

April 21, 2015

The regular Town Board meeting of the Town of Stony Creek was held on April 21, 2015.

Supervisor Frank Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with members present:

Councilman Nathan Thomas

Councilwoman Doreen Ryan

Councilman John Thomas

Councilman Carl Thomas

Attorney James Cooper

March 17, 2015 minutes; correction:

Page 11 change EMD to EMT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ryan seconded by Councilman Nathan Thomas to accept the March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 minutes with this correction. All in favor, motion carried.

061-15. A resolution was made by Councilwoman Ryan seconded by Councilman Nathan Thomas to pay the General Fund bills in the amount of \$8,697.73. Roll call vote, all in favor

062-15. A resolution was made by Councilman John Thomas seconded by Councilwoman Ryan to pay the highway fund bills in the amount of \$12,244.37. Roll call vote, all in favor.

Town Clerk report:

Conservation licenses	\$ 4.42
Fax	2.00
Copies	<u>1.00</u>
Total Town Clerk fees	\$ 7.42
Dog Licenses	<u>12.00</u>
Total Town revenues to Supervisor	19.42
NYS Agriculture and Markets	2.00
NYS Environmental Conservation	<u>75.58</u>
Total disbursed	\$97.00

Correspondence:

Dog Control Log-March 2015.

Barbara Sullivan Sicke- letter to the Stony Creek Library thanking them on the tremendous job of researching, planning, obtaining funds and finding talented personnel on the community programs they are running.

Roxanne Shippee reserving the town pavilion August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 for a wedding reception.

Stony Creek Free Library-permission to use the town hall Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 9AM-1PM for a Felting Workshop.

John Durham 325 States Road-applying for one of the vacancies on the Assessment Board of Review.

Supervisor Thomas stated he would like to echo the comments by Mrs. Sicke from Lake Luzerne, the library does do a fantastic job. Councilwoman Ryan agreed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ryan seconded by Councilman Carl Thomas authorizing the Stony Creek Free Library to use the Town Hall Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 9AM-1PM for a Felting Workshop. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Carl Thomas seconded by Councilwoman Ryan authorizing Roxanne Shippee to use the town pavilion August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 for a wedding reception. All in favor motion carried.

063-15. A resolution was made by Supervisor Thomas seconded by Councilman Carl Thomas appointing John C. Durham of 325 States Road as a Member on the Board of the Assessment Review. His term will expire September 30, 2019.

Roll call vote, all in favor.

Hadley-Luzerne Central School 2015-2016 budget:

Dr. Paul Berry and Stephanie Steinhart was present to discuss their up-coming 2015-2016 budget. Dr. Berry handed out a flyer regarding their budget.

Dr. Berry stated they have completed four months of almost line by line analysis of the school budget and he wants to share some details. They have agreed upon a budget that controls growth at 1.96%. It has a tax levy increase that's within the tax cap of 1.76%. That actually is the maximum amount that they could levy and they have been able to stay at that amount. The budget they prepared, it reduces staff by the equivalent of one FTE from 2010. There are about 19 staff members. The district had reduced really primarily in response to GEA, (Gap Elimination Adjustment). So in the budget process they look for every opportunity to make reductions. Certainly salary and benefits continue to be the significant expenditure increase that they have. Stephanie stated this is her first budget that she helped put together. It's her first year in Hadley-Luzerne. She is really excited to come tonight and present it and meet everyone. When she came into the district they really expressed the importance of building a budget that is really affordable to the community. She really thinks this year they have fulfilled what the board desires. To have a budget that the community can afford right now and can sustain it into the future. They have been very cautious of spending in the past and will continue to be that way in the future. They know that resources are not infinite and they make every dollar count at the School District. They are hoping everyone supports their budget. The 2015-2016 Budget is \$20,207,029.00 that is a \$387.00 increase and is just under the 2% growth, 1.96%. She would like to point out this year they are seeing a lot less growth than they had in the past two years. In the past two years it was just under 5%. They worked hard this year to work on a budget that was real affordable and the district could afford.

To give some other information about the budget, they are using some of the savings and Fund Balance to balance the budget out. Using that savings instead of raising the taxes, they are happy about that. That's about raising a million of their fund balance and a hundred thousand of the various resources they had saved up throughout the years of their conserve spending plan.

Dr. Berry noted about the State Aid. This year a lot of the money they are receiving is the Gab Elimination Adjustment Restoration, about 40% they are receiving back. They are due some of that back next year. They are hoping to re-coup that money the State has taken from them. They are happy they receive the State Aid and they are keeping the tax levy at 1.76%. They are happy to present this budget to all. They viewed the residents support as an investment in education for the students. Some of the proud things the School District is proud of, they have 44 students that take AP exams and have the opportunity for students to earn college credits before leaving Hadley Luzerne. They have 20 students that are enrolled in college credit courses through ACC. They have students that are taking CTE Courses through BOCES to get a credential in the specific field they are training for so they are directly prepared in the world of work. It's the first time in 30 years they had nearly 30 athletics participate in football in a combined program with Lake George. With that same program this year Hadley-Luzerne and Lake George won the Class C Section II Title, They had two wrestlers placed in the top three in NYS. They are proud of the student athletics and proud of the academic performance of their students. The SAT scores are average SAT. SAT scores are a significant gain. This year over 25 points were in math and verbal and they reattribute that to restoration of distance learning and restoration of the specific SAT/ACT Prep Course offered by two of their teachers. They think there are great things happening at Hadley-Luzerne over the of course this Summer. With no borrowing or no other impact of the tax levy they will reconfigure the district so they will have a Pre Kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> grade building and 7-12 grade at the current high school. They are excited about the changes that are happening. The vote on the Budget is May 19<sup>th</sup> from Noon to eight at the LGI Middle School and the Budget Hearing is May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the regular Board Meeting. He hopes as the Board talks to the residents of Stony Creek that they encourage them to vote and encourage them to come to the hearing with questions and encourage them to contact them.

Dr. Berry asked if anyone had any questions.

Supervisor Thomas stated they said \$387.00 increase. Stephanie and Dr. Berry stated it should be \$387,000.00. Supervisor Thomas stated that sounds better and 1.76% was the limit. Dr. Berry stated initially their limit was 1.21%. There were some school districts, it could be North Warren or Johnsbury that have a minus 2% limit. We both deal with intimacy of this tax levy cap calculation. One of the things that happened to them was they had some building aid that will be issued to them in 2015-2016. That is actually for the current school year. So when they added that \$53,000.00 to their calculation this year they were able to increase slightly the tax levy. So the local taxpayers which clearly for them is the majority support. They continue to look at the State to give the same level of aid that they gave them in 2008 and are hopeful with the restoration of GEA next year that they will finally get back to the 2008 level. We're all dealing with the intimacy of the tax levy calculation. He saw on a recent agenda that we are also seeking that 1% savings. So they can essentially have the residents save harmless as to any increase they experience and to achieve that they have some energy performance plan working with Corinth, they essentially share their Special Education Program. So when students and families sit down at CSC meetings. If there is a program in Corinth that the children can benefit from they would send them there. They think that will save both districts tens of thousands of dollars that will probably be part of their Efficiency Plan to get the 1% savings.

Peter LaGrasse asked what the enrollment change is. Dr. Berry stated they have about 800 students. It actually reflects about 6% decline from last year. They are concerned about the decline enrollment. It seems to be the characteristics of all the Adirondack Park Schools. The interesting enrollment in their school is that Kindergarten is up to 69, but they have a class that's 44, so the number of teachers, number of staff they have the enrollment hasn't declined that much to make significant staff cuts because of the pockets of higher and lower enrollment that they have. This year as they look at student enrollment, they certainly are looking at class size supports for students. One thing they have in this budget, they're actually providing Teacher Assistants in each of the Kindergarten Classroom to focus on early literacy. They have about 53% of their students for free or reduced meals. As a result of that sometimes a student will come into school with readiness issues perpetually related to literacy. So this investment in Teacher Assistant in Kindergarten Classrooms will respond to that. Certainly they look at enrollment and enrollment as a factor in consideration in staffing and they are concerned about decline enrollment. They feel like the more opportunities they offer the more increases they find in the caliber and the quality of the curriculum in the class is that students will want to move in this area because of the quality of the schools and they will strive for that quality.

Peter LaGrasse stated, "Do you try to study any population enrollment growths into the future". Dr. Berry stated they look at live births for the county and surrounding counties and will look at area hospitals and they try to project for themselves what they believe are entering classes will be. That's how they study it. It's not an exact science because of the course, Peter injected people move in and out. Dr. Berry agreed. It's that data along with census data, that is about the only data sources that can look at when they try to make enrollment projections. One of the things Stephanie did for them this year was a five year financial plan. That has to consider as one of those data elements enrollment and there Unallocated Fund Balance. There is a lot of rich data out there but its speculation. Speculate that this will happen or that will happen. They are excited to have 69 students in Kindergarten, this is really outstanding for them. So they look at that and hope it continues.

Carol LaGrasse stated she doesn't always make a friendly statement she always makes a scorching critical statement. But this is extremely moving to her that you came to Stony Creek and made this presentation. Stephanie thanked everyone for having them. Dr. Berry stated this is Stephanie's first time and his third time coming to the Board. They enjoy it and feel it's important. They call it their Budget Tour. They actually go to the Senior Centers in Hadley and Lake Luzerne and will go the Town of Lake Luzerne. They think it's important because obviously the School District represents this community. They educate the children and they know it's an investment that they are providing in the School District so this is an important part of what they do.

Attorney Cooper asked if they have seen any effects of Global Foundries because they kept saying there would be a blotter effect up to the North Country too. Dr. Berry stated, "To say there would be no effect to the district would be accurate." They did have this Fall, two families, he believes it was five students that indicated there was some connection to Global Foundries and beyond that, no they haven't seen it come this far. Attorney Cooper stated five seems to him to be a lot. Dr. Berry stated he was pleased and thinks this is a beautiful area to come to. He knows those kids have been successful and welcomes more.

Old business:

Supervisor Thomas reported that Supt. Bradley gave him the Item 1 Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Monies. He wants to do one mile on Roaring Branch Road and one mile on Lanfear and talked about doing some on Riley Hill Road. Supt. Bradley stated the top of Riley Hill is getting real bad. We have to retop what they re-binded two-three years ago on Roaring Branch Road or they will lose that, it could go another year but Riley Hill is getting really bad on the top of it. Over the Winter it got some pretty deep ruts in it. If not this year, for sure it will need to be grinded up and done next year, it will need a lot of attention. So it will be Roaring Branch and Lanfear Roads, unless the Board tells him no and wants to do the top of Riley Hill Road.

Councilman Carl Thomas asked if he knows where he was going to start. Supt. Bradley stated they will start at Robert Bills house and do one mile and on Roaring Branch just above the sawmill. We can't start at the corner.

Councilman John Thomas asked if there was a period of time to cover that on Roaring Branch before you do a top coat. Supt. Bradley stated Pat Wood, Thurman Highway Supt. left one for 10 years. He doesn't think it's a good idea. It wasn't really bad but you lose what you just did if you leave it two-three years it's not a big deal. Roaring Branch is holding up pretty good the problem is they grind the road, bindered it then in a couple years they should be topping it. So you're losing that mile. If they did a mile, next year you have to fellow up the mile on another road. Like he said before he is not going to throw good base on top of bad base. Lanfear is questionable but on top of Riley Hill to do that is crazy. It would be a total waste of money. There is a lot of roads he hasn't been on yet as far as Tucker, Lanfear and Riley Hill Roads. They are lagging on the road rotation and there's nothing they can do about it. Supervisor Thomas stated the cost of blacktop use to be \$29.00 a ton. Supt. Bradley stated right and stated this budget here is pretty good we can do two miles. But the roads are getting bad slowly and more traffic. So they are just breaking apart more and he actually has to do something because the roads don't have a base on them. So he plans on doing a mile on Roaring Branch and one mile on Lanfear unless the Board wants him to pay attention to something else. Supervisor Thomas stated we spent the money to grind the roads so we might just as well take care of it. He asked if there was any questions and if not he doesn't think they need to do a resolution we can sign it if you want.

- Item One Agreement: Commencing at Roaring Branch Road leading to States Road using Type 6F, 21feet width, 1.5 in. thickness, subbase existing and one mile at Lanfear leading to Thurman Type 6F, 21 feet width, 1.5 in. thickness, subbase existing.

Supt. Bradley stated they won't be using Warren County this year. Last year they used Hadley and they charged \$1000.00-\$1500.00 and Warren County usually is \$5000.00-\$6000.00 so we saved pretty good on that.

Occupancy Bed Tax; Southern Adirondack Magazine:

064-15. A resolution was made by Supervisor Thomas seconded by Councilman Carl Thomas To purchase a full page ad in the 2015-2016 Southern Adirondack Magazine in the amount of \$945.00, with 50% (\$472.50) being reimbursed by the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor.

Discussion: Councilman Nathan Thomas asked if private businesses are advertised in it.

Supervisor Thomas stated yes. The Stony Creek Inn always has an ad in it.

Roll call vote, all in favor.

Senate Bill S1914 and Assembly Bill A3721; Emergency Services may charge a fee for ambulance Service:

Supervisor Thomas stated this is a resolution that was quite talked about at the last meeting. It's a resolution in support of Senate Bill S1914 and Assembly Bill A3721 fee for service, a proposed law. We tabled it from last meeting and brought it up at this meeting because there was only four Board Members here last meeting.

Councilman Carl Thomas stated he wasn't here last month. He did read the minutes on it. To him he thinks it's like opening a door that he thinks we don't necessarily want to open. He knows there's reasons for it but there's other reasons, Councilwoman Ryan stated not to do it.

Councilman Carl Thomas agreed. Supervisor Thomas stated he would reiterate what he said last meeting. Maybe it's not so much for Stony Creek but there are other towns this could probably help and probably need the help and because it does say "may". He thought he would bring it up again.

A resolution was made by Councilman Nathan Thomas seconded by Supervisor Thomas in support of Senate Bill S1914 and Assembly Bill A3721. Emergency Services may charge a fee for ambulance Service.

Discussion:

Attorney Cooper stated he thinks this is a type of resolution where Town Board Members should mention they are members of the fire co. before they vote because it affects the local fire co.

Councilman John Thomas stated he did check into it more. He did read the Bill and asked quite a few questions on this. It defiantly wouldn't be for us. You're looking at roughly 400 calls to even break even. There's only one other fire co. that runs EMS in Warren County. He didn't realize there were others in the State. He agrees with Councilman Carl Thomas it opens a door that we defiantly wouldn't want to open. The exact cost involved is as far more then you take in.

Supervisor Thomas stated the exact cost as in? Councilman John Thomas stated the exact cost in as tax wise because we are Non-for-Profit. The hired fees for the accountant to file the paperwork, we'd have to hire a biller. Supervisor Thomas stated isn't it just for transportation? Councilman John Thomas stated you still have to bill under a certain code. It has to be done a certain way nothing the average person can do. They don't do it in Warrensburg and any other company he is aware of. There might be one or two that have volunteers do it but more likely you're going to end up paying for it.

Councilman Nathan Thomas talked with the Billing Specialist of Empire Ambulance, which he is an employee of. They offer billing, Multi-Med is another company that does billing and EMR is a third company.

It's 10% per call commonly for the cost of billing. Their requirement is upon completion of a call you either scan it and e-mail it through a secure connection or fax it through a secure connection as well. He knows for a while Warrensburg used Empire as their Billing Specialist until their last contract was up. The Town of West Glens Falls does their billing and then reimburses the split squads. Councilman John Thomas stated he's not sure on that. He thinks that's the one that has the volunteer that does it part time. They don't do all the billing but they do, basically a low level billing, the BLS calls. Councilman Nathan Thomas stated yes and that's all you have here in our community are BLS calls.

Councilman John Thomas stated to him the other down side is for us, and he understands it could work for someone else, is as soon as Luzerne or Warrensburg sees we are billing we will pay on that end too. As far as non-for-profit, when you reach a certain amount, and he talked with the accountant, then you have to file a different tax form, you're in a different class. The cost far outweighs what you bring in for income.

Supervisor Thomas stated he thinks you will see at least Luzerne if not probably Warrensburg start billing us anyhow at some point. He's surprised Luzerne hasn't before this.

