

TOWN OF PHELPS REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Norman Teed
Councilman Carl Beechler
Councilwoman Doris Day
Councilman John Dole
Councilman James Mattoon
Town Clerk Linda Nieskes
Highway Superintendent Terry Featherly

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: See listing in minutes book.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Supervisor Teed led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Teed called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING 2009 FIRE CONTRACTS: Supervisor Teed called the Public Hearing on the 2009 Fire Contracts to order at 7:02 PM. He asked the Clerk to read the Public Notice that appeared in the Town's official newspaper, the Finger Lakes Times. He asked if anyone wished to address the Board regarding the 2009 Town of Phelps Budget.

ROBERT OAKS, 2136 CARTER ROAD, GENEVA: Mr. Oaks said he thought there should be some accounting of the money from the fire departments. Councilman Dole, who is also a member of the Phelps Fire Department, said the Phelps and Clifton Springs Fire Departments both submit budgets to their respective Villages. He said the only one that could possibly provide an accounting to the Town would be Oaks Corners.

Supervisor Teed asked twice if anyone else wished to address the Board regarding the Budget. There were no further comments. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:05 PM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

APPROVE THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2008: Supervisor Teed asked for a Resolution to approve the November 10, 2008 Town Board Meeting Minutes. Councilman Mattoon offered the following Resolution. RESOLVED that, the Regular Town Board Meeting minutes for November 10, 2008 be approved as written. The Resolution was seconded by Councilman Dole, who moved the adoption. 5 AYES. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION: Adopt Fire Contracts for 2009 (see attached).

RESOLUTION: Renew Ambulance Agreement for 2009 (see attached).

RESOLUTION: Appoint Town Auditor for 2009 (see attached).

RESOLUTION: Approve Endorsement and Commitment to Library Innovation Grant (see attached).

RESOLUTION: Transfer of Money (see attached).

HIGHWAY: Highway Superintendent Featherly gave his report for the month of November 2008 (see attached).

Superintendent Featherly said he would have to place an order for salt in the very near future depending on how the weather continues. He said he will also have to order more fuel.

He said there is about \$16,000.00 left in account DB5130.4. He said he would like to replace some of the hydraulic jacks because they are getting old. He said he would also like to purchase another plate tamper for about \$4,500.00. He said he does not know where we stand with the roller that is out for repair. He said he will probably pick up some carbides and some plow parts to have them on hand. Supervisor Teed asked Superintendent Featherly how his tire situation was. Superintendent Featherly said really good.

Superintendent Featherly said on his Highway Agreement that was just signed for 2009, one of the pieces of equipment he was interested in was a 550 Ford Cab and Chassis. He said they do not have State bids this year. He said he would have to go to Vestal, NY to get a 5500 Series Truck with 4-wheel drive, which is just slightly bigger than the 550. He said another municipality had ordered the truck and then backed out of the deal. He said it is automatic, 4-wheel drive, actually set up the way he would have done it. He said it is probably about \$6,000 less than what the 550 would have been. He said they want to take the box that was powder coated and put it on this truck. Supervisor Teed asked if the truck has any plow equipment. Superintendent Featherly said he has to get some pricing on that. Supervisor Teed asked if the truck was plummed for a plow. Superintendent Featherly said he did not think so. Supervisor Teed said his only question would be the PTO pump. He asked Superintendent Featherly if Ford had that size truck on State bid. Superintendent Featherly said no. Supervisor Teed asked Superintendent Featherly if he was sure our box would fit on this truck. Superintendent Featherly said he still needs to talk to Tenco. Supervisor Teed asked Superintendent Featherly to get the information and bring it to our December 29th Year-End Meeting.

ZONING REPORT: The Zoning Report for the month of November 2008 is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

MONTHLY REPORT: The Town Clerk's November 2008 report was reviewed by the Board Members for their approval.

DISCUSSION WITH THE ENGINEER: A) Councilman Beechler asked if there was anything new with our former Town Engineer.

SUPERVISOR: Supervisor Teed said our attorney notified us that she wants to proceed with the Notice of Claim; but it is hanging up in the air and she said it does not look good. Supervisor Teed said Mr. Russell has no assets; but we have also filed suit against his wife. He said this way it locks up everything so if there is a claim we would have access to it.

