

REGULAR MEETING, WARRENSBURG TOWN BOARD, MARCH 11, 2009

The regular meeting of the Warrensburg Town Board was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at the Albert Emerson Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

PRESENT:

Supervisor	Kevin Geraghty
Councilman	John Alexander
Councilman	Joseph Barlow
Councilman	Austin Markey
Councilman	Dean Ackley

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna A. Combs, Town Clerk; Ed Pennock, Highway Superintendent; Richard Galusha, Sewer Superintendent; Matt Securo; Sandra Parisi, Historian; Steve Parisi, Historical Society President; and numerous Town residents.

RESOLUTION #56-09

MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Alexander, seconded by Councilman Ackley, the following resolution was **ADOPTED – VOTE – AYES 5 NAYS 0**

RESOLVED, to accept the minutes as presented.

REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICIALS

Reports were received and placed on file from the following Town Officials: Town Clerk; Supervisor, Assessor, Justice, Dog Control Officer, and Enforcement Officer.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following town committees gave reports: Highway, Historian, Museum, Parks and Recreation, Sewer and Water.

DISCUSSION – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE

Steve Parisi, representing the Comprehensive Plan Committee in Laura Moore’s absence outlined the survey that will be available to the townspeople and explained the press release was not correct; the Comprehensive Plan Committee would be asking the questions on what Warrensburg residents want. Mr. Parisi said a tentative survey has been completed and will be available in various ways and in places like Jack Toney’s, Stewarts, at the Schools and on the Internet in a month to six weeks.

Supervisor Geraghty told Mr. Parisi the Board applauded their efforts and would encourage any one who wishes to help plan the future of Warrensburg to join the committee.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- a) A letter from Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward in support of our Sewer Projects to Governor Paterson.
- b) A letter from the Town of Johnsbury requesting support for the ORDA Interconnect link between Gore Mountain and the North Creek Ski Bowl.

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- c) A letter from Office of Real Property Tax Services-\$12,985.00 in Triennial Aid to be forwarded to the Town of Warrensburg for the re-val done in 2008.

DISCUSSION – WATER METER BID OPENING

Supervisor Geraghty opened discussion explaining the Town had a water meter bid opening on February 27, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Following the proof of publication that was printed in the Glens Falls Post Star on February 16, 2009 and February 19, 2009 water meter bids were opened from the following:

Blair Supply Corp.	\$169,639.50
GoTToGo Electric, Inc.	\$175,680.00
Ti Sales Inc.	\$183,177.50
Vellano Brothers, Inc.	\$184,542.50
Ferguson Waterworks	\$192,762.50
Datamatic, Ltd.	\$215,470.90
Network Oriented Solutions	\$225,155.00

Supervisor Geraghty explained every component was included in the specifications, including a computer meter reader for the current meters they have installed and this bid is all inclusive of what was projected. Supervisor Geraghty said the current bidder is Blair Supply, included in that bid would be one automatic meter reader which allows a person to do remote readings, the rest of the bid is components to bring the meters up to date. Supervisor Geraghty explained he has told the suppliers the Town is not going to go out and spend \$169,000.00 until the town is able to cover this, the town currently has a \$60,000.00 grant and needs to buy the first components of the grant, the Town knows they are going to receive logging money which will buy some of the second components of the grant and if the town does not institute this until next year, so be it. Supervisor Geraghty said Blair Supply was the low bidder; they have agreed to work with the town.

Maynard Baker – asked Supervisor Geraghty if he was stating he was tabling the \$170,000.00 for a later time. Supervisor Geraghty explained that the town would be accepting the bid but would not spend every dime of the component until the money comes in so the town can finish the project. Mr. Baker asked if the town would have to contribute money. Supervisor Geraghty explained to Mr. Baker the Town has \$61,000.00 in a grant coming from State Archives, \$95,000.00 is left to be received from the logging money and now the town is going to apply for another grant to pay for the balance of this component of the meters.

Mr. Baker asked if upgrading the meters would upgrade the water quality in the town or is the town just able to read the meters, the reason he was asking is because we are in tough times and there are tougher times coming, to spend \$170,000.00, no matter where it comes from does not seem timely, he would like to see a public hearing on this.

Councilman Markey said the town had been working on water meters for as long as he has been on the Board, he is glad the town has the grant monies. Councilman Markey

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said he had no problem spending the grant monies towards the \$169,000.00, just like everything else tough times are here and he does not want to add on any more tax payer dollars, buy any more equipment. Councilman Markey told Richard Galusha the system is antiquated, it was started before he was on the Board in 1995, he did know of a lot of houses that have not had water meters put in, the town has not done a lot with this whole system since 1995, 14 years ago. Councilman Markey said to retro fit all of this and spend tax payers money, the town has to spend \$60,000.00 in grant monies and \$110,000.00 logging money, which could be put back towards deferring the tax rate. Councilman Markey told the Town Board he had always been a proponent of the school taxes are high, the land taxes are high and water is the cheapest commodity we have in this community, everybody can afford it and for the town board to tack on another 100,000 or 110,000 or 170,000 dollars, we have to do a lot to make up \$170,000.00.

Supervisor Geraghty said we are going to try to do that through generating revenues from the sales of the timber and possibly the sale of some of the real estate, the six hundred and some odd acres. Supervisor Geraghty said he did know grants are tax payer money but this was not to saddle on the water district users, this is all to be paid for through grants and the town is going to apply for another grant, not saddle the burden on the taxpayers or the water district customers.

Councilman Alexander said the person who conserves their water every year is paying the same as the person who sprinkles their lawn with irrigation, filling their swimming pool with their water hose, we all see it, water meters will stop that and make people conservative, stop the dripping sinks. It has benefits to conserve water all the way around and let people pay their fair share, that should be the principal of the whole thing. Councilman Alexander said the abuse in town is incredible: people running sprinklers all night long and filling their ten thousand gallon swimming pools, if they want to do that so be it but why should everybody be paying the same dollar amount.

Councilman Markey replied there is no extra charge for a swimming pool, as a pool owner, he is not dumping water in his pool he is taking it out after it rains. Councilman Markey said as he had said water is our cheapest commodity, the town charges households just over \$100.00, you have old water meters, you have some people with old pipes, old systems, there are going to be leaks, people will have four to five hundred dollar water bills; these people cannot afford any more.

Supervisor Geraghty said he did not know if anyone would ever have a \$400 or \$500 water bill.

Councilman Markey told the Supervisor he did not even know the stipulations for spending the \$60,000.00 and asked if the Town could piece meal the grant.

Supervisor Geraghty told Councilman Markey the town has already been awarded \$30,000.00, if we don't then we will have to pay the state back the \$30,000.00, he has no

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problem doing it either way. Supervisor Geraghty explained the town has already been awarded half the grant, that is why we did the meters but we have not spent any of it, we can pay the money back.

Councilman Markey asked about the money the town takes in on water rents right now and said we are paying our water district, paying our bills. Councilman Markey said if the town starts saddling the line with another \$100,000.00 to \$170,000.00 it will take a long time to make it up. Councilman Markey said just because the town has an extra \$100,000.00 in timber, the full intention is to help defray the cost in fuel or repairs.

Councilman Ackley said he was asked about the Beach budget during budget time and he said, during the rough times right now the Beach was not a necessity, it is a luxury; He did not feel he could ask for money for a luxury, water meters do have their good points and they have their bad points. Councilman Alexander said they put everybody on an equal playing field. Councilman Ackley told Councilman Alexander the grant money is taxpayers dollars, just because the Federal and State government can waste money does not mean the town should do the same.

Supervisor Geraghty explained the intention was not to waste money, the intention was not to saddle water district customers with the cost of \$168,000.00, it was clear from the beginning the town would not burden the taxpayers with this money, the town will find a creative way to make it fair and a creative way to allow people to water the lawns for those who do not want to follow the water restrictions. Supervisor Geraghty said it is a proven fact meters force water conservation; money is saved in every town that has water meters.

Supervisor Geraghty told Mr. Baker the town did upgrade the water system, the town rehabbed the Swan Street Well and put that back on line and it has been working fine, they have run into a few problems with coagulation and iron in the pipes, they have changed different solutions; last year was the first year the town did not put restrictions on the people for watering. Supervisor Geraghty explained the town's intent was to make the water system whole, make the water system better and hopefully generate some revenue where they can continue to make improvements to the water system.

Councilman Markey told Supervisor Geraghty it was a known fact the town would not generate revenue. Supervisor Geraghty said he meant not generate revenue but a little extra money so you can have complete capital projects, pumps. Supervisor Geraghty explained right now if you run into a problem with a pump, you have to use the water tap fees; right now the town does not have a reserve in the water district.

