Regular Meeting

June 8, 2022

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PRESENT: Mark Peets, Supervisor

Gerald St. Hilaire, Councilman

Derek Bellinger, Councilman

Jodi White, Councilwoman

Christopher Rose, Councilman

Larry Hewlett, Highway Superintendent

ALSO PRESENT: Florence Patterson, Carl Patterson, Bob Forbes, Terri Rios Passon

RECORDING SECRETARY: Bethany St. Hilaire, Town Clerk

All stood and said Pledge of Allegiance

CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Supervisor Peets called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. A motion was made by G. St. Hilaire seconded by C. Rose to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2022 regular meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Privilege of the Floor- Florence Patterson asked if they spoke with the Amish regarding the horses going to the bathroom on the roads. M. Peets states we can’t do anything about it. The state didn’t back us and we couldn’t go forward with it. We all agree it is a problem but nothing we can do at this time.

The other thing she is asking if the native American people buying the land, is that anywhere near me? M. Peets states it is with the land claims but has not been settled it won’t be any buying it will be an agreement. M. Peets explains that he has been making some movement on that situation with our concerns and he has a meeting coming soon. Mr. Peets said there is a map, he is not sure if it is near her property but we can look and see when it comes time.

Florence next asked when we do the car show, can our organization set up at a table? M. Peets stated absolutely.

REPORTS:

Highway Superintendent- L. Hewlett submitted his written report for May 2022; a copy is attached to original of these minutes. Larry asked, remember when we went to look at river bank and we wanted to cut some trees down and property owners don’t want the tree to come down. We have approximately 1500 feet of river bank to do but we will be lucky if we get 300 feet done. L. Hewlett did note he got some quotes from Haggett and Seaway that he gave copies of to the board members. He states there is a difference between Seaway and Haggett money wise and but Seaway will use big stone and his rock is a little better and larger. Larry said he knows it is a bit more expensive but the rock is better but it is up to the board to decide.

D. Bellinger asked if Seaway had bigger excavators, Larry stated yes. Larry didn’t tell the companies how much he wanted to spend, when we are out of money we will stop. It may take us 4-5 years to complete this project due to the cost of everything involved. He notes we can’t pave the road until the banks are stabilized. The property owners will be pleased if we leave most of the trees, some will have to be sacrificed. DEC is worried about the river but once we declare the emergency, we are able to take care of it. G. St. Hilaire asked if there will be fines? Larry said no, as long as we declare the emergency.

A motion on floor by D. Bellinger, seconded by Jodi White to discuss this matter. All in favor, motion carried.

M. Peets notes so we have 2 quotes, one from Haggett, one from Seaway Timber and we have listened to Larry and his advice. D. Bellinger states he would go with Seaway. Jerry asked if we declare emergency, we don’t have to bid it out? M. Peets said that was correct. He also states if we declare an emergency, we want to make sure it is done properly so we don’t have to go back to redo and declare an emergency again. $100,000 is what we are looking to spend in CHIPS money Larry explained. Larry notes he needs to know if you are ok with some over budget amount but hopefully, we won’t have to go over it. C. Rose asked where we are starting this project? Larry said the place where the trees dropped down the bank that he showed us on Maple Ridge Road and is hoping to get 300 feet done this summer.

C. Rose asked if it falls in after 3 months will they come and fix it or is on us? Larry notes it is not guaranteed. There will be some push back from the bank. Larry notes there is no guarantee with any of this work.

A motion was made by D. Bellinger, seconded by J. White to go with Seaway Timber quote for the river bank work. All in favor, motion carried.

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Larry also notes he also got quotes from Granite, Stadium and Mack for Truck prices, Milton, John Deere, CAT for excavator prices and one from Tenco. Only one from Tenco it is the body for the truck and the equipment and that is where all are parts are from, best value for the Town. M. Peets states we don’t have to do this tonight but by fall we should so it can be ordered.

L. Hewlett notes the Granite is $150,000 is just cab, chassis, and frame then goes to Tenco for body. It would be about $260,000-$270,000 depending on which way we went. International would be one year earlier than Mack.

Mack we would want the Allison transmission, so will be $15,000 more for that transmission with Mack but is included in the price already. Stadium has a better deal with Allison for their own transmissions. We won’t get this for a bit they will start in 2023 to order.

Excavators would be a year from time we ordered it.

D. Bellinger asked what the guy’s preference would be. The guys are split on what they like. Apples to apples they are close. Mack frame is bigger. Stadium doesn’t ride as smooth. C. Rose asked how soon we need the trunk? L. Hewlett states we are due to get a truck 2024 but we need to at least order or will take longer. Stadium would be here year earlier. J. St. Hilaire asked do we pay when we order? L. Hewlett states no when all done but we will look into grants to help pay. Larry also told them they put a clause in if the price goes up, we don’t have to take truck if too much. Hopefully we can get excavator like Stockholm with the grant as well. The CAT has a high flow pump and the other doesn’t. But the John Deere will run it just fine. For the price I would go with John Deere and there is a bucket to attach to it for ditching but both apples to apples again with the specs.