Roll call vote, Councilman Carl Thomas-No, Councilman John Thomas-No Councilman Nathan Thomas-Yes, Councilwoman Ryan-No, Supervisor Thomas-Yes. Three no's, two yes's resolution dies.

Attorney Cooper stated he sure earned his paycheck with that vote. None of you indicated your association with the fire co. Councilwoman Ryan stated she is a member of the fire co and she doesn't support that bill.

Committee reports:

Youth Planning Director:

Councilwoman Ryan stated she spoke with Patrice Jarvis-Weber, she does planning for the youth commission. Patrice was asking for a possible pay raise. Councilwoman Ryan told her that the program is budgeted and would depend on some of the things being done. She knows Marcy was voted in as Director. Does Joann still have any part of it? Supervisor Thomas stated no he doesn't think so. Patrice is making \$9.50 an hour now. Patrice says she has 10-year's experience when she was doing this in Glens Falls. Some of the past programs was up until January. She did a calligraphy in February for Valentines Day, They had a Wildlife Program where they had an attendance of 75 people, and a magic show in April, coming up there is a Youth Art Show in May. She has a wildlife person coming in Stony Creek in June who has a wolf and a scientist coming in July. Patrice also stated she is still doing research ideas for the community.

Councilman Ryan told her she would defiantly bring it up. Supervisor Thomas stated we are paying her \$9.50 an hour now? Councilwoman Ryan stated \$9.50 now.

Carol LaGrasse stated she still couldn't hear and thinks the town board should speak at the point of order where the audience can hear. She moved closer and still couldn't hear her and she's not deaf. She is deaf in one ear but her hearing has been tested and is very acute. Councilwoman Ryan stated she was speaking of some of the programs.

Carol LaGrasse stated she knows what she was speaking about but she couldn't hear what Councilwoman Ryan was speaking about part of them. It's supposed to be open to the public but

if the public can't hear what's the purpose of opening to the public. With a struggle she could hear every other voice clearly.

Supervisor Thomas asked Councilwoman Ryan if Patrice indicated how much of a raise she might want. Councilwoman Ryan stated she mentioned she was making \$14.00 an hour. That was also to a community that was bigger. Again she did tell Patrice that it's a budgeted program, she's not expecting \$14.00 an hour. Supervisor Thomas asked what the rest of the board feels about this. He thinks she should get a raise, she does a good job. Councilwoman Ryan asked what Marcy makes. Supervisor Thomas stated \$10.50 an hour. Councilwoman Ryan asked if she should make the same amount.

Supervisor Thomas stated how about this idea. We raise Patrice to \$10.50 an hour and Marcy to \$11.00 an hour because Marcy was getting \$10.50 when she left and she came back.

Councilwoman Ryan stated she does a good job too. She organized the Easter Egg Hunt and she is being active in it. Supervisor Thomas stated he would introduce the resolution because either one would over charge us, which he'd detect. They're both pretty fair.

065-15. A resolution was made by Supervisor Thomas seconded by Councilwoman Ryan to increase the Youth Director, Marcy Reisinger's pay wage to \$11.00 and The Planning Director Patrice Jarvis-Weber's pay wage to \$10.50. Roll call vote, all in favor.

#### Cemeteries:

Councilman Carl Thomas stated last year we had a couple complaints on the cemeteries and spoke to Supervisor Thomas about it one point in time. He has done a tour of most of them not all of them. They looked to be in good shape. Maybe open it to discussion to think about like planning a ground cover, trees, or shrubbery. They are nice when they're small but they grow up. The roots cause damage, trees come down. Fuller Cemetery on Fisher Road has a 6 in. Balsam standing up in the middle of it. If we remove things like that early if we can do that he doesn't know if they have a program like that, it might be constructive. Supervisor Thomas stated we have been trying to. Councilman Carl Thomas stated there is couple of others.

Goodnow has got a big Butternut Tree, it overhangs and they get the limbs off it. On VanAuken Cemetery there is, it looks like an old Butternut Tree that's basically dead and the limbs are hanging over the fence. He doesn't know if you can do anything with that but it might be something to consider and think about. Other than that they look in pretty good shape.

