Fenner Town Board

Town Office Building – 8:06 PM

November 8, 2017

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR JONES

COUNCILPERSON CODY

COUNCILPERSON PUSHLAR

COUNCILPERSON WESTER

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT SMITH

TOWN CLERK STOKER

The regular meeting of the Fenner Town Board was called to order at 8:06 PM by Supervisor Jones with the pledge to the flag.

Councilperson Wester motioned to accept the October Town Board meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilperson Cody. Approved by the Board.

Councilperson Cody motioned to accept the Town Clerk’s Monthly Report as presented. Seconded by Councilperson Pushlar. Approved by the Board.

Councilperson Wester moved to accept the Supervisor’s Monthly Report as presented. Seconded by Councilperson Cody. Approved by the Board.

Highway Superintendent Smith presented the Highway Department’s report. He thanked the people of the Town of Fenner for reelection. He informed the Board of the routine work that has been accomplished and service to the various Town vehicles. Several roads, including Emhoff, Hill and Francis Roads were worked on to prepare for winter travel. Vehicles are ready for slick and snowy conditions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Highway Superintendent Smith and Supervisor Jones have been finalizing the FEMA paperwork from the March Storm Stella. However, due to the numerous disasters experienced across the country recently, we may not receive any assistance for the July storm damage.

Work should begin November 13th on Turbine #18.

Councilperson Cody moved to open the Public Hearing on the 2018 Preliminary Budget. Seconded by Councilperson Pushlar. Approved by the Board.

Supervisor Jones opened the Hearing and asked for anyone present wishing to speak for or against the Preliminary Budget. The hearing centered around questions and discussion about the unexpended balances, how the tax rate is attained, increase in employee benefits, specific salaries, unallocated insurance amounts, how the absence of the windmill monies will be made up, why Planning Board fees aren’t higher, mortgage tax, personnel services for the Highway Department, health insurance for the Highway Superintendent, debt services, sales tax estimations, concerns about salary increases, time spent preparing the budget, percentage of Town of Fenner Tax to the total Town and County Tax, grieving process with regard to the windmills and the timing they were put on the tax roll, SEVAC territories, and the Joint Youth Project.

Councilperson Wester shared a table covering 11 years of Town tax rates starting at 1999 to explain the impact the presence of the windmills have made on the Town of Fenner. With the windmills, the tax rate averaged $3.70/$1000.00, before we had the windmills, the tax rate averaged $6.50/$1000.00. The Town replaced a truck that was 18 years old. The Board members are some of the highest tax payers in Fenner and understand very well what an increase means but are invested in this community. Repairs, fuel and utilities are down over half.

Councilperson Wester motioned to adjourn the Public Hearing on the 2018 Preliminary Budget until next week. Councilperson Pushlar seconded. Approved by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Jones introduced a Resolution For Establishing The Standard Work Day And Reporting Days For Certain Town Officials.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017- 12**

**TO THE TOWN BOARD**

**OF THE TOWN OF FENNER**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE STANDARD WORK DAY AND REPORTING DAYS FOR CERTAIN TOWN OFFICIALS**

Be it resolved, that the Town Board be and hereby establishes the following as a standard workday for elected and appointed officials for the purpose of determining days work reportable to the New York State and Local Employees’ Retirement System.

Elected Officials: Town Supervisor, Tax Collector – five day work week, six hour day

Highway Superintendent – five day work week, eight hour day

Town Clerk – five day work week, six hour day

Appointed Officials: Assessor, Zoning and Codes Officer – five day work week, six hour day

Deputy Town Clerk – five day work week, six hour day

Dog Control Officer – five day work week, six hour day

Dated: November 3, 2017

Councilperson Pushlar motioned to accept Resolution 2017-12. Seconded by Councilperson Wester. Approved by the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Highway Superintendent Smith reported on the Shepherd Road bridge, stating that the Town of Fenner will do a shared service option to complete repair to the bridge. Trout’s Unlimited has a $90,000 grant, and Fish and Wildlife will assist putting in 2 culverts and headwalls in for us. Madison County will take care of the final crusher run and guard rails. Project will be completed when the stream is dry in June/July. The Town of Fenner will pay for some of the material but the sharing of this project is significant.

We are also trying to save by cancelling the water service and reevaluating the insurance on the Town vehicles.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A resident asked if a public use permit has been issued to the windmill company. Will they need to go to the Town of Fenner Zoning Board of Appeals? Supervisor Jones indicated they are currently working with landowners on the contracts.

A resident asked how to reach the Code Enforcement Officer.

VOUCHERS:

Councilperson Cody moved to approve payment of the General Fund claims numbers 136-146 in the amount of $1253.93 as set forth in abstract number 10 and as audited. Seconded by Councilperson Pushlar. Approved by the Board.

Councilperson Pushlar moved to approve payment of the Highway Fund claims numbers 123-132 in the amount of $60,736.73 as set forth in abstract number 10 and as audited. Seconded by Councilperson Cody. Approved by the Board.

Councilperson Wester made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilperson Pushlar. Approved by the Board. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Handouts and Reports: On file in Town Clerk’s Office

Code Enforcement Ofcr. Rpt. – October 2017

Town Clerk Rpt. – October 2017

Supervisor’s Rpt. – October 2017

Hwy. Superintendent Rpt. – October 2017

Dog Control Ofcr. Rpt. – October 2017

By Order of the Town Board

Jennifer Stoker

Fenner Town Clerk