

March 15, 2011

The regular town board meeting of the Town of Stony Creek was held on March 15, 2011.

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

Councilman Dale Aldrich

Councilman Stanley Ross

Councilman William Liebl

Councilman Harry Paul Gill

Attorney James Cooper

February 15, 2011 minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Gill to accept the February 15, 2011 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

057-11. A resolution was made by Councilman Gill seconded by Councilman Aldrich to pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$9446.79. Roll call vote, all in favor

058-11. A resolution was made by Councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Gill to pay the Highway Fund bills in the amount of \$149,584.26.

Discussion:

Supt. Bradley stated he didn't know the bill for the new truck was in the bills, he would like to inspect or have someone inspect it to be sure it complies with the specs. Supervisor Thomas stated he was looking for authorization for payment he had no plans of cutting a check until it is looked at.

A motion was made by Supervisor Thomas to pull the Tracey Road Equipment bill in the amount of \$129,343.00 out of the highway bills. No second motion dies.

Supt. Bradley will check out the truck before payment is made. Councilman Liebl suggested someone on the highway committee also look at it.

Roll call vote, all in favor.

Town Clerk report:

Marriage license	<u>\$17.50</u>
Total Town Clerk fees	17.50
Dog licensing	<u>20.00</u>
Total Town Revenues to Supervisor	37.50
NYS Ag and Mkts.	4.00
NYS Dept. of Health	<u>22.50</u>
Total disbursed	64.00

Correspondence:

Stony Creek Free Library- 2010 Financial report.

Ronald Bordeaux & Wendy Fuller-permission to use the town hall Saturday April 16th, 2011 for their son's Birthday Party.

Victory Lane Customs, Doreen Ryan- requesting Bed Tax monies for a car show on June 18, 2011 in the amount of \$1450.00 also contacting the town and businesses in town in helping sponsoring a trophy for \$50.00 or donating door prizes or products for their goodie bag.

A motion was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Gill authorizing Ronald Bordeaux & Wendy Fuller permission to use the town hall April 16th, 2011 for their sons Birthday Party. All in favor, motion carried.

059-11. A resolution was made by Councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Ross to reimburse the Victory Lane Customs up to \$1450.00 of Occupancy Tax monies for advertising, prizes and trophies for the car show June 18, 2011 rain date June 19th, 2011 with all proceeds going to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. Roll call vote, all in favor.

Supervisor Thomas reported for the other \$50.00 he doesn't think they can give them that. The board members can put in \$10.00 a piece, it can't be taken out of the budget. Councilman Aldrich stated we couldn't legally do it. He suggested that maybe the library or fire co. could run the concession stand. John Thomas stated the fire co. would be running the concession stand.

Old business:

Item One Agreement, Capital Improvements: Supervisor Thomas spoke with Supt. Bradley about the \$96,000.00. Councilman Aldrich stated part of the money was supposed to go toward the truck. Supt. Bradley stated right; he was going to take money out of General Repairs. He questioned if that is exactly what he is supposed to spend or is it an up to that amount. No one can give he a straight answer. Councilman Ross stated he would say up to that amount. Supervisor Thomas stated estimate what you're going to spend.

The Town Board signed the Item One Agreement for expenditure of highway monies for capital improvements.

Councilman Gill asked about the bridge on Warrensburg Road by Tannery Lane. The company that put the bridge in, they were supposed to come back and fix the drainage ditch. Supervisor Thomas stated they were there last fall. Councilman Gill asked if they fixed it. Supt. Bradley stated no they are coming back to fix it. Supervisor Thomas stated he is going to demand that they come back here remove the ledge and put a ditch back in there like there use to be. Supt. Bradley stated they said they were coming back and do that.

060-11. A resolution was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Aldrich to renew the HaPeDe Contract for the distribution of town and chamber brochures at Exit 9 and 17 of the Northway in the amount of \$790.00 to be taken out of the Occupancy Tax monies. Roll call vote, all in favor.