Supervisor Thomas agreed and stated Harold puts a lot of work on them and it will be a little hard press of Harold to get to all of them this year, but will get to as many as he can.

#### Gill Bridge:

Supervisor Thomas stated he did meet with Thomas Suozzo and another gentleman up at the Gill Bridge to give an estimate on what he would charge to engineer to fix the bridge. They looked at it and kicked around a few things and thinks Mr. Suozzo talked to Supt. Bradley. He will get back to us about what he would charge us to either stamp the plans or get some advice.

New Business:

NYMIR Insurance renewal:

Supervisor Thomas stated the price this year is \$24,524.04 that includes the \$369.35 for the Capitalization Fee that we commented to for five years because of their reciprocal part of the company. It's an increase of \$891.57 over what we paid last year, which to him is enough that's for sure. It's 3.6% increase. The biggest increase is the General Liability, that increased by \$628.00. The rest were all around \$60.00. One actually went down. Councilman John Thomas asked if there was any reason for the liability. Supervisor Thomas stated not that he's been told unless it's the whole market. He thinks we can do it this year but if it continues we might have to think about something else. Councilman Carl Thomas stated even with an increase compared to what we had prior years we're still saving. Supervisor Thomas stated we are still below what we were paying with Trident, Cool Insurance Co. That being said they are sending there appraisal here May 5<sup>th</sup> to appraise the building again and that's what Trident did too. They came here appraised the buildings and jacked up the premium. He hopes their not heading down that same road. He didn't like it then and he doesn't now.

066-15. a resolution was made by Supervisor Thomas seconded by Councilman Nathan Thomas to renew the 2015-2016 Insurance Policy year with NYMIR in the amount of \$24,524.04. Roll call vote, all in favor.

067-15. A resolution was made by Councilwoman Ryan seconded by Councilman John Thomas authorizing the supervisor to sign the Reimbursement Agreement between the County of Warren acting on behalf of the Warren County Youth Bureau and the Town of Stony Creek for the year 2014. The Town agrees to accept from the County as reimbursement the sum of \$726.00 for providing Youth Recreational Programs to the town during 2014. Roll call vote, all in favor.

068-15. A resolution was made by Councilman Nathan Thomas seconded by Councilman John Thomas authorizing the Supervisor to sign the 2015 Senior Busing Reimbursement Contract with the Warren-Hamilton County Office of the Aging. This is a 50/50 reimbursement up to \$1680.00. Roll call vote, all in favor.

Occupancy Bed Tax: Library

069-15. A resolution was made by Councilwoman Ryan seconded by Councilman Carl Thomas Authorizing the expenditure of Occupancy Bed Tax Funds to the Stony Creek Free Library in the amount of \$645.00 for the Silver-smithing class to be held in July. Roll call, vote, all in favor

Double H Ranch:

Supervisor Thomas stated Double H Ranch will be holding their Annual Camp Challenge Ride that loops around Stony Creek and are asking for permission to come through town. This will be held on Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

070-15. A resolution was made by Supervisor Thomas seconded by Councilwoman Ryan Authorizing the Double H Ranch to host a cycling event that will pass through roads in the Town of Stony Creek Saturday September 12, 2015. Roll call vote, all in favor.

**Sexual Harassment & Discrimination Policies:**

Supervisor Thomas stated a Risk Control Specialist came to the town a couple months ago and this was one of the recommendations that he made to the town. To adopt the Sexual Harassment and Anti-Discrimination policies. He gained access to the NYMIR website and found there sample polices. He wanted to present them to the board and give the board a month to review them and come back and see what you think. Next month we can discuss this and either adopt them or not. The insurance company is recommending it and he doesn't know if it's good or bad. He did talk to Lee Pollock the agent with Rose and Kiernan and he said he would like to do a Workplace Violence and Right to Know Training Session and is looking at Monday 25<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>. It will take an hour or hour and fifteen minutes. Mr. Pollock says it is supposed to be done yearly and when PESH comes they will check.

From the floor:

A motion was made by Councilman John Thomas seconded by Councilman Nathan Thomas to adjourning the meeting at 8:05 PM. all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Harrington, RMC  
Town Clerk