

TOWN OF OAKFIELD

BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 11, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Dodd, followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

PRESENT: Supervisor Dodd, Councilpersons Veazey, Glor, Kabel and Cianfrini, Town Clerk Haacke, Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer Smith, Justice Graham and Superintendent of Highways.

JUSTICE

Justice Graham presented his yearend report. An overview revealed that the court was down approximately 140 cases from 2010. Anyone who is not paying their fines, Justice Graham is filing civil judgments against the person if he can. There were no jury trials in 2010. Justice Graham also stated that the books are open for inspection when the Audit Committee is ready.

CODE & ZONING OFFICER

Officer Smith stated that 34 permits were issued in 2010. Only one was for new construction.

SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS

Roadwork—plowing and watching for pot holes.

Buildings & Grounds—everything is ok

Cemetery—one body in the vault.

Park—waiting for residents to take decorations down from the trees and then get rid of them.

Equipment—everything ok

WATER DISTRICT 2

The contractor has finished construction. There is a punch list to be completed prior to leaving for the winter restoration. The second check to the contractor will be held until the punch list is complete.

Blue Heron has requested a second draw in the amount of \$249,246.05; a **motion** was made by Councilman Kabel, seconded by Councilman Cianfrini and carried by unanimous vote to approve payment pending final approval of Rural Development and the Superintendent of Highways that the punch list in complete.

A roll call vote went as follows:

Supervisor Dodd	Aye
Councilman Veazey	Abstain
Councilwoman Glor	Aye
Councilman Kabel	Aye
Councilman Cianfrini	Aye

Passed (4-0-1)

Superintendent of Highways Dennis stated to the Board that a resident on North Pearl Street has a vacant house and a barn. The meter box is, according to policy be set at the vacant house because it has a basement and will be protected from the elements. This resident would like the meter box put at the barn; the barn does not have a basement. There should be one meter box per tax parcel. What the resident must understand is that if the property is separated, this creates another user which will have a chargeable debt service and overall lower the debt service to the whole water district.

Library—Superintendent Dennis is working with the Librarian on installation of a tv and entertainment center that the library acquired through a grant.

Superintendent Dennis requested that the Board approve him to attend Highway School. A **motion** was made by Councilperson Glor, seconded by Councilman Kabel and carried by unanimous vote to approve the Superintendent attend Highway School.

Superintendent Dennis also requested the Board allow him to enter into shared service agreements with other Towns. A **motion** was made by Councilman Cianfrini, seconded by Councilman Veazey and carried by unanimous vote to allow Superintendent Dennis that authority.

The Personnel Committee will be working on the employee manual; should all full time employees be made to take drug testing?

The land footprint for the water tower was presented to the Board; Mr. Dennis is working on the purchase of this land.

TOWN CLERK

Minutes from the year end meeting, December 14th and Organizational Meeting were presented for approval. A **motion** was made by Councilman Veazey, seconded by Councilperson Glor and carried by unanimous vote to approve all three sets of minutes as submitted.

The following bills were submitted for approval:

General Fun	1-21	\$30281.67	
Highway DA	1-10	\$28528.38	
Highway DB	1-2	\$ 8670.87	
Part Town B	1-4	\$ 1413.73	
	TOTOAL		\$68894.65

A **motion** was made by Councilman Cianfrini, seconded by Councilman Kabel and carried by unanimous vote to pay the bills as submitted.

The Town insurance policy is due for renewal on January 15, 2011; new deductible amounts need to be determined. A **motion** was made by Councilman Kabel, seconded by Councilman Veazey and carried by unanimous vote to increase the Property deductible to \$5,000 and increase Inland Marine to \$1000. This will save the Town approximately \$1300 per year.

ARC quoted the Town of Oakfield a cleaning bid of \$45.00 per occurrence; which includes the cleaning supplies. A **motion** was made by Councilman Veazey, seconded by Councilperson Glor and carried by unanimous vote to accept the bid with ARC.

Millennium Computers offers off site back up on as many computers as necessary for a cost of \$200 per year. A **motion** was made by Councilperson Glor, seconded by Councilman Kabel and carried by

unanimous vote to have Millennium Computers do the offsite backup out of Clerks Contractual A1410.4.