Assessor- Leon Shorette has submitted his written report for May 2022; a copy is attached to original of these minutes. Grievance was pretty calm night compared to last year. NYS put out a report and we only had 3 discrepancies that he will look into and check in the roll book.

Code Enforcement- Bob Forbes has submitted his written report dated 06/08/2022; a copy is attached to original of these minutes. Recently we had a complaint of chickens in Town of Brasher and another noise complaint in Helena with loud music.

Tomorrow morning, we are going to meet with Town guys to clean up that property in Brasher Center. Property owner is ok with that.

The dispensary that was up on 37C is a problem. M. Peets took pictures and talked with the county and we can tell them to shut it down because we have a law written up. Down the road we need to get a committee going to see if we plan to opt in and the parameters. At the time we should have a board member on that committee.

Bob Forbes asked what the recourse is if they do open a dispensary. M. Peets states we would have to get NYS troopers involved and do a cease-and-desist order. M. Peets notes he already spoke with the judges on it as well. Mr. Forbes asked if they thought that area was in land claim maybe that is why they feel they can move forward with this? M. Peets states we don’t have an agreement yet on the land claim. The county attorney said we do need to enforce our codes to keep order.

Town Clerk- submitted his written report for May 2022; a copy is attached to original of these minutes. No questions for her at this time.

Economic Development- Summer Festival is looking for Parade Marshalls again. She is also looking to put Town officials in Jeeps in the parade as it is Jungle themed. We need to submit this before July 1st.

Verizon sent a letter that they will cancel the lease as they can’t put up a tower in our area. They tried several locations with no luck due to FAA building.

NEW BUSINESS-

Resolution #21-2022- Budget Amendment in the 2021 Town of Brasher budget

Whereas**,** the Town of Brasher needs to increase budget in fiscal year 2022 from fiscal year 2021 as noted below due to increased revenue.

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Whereas, the Town of Brasher needs to amend the budget in fiscal year 2022 to cover necessary appropriations through June 8, 2022 due to unforeseen expenditures.

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Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Brasher Town Board hereby authorizes budget line-item transfers in the amounts listed below for the fiscal year 2022. The following appropriations need to be increased by the following amounts from excess revenues and or unexpended fund balances to cover associated expenses:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Amount $:** | **Transfer From:** | **Transfer To:** |
| $1,869.07 | A1620.4 Building CE | A3510.4 Dog control |
|  | Budget Increase 2022 |  |
| $10,917 | General Fund (Grant) | A1410.4 Town Clerk CE |
|  | Budget Increase From 2021-2022 |  |
| $13,647 | General Fund- (Grant) | A 1410.4 Town Clerk CE |

The reason we need to increase the budget is we had to pay the Potsdam Humane society out of Dog control for their contract & Grant for records management is almost complete and we need to get that paid.

A motion was made by C. Rose seconded by D. Bellinger to approve this resolution. All in favor, motion carried.

Tri-Town Volunteer Rescue Financial Request- They sent a written request for some funding because their furnace is getting weak. Talked with Clark in Stockholm and would be great thing for ARPA money. He was going to reach out to Lawrence and Hopkinton to see if we could split this by 4. M. Peets states once we find out what it costs, and we get the ARPA money, sounds like a good plan to assist them with this. M. Peets states they also asked if anyone from Town of Brasher wanted to be on their director’s board. C. Rose put on an email who to approach, Barb just retired and maybe she is bored. Chris will let us know if she is interested and we can give them that name.

AUD- Yearly audit complete and submitted, no problems noted so far.

APPROVAL OF CURRENT BILLS

The Town Board auditing committee has audited the following bills as presented for payment for June 8, 2022.

A motion was made by G. St. Hilaire, seconded by C. Rose to pay bills as presented by the Town Clerk and audited by the Town Board Auditing Committee. All in favor, motion carried.

D. Bellinger asked if Summer Festival ever offered any suggestions for a marshal? M. Peets notes they have always left it up to the Towns.

M. Peets wanted a moment of silence for Derek Lalonde’s mother Donna as she passed away this week, she was a great lady. This was observed.

A motion was made to go into executive session at 5:20 for personnel reasons by G. St. Hilaire, seconded by J. White. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT- A motion was made by C. Rose, seconded by G. St. Hilaire to come out of executive session and to adjourn the meeting at 5:38P.M. All in favor, motion carried. The next regular meeting of the Brasher Town Board will be held at the Municipal building in Brasher Falls, NY at 4:30 P.M. on Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bethany St. Hilaire, Town Clerk