

April 15, 2014

The regular Town Board meeting of the Town of Stony Creek was held on April 15, 2014.

Supervisor Frank Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. with members present:

Councilman Nathan Thomas

Councilwoman Doreen Ryan

Councilman John Thomas

Councilman Carl Thomas

Attorney James Cooper

March 18, 2014 minutes: Corrections

Page 152 Councilman Carl Thomas stated actually we have been doing that, we can have special neighborhoods, which we have done in the Harrisburg Lake area and he thinks when you look at sale prices and look at these values like Assessor LaGrasse says.

A motion was made by Councilman John Thomas seconded by Councilwoman Ryan to accept the March 18, 2014 minutes with this correction. All in favor, motion carried.

067-14. A resolution was made by Councilman Carl Thomas seconded by Councilwoman Ryan to pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$6,307.68. Roll call vote, all in favor

068-14. A resolution was made by Councilwoman Ryan seconded by Councilman Nathan Thomas to pay the Highway Fund bills in the amount of \$20,993.08. Roll call vote, all in favor.

Town Clerk report:

Conservation License:	<u>\$ 1.38</u>
Total Town Clerk fees	1.38
Dog licenses	<u>20.00</u>
Total Town Revenues to Supervisor	\$21.38
NYS Ag and Markets	4.00
NYS Environmental Conservation	<u>23.62</u>
Total disbursed	\$49.00

Correspondence:

Lisa Bartow-permission to use the town hall Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 9AM-5PM for a Watercolor Painting Workshop.

Peter LaGrasse, Chairman Board of Assessors-permission to purchase a new computer for the Assessor's Office; the computer will be purchased under the State Contract in the amount of \$600.00 plus \$150.00 for Chris LaFountain of Warren County Information Technology Dept for installation fee.

James Cooper letter to Cheyenne Moses regarding the position of Youth Director.

William J. Varney American Legion Post 862-hosting the Patriotic Organizations who wish to participate in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday May 26, 2014 at 11:00 AM.

Stony Creek Mountain Days-requesting \$8900.00 in bed tax funds in support of the annual Stony Creek Mountain Days festival.

Brandon Thomas-Applying for the Assessor position.

John C. Durham-Applying for the Assessor position.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ryan seconded by Councilman Carl Thomas authorizing the Stony Creek Library to use the town hall May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 9-5 for a watercolor Painting Workshop. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Ryan stated she attended the felting class and it was a good class and a lot of fun, there were 14-15 people that attended.

Supervisor Thomas stated that Paul Berry Superintendent of HLCS (Hadley-Luzerne Central School) is present to discuss the 2014-2015 school budget.

Mr. Berry stated that last Monday the School Board approved the 19.8 million dollar budget, for the 2014-2015 school year. It includes a 2% tax levy increase for our residents and supports current staffing and current programming. Additional programming that is supported through this budget is the distance learning return. They have updated the distance-learning lab such as they can offer four additional elective courses to the high school students. They also continued to support additional technology in the budget and additional sharing. They continue to meet on a regular bases with Corinth Central School. They have students attending Corinth taking courses in business and science and they are encouraging Corinth students to come and take Neric Tech. and AP Courses. AP-Bio unparticular. Next year they will have students come from Corinth to Hadley-Luzerne School. These are sharing opportunities that occur no expense at the school district; they have buses that pass by Corinth Central School everyday taking the students to BOCES. The budget vote will be on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The budget Hearing is on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and we are hopeful the community will support this particular budget. They know this year the Governors proposal that there are tax rebates offered. That provided the Board with an opportunity and a challenge, frankly the tax rebates to all of us created a consideration of where the tax levy limit was, 3.7%. So it presented an opportunity for the Board to receive additional revenue essentially from the State, but frankly for the taxpayers two or three years out when the rebate no longer exist it would mean that each of us would have to pay that higher tax levy limit created at that time. So this tax levy increase that was approved by the school board, they feel is reasonable and necessary that supports quality programs in there schools and hope the town will encourage residents to come out and vote on May 20<sup>th</sup>. He would like to close by pointing our the pamphlet he handed out was relative to there reconfiguration project. What they have done was asked SED to approve approximately \$510,000.00 in renovations to primarily the elementary wing, the current K-2, 9-12 building. What they would like to do is reconfigure the grades such that PreK-6<sup>th</sup> grade is in the current middle school and 7-12 grades are in the current PreK-2 not the 9-12 building. The \$510,000.00 would not require any increase in taxes or borrowing. It would be from Allocated Fund Balance and funds that were dedicated this year in this budget. Essentially the bathrooms would be made 88 compliant; there is asbestos abatement's, carpet removal and convert the two Kindergarten Classes into two science classrooms for 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders. They believe this is for the benefit of the student's ecodemically. Currently in there PreK-2 building about 40% of the students are leaving non-proficient reading and they feel its important to have those grades aligned not only to correct the issue of having four-year olds interacting with nineteen year olds but for the academic reasoning's of commencing with teaching of reading with the early instruction of reading.

So the first proposition on the vote this year will be this reconfiguration project. They actually last week received an attentive approval from SED to go ahead with the project. They will soon go out to bids, but of course will ask for voter approval first just for the transfer of funds relative to this project. So they feel very confident, this is not only what the community has wanted for over 20 years but its something at the point they feel is affordable because it doesn't require any additional borrowing. It does require the expense of significant funds, \$510,000.00 is a lot of money but they do feel that it is a benefit of the students, long term and hopes the community will support it as well.

Supervisor Thomas stated the tax cap actually could have gone to 3.7%. Mr. Barry stated it could have gone to 3.7%. Supervisor Thomas stated with all the adjustments and all? Mr. Berry stated correct. Supervisor Thomas stated he was under the impression that the 2% tax cap was actually about 1.46%. Mr. Berry stated there were exclusions and there were additions so because of the particularity the Capital exclusions, he thinks it's the Capital exclusions and additions that allowed them to go beyond the 2.47%. He thinks Supervisor Thomas is correct that the CPI may have been 1.46% and that was the important part of the calculation but because of the debt that they incurred for recent Capital Project those conclusion and additions are allot of the tax levy increase up to 3.47%. So the 2% would be approximately \$200,000.00 in increase year to year as far as the tax levy. Supervisor Thomas asked what the total levy is for the school district.

Mr. Berry stated \$10,372,970.00 next year. The total budget is \$19,819,395.00. They receive about \$444,000.00 in additional State Aid and that also includes an additional \$261,000.00 in additional building aid to support \$2.4 million in Capital Improvements that they just completed. Councilman Carl Thomas stated you said you could have gone up to 3.7% but then you would have to maintain at that level for three years? Mr. Berry stated if we went to 3.7%, we asked the tax payers for an additional \$370,000.00 each of us would receive our increase back in a rebate check this year. Next year the nature of school budgets are that they might be another increase and would receive that back in another rebate check from the State. But in year three its not clear if that program will continue. That means in year three would have year one increase, year2 increase plus year three increase realizing a property tax bill with no rebate so that is why they think and the HL Board is very physically conservative so they felt this was a tax levy increase that was necessary to support the budget and that the community could afford. So they felt going with 3.7% was simply not in the best of the community and he agrees.

Councilwoman Ryan stated for the buildings, switching from Prek-6 and 7-12 Grades is a ratio of children ages corresponds to children that will be going from one school to the other or is there going to have to be an addition on the school to accommodate more students.

Mr. Berry stated actually the use of the middle school will be more efficient in terms of space. Its currently open space so the middle school building PreK-6 essentially they are adding one full grade, PreK and Headstart, but that facility is just a really a outstanding education facility. Councilwoman Ryan likes the idea with bringing the younger kids with the younger kids and the older kids with the older kids.

Mr. Berry stated the current high school and elementary is a 1953 building so it's difficult to compare the two. The middle school is a 2001 building so that's why they feel its important for the seventh and eighth graders to have these renovations to occur so they are going into an academics setting that's of similar quality.

Councilwoman Ryan stated she just didn't want to feel overloaded with more kids of a certain age, just to make sure it balances out.

