

## **WORKSHOP MEETING, TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, APRIL 21, 2014**

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The **workshop meeting** of the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope was held at the Mount Hope Town Hall on **April 21, 2014** at 8:45pm with the following present: Supervisor Chad Volpe, Councilman Matt Howell, Councilman Gary Ketcham, Councilwoman Janet Sutherland, Councilman Dominick Cambareri and Town Clerk Kathleen Myers.

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** W. Howell - Planning Board Chairperson, D. Hassenmayer - H'way Supt., P. Rickard - Police Chief.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Volpe called the meeting to order at 7:30pm and asked audience members to silence their cell phones.

### **RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Cambareri seconded Councilman Howell that the minutes of the April 7, 2014 meeting as submitted are approved. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Copy of preliminary Summer Recreation agreement w/ Village of Otisville
2. Highway budget modification
3. Supervisor's report March 2014
4. Request from Youth soccer league re: use of town field for spring & fall
5. Request from Occupations Inc. to sell raffle tickets in the T/O Mount Hope
6. Request to be on Old School committee from C. Furman
7. Letter from NYS Ag & Mkts re: DCO Inspection report 4-1-14 = satisfactory
8. Copy of gas agreement between Mount Hope Fire District & T/O Mount Hope
9. BAR training for L. Macellari
10. Soccer Insurance cert.
11. Football Insurance cert.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **POLICE:**

Chief Rickard reported that he would like approval to hire Michael Brownstein effective date May 5, 2014.

#### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:**

Supt. Hassenmayer reported that the clean up went well and is complete; report to come. The road work re: potholes and re-paving has begun and the following roads are to be done: Robbins, Maple & Kohler. He reported that he has not gone to look at the Gradall yet. He would like approval to hire the 3 guys for summer help (Brandon Hann, John Heppes Jr. & Ryan Reiser). This is for 8-9 weeks temporary summer help. Supervisor Volpe asked if the clean up was normal. Supt. Hassenmayer stated dumpster was normal. Metal was one more than usual. Electronics is up.

#### **SUMMER RECREATION:**

Trustee Loeven spoke re: # of registrants for summer recreation; over 100. Late registration is scheduled for May 6. She spoke re: letter received from Attorney Bavoso about summer registration. Letter was read into record. Ms. Loeven asked Councilwoman Sutherland what prompted this letter. She has emails from Councilwoman Sutherland on almost daily basis. April 6<sup>th</sup> was last email. She does not understand why Councilwoman Sutherland directed the attorney to send this letter since the open line of communication was already established. Councilwoman Sutherland stated the decisions made happened before Ms. Loeven took office. She did not learn of any decisions until one day putting letters in mailboxes at school. She called Mr. Coppola with her concern of wrong dates. Several dates had been changed. Prices were changed. There were concerns for proof of residency. She became aware of changes the day the fliers went out in school. She did not speak with Ms. Loeven about this because she was not the one who made the changes. Ms. Loeven stated some changes were discussed on March 31. She stated the reason registration date was changed is because the hall wasn't available on a certain night. She was told that Councilwoman Sutherland was made aware of this because she was not in attendance at this meeting. She had a scheduling conflict due to physical therapy with her son and could not change appointment. She was not made aware of the changes in cost nor 2 of the registration days. Ms. Loeven discussed the changes in registration fees and pay rates for counselors with Ms. Sutherland. Ms. Loeven stated that ultimately the Mayor and Supervisor are in charge of purse strings. She asked Ms. Sutherland if she had spoken to Supervisor Volpe about it. She stated that yes she had. Ms. Loeven stated she hoped that things would get better through the summer as far as communications go. Supervisor Volpe stated that he thought everything was to go up \$100 across the board to the best of his knowledge as of last time he spoke with Mayor.



