

WHITE CREEK TOWN BOARD MINUTES  
MARCH 10, 2020

The White Creek Town Board held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at the Town Hall. Supervisor James Griffith called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The full Board was in attendance for the meeting consisting of Town Board Members Lance Wang, Barbra Kingsley, Tammy Taber, Heath Murphy and Supervisor Griffith. Also in attendance were Budget Officer Laura Manning, Highway Superintendent Chris Rieben, Planning Board Chairman Ron McEvelly and White Creek Fire Company Chief Mark Robinson.

**Resolution 18-2020-Approval of February 11, 2020 and March 03, 2020 Minutes**

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on February 11, 2020 and the Special Meeting on March 03, 2020 were approved as presented. Barbra Kingsley made the motion to approve, seconded by Lance Wang and all voted in favor of approval.

**Old Business**

Supervisor Griffith reported that Town Attorney Alan Wrigley and Code Enforcement Officer Theo Celani continue to monitor the trailer on Route 22 that is in code violation. As of February 26<sup>th</sup> there was discussion of a third party purchasing the property. A thirty (30) day notice to resolve has been given to owner of property.

**Correspondence**

Supervisor Griffith stated the Town had received a “thank you” note from the Cambridge Seniors for the yearly donation.

The Cambridge Valley Rescue Squad had asked to be on the agenda for the April meeting for a twenty minute presentation.

An email was received from Boy Scout Leader Mr. Lane thanking Chris Rieben for the great presentation he gave the Boy Scout Troop on operating the Highway Department.

**New Business**

Supervisor Griffith stated that the Planning Board has gotten a few inquiries regarding solar projects in the last few months. White Creek is one of four towns

in the County that opted in last July for Pilot Programs for renewal energy. Supervisor Griffith received an ordinance the Town of Hartford passed regarding large solar projects that he will distribute to the Board Members for review. Supervisor Griffith is inviting NYSERTA to attend a meeting to discuss solar in the near future.

### **Assessor's Report**

Town Assessor Ronna Meerwarth submitted her monthly report to the Board. There were nine transfers for the month with four being sales. The deadline for filing exemptions has passed. In spite of reminder calls, there were still about 10 people who lost their exemption.

### **Planning Board Report**

The Planning Board met on March 4<sup>th</sup>. They have one project for a Minor Subdivision with a Public Hearing scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>. They classified two sketch plans, one was classified as a Boundary Line Adjustment and the other classified as a Minor Subdivision.

### **Town Clerk's Report**

Town Clerk Lisa Austin-Cuddihy submitted her monthly report to the Board. The monthly revenue was \$375.00 with 286.53 for the Town. Tax collection has been going well, reminder letters have been mailed to those that remain unpaid. March 31<sup>st</sup> will be the final day for collection, thereafter payments are accepted at the County Treasurer's Office.

### **Highway Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Chris Rieben submitted his monthly report of activities to the Board. The Shared Services Agreement for the new hotbox is ready to be signed by the Supervisors of the five towns. The hotbox will be housed in Salem. This is the first inter-municipal purchase in Washington County. Chris announced that he has hired Joe Baker to fill the vacancy of Nathan Wilbur. Mr. Baker will start work on March 23, 2020. February was a busy month dealing with ice. They were out nine times and thirteen times around, using 850 yards of sand and 80-90 tons of salt.

### **Budget Officer's Report**

Budget Officer Laura Manning submitted the monthly operating statement to the Board.

### **White Creek Fire Company**

Fire Chief Mark Robinson reported that the department has had OSHA training recently and all physicals were done in house.

### **Justice Court Report**

White Creek Town Court submitted the monthly report for February in the amount of \$2725.00.

### **Audit Report-Resolution 19-2020**

Heath Murphy made a motion to approve the payment of the monthly vouchers in the amount of \$148,701.80. Lance Wang seconded the motion and all others voted in favor.

### **Town Residents Comments**

Brett Mavica a resident of Brownell Hollow Road spoke to the Board about trespassers on his property that he believes are coming from the Community Forest (Agricultural Stewardship Association) on Brookside Drive. The forest is not supposed to be open to the public at this time, but there have been numerous sightings of people hiking and snow shoeing the mountain this winter. Mr. Mavica stated that his property is clearly posted, but people continue to disregard the signs and trespass on to his property. Supervisor Griffith stated that he would reach out to Renee Bouplon with this information and also get Mr. Mavica in touch with a group of concerned residents that live on Brookside and Rockside Drives near the Community Forrest.

There being no other business before the Board, Lance Wang moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Heath Murphy and all voted in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lisa Austin-Cuddihy, Town Clerk

