking for the scope of work to be done.

Supervisor Haas asked who is hired, who is not hired and what amounts they are hired at and then the reimbursement schedule. I don't think this board has the funds available to float a loan for two or three months.

John Pizzolato states the two organizations that could float would be Dorene Warner she is doing the design work and that is the bulk of the project and The Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce. There are terms that would have to be worked out. The Greater Barryville Chamber of Commerce has a separate beautification fund that can also reimburse.

Supervisor Haas states we have to have a very clear definition of who is making the decisions? The municipal grant technically is the town. Your committee (John Pizzolato) would be making those recommendations and the Town Board would be vetting those recommendations. This board has to come up with some kind of determination tonight, we can't possibly figure out the funding tonight, we can probably figure it out once the project is underway and where we are going to find it. What kind of commitment letter would the board need if we were to move on with this?

Allison Capella states that they would need a commitment that the town would be able to come up with the municipal match.

Town Attorney Michael Davidoff states since there is a commitment of money from the board or in-kind services and contributions, the board at some time before April 1, 2021 would have to have to pass a resolution authorizing the supervisor to submit an application to the Sullivan Renaissance for the Silver Feather Impact Grant. That's what the municipal law would require. Have a special meeting so long as whatever the determination is made, if it is made to submit the application it has to be done by board resolution.

Town Attorney Michael Davidoff states that the procedure for Renaissance is that they have a form application which we downloaded, which we have here. John Pizzolato filled out some of it with Supervisor Hass, and Councilwoman Hass. The form should be filled out, signed by the Supervisor prior to April 1, 2021, or on April 1, 2021 by 5:00 pm. The board in order to give the Supervisor the authority to sign the application, we would have to pass a resolution and that would be something that you would see also.

Councilman Bosch mentioned to have a special board meeting on March 23, 2021, that would give us plenty of time to get it there by the end of the month.

Town Attorney Michael Davidoff, Allison, do you need to know when the application is submitted, what portion of that twenty-five thousand dollars will be in-kind, contributions? You would just have to know that it is being committed. Allison replies that they do ask that it be broken down, but they are flexible. You can submit what you know on April 1, 2021, but the more information you provide, the better your grant looks.

Supervisor Haas entertained a motion to have a special meeting on March 23, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Councilwoman Haas seconded that motion.

CODE

Councilman Bosch states that we covered codes tonight and we will cover again at meeting on April 13, 2021.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Councilwoman Haas states there was a presentation by Mobil Medic, and there were a couple meetings with the American Legion Ambulance Corp regarding the billing agreement. There will be a press release to update the current lack of agreement for the billing agreement with American Legion Ambulance and Mobil Medic for ALS services for Medicare patients specifically.

GRANTS

Councilman Gutekunst states that we are missing monies from our outstanding grants. As Supervisor Haas stated with the passing of the Covid Relief Act in Washington there is a good chance that we are

going to recover the money. It's a process that we are going to have to go through to recover that money. It's actually quit a bit of money now, .27% of eight hundred twenty-five million dollars. It's around three hundred thousand dollars.

INSURANCE

Councilman Gutekunst states nothing new.

BUILDINGS

Councilman Bosch states the power outage last week affected the fire alarm at the town shop and the senior center, they were reset and the next time there is a power outage to make sure these are checked.

BEAUTIFICATION

Nothing

PERSONELL

Councilman Gutekunst states that the Highway Contract is outstanding and is going to come to a conclusion tonight.

CONSTABLE

Caption Mike Walton states that all three vehicles are up and running.

WEBSITE

Councilman Gutekunst states we have a little more training to go, but the Website is in good shape.

ENERGY/ENVIRONMENT

Councilman Gutekunst states that the LED lights were installed in December and the bill was one hundred dollars less in January and February and that we are already three hundred dollars in the good.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilwoman Haas states that the Emergency Response Plan has been submitted to the union with no response from them. This will be adopted tonight.

