

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on February 8, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Tyler at 7:00 p.m.

The Assembly was led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present on a roll call were:

Councilperson Page
Councilperson Paquette
Councilperson Viens
Councilperson Morrison
Supervisor Tyler

Others present:

George Hainer, Zoning & Codes Officer
Ed Mason, Youth Commission Director
Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk
Dennie Westover, DPW Superintendent
Gerald Goulet, Jim Bullard, James Herrmann

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUTH COMMISSION – Ed Mason spoke briefly about the success of the ongoing dance, basketball, and ski programs. The dance and gymnastics program will open the April 1st talent show, there will be a final Bidy Basketball tournament on February 27th, and the ski program has three trips remaining this season. Ed also talked about the upcoming Bidy Baseball season and mentioned that the Youth Commission Board has been discussing the summer program. He will be attending the next Youth Board/Planning Committee Meeting on March 7th.

TOWN HALL PROJECT – There was a meeting last Friday with Stacey from OPRHP and Andrea from VIA. Supervisor Tyler stated that the inside of the building must also adhere to historical property guidelines. He mentioned the relocating issue; employees will not be able to work in the building during construction. Councilperson Page stated that the grant administrators seem flexible as long as the existing elements are being improved and they are looking favorably at the project.

OLD BUSINESS

WADHAMS SEWER PROJECT – There was a station tour last week with the DEC where it was learned that the project will only cover one of the issues. Supervisor Tyler will have Mike Mascarenas begin searching for Engineering Planning Grants for the others.

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ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS – Supervisor Tyler stated that Westport’s 2016 elections will be held at Westport Central School. Wadhams will keep United Church of Christ as their polling place.

WADHAMS PATH PROJECT – The project is waiting for a return call from the lawyer regarding the part of the path that will be on town land (the rest will be on cemetery land). Supervisor Tyler said that the path will be put in by volunteers and Councilperson Page said that they are hoping the town will maintain it.

ELIZABETH FRUM SEWER BILL – George Hainer submitted a letter of determination for Elizabeth Frum’s home at 7 Congress Street. He stated that the house is non-habitable and the Certificate of Occupancy must be discontinued.

RESOLUTION #48
WATER/SEWER BILL ADJUSTMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to remove the sewer charge from Water/Sewer Account 395.

SNOWMOBILE ROADS – According to Parks, recreation and historic preservation law, Title D, Article 25, “The governing body of a county, town, city or village shall designate those highways or portions thereof which are so customarily unplowed.” Supervisor Tyler stated that “shall means must,” so the town is obligated to designate unplowed roads as snowmobile roads. Councilperson Page questioned the ramifications if this is voted down. She said that she isn’t comfortable voting until it’s understood *why* these roads are designated, since snowmobiles can legally use all roads.

RESOLUTION #49
SNOWMOBILE ROAD DESIGNATION

On a motion by Councilperson Morrison, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote.

3 Ayes Viens, Morrison, Tyler
2 Nays Page, Paquette

RESOLVED to establish the Mountain Spring Road and the McMahon Road as snowmobile roads.

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NEW BUSINESS

MOUNTAIN LAKE SERVICES LETTER – A letter was sent to MLS requesting their annual payment in lieu of taxes.

RESOLUTION #50
SURPLUS

On a motion by Councilperson Viens, seconded by Councilperson Page, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to declare the Kenmore #125 and upright fan #57 surplus.

WATER/SEWER POLICIES – Copies of the policies and procedures for water/sewer billing were given to council members to look over. Supervisor Tyler stated that he would like to see an O&M (Operations & Maintenance) charge on sewer units, and would simultaneously lower the water charge so that owners wouldn't see much change in their overall bill amount. This change would add funds to the sewer reserve, which has significantly lower funds than the water reserve.

LETTER TO CHARLI LEWIS – A letter will be sent to Charli Lewis asking to set up the Sewer District 1 tax levy as a bond for Capital Improvements. This will add approximately \$2,000/yr to the reserve fund.

APA LOCAL GOVERNMENT DAY CONFERENCE – The Conference will be held on April 13 and 14 in Lake Placid.

RESOLUTION #51
SICK LEAVE

On a motion by Councilperson Viens, seconded by Councilperson Morrison, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED that the number of unused sick days which an employee may accumulate will be 225 days. Employees shall be entitled to count 165 days accumulated but unused sick leave as time worked for the purpose of retirement and Section 41j of the New York State Retirement System shall apply.

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RESOLUTION #52
RAGNAR RELAY

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Paquette, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to grant permission to Ragnar Relay Adirondacks to conduct a relay race through Westport from September 23-24, 2016.

RESOLUTION #53
COUNTY CONTRACTS

On a motion by Councilperson Viens, seconded by Councilperson Morrison, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize Supervisor Tyler to sign the Control of Snow and Ice on Country Roads Contract and the Maintenance of County Roads Contract.

RESOLUTION #54
BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR JUSTICE COURT GRANT

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to amend Revenue Account 3089.01.72 JCAP Grant to \$750 and amend Appropriation Account 1110.4.73 JCAP Grant to \$750.00

RESOLUTION #55
APPROVAL OF BILLS

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette, seconded by Councilperson Page, and approved on a roll call vote.

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5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the payment of bills on Abstract 2A in the amount of \$26,030.44 for Vouchers 2016-79 through 2016-108.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dennie received a memorandum from Dawn St. Louis stating that the Westport sewer plant will require internet access by 2017. Fred Buck, former county DPW Superintendent, will meet with Supervisor Tyler on Friday to discuss the possibility of obtaining funds for the new DPW building. Planning for the purchase of a new Water/Sewer truck will be put on hold. The current truck will be used for as long as possible. John Crandall and Dawn St. Louis were unable to attend the previously approved training seminar because the class had already filled.

RESOLUTION #56
NEIWPCC TRAINING COURSE

On a motion by Councilperson Viens, seconded by Councilperson Page, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize Dawn St. Louis to attend a Proper Sampling for Process & Reporting course on March 1st in Fort Edward.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Jim Bullard asked about progress of the DPW/Fire building and what would happen if the current buildings were condemned or caused someone injury. Supervisor Tyler responded that work wouldn't be allowed to continue if the environment was deemed unsafe.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS – One of the speed signs coming into town was malfunctioning. Councilperson Paquette called the factory representative and sign has been rebooted and is now working.

On February 24th at 10:30 Supervisor Tyler and Councilperson Paquette will audit the court books.

Coffee with the Supervisor will be held the last Friday of every month at 9 a.m. Supervisor Tyler will meet with Sam Zhou from the DOT soon to discuss paving Main Street.

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TOWN CLERK REPORTS – The Supervisor is in receipt of the town clerk’s December 2015 and January 2016 reports.

RESOLUTION #57
MINUTES JANUARY 26, 2016

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the January 26, 2016 Regular Town Board Meeting as received.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ed Mason thanked George Hainer for providing him with the year-end information needed to close the Youth Commission books for 2015. Ed also thanked the council members who serve as liaisons between the Town Board and the Youth Commission Board.

RESOLUTION #58
ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette, with a unanimous second, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk