

MARCH 22, 2017

The second monthly meeting of the Ellington Town Board was held on March 22, 2017 at 7:00p.m. at the Ellington Town Hall, 813 W. Main Street, Ellington, N.Y.

PRESENT: Laura M. Cronk, Supervisor
Jeffrey L. Chase, Councilman
Barbara Beightol, Councilwoman
Kelly Rhinehart, Councilman
Dennis Colvenback, Highway Superintendent
Karen G. Bifaro, Town Clerk/Recording Secretary
William Duncanson, Attorney
Sandy Colvenback, resident

ABSENT: Tamara Miles, Councilwoman

Supervisor opened the meeting at 7:00p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

No one was present for public participation so that part of the meeting was closed.

Old Business

Town Board members were asked to look over the class schedule for the Southern Tier West Local Government Conference. Reservations need to be in by May 3rd.

Councilman Rhinehart informed the Town Board he had looked over the Park to see how much blacktop to remove. Everyone waiting for better weather to get started on Park project.

A couple of the monthly reports were missed at the last meeting:

Motion made by Beightol, seconded by Chase to accept the Building Code Officer's monthly report as submitted.

VOTE: Chase-aye, Beightol-aye, Rhinehart-aye, Cronk-aye Carried.

Motion made by Rhinehart, seconded by Beightol to accept the Town Justice monthly report as submitted.

VOTE: Chase-aye, Beightol-aye, Rhinehart-aye, Cronk-aye Carried.

Abbey Hill Extension was discussed amongst the Town Board and the Attorney at great length. Attorney noted that the Abbey Hill Ext., according to minutes of 2004, was abandoned at that time as the road had not been used for 7 years prior to that. A Certificate of Abandonment was not found for that time period. The Attorney told the Town Board that the only issue before them was to re-open the road, as it has already been abandoned in 2004.

Councilman Rhinehart brought a chart showing the population of cities dropping county wide but increasing in rural areas. Councilman Chase noted that the chart shows a small increase by 7 Towns in the last 10 years. He also noted that there is a lot of open property in the Town that can be purchased for building lots if needed. He also noted that rural school districts are declining in population. Councilwoman Beightol commented that she did not feel with our tax base that we could afford to spend the money or time to start from scratch to build a new road. Some taxpayers have told her that they do not want their taxes spent on making that a road again when it hasn't been used in many year.

Motion made by Beightol, seconded by Chase to have Attorney help draw up a letter to landowners informing them the road was abandoned in 2004 and also a Public Hearing notice.

VOTE: Chase-aye, Beightol-aye, Rhinehart-aye, Cronk-aye Carried.

It was decided to have a Public Hearing set for Wednesday, April 26th at 7:00p.m. to inform the public that the road had been abandoned in 2004 and the filing of a Certificate of Abandonment.

Supervisor informed the Board that the Amish slaughterhouse in the Town of Poland is up for sale. This slaughterhouse has caused much controversy with the public and Town officials. Supervisor also received a phone call informing her that someone is looking for wetlands to purchase.

Supervisor asked Councilman Rhinehart if he had spoken with Dave Spann about the problem in the creek by Milo Elliott's property. He said no permit is required but a trench needs to be built for the water to flow while working in the creek.

New Business

Last year for Arbor Day, we received funding for planting of trees and had a nice program. This year we have no funding but would like to do a project around Arbor Day, April 29th. Caretaker will be asked for ideas and his help. Also talk to Jennifer Swanson about landscaping.

Audit & Payment of Claims

At this time the Town Board reviewed the bills as submitted:

General Fund Claim Nos:	#69 - #80	\$33,411.53
Highway Fund Claim Nos:	#39 - #45	2,798.04
Trust & Agency Fund Claim Nos:	#10 - #13	<u>1,511.36</u>
ABSTRACT NO. 6	TOTAL	\$37,753.93

Motion made by Rhinehart, seconded by Chase to pay the bills as submitted.

VOTE: Chase-aye, Beightol-aye, Rhinehart-aye, Cronk-aye Carried.

Supervisor received the following checks for deposit:

03/13/2017	\$325.00	Town Justice February court fees
03/14/2017	\$44,070.	Sale of 2005 International truck (in Hwy Acct.)

Minutes of March 8th were discussed and it was asked to add discussion made on Abbey Hill Rd Ext. before adjournment. It will be asked to amend minutes.

Highway Superintendent Report

Highway Dept was busy cleaning up downed trees from the March 8th storm. The "break wall" at the intersection end of Waterman Road needed to be reset and fixed. Have had overtime plowing recently. Hauling in sand in limited amounts at this time. The chopper is back on the excavator to chop the sides of the road. Repairs made where water has washed out sluice on North Hill Road by Bentley Hill Road. Needed to call property owner (R.Guelli, Sealand Waste), on 28 Creek Road as old fencing needed to be removed as it was obstructing area that needed to be cut.

Motion made by Rhinehart, seconded by Beightol to accept the Hwy. Supt. report as submitted.
VOTE: Chase-aye, Beightol-aye, Rhinehart-aye, Cronk-aye Carried.

Supervisor told the Town Board that the Town of Poland is okay with Ellington joining them for recreation, for Easter egg hunt, summer recreation, Christmas, etc. Summer recreation program in Town of Poland is held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 12noon. They will accept a donation from the Town.

Motion made by Rhinehart to adjourn meeting at 8:05p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen G. Bifaro
Town Clerk/Recd Secy.