

REGULAR MEETING, WARRENSBURG TOWN BOARD, OCTOBER 12, 2011

The regular meeting of the Warrensburg Town Board was held on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2011 at the Albert Emerson Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

PRESENT:

Supervisor	Kevin Geraghty
Councilman	John Alexander
Councilman	Bryan Rounds
Councilman	Austin Markey
Councilman	Dean Ackley

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna A. Combs, Town Clerk; Ed Pennock, Highway Superintendent; Tom Belden, Water Department; Sandra Parisi, Historian; Steve Parisi, Warrensburg Museum; and numerous Town residents.

RESOLUTION #143-11

MINUTES

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

IT IS RESOLVED, to accept the minutes as presented.

RESOLUTION #144-11

REPORTS OF TOWN OFFICIALS AND TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

IT IS RESOLVED, to waive the reports of Town Officials and Committee reports for this meeting with the exception of the Highway, Sewer and Water.

RESOLUTION #145-11

REQUESTS TO AMEND WATER ROLE

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

IT IS RESOLVED, to amend the Warrensburg Water bill role on the recommendation of the Code Enforcement Officer for the following accounts:

Di Bartolomeo, Alice	210.16-2-27	from \$153.00 to \$ 76.50
Lace, Brian	210.1-1-10	no change from \$612.00 to \$612.00
Lace, Brian	210.16-2-35	no change from \$408.00 to \$408.00
Keane, Carol	210.20-2-5	no change from \$153.00 to \$153.00
Richards, M. & M.	210.20-2-5	from \$1530.00 to \$1377.00
Ross, Myrtle	211.10-1-4	from \$ 76.50 to \$76.50

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Discussion ensued on the sewer plant, and, what has been occurring; the improvements that have been done all summer. Supervisor Geraghty told the Town Board that in the future, for less than ten thousand dollars for a minimum investment for sand filters, would improve the capacity of the treatment plant.

Councilman Markey asked about the town SPEDES permit. Tom Belden said the SPEDES permit is within seventy five to eighty percent of the maximum. Councilman Markey suggested the Town might want to take septic pump outs for a fee at the plant like other communities already are doing.

Supervisor Geraghty announced a fire inspection was done at the Senior Citizen building, the Town will be purchasing exit lights and fire extinguishers to bring the building up to Code. Supervisor Geraghty said he had talked to the President of the Senior Citizens, the only concern the Senior Citizens have if the Town did determine they wanted to shut the building down is that the Town would help them find a location that they could operate out of. Supervisor Geraghty said they know there would be some concerns from some of the members. Councilman Alexander said there is a promise from the Masonic Lodge who will be happy to help the Senior Citizens.

Councilman Ackley said this is something the Town should be looking at before this winter.

Supervisor Geraghty told the Town Board they also should concern themselves with the Chamber of Commerce and the Historian.

Councilman Markey called for a workshop for this month or next month to meet with everyone involved and someone from the Masons Hall and said maybe that way the Town could get it closed for the winter.

Supervisor Geraghty announced Tessa Acuna is doing inventory in Warrensburg on the graves of Veterans buried in the local cemeteries for a Gold Project Award, which is the highest award in the Girl Scouts that they can do. Councilman Alexander said that he met with Tessa and her mother during the summer, when Tessa is done with her project she will have booklets for the VFW and the American Legion.

Supervisor Geraghty told the Town Board the Access Stipulation Agreement for the Richards Avenue Car Wash site has been signed by DEC and it is back on file.

Supervisor Geraghty announced the grant application for the Floyd Bennett Memorial Bandstand Restoration project is moving ahead, paint samples were taken from up there to test for lead, the results are not back.

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DISCUSSION – TIP FEE SCHEDULE FROM WARREN COUNTY

Supervisor Geraghty said that he has the new tipping fee/transportation schedule from Warren County and he is recommending that the Town stay with Wheelabrator in Hudson Falls, transportation costs are still being reviewed to see if it is less expensive to have Waste Management haul the Town's trash to the trash plant. Supervisor Geraghty said the quote for the Town of Warrensburg, which Tom did the calculations for what the Town pays for the trucking fees and it is actually a little bit cheaper, it is \$603.00 per trip to the trash plant for 8.6 tons of waste and that includes the tipping fees; if you take the tipping fees out, Waste Management can haul it cheaper than what the Town can with its own truck. Supervisor Geraghty said right now the Town will see a reduction in tipping fees with the change over of the trash plant; the Town just has to let them know by December if the Town wants them to haul it or if the Town will continue to haul it.