Mr. Berry stated it provides more academic opportunities but it also is going to provide important economic opportunities to them as well by aligning the buildings by teacher credential, they are usually K-6, 7-12 credential, if in the future if they experience the academic difficulties that are projected for them, that will allow them to look carefully at staffing, untrusting and importantly recently in CSEA negotiations, they were able to identify some costs and reasonable wage increase and believes they will achieve those same things with HLTA. So he thinks this is a sign of the times where they will be getting more cooperation from their bargaining units to realize that they want to keep this community school, even if the enrollment has declined from a high of 1200 to 800 and the staffing has gone from 120 to 80 teachers. They just feel this is a quality school, center of a community and want to be able to sustain it. The pressures share but want to maintain their identity and the local school and hopes this will allow them to do that.

Supervisor Thomas thanked him for coming.

Old business

Assessor Position:

Supervisor Thomas stated they received two letters of interest. So its up to the Board what they want to do or don't do. Councilwoman Ryan stated with the Youth Director we had interviews, is that something you want to do?

Councilman Nathan Thomas stated this is an appointed position for the purpose of a vacancy, appoint him until next election. Supervisor Thomas stated until the end of the year and whoever it is if they want to continue then they will have to run in the election. He stated its good to see a couple letters; sometimes there are no letters.

A resolution was made by Councilman Nathan Thomas appointing John C. Durham to fill the vacant Assessors position.

Discussion: Councilman Carl Thomas stated he had some thoughts about it, basically from reading his resume here, the last paragraph from "he feels his professional practice of architecture might differ from those who work in the field" He wonders if he is over qualified quite frankly. He has a lot, it looks like a lot of background behind it but there is other considerations they work on a repair cost bases, they are not getting into design or like that. He thinks he is way over qualified for what we might be looking for. He thinks it might cause some difficulty. Councilman Nathan Thomas stated there are training courses required as well, correct?

Supervisor Thomas stated yes, there are, he isn't sure exactly what they are but he knows there are courses that are required Councilman Carl Thomas could probably tell you.

Councilman Carl Thomas stated he can't tell you right off hand, but in the other literature that the board got that will tell you what the training courses are. They have a three-year period basically to train, but this is a one-year appointment, it wouldn't enter into that. If he gets re-elected then they would enter into that. Supervisor Thomas asked for roll call vote.

Councilman Carl Thomas no- Councilman John Thomas abstained, Councilman Nathan Thomas-Yes, Councilwoman Ryan-No, Supervisor Thomas-Yes.

Supervisor Thomas stated it's 2 to 2 with 1 abstain. Resolution fails.

Supervisor Thomas asked if there were any other motions for the vacant Assessors position Councilman Carl Thomas stated we do have another candidate.

069-14. A resolution was made by Councilman Carl Thomas seconded by Councilwoman Ryan Appointing Brandon J. Thomas 11 Hill Road Hadley, NY 12835, which is the Town of Stony Creek, as Assessor (to fill the vacancy). His term will expire December 31, 2014.

Discussion: Councilwoman Ryan stated she feels he lived here all his life and knows everybody, he knows most people and thinks he's got, he's young enough to take in new responsibilities and learn the responsibilities and learn the responsibilities where somebody that's been overly qualified for a while may not want to take that responsibility.

Councilman John Thomas stated he can say he's part of their building business, part of their company. He's involved in the estimating, pricing, that sort of thing on all different ages and products of buildings. So he will verify that he is familiar with it.

Roll call vote, Councilman Nathan Thomas-Abstain, Councilwoman Ryan-Yes, Councilman John Thomas-Abstain (this is his son), Councilman Carl Thomas-Yes, Supervisor Thomas-Yes.

Supervisor Thomas stated he would have to run in the election in the Fall.

Youth Director:

Supervisor Thomas stated the Youth Committee did meet with Jo-Ann Mosher and Patrice Weber and Jo-Ann indicated that she would be willing to step into the Youth Director position so at this time he would make it in a form of a resolution to appoint Jo-Ann Mosher to the Youth Director position.

Councilwoman Ryan stated she thinks she would like to go into another Executive Session over that topic. Supervisor Thomas stated they can do that.

Councilwoman Ryan stated things were bought up but didn't get to see a lot of the stuff that was bought up and would like to see it with all the parties involved in the youth position.

7:34 PM. A motion was made by Councilwoman Ryan seconded by Councilman John Thomas to go into Executive Session for the purpose of going over the Youth Director position.

8:03 PM. A motion was made by Councilwoman Ryan seconded by Councilman Carl Thomas to go back into regular session.