Councilman Markey said that is part of the whole water district budget line, a certain amount of money is set aside for repairs, for equipment that needs to be bought.

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Supervisor Geraghty told Councilman Markey not to make it like the Town was trying to make a profit, to call it what it is, to set money aside for planning the future of the water district. Councilman Markey told Supervisor Geraghty if people start conserving the town would not make the money it is making now, people are concerned, they will not be spending this kind of money. Supervisor Geraghty said he wished to have the Water Superintendent address some of these issues.

Richard Galusha, Water Superintendent told the Board last year was a wet summer, the town did not have any ban on sprinklers, the year before, the town saved 17 million gallons more of water last year then they did the year before. Mr. Galusha said you could not tell him they are not a lot of people wasting water, being used on watering their lawns.

Councilman Markey asked how much money had been put into the Swan Street well to get that back up, the town spent a lot of money. Councilman Markey said the town should put the money they got back from lumbering the property into a reserve fund for more problems; the town has always had problems with the Swan Street well.

Mr. Galusha told Councilman Markey that was neither here nor there, if the town keeps pumping water and does not save water it will cost more money, if the town pumped seventeen million gallons last year, he did not think anybody went without a bath or a shower, it looked to him like there has been a lot of water wasted on sprinkling. Mr. Galusha said if the town saved 17 million gallons of water and the town is pumping about 600,000 gallons a day, the town will save a lot of money.

Mr. Baker told Supervisor Geraghty the town had \$100,000.00 that is burning a hole in someone's pocket, and he would like the town to set it aside. Mr. Baker told the Town Board if the town is pumping 600,000 gallons of water a day they should put a water curfew on.

Supervisor Geraghty told Mr. Baker he did not follow the analysis of burning holes in somebody's pocket. Mr. Baker told the Supervisor the Town has \$100,000.00 it wishes to spend on meters when it might have crucial things down the road.

Supervisor Geraghty said one of the plans was to help pay for the meters by using the logging money project, which was one of the initial plans. Supervisor Geraghty said he has no problem, what ever the Board wishes will be done; if it means paying the money back to the State then we will pay \$30,000.00 back to the State.

Councilman Markey asked how long it would take to save \$170,000.00 in the water. Supervisor Geraghty said it was pretty prohibitive to do that in the water.

Supervisor Geraghty called for a Town Board decision.

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RESOLUTION #57-09

TABLE WATER METER BIDS

On motion of Councilman Markey, seconded by Councilman Ackley, the following resolution was NOT ADOPTED – VOTE – AYES – 2 NAYS 3 (Councilman Markey and Councilman Ackley voted Aye, Councilman Alexander, Supervisor Geraghty and Councilman Barlow voted Nay).

FURTHER DISCUSSION – WATER METERS

Councilman Barlow said before he was elected to the Town Board, the town purchased water meters, in 1995 or sometime before, and installed them in homes within the Hamlet, taxpayer's dollars. Councilman Markey told Councilman Barlow it was grant monies, under Maynard Baker's reign. Councilman Barlow said grant money is taxpayer dollars, the money is not being used for the purpose it was intended, he did not wish to be repetitious but it has been said and it is proven that water meters will save water and costs because all of the money that passes through our system is treated water and it costs money to treat that money. Councilman Barlow said he has driven around town in a rain storm and seen sprinklers on, that really burned him up because it is taxpayer's dollars being wasted.

Councilman Ackley said he wished to add one comment for Councilman Barlow and asked Rick Galusha to correct him if he was wrong; when the town did put the water meters in, when the town had them all in the gun could not read them because it was all outdated and the data in the computers were outdated. Councilman Markey said the gun could not read them or Donna's computer program, now we are dumping another \$170,000 in. Councilman Ackley commented all of that money before was grant money.

Councilman Barlow said the fact that the town would accept this bid does not bind us. Supervisor Geraghty said all the acceptance does; he has spoken to Blair about this, we are only going to spend what we have grant monies for, we needed to do some pricing and now that we have the pricing, if we accept this the supplier will work with the town to supply components as long as we buy enough components to pay for shipping costs, if that means buying fifty water meters at a time, we will buy fifty water meters at a time, the supplier has already agreed to that and our whole process was to get something compatible with what we have. Supervisor Geraghty said we have a new computer program, let's get it compatible and start to work so we can get these meters upgraded. Supervisor Geraghty said the Town was fortunate that the meters we bought in 1992 can be upgraded by adding just one component.

