

REGULAR MEETING, TOWN OF MOUNT HOPE, DECEMBER 10, 2012
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The **regular meeting** of the Town Board of the Town of Mount Hope was held at Town Hall on **December 10, 2012** at 7:30pm with the following present: Supervisor William Novak, Councilman Michael Bell, Councilman Gary Ketcham, Councilman Ed Fairweather, Councilwoman Sutherland and Town Clerk Kathleen Myers.

PUBLIC PRESENT: L. Fairweather, D. Loeven, T. Gilmore, D. Hassenmayer – H'way Supt., A. Hassenmayer, Chief Rickard, M. Horzepa, M. Coppola, K. Coppola, W. Melton, B. Rebman, T. Willis, H. Willis, N. Mann, W. Howell, R. Kelson, Attorney - Z. Kelson.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Novak called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **Police report for November 2012**
2. **Contract to renew Geoff Green (old school realtor)**
3. **Planning Board reports Jan-Oct. 2012**
4. **B.A.R. re-appointment request for Wayne Melton**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

POLICE REPORT by Chief Rickard:

Chief Rickard spoke re: PESH inspector calling. The Police dept. was cited for not issuing Hepatitis B shots. This issue will be resolved very quickly. He spoke of the boots bill going through tonight's bills. He stated that the random drug testing is being done as well.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT by Supt. Hassenmayer:

Supt. Hassenmayer spoke re: the dead/compromised trees around town being taken care of. Nelson has been called to take care of the ones that are on the power lines. The guys have been busy cutting the brush and decorating the tree. Councilman Fairweather asked Dean if we will be reimbursed for the tree cutting through FEMA. Supt. Hassenmayer stated yes.

VILLAGE OF OTISVILLE by Trustee Melton:

Trustee Melton asked the town board (on a request by one of the village board members) that once the town board decides on the fire contract to please let them know. Trustee Melton added that the fire company party will be Friday night at 7pm. He apologized for no invites but the town board members are invited to come. Supervisor Novak added that we already have fire protection district and the concern as a board is that the town has the best coverage possible.

HIDDEN VALLEY by Supervisor Novak:

Supervisor Novak reported the mixer is enroute. He is trying to get some upgrades through FEMA but is not sure if they will get approved.

PLANNING BOARD by Mr. Gilmore:

Mr. Gilmore reported there are 3 on the agenda for the meeting. One of the applicants is for someone who bought the YMCA and wants to run a camp. He stated that rules have to be created for this. He recommended they go to the building department first and get denied then go to ZBA. Attorney Kelson stated that we need to be careful not to do any spot zoning.

RESOLUTION TO ALLOW PLANNING BOARD, ENGINEER AND ATTORNEY TO AMEND THE ZONING FOR CAMPGROUNDS TO INCLUDE CAMPS:

MOTION by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilwoman Sutherland to authorize the planning board, the planning board engineer and attorney to draft amendments to the zoning law section on campgrounds to include camps. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

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DISCUSSION ON AMENDING THE ZONING FOR CAMPGROUNDS TO INCLUDE CAMPS:

At this time, Councilman Fairweather asked about it being taxable. Mr. Gilmore stated he's not really sure. It would be up to the Assessor. Councilman Fairweather stated that we need to exercise caution. Mr. Kelson added that we need to be sure this project would be desirable for this area and spoke re: if it would be seasonal. Mr. Gilmore spoke re: whether or not we want to put restrictions on this or not.

RESOLUTION TO RE-APPOINT WAYNE MELTON TO BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW:

MOTION by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilman Bell to re-appoint Wayne Melton to the Board of Assessment Review from 10-1-2012 through 9-30-17. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

AUDIT OF RECEIPT BOOKS:

Supervisor Novak asked for 2 volunteers to audit the receipt books. Mike and Ed have done it the past. They agreed to do it again and will come up with a date and let Kathleen know so she can send out letters to department heads.

HIGHWAY EMERGENCY FUEL DELIVERY TO SEWER PLANT:

Supervisor Novak stated that during the hurricane the sewer plant needed fuel and was unable to get any due to the gas shortage. The highway department made an emergency delivery to the plant and now needs to be reimbursed. There needs to be a resolution to do this.