Supervisor Thomas reported that no action was taken in Executive Session. Supervisor Thomas stated there is a resolution on the floor:

070-14. A resolution was made by Supervisor Thomas seconded by Councilman Nathan Thomas to appoint JoAnn Mosher as Youth Director. Roll call vote, Councilman Carl Thomas-Yes, Councilman John Thomas-No, Councilman Nathan Thomas-Yes, Councilwoman Ryan-No, Supervisor Thomas-Yes.

Councilman Nathan Thomas asked about the resolution appointing Cheyenne Moses Assistant Youth Director. Supervisor Thomas and Councilwoman Ryan stated they did that last month.

Copier:

Supervisor Thomas indicated last month that he had one price from the current people we have with the copier and was going to get a second price. He did obtain a second price from a company in Saratoga. The price he got from Xerox was \$4128.00 and the price he got from Saratoga, which is a Toshiba copier, its very similar to the Xerox and the price for that is \$2875.00. The service contract for the Xerox is \$.0099 per page. So 10,000 pages is about average of what we do its \$99.00 plus \$10.00 a month, so its approximately \$220.00 a year. For the Toshiba its \$25.00 a month, after talking to the lady she knocked it down to \$295.00 for 40,000.00 copies. Both copiers do all; replacement toner, they do all the repairs, and they come out and even bring the toner here. It may be a little bit more. If you do 20,000 it's the same.

Considering the price of it he thinks the Toshiba is the way to go.

Councilwoman Ryan asked if it's a year contract. Supervisor Thomas stated yes, its yearly. It's a multifunction printer. Both of them are pretty much the same. The Toshiba prints 35 pages per minute instead of 25. They both have two-feeder draws. There both touch screen controls, there both wireless capable, flash drive to print so you can load up documents on a flash drive and print them, they both have fax capabilities, however that's additional money for the Xerox it was \$7-800.00, for the Toshiba it's about \$400.00. They both scan, access codes and he believes they both have memory where you can load on forms that people want, like Assessor forms or various forms, they can be loaded on the printer so rather than having stacks around you can print them off as you need them.

Supervisor Thomas stated he did give Mr. Gallop an opportunity to match the price and haven't heard from him.

071-14. A resolution was made by Councilwoman Ryan seconded by Councilman John Thomas authorizing the purchase of a Toshiba Copier E-Studio 356 in the amount of \$2875.00.

\$2000.00 will be allotted by the Justice Court Grant that was received by the town.

Roll call vote, all in favor.

Dean Cemetery:

Supervisor Thomas stated he would like to set up a date to reline or set the property lines at the cemetery to get this completed.

Councilman John Thomas and Supervisor Thomas will meet at the cemetery to get this completed and see what they want to do and how they are going to transfer it. Supervisor Thomas asked Attorney Cooper if it should be a quit-claim deed or warranty deed.

Attorney Cooper stated it really doesn't matter except to Councilman John Thomas because he is the one that's going to be giving the deed and we still would acquire title even if it was a quit-claim deed. So from his standpoint why should he guarantee the title and probably that's the way to go, whoever goes down there and kind of determines where the monuments will be on the corners, you have to do obvious things like not running though a grave or what looks like maybe a grave. They moved a lot of bodies up from the Sacandaga when they made the reservoir.

Councilman John Thomas stated yes, those are all marked and there are no names on them.

Attorney Cooper stated they're stones. Councilman John Thomas stated right, there are no names, and you can see pretty clearly where the outside perimeters of the cemetery are.

Attorney Cooper stated if you can do it in a rectangle, obviously that's the way to go but you might find a rectangle doesn't work for the way the cemetery's oriented but that's up to you guys. Councilman John Thomas stated there will be a couple corners in it because it's real wide in one spot and then narrows up like a longer rectangle off the end of it.

Attorney Cooper stated kind of put a monument wherever the course changes direction so that we can put something together that's reasonable accurate but saves us the expense for getting a surveyor up there.

Councilman John Thomas stated right. When we meet with them we'll put wooden stakes, if the ground is thawed out he'll pour concrete monuments on the corners where the stakes will be and measure off of that.

Councilman John Thomas and Supervisor Thomas and whoever else want to go down will meet at the end of next week, it's a case of putting stakes in so where we're familiar where it is.