Mr. Galusha asked to be corrected if he was wrong, the grant money is going to be used to buy the software for Donna's billing system; it is to be used to help Donna's billing system more than anything else.

Supervisor Geraghty agreed. Mr. Galusha said as far as meters, the town does not have to spend the \$100,000.00 they have in logging money if they do not wish to but they can

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definitely use the software. Mr. Galusha told Town Clerk Combs it would definitely make her life and her office a lot easier to have this software to bill for the water.

Maynard Baker told the Town Board back in the 90's when he was on the Board the Town applied for a grant for a 4.7 million dollar sewer system, the Town had money left to put in a water tank, the town still had money left so that money was used for meters in the town, no money was sent back and no money was used out of town pockets.

RESOLUTION #58-09

RESOLUTION TO AWARD WATER METER BID

On motion of Councilman Alexander, seconded by Councilman Barlow, the following resolution was ADOPTED – VOTE – AYES 3 NAYS 2 (Councilman Alexander, Councilman Barlow and Supervisor Geraghty voted aye, Councilman Ackley and Councilman Markey voted nay).

IT IS RESOLVED, to award the water meter bid to Blair Supply Corp. for the low bid of \$169,639.50.

RESOLUTION #59-09

ESTABLISH CAPITAL PROJECT FOR WATER METER GRANT

On motion of Councilman Barlow, seconded by Councilman Alexander, the attached resolution was ADOPTED – VOTE – AYES 3 NAYS 2 (Councilman Alexander, Councilman Barlow and Supervisor Geraghty voted aye and Councilman Markey and Councilman Ackley voted nay).

DISCUSSION – OUT OF DISTRICT WATER CONTRACTS

Supervisor Geraghty opened discussion explaining the Town currently has only one out of district water contract in writing, we should establish a contract with any one we sell water to out of district. Supervisor Geraghty said right now we provide water to Lincoln Logs which is now Stephenson Lumber, McDonalds, Super 8, Rondack Realty, and River View Campground, we do not have contracts with any of them other than Super 8.

RESOLUTION #60-09

AUTHORIZE CONTRACTS FOR OUT OF DISTRICT WATER CUSTOMERS

On motion of Councilman Markey, seconded by Councilman Alexander, the attached resolution was ADOPTED – VOTE – AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLUTION #61-09

SEWER BILL AMENDMENT

On motion of Councilman Markey, seconded by Councilman Ackley, the following resolution was ADOPTED – VOTE – AYES 5 NAYS 0

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IT IS RESOLVED, to amend, upon recommendation of the Code Enforcement Officer, a sewer bill for Sylvia Webster for single family unoccupied residence located at 119 River Street, parcel #211.17-5-5, from \$320.00 to \$180.00.

DISCUSSION – STREAM CORRIDOR PROTECTION MEETING

Supervisor Geraghty opened discussion explaining he had attended the meeting on Stream Corridor Protection hosted by the Lake George Park Commission in Lake George on February 24th, on the regulations that would change the current stream regulations from 35 feet on either side of the stream to 100 feet on either side of a stream. Supervisor Geraghty said this does affect a little bit of property here in Warrensburg, it is mostly the Lake George Basin, which the town is a part of. Supervisor Geraghty said of all of the people who spoke at the meeting he attended there were probably four environmentalists who said it was a good idea; the other ninety percent of people in the room from all walks of life did not favor this. Supervisor Geraghty said to him, it is the taking of the peoples land, it is not something we need to do, we already have regulations that we follow in the Town of Warrensburg, this has not been very well received. Supervisor Geraghty said he does not know what the outcome from this will be, a decision will be sometime in March or April, this Town Board did vehemently oppose this and most of the towns in Warren County and the Board of Supervisors opposed it.

DISCUSSION – ATTENDANCE AT ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS

Supervisor Geraghty opened discussion explaining he, Town Clerk Combs and Councilman Markey attended the Association of Towns meeting in New York City on February 15th, 16th and 17th of 2009 and that many topics, including the Governor's Budget items and the new Federal Stimulus package were discussed.

Supervisor Geraghty discussed his proposition he made at Warren County that all of the Board of Supervisors in Warren County go to Albany and meet with Governor Paterson and let him know their displeasure. Supervisor Geraghty said since his proposal, the AATV was able to get a face to face meeting with the Governor, APA Local Government was also included at that meeting, they had a meeting at NYSAC which brought in the communities from the Adirondack Park and the communities from the Catskill Park and it appears that the Governor is backing away from the capping of tax on State Land, it appears.