OPEN FORUM:

Supervisor Teed asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

ROBERT OAKS, 2136 CARTER ROAD, GENEVA: Mr. Oaks asked Mr. Dole how the ambulance is working. Mr. Dole said financially it is working well. He said staff-wise we have missed a few calls. He said weekends are tough for the volunteers. He said it is stable. He said there have been some staffing issues with OCALS that are going to be addressed. He said at this point it has not affected our responses but it is just a matter of time. Mr. Oaks asked about money collections. Mr. Dole said he believed the last report from our billing agency showed we are realizing about 85% of our billings. He said there is always going to be a certain amount of write-offs. He said some of the other billing companies can only tout about 65%, so we are doing fairly well. He said the Ambulance Corp. has also signed a contract with Blue Cross and Blue Shield. He said that will take affect in January 2009. He said at this time if a BC/BS patient rides in our ambulance, we submit a bill to BC/BS and they cut a check that goes to the patient. He said to some people that is a source of confusion because they think the money is theirs and they do not give it to the Ambulance Corp. He said the Ambulance Corp. has to pursue the payment and it costs them more money to do that. He said by signing the contract, for a reduced rate, we are assured of the money being deposited into our account; thereby eliminating the middleman and we should break even on that. Mr. Dole said there is an ambulance at the firehouse tonight that we are looking at to replace our old one. He said they have submitted for a grant through Senator Nozzolio and if that grant comes through we are looking at upgrading our service from a Basic Life Support to an Advanced Life Support within 2009. Supervisor Teed asked if the Ambulance Corp. bills the people directly. Mr. Dole said because we are contracted with the Town, if you are a Town resident, we do not go for a co-pay from them. He said if they are an out-of-town resident, they are responsible for their co-pay. He said if they have insurance, their insurance company is billed; if they do not have insurance, they are billed and have to work out a payment plan with our billing company. He said after some time passes and they get no payment and the patient can prove a hardship, the billing agency will ask us what we want to do. He said we usually say forget it.

NEXT TOWN
BOARD MEETING:

Supervisor Teed announced that the next Town Board Meeting will be Monday, December 29, 2008, at 11:00 AM at the Phelps Town Hall, 79 Main Street, Phelps. This meeting will be our year-end meeting. Supervisor Teed invited the Town Board to dinner after the meeting. Our next Regular Town Board Meeting will be held on Monday, January 12, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Phelps Town Court/Meeting Facility. This meeting will be our Regular and Yearly Organizational Meeting.

Councilman Dole said he would like to say one thing. He said he wanted to thank Superintendent Featherly and Greg Phillips for coming out to sand a week ago during a fire on Wheat Road.

BILLS:

Councilman Mattoon offered the following Resolution. RESOLVED that the following bills:

GENERAL "A" - #388 - #426 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$63,607.25,
GENERAL "B" - #88 - #95 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,584.64,
HIGHWAY "DB" - #212 - #235 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$267,645.49,
SEWER DISTRICT - #39 - #41 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,149.97,
RT. 96/488 WATER DISTRICT - #57 - #62 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,078.21,
ORLEANS WATER DISTRICT - #51 - #55 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,894.10,
SPAFFORD RD. WATER DISTRICT - #39 - #40 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12.34,
MELVIN HILL WATER DISTRICT - #46 - #48 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$101.17,
TRUST AND AGENCY - #29 - #30 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,774.23

be paid. The Resolution was seconded by Councilwoman Day, who moved its adoption. Councilman Beechler asked that Voucher # 90 in the General B bills be pulled and not paid until we receive the report on the commodities charge from MRB. All the other bills are to be paid. Councilwoman Day asked that the bills from Brad Jacobs that were billed to the Village of Phelps be changed to read the Town of Phelps. The Board agreed. 5 AYES. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Mattoon offered the following Resolution. RESOLVED that, the meeting be adjourned. The Resolution was seconded by Councilman Dole, who moved its adoption. 5 AYES. Motion carried.

TIME:

7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda B. Nieskes
Town Clerk