SOLAR/RENAISSANCE

Discussion

HEROS BANNER PROJECT

Town Clerk Hanson states banners have been coming in, the last day to accept checks is March 31, 2021 so we can get it submitted. I have more photos than I applied for in poles from NYSEG. I would have to reapply to NYSEG for more poles. I would like to take the banners and head down towards Barryville in one line so all the Veterans are together. Either Barryville or go to Yulan. Supervisor Haas would like me to do the Hamlet. Yulan already has the doves and the flower baskets there. Barryville already has the doves and the other banners there. Looking for some input, I have to go out and get the numbers off of the poles and submit to NYSEG. We took all the poles in Eldred starting at the cemetery, and past Lou's Piazza there and heading towards Yulan. Go in all directions.

NEW BUSINESS

October Rabies Clinic that needs a time slot, and in the past, it has been done in the Fire/Constable building, we haven't had one in the town and we need one for enumeration.

Eldred Central School Salt and Sant contract, everyone has a copy of that.

Transfer of Services from Port Jervis/Deerpark Humane Society to Catskill Animal Rescue (CARE). Fawn Schneider has written a very nice letter requesting this change.

MOTION BY Councilwoman Haas to approve the Public Health Emergency Plan for the Town of Highland, seconded by Councilman Jim Gutekunst, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Bosch to approve Deputy Town Clerk Sue Hoffman to take the on-line classes from the NYS Town Clerks Association at a cost of \$125.00 and a Notary Class at a cost of \$129.00, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to add the Deputy Town Clerk Sue Hoffman on the Town of Highland Town Clerks 3 checking accounts, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Bosch to accept the resignation of Town Clerk Hanson as of March 28, 2021, seconded by Councilman Gutekunst, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to approve the Road Salt Agreement with the Eldred Central School District, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Bosch to transfer services from Port Jervis/Deerpark Human Society to Catskill Animal Rescue (CARE), seconded by Councilman Gutekunst, all ayes.

Motion by Councilman Bosch to approve a quote from Carters Trucking for a 45-60 horsepower mid-range diesel powered hydrostatic driven asphalt paver with an 8 ft to 13 ft heated screed in condition for \$16,000, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to approve a quote from Carters Trucking for a 75-100 horsepower 6-10 double drum amplitude diesel powered asphalt roller in good condition heated screed in good condition, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to advertise sealed bids for Crushed Ledge Stone and Processed Gravel. Sealed bids will be accepted at the Town Highway Shop 725 State Route 55, Eldred NY or by mail to the Town of Highland Highway PO Box 66 Eldred NY 12732 until 11:00 am on April 6, 2021, seconded by Councilman Bosch, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Bosch to approve the permit fees for Commercial Solar over 25 Kilowatts as approved by the Town of Highland Planning Board. A Planning Board review fee of \$500.00 is required. The fee for a new permit of \$5000.00 and the fee for additional expansion \$2500.00, seconded by Councilman Gutekunst, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to pay Highway Abstract #3-2021, claims #20 to #33 in the amount of \$14,623.54, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to pay General Abstract #3-2021, claims #s 56 to #88 in the amount of \$15,543.78, seconded by Councilman Bosch, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to pay Eldred Street Lights #3-2021, claim #3 in the amount of \$994.26, seconded by Supervisor Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Code Enforcer Hanson commented on the Vaccine and how more shots and places to get the vaccine are going well. Town Clerk Hanson also responded by letting us know about the list of Homebound people and that list was sent off to the county, and if you know of anyone to please let us know. Bill Hofaker commented that 33 years on the county he saw grants come through and after three or four years they would say I need more maintenance on this and then the grant went away. The programs that didn't look so good, dried up and went away because there was no money for the maintenance.

Supervisor Haas replied we have a pretty good beautification group in the town, and in the hamlets also and is in an upswing of the hanging baskets in Yulan and so forth. Barryville people are doing the same and taking care of their area.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to go into Executive Session for Personnel issues and Litigation, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Bosch to approve continued single health insurance coverage and reimburse Doreen Hanson as of March 28, 2021 and into her retirement, seconded by Councilman Gutekunst, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Gutekunst to approve 2021 Local 17 Labor Agreement with the Town of Highland Town Board and the Highland Highway Department, seconded by Councilman Bosch, discussion motion carried all ayes.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Susan Hoffman, Deputy Town Clerk