Attorney Cooper asked if he had his baseline deed for the overall property so we can say "being a part of" and describe your property. Councilman John Thomas stated yes and there's already, he thinks its 100X50, that's already deeded out to the town. So it's just going to be an extension basically off the end of that. The problem with that is there are no reference points as far as where the property is actually situated.

Attorney Cooper suggested he try to circumscribe the whole thing and incorporate the 100X50, just eat it, with the new description. Councilman John Thomas stated just do it all in one.

Attorney Cooper stated yes.

#### Assessment:

Councilman Carl Thomas stated he gave everyone a handout and basically what its referring to is the correspondence that he had with the State, he wrote a couple letters, he attached the letters that he got back from them and he is still looking at the State land. Last Month we had a lot of discussion on the value or the wisdom of doing a reval and to help everybody understand how our assessing system works in Stony Creek we don't have enough sales here for the fair market value to establish a fair market value. The fair market value is the best method for residential assessment but because we do not have the sales the replacement cost method is what Stony Creek uses. This comes from a cost manual that the State has formulated and covers materials, styles, types of construction, heating types and extras like fireplaces, pools Etc. It is all-inclusive and it provides a uniform basis to keep the process equitable. In the mid 90's He proposed a land schedule to help flatten some inequities that existed. It was adopted with an added provision for "backland" which he did not like then and he still does not like it today but we use the schedule faithfully and that's basically how we get our values. The assessor stated if you do a reval you have to use the State Land values. What he failed to mention is since the 90's and earlier each year we have been and do use the value of the State land that they provide. They send the figures and we put them on the roll. The State has to approve all State Land assessments, and also attached is the assessment procedures for state land section 542. It would be a good study to look at the state land values on State parcels over the last 15 to 18 years and compare how they are now and how much they have changed. There was some discussion on Harrisburg Lake properties, their assessments and sales.

The assessor spoke of getting into spot assessments and he spoke of getting into radical different types of class properties being commercial or private property, I really don't see that situation in Stony Creek, it's a matter of opinion. In the mid 90's the state and county initiated a major effort to bring waterfront properties up to realistic prices based on their sales.

It was during this effort basically that we established areas in town know as "neighborhood" areas. We had some before such as Sunset Valley properties but this expanded the practice. By this means we can and did adjust certain property values including the Harrisburg Lake Area and Hudson River Properties. Each year as part of establishing the equalization rate the State sends out an inquiry to each town called the Pre-Decisional Collaboration process. This shows samples of sales in our area, which they then use in establishing the equalization rate. Because Stony Creek does not have sufficient sales the State includes sales from towns nearby such as Warrensburg, Thurman, Lake Luzerne, like that, all of which carry higher values than the same property would hold in Stony Creek. If this form is not returned promptly it stands in their calculation and we lose by adverse adjustment in our equalization rate because we have these higher value properties in there.

The Assessor states a reval will hurt you, it's not that simple. He attached his correspondence with Mr. Peluso and his response. He indicates private taxes will probably go up. In verbal conversations I have had with others, I have been told that it's the school taxes that increase and the reason for this is if the town value goes up the school districts are multi towns so they take all these towns and split there levy up. So if our value goes up we pick up more of the school taxes. So some of the other towns may lose some of there's and the same thing goes on with county taxes so that means our school taxes would increase and would mean maybe our county taxes would increase but he doesn't think it would be. He thinks it would be mensural in the case of the county at least, the school he's not sure about.

Councilwoman Ryan stated part of Stony Creek pays Luzerne School tax and part of Stony Creek pays Warrensburg School tax.

Councilman Carl Thomas stated Warrensburg School is 27% higher and added so the school tax would be recalculated for the district. He doesn't believe that the town value would shift from State to private land but it might, he doesn't know, he's always been told that and that's always been his fear or concern. The further he gets in this the less that seems to be the thing because they have been putting their own values on for years. The sales tax distribution by the county is also based on the town's value, we may gain \$2.00 but they probably charge us \$3.00 for tax increase. He has been told that if a reval is done and accepted it would freeze the State land, this is kind of verbal conversation that he has had, and this would stop the loss to the town from the transitional assessment. That's a State function he has not got an answer to confirm this or anything from the State and probably won't but he is still looking into this aspect of it and he also attached a section which covers the State Aid for State owned lands. Which is your transitional and your aggregate assessment.