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**SUMMER RECREATION CONTINUED:**

Councilwoman Sutherland asked the Supervisor when he spoke with Mayor. He stated a week after they sat down the 1<sup>st</sup> time. Ms. Sutherland asked that she be included in the discussions. Ken Coppola added that Janet, himself and Lisa agreed on \$200 per category. The Mayor and Supervisor thought it was too much so it was to go up \$100 per category. He spoke of phone call he received re: rates going up from Ms. Sutherland. He stated she is comparing residents to non-residents. There is a \$300 difference that way. Ms. Sutherland stated that the #s discussed and the numbers that went home were different than previously discussed. She and Lisa had the same notes. She stated what was decided on was 700, 800 & 900. But it was raised to 700, 900 and 1,000.

**HIDDEN VALLEY:**

Councilman Ketcham stated things are running fine and there is a normal report.

**PLANNING BOARD:**

Chairman Howell thanked the board for the appointment of the new planning board member. There is one new submission for a 9 lot subdivision on Pine Grove Road.

**MOUNT HOPE FIRE:** No report.

**FUEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOUNT HOPE FIRE & TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE:**

Supervisor Volpe stated that there was previous discussion on a fuel agreement with the Mount Hope Fire company. It actually mirrors the same agreement as the Otisville Fire company.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FUEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOUNT HOPE FIRE & TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Cambareri seconded by Councilman Howell to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the contract for the fuel agreement with the Town of Mount Hope and the Mount Hope Fire District. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

**RESOLUTION TO HIRE MICHAEL BROWNSTEIN FOR MOUNT HOPE POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilwoman Sutherland seconded by Councilman Ketcham to allow Police Chief Rickard to hire Michael Brownstein as a police officer effective May 5, 2014. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

**RESOLUTION TO HIRE SEASONAL SUMMER HELP FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Cambareri seconded by Councilman Howell to allow the Highway Superintendent to hire 3 guys for seasonal/summer help for approx. 8 weeks: Brandon Hann, John Heppes Jr. & Ryan Reiser. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REQUEST FROM OCCUPATIONS INC. TO SELL RAFFLE TICKETS IN MOUNT HOPE:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Cambareri seconded by Councilman Howell to allow Occupations Inc. to sell raffle tickets in Mount Hope. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SOCCER LEAGUE REQUEST TO USE FIELDS:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Cambareri seconded by Councilman Howell to allow the Soccer league to use the soccer field at the park. Insurance certificate is good until 9-1-2014 and a new one to be provided to the town before the fall season. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

**OLD SCHOOL:**

Supervisor Volpe asked for available board members to check their calendars for old school tours on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Councilwoman Sutherland is not available that day. Councilman Howell not available mornings. Councilman Cambareri could do 9-12. Councilman Ketcham not available morning. Supervisor Volpe asked for Highway Supt. to put it on the sign board out front. And he will ask Julie to put it on the website.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BUDGET MODIFICATION:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Howell seconded by Councilman Cambareri to approve the following budget modification:

Increase Unclass. Rev. D2770 by \$1,298.74 and

Increase Mach. C/E DB5130.4 by \$1,298.74

All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.



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### RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SUPERVISOR'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2014:

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Cambareri seconded by Councilman Howell to approve the Supervisor's report for March 2014 as submitted. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

### MTA TOWER:

Supervisor Volpe informed the board members that in the far left corner of the train station parking lot a tower will be erected. They superseded town and can could pretty much whatever they want to do. As a courtesy they informed us that we will see the tower there. This will also be part of Orange County Emergency Management. This is part of new infrastructure.

### LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR FARMING:

Councilman Howell stated he was approached by Mike Hosking about part of the land at the town park that used to be part of the Bilinski farm. Used to be farmland. Since it has been vacant for a number of years since the town has owned it, Mr. Hosking asked if he could rent or lease it from the town for crop productions so that it doesn't have to be maintained by the town with mowing. It would give character to the property as the 4H moves forward with their project. Councilman Howell spoke with Mr. Bavoso and a licensing agreement would be the best way to handle a rent or lease in this regard. Atty. Bavoso stated this was done in another municipality. It is tough to do a lease on public park land because it tends to indicate exclusive possession of that particular piece. Not to mention that if there is a strict lease then it becomes more difficult to evict someone. A license agreement is a right to be able to use the property but it doesn't require the same structure as leases. There can be different types of triggers as to being able to eject a person from the property if that becomes necessary. It protects the town better than a lease would. Councilman Cambareri stated that he believes this was done before as a gentleman's agreement but this will be the right way to do it. Mrs. Fairweather stated that was leased by Bilinski not by the town. She asked if it had to be put out to bid. Councilman Cambareri stated that is part of the plan. Atty. Bavoso stated that he would be putting together to notice for the paper. Mr. Higby asked what the anticipated revenue is. What's the cost for the legal notice in the paper? Just let him do it. Councilman Cambareri stated it has to be done legally. Mr. Hosking stated he had a lease on that land for 30 years prior to the town buying it. Never had any accidents. Never had any problems. Never been any insurance claims. I carry a 2 million dollar liability policy insurance. It is completely covered. I rent 1,100 acres from Orange County. I cover all their insurance requirements. By me maintaining this field it will be something beside a weed field. Then the town highway department will not have to spend hours, hours & hours bush-hogging fields when they could be working on the town roads. It is a crime the way that and sat for the last 4 years with weed seeds blowing over on the neighboring farm. There was another farmer that hayed the field there and never had to be put out to bid. He had a 5 year lease on that land when the town bought it and he was kinda kicked out. No one from the prior town board had the decency to come and talk to him. They terminated his lease and he received a letter in the mail. No one went to talk to him. The land has grown weeds for 4 years. It would do the town good to have someone there maintaining it rather than having highway department maintain it when they should be working on the roads. Mrs. Fairweather stated another thing to consider is what type of insecticide is used. It would have to be organic. Mr. Hosking stated he uses no insecticides when he plants corn. The only he uses is round-up. Everyone in this room used round-up to kill the weeds on their driveways and sidewalks. He uses one application.

### RESOLUTION TO AUDIT THE CLAIMS:

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Howell seconded by Councilman Ketcham to approve the following bills:

<b>GENERAL A:</b>	<b>#232-255</b>	<b>\$45,650.20</b>
<b>GENERAL B:</b>	<b>#33-35</b>	<b>\$ 8,669.68</b>
<b>HIGHWAY:</b>	<b>#55-59</b>	<b>\$21,867.04</b>
<b>SEWER:</b>	<b>#37-41</b>	<b>\$60,106.66.</b>

All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Dave Cole from T/O Wawayanda spoke re: Thrall library. Mr. Cole gave a copy of the correspondence to Town Clerk. Thrall library will review the new contract. Supervisor Volpe stated they will await their response. There was a letter sent from the T/O Wawayanda and Mount Hope.

Ms. Loeven spoke re: senior trip schedule. The next trip is on 4-29. The trip schedule is posted. The overnight trip is in June. She will speak with Dean about this for parking. Councilwoman Sutherland asked where the trip is this month. Ms. Loeven stated Villa Roma.

Mr. Higby asked re: the school. Supervisor Volpe stated tomorrow at 2:30 he and Dominick are meeting to go over all the buildings. This winter hasn't been too good. Turn around time for engineers he will find out tomorrow.



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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION continued:**

Mr. Vreeland spoke re: checks that were FOI'ed last week. He read all the checks and their amounts. He asked for an explanation. If Bill was re-elected we wouldn't have even known about this. They would have gotten \$80,000 in the 1<sup>st</sup> 8 months than the contract we had with them. They have enough signatures now to have a permissive referendum to rescind this district. He has nothing against the personal – the people. They are good men. It was a crooked back handed way they got in. Atty. Bavoso stated they have to look at the file.

Mr. See stated basically already did what we did on this. It was a nightmare for both sides. Is there enough legitimate people showing up for the fires.

Ken Coppola stated that Councilwoman Sutherland made a false statement (2weeks ago) about Otisville Fire Company being given the opportunity to put in paperwork to get fire protection contract; that we didn't receive anything. She also added that Howells and Mount Hope did. Otisville did not turn in anything indicating that they didn't want to do fire protection. Mr. Coppola stated that on or about July 10 the town of Mount Hope received a copy of the contract from the village. On March 28, 2013, the then clerk/treasurer Janine Beck hand delivered a copy to your clerk, Kathryn Myers, who refused to sign for it. Town Clerk stated she never denied signing anything. She probably just handed to me. She never asked me to sign for it. Mr. Coppola stated that's what you say.