061-11. A resolution was made by Councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Gill authorizing the Supervisor to mail and continue with the dump cards for free dump day in 2011 with a limit of four tires per card. Roll call vote, all in favor.

Committee reports:

Councilman Gill would like copies of the Memorial Day letters again this year for distribution in preparation of the Memorial Day Parade.

Supervisor Thomas reported in the General Fund bills there was a Wal-Mart bill in the amount of \$108.00; this was a \$100.00 donation for the food pantry from the VFW of Hadley NY.

Supervisor Thomas gave the Town Board a copy of Uniform Assessment Standards for information.

Supervisor Thomas reported a County meeting would be held tomorrow, March 16, 2011 on solid waste. They are looking to see how many towns would like to join together and put their garbage together. They will be no longer obligated or part of the burn plant and will be shopping around for the cheapest place to take the garbage.

Supervisor Thomas gave the Town Board a list of classes the Bookkeeper and himself attended at the Association of Towns.

Supervisor Thomas stated they had a class on labor negotiations during economic crisis; they put forth strategies to save taxpayers money.

Councilman Aldrich asked when union negotiations are. Supervisor Thomas stated next year 2012.

Cyber threat has been quite a problem with people hacking into bank accounts; they are trying to find ways to protect yourselves.

Councilman Ross asked about hearing option about lowering health care costs. Supervisor Thomas stated that there was a class about three towns joined together to become a consortium or group and went experience rated and got quotes. You need employees in order to do that.

Attorney Cooper stated they were big towns. Supervisor Thomas stated yes.

Councilman Aldrich stated the county was talking about that a couple years ago. Everybody getting together and doing that but it was never done. Supervisor Thomas stated we have talked about it recently about a month or month and a half ago. The county has been experience rated for about a year. They really don't know how it will work out for them yet. If it works out better for the County then there could be a possibility that the towns could opt to join in with them.

Councilman Aldrich asked if the county would be exceptive of that. Supervisor Thomas stated he thinks they are, they are willing to talk about it. Once you go to an experience rating there are drawbacks to that too. You might get a cheaper premium all it will take is one person to have a major illness and you are going to experience rating it will come direct to the town.

New business:

Warren County Pre-Disaster Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Supervisor Thomas reported that this is mandated by the Federal and State Government. It is through FEMA and SEMO the county stated doing this planning back in 2008. Their completed plan this year is about a quarter of it. SEMO has signed off it; FEMA looked at it but won't approve it until all the jurisdictions within the county past a resolution approving the plan. The county used the Friends of the North Country out of Keeseville to assist in the draft of the plan according to the SEMO and FEMA guidelines. The plan has been developed for Warren County and all municipalities within to protect life and property in the event of a disaster and to ensure that all jurisdiction maintain eligibility for future FEMA and SEMO grant funding.

062-11. A resolution was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Supervisor Thomas WHEREAS, as the County Board of Supervisors, authorized the County's participation in the planning process for the Warren County Pre-Disaster Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, and

WHEREAS, Stony Creek, with the assistance from Friends of The North Country, Inc., has gathered information and prepared the Warren County Pre-Disaster Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Pre-Disaster Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Stony Creek does hereby adopt the Warren County Pre-Disaster Multi-Jurisdictional Plan and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to Friends of The North Country, Inc. for inclusion in the Plan.

Roll call vote, all in favor.

063-11. A resolution was made by Councilman Aldrich seconded by Councilman Ross The Town of Stony Creek supports the Town of Long Lake Resolution in Opposition to Fee Purchase of Former Finch and Follensby Pond Lands by the State of New York

WHEREAS, the Nature Conservancy (TNC) purchased 161,000 acres known as the Finch Pruyn (Finch) Timberlands several years ago with the intent of selling 89,000 acres in conservation easements and 65,000 acres (to be added to the state forest preserve) of said land in fee to the State of New York (State), and