To sum it all up to date; all the inventory cards he believes are deficient especially on interior aspects of our residential property, the number of rooms, the size, the type of finishing side. He thinks these need to be reviewed and replacement cost system he thinks would be better if we were current. Not using a 1976 book then using factors to get it up to today's date.

New building codes have to be considered, the older homes have to be depreciated. Peter and himself just touched base a little bit on that to keep the fairness of the value.

The chalets that we are seeing selling into Harrisburg they are built to new codes and they are not like the other properties, the older properties that are in there. Everything comes into consideration, there is no simple answer as Peter will tell you and he will agree with. The level of assessment needs to be brought to 100% for easier understanding to the public. That's just a numerical thing and can be done easily because we determine that and the State adjusts their equalization rate to our level of assessment. That's just to bring you up to date on anything he got and that's where we're at right now.

#### Highway; Murray Road Extension:

Supt Bradley stated he wanted to comment on the letter that was received from Brett Benansky last month. He was absent and just wants to defend himself on this letter. The Town Board is aware of Phil's property that Brett Benansky purchased. They are having a fit because they are plowing snow into their yard. He doesn't know if they are aware that the road is five foot from their deck, at an angle all the way down through there. We always turned around there. This is their first or second year up here. We have had a heck of a storm. Two storms where they were not up here and couldn't take care of their driveway. Of course it's going to be piled with snow, they turn their trucks around there. That is a town road no matter what anybody thinks. The plow can only be turned one way. He can't push it out in Harrisburg Road it has to go that way. There are people in town that is going to get more snow than others. That is one of the properties that's going to get more snow. He is going to plow that road because there are landowners that want to get to their property in the middle of Winter. They have talked to him, and as the road not being in use, just so the Board knows he can get statements and the previous landowner that they have worked that road and have done limited maintenance of that road, that's all that is required to be a town road. People fish down that road, hunters go down that road that is a town road no matter what anyone says. He is going to keep maintaining that road just so they know. They can keep sending letters to the Town Board all they want but he is the boss of the plowing. They would get further ahead by calling him and probably work with them more then it would be to send the Town Board a nasty letter.

Attorney Cooper asked Supt. Bradley when he says you turn around there. Supt. Bradley stated where they turn around it's the town's right of way. Attorney Cooper stated that's not the question. Are you turning around because that's the only way you can plow the end of Murray Road or do you turn around because you need to for States Road? Supt Bradley stated exactly. So they have to back into there to go up States Road. They have done that for years. Phil Warner is willing to come to court, send notarized letters whatever is needed They knew that was a town road. Phil knows that's a town road. He has seen them work the road. The biggest thing is they say, "they consider this action piling snow, childish, dangerous and boarding harassment." There are people in this town that get ten-fold with snow. Look at the corner of Harrisburg and Tucker Road, do you know how much snow they get piled in there. Some people are nice and they will go up and knock the snow banks down for them. He isn't going out of hi way for nobody. He just wants to make sure the Board knows there isn't any snow being pushed in there intentionally. They can't push it anywhere except which way the plow goes. Even if he only cleans the intersection they are going to get snow. It was two storms and they did come up and there was quite a pile there.

Councilwoman Ryan stated when you are asked to clear off, banks that are getting high, it always been done. Supt. Bradley stated they always do it. whether he is busy that is another story. But yes if somebody comes to him he absolutely cleans up. There is nothing intentionally being done there, nothing extra ordinary going on either.

Committee report:

Dean Heritage Trail signs:

Supervisor Thomas reported the signs are to be shipped around May 5, 2014

Warren County Soil and Water:

Supervisor Thomas stated he received a letter from Warren County Soil and Water about hydro-seeding that's available for municipal road stabilization efforts and other municipal projects intended to help lakes and streams addressing erosion and sedimentation from road ditching and other highway maintenance operations. Road maintenance operation is no cost to the municipality, the use of the machine and operator is free and all seeding materials are paid by the district. For other projects such as parks and cemeteries the use of the machine and operator are no charge but the materials must be paid by the municipalities.