RESOLUTION TO REIMBURSE HIGHWAY:

MOTION by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilman Bell to approve the transfer from the sewer account to highway account and fuel account to cover overtime for highway employees and emergency fuel delivery to the sewer plant due to Hurricane Sandy. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT HOURS CHANGE:

Supervisor Novak stated that the building department notified the town board that they will be holding morning hours from December through March instead of evening hours. After brief discussion, the board agreed to discuss further in executive session.

LIBRARY:

Supervisor Novak stated that he received a call from Mr. Hubsher about the library contract who wanted to know if we would be interested in putting the contract up for a referendum. Middletown has petitioned the state. If more than 5% of the residents use it from outside the district, they can put restrictions on use.

NEW PHONE SYSTEMS:

Supervisor Novak stated that the new phone systems were installed and seem to be running well. Town Hall, police, court and highway all received new phones as the old system was outdated and could no longer get parts for any of the broken ones.

RESOLUTION TO SURPLUS THE OLD PHONES:

MOTION by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilwoman Sutherland to surplus the old phones and have Dean put them out to bid on the auction site on the internet. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

Chief Rickard added that Frontier Ph. Co. will donate 50 new phones for the seniors in Devan's Gate to use in power outage situations as long as they have Frontier as their service provider.

HAULING SETTLEMENT CONTRACT WITH WASTE CONNECTIONS:

Supervisor Novak spoke re: the residents of Mount Hope whom currently contract with Waste Connections being overcharged. Supervisor Novak and Attorney Kelson met with the new owner Mr. Hee, with regard to residents being over charged (\$67,000.00). Per Mr. Kelson, the agreement will go back 3 years.

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RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE TOWN ATTORNEY TO WRITE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH WASTE CONNECTIONS:

MOTION by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilman Ketcham to authorize the Town Attorney to execute a one page settlement agreement with Waste Connections to refund residents that were overcharged for hauling fees. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES WITH ORANGE COUNTY:

Supervisor Novak stated that a payroll certification is coming up. They have been going over in payroll. The police and highway departments must get in compliance with this. Letters will go out to department heads.

RESOLUTION TO AUDIT THE CLAIMS:

MOTION by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilman Bell to approve the following bills:

GENERAL A:	#674-714	\$ 55,849.06
GENERAL B:	#124-129	\$ 3,994.46
HIGHWAY:	#185-192	\$ 28,199.62
SEWER:	#123-127	\$ 3,090.36.

All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

T. Gilmore spoke re: fire protection district.

M. Coppola spoke re: fire district.

Mr. Kelson asked to not get into fire district discussion with regard to equity.

D. Loeven spoke re: fire district.

D. Loeven spoke re: Hometown Helpers still needing volunteers, poinsettias being delivered to the seniors and she will become president of the senior's club in Mount Hope effective Jan. 1st.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Supervisor Novak thanked the Highway department guys for putting the lights on the tree. It looks great. He also thanked Janet, Amy and Kathleen.

Supervisor Novak spoke re: fire district. He said from the beginning he wanted to do what the people in the district would want. He stated the law says you can't have a straw pole. Mr. Gilmore stated that there are only 2 town board members in the proposed fire district.

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilwoman Sutherland to enter into executive session at 8:15pm to discuss contract negotiations and a particular personnel issue. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

RESOLUTION TO RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION by Councilman Fairweather seconded by Councilman Bell to reconvene regular session from executive session at 9:07pm. **NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AT THIS EXECUTIVE SESSION.** All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

Supervisor Novak stated that the building department will receive a letter from the Town Board regarding their office hours. They need to have office hours at least one night a week whether in addition to daytime hours or not.

RESOLUTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Councilman Bell seconded by Councilman Fairweather to adjourn the meeting at 9:11pm. All in favor – Bell, Ketcham, Novak, Sutherland, Fairweather. Carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 27, 2012 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted – Kathleen A. Myers, Town Clerk