RESOLUTION #62-09

AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO ATTEND APA LOCAL GOVERNMENT DAY CONFERENCE

On motion of Councilman Ackley, seconded by Councilman Markey, the following resolution was ADOPTED – VOTE – AYES 5 NAYS 0

IT IS RESOLVED; the Supervisor is authorized to attend the Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference in Lake Placid on March 24 and March 25, 2009.

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DISCUSSION – APA LOCAL GOVERNMENT DAY CONFERENCE

Supervisor Geraghty told the Town Board the report on the Adirondack Park will be released that day, this is the report that the AATV and the APA Local Government all supported, a report on the Adirondacks done by Saratoga Associates and it is a real telling report that dives into schools, towns, health care and also charts out every piece of land in the Adirondack Park.

RESOLUTION #63-09

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT FOR THE INTERCONNECT BETWEEN GORE MOUNTAIN AND THE NORTH CREEK SKI BOWL

On motion of Councilman Barlow, seconded by Councilman Ackley, the attached resolution was ADOPTED – VOTE – AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLUTION #64-09

AUTHORIZE TOWN CLERK TO ATTEND TOWN CLERK CONFERENCE

On motion of Councilman Markey, seconded by Councilman Ackley, the following resolution was ADOPTED – VOTE – AYES 5 NAYS 0

IT IS RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is authorized to attend the NYSTCA Conference in Rochester from April 26th through April 29th, and, to accept the \$250.00 scholarship received by her from Tri County Town Clerks Association to help defray the cost of the conference.

RESOLUTION #65-09

CLOSE SCHROON RIVER POCKET PARKS CAPITAL PROJECT ACCOUNT

On motion of Councilman Barlow, seconded by Councilman Alexander, the following resolution was ADOPTED – VOTE – AYES 5 NAYS 0

IT IS RESOLVED, to close the Schroon River Pocket Parks Capital Project Account.

DISCUSSION – AMENDMENT TO VOTING MACHINES AGREEMENT WITH WARREN COUNTY

Councilman Ackley opened discussion asking if the voting machines have to be moved back and forth to school, and, asked why the machines cannot be stored at school.

Discussion ensued on the voting machines and the proposed agreement with Warren County to amend the agreement for reimbursement to the town to continue to store and deliver the lever voting machines.

Any action on this was tabled to allow the Supervisor to obtain further information from the School about possible storage of the machines at the School site.

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DISCUSSION YOUTH TIP LINE

Supervisor Geraghty opened discussion telling the Town Board the town no longer has been getting tips on the youth tip line, the County gets most of the tips on the Warren County line. Supervisor Geraghty said he would like permission to abandon the tip line since it is not getting any use any more.

Councilman Markey asked what would happen to the number and Supervisor Geraghty explained they usually put a message referring the caller to call the County tip line number.

RESOLUTION #66-09

CANCEL TOWN YOUTH TIP LINE

On motion of Councilman Markey, seconded by Councilman Barlow, the following resolution was ADOPTED – VOTE – AYES 5 NAYS 0

IT IS RESOLVED, to abandon the youth tip line since it is not getting any tips anymore.

DISCUSSION – PUBLIC CONCERNS

Supervisor Geraghty announced the Richards Library annual report is on file in the Town Clerks Office.

Supervisor Geraghty announced the Town has received notice the Restore New York Funding is now going to be available, the town has sent a letter of intent to apply for funds for the Browns Shoe Store property. Supervisor Geraghty explained the owner needs funding to complete the project, the Town will apply for the grant, it will work through the town, the owner will use the funds to rehab the building.

Supervisor Geraghty reported he attended the open house at the North County Ministry on Main Street, they have completed the renovations of the building, if people have shoes and clothing, especially children's, they can take them there to donate for people in need.

RESOLUTION #67-09

2009 BUDGET TRANSFERS

On motion of Councilman Barlow and Councilman Markey, seconded by Councilman Markey and Ackley, the attached resolution was ADOPTED – VOTE – AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLUTION #68-09

PAY BILLS

On motion of Councilman Barlow, seconded by Councilman Ackley, the following resolution was ADOPTED – VOTE – AYES 5 NAYS 0

IT IS RESOLVED, to pay the bills as outlined on Abstract #3 of 2009.

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On motion of Councilman Markey, seconded by Councilman Barlow, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Combs, Town Clerk