Discussion ensued on the cost of transportation with the Supervisor explaining the cost of transportation would be the same whether the town has a twelve ton container or a fifteen ton container, it would be a one year contract, every town saw a reduction in the cost to ship the waste to the trash plant, they are all a little concerned, as Tom was, about the pricing but they looked at all of the other towns and everyone is reduced.

Councilman Markey said he felt the Town should do it, for one year. Discussion ensued on the recycling package. Councilman Ackley asked if this would add more recycling to what the town is now able to do; Supervisor Geraghty said there is a package of recycling the town can do. Discussion ensued on the price, getting rid of recyclables and authorizing the signing of the contract.

RESOLUTION #150-11

AUTHORIZE CONTRACT FOR WASTE HAULING

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

IT IS RESOLVED, to authorize the Supervisor to enter into a one year contract with Wheelabrator for waste hauling for the 2012 year.

DISCUSSION – TOWN HALL PHONE SYSTEM

Supervisor Geraghty opened discussion telling the Town Board he was asking for permission to end the Town's contract with Cornerstone Telephone and use Verizon. Supervisor Geraghty said the Town currently has three different vendors that it has to deal with, Cornerstone, North East and Verizon, he has had a noisy phone for six years, every time the town contacts the different vendors every body blames every body else, he would like to go with one vendor, have them come in and give the Town a price. Supervisor Geraghty said that he thinks that Verizon will save the Town money in the long run.

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Discussion ensued. Councilman Alexander said that he, too, had bad experience with Cornerstone Telephone for his phone lines. Councilman Markey suggested that the Supervisor contact Time Warner Business Class for a quote. Councilman Ackley said that he had experienced problems with Verizon.

**RESOLUTION #151-11
AUTHORIZE PHONE QUOTES**

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

IT IS RESOLVED to authorize the Supervisor to get quotes from Verizon and Time Warner.

**RESOLUTION #152-11
BUDGET TRANSFERS**

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

**RESOLUTION #153-11
PAY BILLS**

On motion of Councilman Markey, 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 #10-11 in the following amounts: General Fund-\$27,681.89; Highway-\$17,582.91; Brownfield Car Wash-\$930.69; Lighting-\$5849.58; Sewer-\$8855.68; and Water-\$9862.05.

DISCUSSION – LEAVE BEACH OPEN FOR WALKERS

Supervisor Geraghty said he had been asked to leave the Beach open for the walkers to use, he checked with the Town's insurance company and the Department of Health, the insurance company gave the Town permission as long as the Town maintains the signs at the Beach that say to "swim at your own risk"; the Department of Health also gave permission.

**RESOLUTION #154-11
HAVE BEACH REMAIN OPEN FOR USE BY WALKERS**

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

IT IS RESOLVED, to leave the Beach open for walkers, but, leave the gate closed to cars.

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RESOLUTION #155-11

AUTHORIZE USE OF TOWN HALL FOR TOYLAND FOR CHRISTMAS IN WARRENSBURG

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

IT IS RESOLVED, to allow the Warrensburgh Beautification Committee to use the Town Hall for their annual Toyland during Christmas in Warrensburgh which will be held the first weekend in December, December 3rd, 2011 and December 4th, 2011.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR-PUBLIC CONCERNS

Kathy Ferullo – asked if there are charges to turn the water off and the water on. It was explained there is a \$5.00 fee in the Code that would allow for it, if the Town wanted the charge to be in effect, currently it is not enforced. Mrs. Ferullo said she wondered why a person would want to turn the water off if there is no fee.

Supervisor Geraghty said it could be for different reasons, it could be they wish to keep a minimum amount of heat in their property, the Town needs to address it.

Councilman Rounds said in one particular case the person is using the water to do cleaning, and, asked what the town should do with a case like that.

Ruth Fruda- asked the Town Board if the Town is benefiting in any way from the Lake George residents who are across the Bridge who use the Town of Warrensburgh water and sewer, and, asked if there was leverage the Town could use to acquire that land.