M. Maurizzio spoke about the paper work she has from the comptroller's office. Re: that workers compensation was paid by the Town for the Mount Hope fire company. She asked if this was included in the contract or separate from the contract. Supervisor Volpe stated this is in the contract and that we would be reimbursed for it. She asked if this is legal for the town to provide worker's compensation for a fire company. Atty. Bavoso stated he would look at it and do research. She asked how this will be re-paid and if they have the money to do it, or can their coverage be halted. If it is illegal to pay workers compensation, can it be cut off? She added that NYS Comptroller office did audit and asked if there was any comment made re: worker's comp. payment. Supervisor Volpe stated he hasn't heard anything. She asked if there's been any meetings between village fire dept., Mount Hope fire to come to a resolution. Supervisor Volpe stated a week ago Dominick, Supervisor Volpe, Lou Dodd and Phil Higby met for a discussion. Everything is preliminary. There's no commitments, no deals, no contracts. He felt the conversation went well. He believes on their end that they felt it went well. She asked if the commissioners and the firemen of the so-called district have met. Supervisor Volpe stated it is posted on the calendar outside. She believes they are supposed to be advertised in the paper. Mr. Higby stated they are on the calendar and they meet regularly. Atty. Bavoso stated that regular meetings only need a posting. Newspaper has to be notified if there's a special meeting.

Mr. Gomez spoke re: workers compensation. He asked before Mount Hope Fire company came into existence, the tax was collected and given to the village for fire protection. Supervisor Volpe stated yes. Mr. Gomez asked do the village firefighters have workmens compensation coverage or do they operate without it. Supervisor Volpe stated, there is a contracted price. Every year we contracted with Otisville they said this is what you owe. The village had workmens comp but everything was included in one price. Mr. Gomez asked who paid for it, where did the money come from. The tax payers. The taxpayers right here are still paying for workers compensation but you are talking about being paid in addition to the contract. This is the dispute? If the money came from fire protection money. Supervisor Volpe stated that's irrelevant. The contracted price is the contracted price. Mike Coppola stated the difference is that Mount Hope is private. The village of Otisville is owned by the village of Otisville. Supervisor Volpe added that it clearly states they will reimburse the town in the contract.

Mrs. Prisco stated that 4-25 at 10am the Country Garden Club will be planting a tree in honor of the members in our club at the Veterans Park. There will be refreshments at Village hall after.

M. Maurizzio asked for clarification. Was workmens comp paid over and above what is budgeted. Someone answered yes. She stated that the village presented a fire contract which included their compensation moneys. Someone answered yes. Supervisor Volpe stated that's been beaten to death.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Councilman Ketcham stated he would like to go into executive session for personnel issue.

Supervisor Volpe reported that he will get pricing on the brick for the front of the building. He will get pricing on the stairs at the senior center and the police stairs and handrail. He informed the board that he put up signs at the old school for no trespassing. Tomorrow he and Dominick will be looking at all the town buildings and the barn and will report at next meeting. He spoke about meeting with 2 members of Mount Hope Fire and with Dominick. The meeting was pleasant.

Mr. Maurizzio spoke of the broken windows at the old school. He asked if there is money in budget to replace all the bottom floor windows.

Chief Rickard reminded everyone that the Police awards will be at the next meeting.

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**RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Ketcham seconded by Supervisor Volpe to enter into executive session at 8:40pm to discuss a personnel issue. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

**RESOLUTION TO RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Ketcham seconded by Councilman Howell to reconvene regular session at 9:21PM. THERE WILL BE NO ACTION TAKEN AT THIS SESSION. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

**RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN MEETING:**

**MOTION** offered by Councilman Howell seconded by Councilman Ketcham to adjourn the meeting at 9:21pm. All in favor: Howell, Ketcham, Volpe, Sutherland, Cambareri; carried.

**The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2014 at 7:30pm at Town Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Myers  
Town Clerk