WHEREAS, the State and TNC have recently completed a deal on the 89,000 acre conservation easements that maintain productive forestry practices and enjoy the support of local governments that were directly impacted by providing said communities with several thousand acres in recreational enhancements, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has indicated its desire to now purchase more than 60,000 acres of the former Finch timberlands and an additional 15,000 acres of the Follensby Pond timberlands in fee from TNC, and

WHEREAS, those supportive communities now find themselves confronted with an unparalleled economic depression and whose constituents simply do not support the state buying more land at a time when people are facing job losses and all levels of government are cutting vital services, and

WHEREAS, no statutory guarantee currently exists requiring New York State to pay local property taxes on stated land to municipalities, and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) is charged with the responsibility of determining stated agency compliance with the Adirondack State Land Master Plan (SLMP) and to engage in a continuing planning process which recognizes matters of local concern, and

WHEREAS, the SLMP provides that "due to the importance of the forest products industry to the economy of the Adirondack region, bulk acreage purchases in fee should not normally be made where highly productive forest land is involved, unless such land is threatened with development that would curtail its use for forestry purposes or its value for the preservation of open space or of wildlife habitat."; and

WHEREAS, the former Finch lands and the Follensby Pond lands are both highly productive forestlands, and neither are threatened with imminent development that would curtail its value of open space; and

WHEREAS, the proposed purchase of the Follensby lands will be partially funded by federal Forest Legacy program funds designed to purchase and protect working forests, and is not designed to fund fee acquisition lands where forestry would be prohibited; and

WHEREAS, the State currently faces unprecedented financial challenges that will require cutting five (5) billion dollars from state education and Medicaid programs this year alone, and with the loss of thousands of state jobs the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is unable to properly maintain and manage existing, no less any newly acquired, lands due to staff reductions, and

WHEREAS, the education of our children, taking care of the less fortunate and protecting the environment by using Environmental Protection Funds to upgrade sewer and water projects must be priority one-not more land purchases-particularly when the State already owns millions of acres of Forest Preserve,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Stony Creek supports the Town of Long Lake's opposition to the fee acquisition by the state of the former Finch and Follensby Pond lands; urge the APA to insure compliance with the SLMP by opposing the proposed DEC fee purchase of productive timberland; and urges Governor Cuomo to directly intercede on behalf of the taxpayers of New York by directing his state agencies to reject the proposed purchase of the former Finch and Follensby lands; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town of Stony Creek requests Governor Cuomo to take this opportunity to develop a strategy that takes into consideration the long-term financial obligations of acquiring additional lands; and the economic and social impact on Adirondack communities before any additional purchases of state lands are authorized, and it is further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Comptroller Tom Di Napoli, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Senator Elizabeth Little, Senator Hugh Farley, Senator James Seward, Senator Joseph Griffo, Senator Roy McDonald, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey, Assemblyman David Townsend, DEC Commissioner Joe Martens, DEC Region 5 Director Betsy Lowe, DEC Region 6 Director Judy Drabicki.

Roll call vote, all in favor.

Dog enumeration:

Supervisor Thomas stated the town hasn't done one in years. He suggested the Board authorize we do one. The enumerator will be Maxine Zwartkay, Dog Control Officer.

064-11. A resolution was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Aldrich that the Town of Stony Creek do a dog enumeration which will include the \$5.00 enumeration fee to be added to the regular license fee for dogs found to be unlicensed during enumeration period. Roll call vote, all in favor.

From the floor:

Supt. Bradley would like permission to purchase cutting edges. Under State Contract it is about \$1500.00, he thinks he can get it cheaper than State Contract. He would like permission to buy up to \$7000.00 worth of cutting edges. He would like permission up to that for whatever he feels they can get by with until next year. He will need at least four sets, he may get by with three.

065-11. A resolution was made by Supervisor Thomas seconded by Councilman Aldrich authorizing the Supt. of Highway to purchase cutting edges up to \$7000.00. Roll call vote, all in favor.

A motion was made by Councilman Ross seconded by Councilman Gill to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Harrington
Town Clerk