Property and Casualty Insurance:

Supervisor Thomas reported he talked to Lee Pollock with Rose and Kiernan Insurance, he is the towns Broker of Record for American Public Insurance and NYMIR. He will attempt to get prices from both of those companies. The renewal date is May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014. He isn't going to set a date because he isn't sure when he will have a price. If Rose and Kiernan is higher then the current carrier there is no point in having a meeting anyhow, but along toward the beginning of May he may send a letter out and notify the Town Board of a Special Meeting to discuss insurance proposals.

CHIPS:

Supervisor Thomas stated the Governor and Legislature allotted \$40 million dollars to put toward the harsh winter, this money will be incorporated in to the CHIPS Program as the current CHIPS money is. The allotment for Stony Creek is \$11,052.00, that will be additional funds toward the CHIPS Fund.

Councilwoman Ryan asked if once the signs are placed at the Dean Trails is there going to be any kind of advertisement that its now opened. Attorney Cooper stated ribbon cutting. Supervisor Thomas stated yes he hoped to.

Occupancy Bed Tax funds:

Councilman John Thomas asked if this was more then they had last year, it seemed like it was more then they requested last year. Supervisor Thomas stated its around the same, he's not exactly sure what it was last year, they did come back for money for the logging program. Councilman Carl Thomas stated it looks like it includes the logging program this year. Supervisor Thomas stated he believes they are going to do an ad book this year, hopefully that will help.

072-14. A resolution was made by Councilwoman Ryan seconded by Councilman John Thomas authorizing the expenditure of bed tax monies in the amount of \$8900.00 to the Stony Creek Chamber of Commerce the funds are to be used for the Stony Creek Mountain Festival on August 1-3, 2014. Roll call vote, all in favor.

Highway: Item 1 Agreement:

Supervisor Thomas reported that Supt. Bradley gave him the Item 1 agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Monies that has to do with the paving. He has Cudney Hill Road but he is undecided on what he wants to do with the rest of it. He has a couple things he wants to do. Supt. Bradley stated yes but if the board has any suggestions or other wise leave it up to him but there are some spots on the dug-way that need to be completely ripped up.

A couple hundred feet sections are dipping, the center of the roads are pretty bad and wanted to get them fixed. The top of Riley Hill Road is getting pretty bad and a couple other spots. He can go a couple different way. He can fix them and whatever is left over he can run it off Lanfear Road because that should be paved at some point. They should be topping off Roaring Branch Road where they binded it but that can wait. On the sheet that's why he only put one section on what he knows for sure what he is doing. That part the board is in control of 100%, if the board tells him to pave, then that's what gets paved. Councilman John Thomas asked if he put new culverts on Riley Hill Road, he thinks there is three of them. Supt. Bradley stated yes, he put a couple on there and stated that pretty much all the culverts are new. Councilman John Thomas stated so pretty much all of that is done. Supt. Bradley stated they have to rip up a section binder it and top it. The top is bad.

Supt Bradley stated to put it in perspective he told Supervisor Thomas just a rough estimate off the top of his head. The roads are on 1-2-3. He would say most of the roads are 3, being bad, there are some 2's that would be medium. There is no 1's as far as he is concerned. 2 would be the top.

They are getting behind and there is nothing they can do about it the way taxes are. If you were to grind the roads up and pave and just binder them your looking at \$2.75 million dollars. If you wanted to pave them on top of that, you would start from scratch. Since taking office he hasn't covered his 20 miles of road. Usually when you start its two miles a year, you cover your rotation in 10 years, you would be on the same road you started, he hasn't anywhere near covered that. Right now your looking to do 2 miles of road for almost \$200,000.00 to just overlay it, it's not including grinding it. It's like \$10,000.00 a mile to grind it and you have to put a binder down. So that's how far there getting. Councilman John Thomas asked how long the binder last. Supt. Bradley stated he wouldn't let it go over a couple years unless you chip-seal it. they didn't go real thick on the binder because of money. They went two inches but if you we're going to do that you would go 3 inches, binder and then chip-seal it and that's what a couple of towns are starting to do. Put on the binder and chip-seal, which is an option or they can do cold in place. Which is basically they will come in and bind it and lay it back down and blacktop, it's all one shot nothing is hauled in. Councilman John Thomas stated how much does it cost to haul and blacktop, is it equal or more expensive then grinding and laying it back down? Supt. Bradley stated he doesn't know, he is working with Ron Duel from Lake Luzerne on this, looking to see if they can get any better deals. There is a bid for that out there, he hasn't looked into yet. Councilman John Thomas stated he was wondering about that because your trucking monies are taken out of that. Supt. Bradley stated there is a lot of money in fuel and tires. So there is a couple different ways.