Supervisor Geraghty explained we do not provide sewer across the bridge, water rates are one and a half times the current water rate, as far as having the land become part of the Town of Warrensburgh, you would have to have every resident over there petition the Town Board. Supervisor Geraghty said they did that in the 1980's when they wanted fire protection over there; it is his understanding even if they did petition the Town of Lake George the petition does not have to be honored. Supervisor Geraghty said he had spoken with the Lake George Supervisor and some of the town board, informally, and, they are not inclined to do that. Supervisor Geraghty explained that the ominous is on the Town of Lake George for any services over there, it is on the Town of Lake George to do all of that work and will not cost the Town of Warrensburgh tax payers any thing. Supervisor Geraghty said the Town of Lake George would have to form a district for sewer, put in the pipes and do all that stuff, then they would contract with the Town of Warrensburgh for capacity from our plant to them.

Steve Parisi, Warrensburgh Historical Society-announced the graveyard walks are coming up and will be held the 21st of October and the 28th of October, he still has tickets. Councilman Markey said it is phenomenal; he did it last year with his children.

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Supervisor Geraghty announced the Halloween Parade will be held October 31st at 4:00 p.m. at the Hudson Headwaters for all of the kids.

Tom Grace – asked about the rationale for charging businesses twice as much for water rates since they are being metered anyways. Supervisor Geraghty explained it is the rate the Town's engineers have come up with, they were here last month and explained it and have a better handle on it. Supervisor Geraghty said it is a set rate; the feel is that the businesses will use double the rate, double the amount of water that a two family house would use. Supervisor Geraghty told Mr. Grace he wished Mr. Grace had been in attendance at the Town Board meeting last month when the Town Engineers were in attendance for the discussion.

Tom Grace said the meter would tell how much water a business will use and asked why the businesses need to pay double. Supervisor Geraghty told Mr. Grace the Town is not sure of water usage right now, and will not know for at least a year; the water district is way behind and has been behind for ten to fifteen years, it does not take in enough money to operate, the Town has even sold property as a one time revenue to try and help the water district and it did not suffice, based on the engineer studies they have determined this is the x number of dollars that is needed; the best way to come up with it is the Equivalent Domestic Units, that is why they did it. Supervisor Geraghty said this is not to say that the EDU's will not change in the future, in order for the Town to have enough money to operate the district this is the amount of money the town has to have, the water meter readings will help in the future for determination but the initial rates were set at that. Supervisor Geraghty told Mr. Grace he could have the Town Engineers speak with him.

Councilman Rounds said one of the issues he was having was the water district has kept borrowing from the general fund and what that means is people who live outside the water district's tax dollars were being used to help balance the water department when they were not getting any water service, this has been an unfair practice for twenty years to the people outside of the water district.

Mr. Grace said his point was the Town has a bottom line figure of how much it costs to run the water department. Supervisor Geraghty said the Town has a total number and that is how the EDU 's were determined, by looking at those numbers, the Town cannot say they can charge just a metered rate and that will raise enough money to run the water department for the first year, there is not enough history to do that.

Mr. Grace asked if the town could use the same meter readings to charge for the sewer rate. Supervisor Geraghty said potentially they could, he did think they did it in other communities. Mr. Grace told the Supervisor he would strongly encourage that, obviously the water bill is a lot less than the sewer bill. Mr. Grace asked the Town Board if they were actually looking for locations in town for a new well and said he has a possible

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location at 87 River Street. Supervisor Geraghty told Mr. Grace he would send the town engineers down to speak to him.

Ed Nasierowski – questioned the meter rates, asking if there will be one meter rate for all businesses.

Councilman Markey told Mr. Nasierowski the charge would be an EDU on what you use.

Mr. Nasierowski asked if his would be the same as Oscars. Councilman Alexander said it would be up to 20,000 gallons, after that it will be \$3.90 per thousand, for a commercial meter. Councilman Alexander said the businesses would be the same.

Discussion ensued on water fees and who has had water meters and for how long.

Supervisor Geraghty assured Mr. Nasierowski next year he will be billed with a water meter.

Discussion ensued with Mr. Nasierowski commenting about Great Escape Campground and their problems with their septic system at the campground.

On motion of Councilman Alexander, seconded by Councilman Markey, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Combs, Town Clerk