The following Resolution was presented to the Town Board through the Association of Towns:

PROPERTY TAX CAP

WHEREAS, towns provide services to more than eight million New Yorkers, yet account for less than 15% of the overall property tax burden; and

WHEREAS, towns are uniquely dependent upon the real property tax to fund town services, more so than counties, cities and villages in that towns do not have the authority to levy sales taxes, occupancy taxes, gross receipts or income taxes; and

WHEREAS, non property tax revenues (e.g. mortgage recoding taxes [fell by \$164 million from 2006 to 2008], sales taxes [declined by \$30 million from 2008 to 2009], and state/federal aid/grant programs [State AIM decreased by 5%]) are subject to market fluctuations and the ability of the federal, state and county governments to share revenue with towns; and

WHEREAS, the costs to provide town services and to fund town operations continue to increase despite declining revenues, such as:

HEALTH CARE

\$43,530.00

TRANSPORTATION/WATER/WASTEWATER

Road Maintenance \$165,000.00 includes stormwater

Water Maintenance \$33,500

PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS

\$30,937.00 and 3% of payroll

WHEREAS, many town expenses are dictated by compliance with federal and state mandates, most notably: storm water management, prevailing wage, procurement requirements, collective bargaining procedures, and the administration of real property exemptions; and

WHEREAS, New York State has primarily provided real property tax relief through ad hoc property tax exemptions rather than comprehensive property tax reform, resulting in a tax shift rather than a tax reduction as well as additional administrative and litigation costs; and

WHEREAS, simply capping property taxes will not reduce the cost of health care, mandate compliance, pension contributions or the public's expectation of governmental services; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Oakfield have taken initiative in lowering property taxes through staff and salary reductions and program cuts; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED that based upon Home Rule principles the Town of Oakfield has traditionally opposed stated mandated property tax caps; and **Be It Further**

RESOLVED that the TOWN of Oakfield calls upon the Governor and Members of the State Legislature of fund and/or eliminate state mandates, reform the real property tax system and address cost drivers in the provision of local government services/operations before implementing a property tax cap; and Be It Further

RESOLVED that in order for a real property tax cap to lower property taxes while ensuring the delivery of essential services the program must include at a minimum:

Exemptions for structured costs such as pension contributions, debt service, contract obligations, reductions in state or federal aid and emergencies and costs associated with unfunded and underfunded mandates;

Hardship relief on a case by case basis;

Mandate relief and reform;

Increased and predictable state revenue sharing and aid formulas;

Additional locally generated revenue streams;

A defined floor of four percent with the possibility of an increased cap based upon a percentage of inflation; and

Local override by supermajority vote of the town board.

A **motion** was made by Councilman Veazey, seconded by Councilman Cianfrini and carried by unanimous vote to accept the Property Tax Cap Resolution as suggested by the Association of Towns.

SUPERVISOR

The Supervisor's Report is available.

Supervisor Dodd stated that he is questioning who should own the land for which the water tower will sit. He feels it should be Village since it will be their tank. Supervisor Dodd will contact Town Attorney Kevin Earl to discuss this matter.

Supervisor Dodd will also contact Stu Browns office regarding the Small Cities Grant; it appears there may be \$600,000 available.

LIBRARY LIAISON

A young boy fell down the basement stairs and broke his arm. The medical bills are to be put through the mothers insurance. Hopefully there won't be a lawsuit.

One side of the library is not heating well.

Town of Oakfield

GAM

Oakfield hosted the GAM meeting last month. Jim Duval was the speaker and he commented that Genesee County had an excellent response to the 2010 Census. The next meeting will be hosted by Stafford.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Highway Committee

Clark Patterson presented a proposal for South Pearl Street Reconstruction & Etzold Road for engineering services. The cost of Topographic Mapping was \$7,000; the Highway Committee has decided to go forward at this time, since it will save the Town money in the long run.

A **motion** was made by Councilman Cianfrini, seconded by Councilman Veazey and carried by unanimous vote.

With no further business to come before the Board, a **motion** was made by Councilman Cianfrini, seconded by Councilman Veazey and carried by unanimous vote to adjourn at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa M. Haacke
Town Clerk