One year there was damages, so they couldn't pave so they lost a year there. There was a crunch so they got cut down a little. You can only raise taxes so much and there nothing that could be done. We're just slipping behind. So he doesn't know whether to concentrate on spots that are really bad or just keep overlaying them. We are wasting money if we're overlaying, we are defiantly just wasting money. Councilman John Thomas stated yes because you have to go back. Supt. Bradley stated they're not lasting 10 years. He's open to what the board wants him to do, there is a couple spots that need something. Then he can start going back up Lanfear Road unless the board can think of doing more. Councilman John Thomas stated he travels the road more then he does.

Supt. Bradley stated on the sheet he put various, he doesn't know how legal that is. He put Cudney Hill Road as the specific job and the various, he can't list them all, it would be spots in the whole town, they will need to be ripped up. He is not intending to grind anything, hes going to tear it up with the backhoe, sub-base it and binder it.

Councilman John Thomas asked if they made a small grinder, he doesn't know if the State or County had it, its a machine that went on the front of the payloader. Supt. Bradley stated that was Luzerne and they borrowed it on Lanfear Road when they did the center of the road. Now the County owns it and we are able to use it but there's a lot of maintenance to that, it's not what its made for, you can do sections and spots but its not for grinding up a whole road. If you want to dig up a culvert or something, your not using saw blades.

He hasn't made his loop and Tucker Road is getting pretty bad. Lanfear he has never touched. They did States, Roaring Branch , Swears, a couple off Hadley Road and Lewis Waite Roads. Its like starting a new rotation.

Supervisor Thomas stated we would want to pick a road that hasn't been so bad that doesn't need to be torn up and get pavement on it, try to salvage and keep it in good shape.

Supt. Bradley stated that would be Lanfear Road.

Councilman Nathan Thomas stated with the chip-fill,can you put that on the existing road? Supt. Bradley stated he doesn't think there are any roads that, there are sections that are descent but you have cracks , roads are dipping on Roaring Branch Road, it would be a waste of money. The whole center of the road is coming apart. Councilman Nathan Thomas stated he was just wondering if chip-seal would extend the life. Supt. Thomas stated yes if it hadn't gotten this far. Councilwoman Ryan asked how long Lanfear Road is. Supt. Bradley stated about 5 miles. That would take five years at \$100,000.00 a year. Before he took office blacktop and fuel was cheaper you could do two miles, you can't do two miles now. Supt. Bradley will fix a couple small spots and do what he can on Lanfear road to get that started. He will rip it up with a backhoe, it will cost \$10,000.00 a mile. It will be cheaper to tear it out,sub-base it and blacktop it. It will be cheaper on our end. If its a section it will be crumbled.

Assessor LaGrasse stated Lanfear is 3.44 miles.

#### Budget Transfers:

073-14. A resolution was made by Councilwoman Ryan seconded by Councilman Carl Thomas authorizing the following budget transfer:

Debit A1990.4 Contingent in the amount of \$295.00

Credit A1620.4 Building Contractual in the amount of \$295.00

Roll call vote, all in favor.

074-14. A resolution was made by Councilman Nathan Thomas seconded by Councilman John Thomas authorizing the following budget transfer:  
Debit Estimated Revenue A3389 State Aid-Public Safety in the amount of \$2200.00  
Credit A1110.2.4 Justice Court AP Grant in the amount of \$2200.00. Roll call vote, all in favor.

075-14. A resolution was made by Councilwoman Ryan seconded by Councilman John Thomas authorizing the following budget transfer:  
Debit DA5120.4 Bridges Contractual in the amount of \$88.71.  
Credit DA5142.4 Snow Removal Contractual in the amount of \$88.71. Roll call vote, all in favor.

From the floor:

A motion was made by Councilman John Thomas seconded by Councilwoman Ryan to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM. all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Harrington  
Town Clerk