

SPECIAL MEETING, WARRENSBURG TOWN BOARD, DECEMBER 30, 2013

A special meeting of the Warrensburg Town Board was held on Friday, December 30, 2013 at the Albert Emerson Town Hall at 4:30 p.m. with the following members present:

PRESENT:	Supervisor	Kevin B. Geraghty
	Councilperson	Linda Baker Marcella
	Councilperson	Bryan Rounds
	Councilperson	Joyce Reed
	Councilperson	John Alexander

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna A. Combs, Town Clerk, and Tom Belden, Water Department.

RESOLUTION #226-13

RESCIND WATER FEE RATE CHANGE RESOLUTIONS

On motion of Councilperson Alexander, seconded by Councilperson Reed, the following resolution was **ADOPTED**

AYES 5 Alexander, Rounds, Geraghty, Reed, Baker-Marcella

NAYS 0

IT IS RESOLVED, to rescind Resolution #211-13, Change commercial description for water billing, rescind Resolution #212-13; Change gallons for water meter billing; rescind Resolution #213-13, Seasonal garden rates and rescind Resolution #214-13, Amend vacant home rate fee for 2014.

DISCUSSION - SCHEDULE WATER WORKSHOP MEETING

Supervisor Geraghty opened discussion suggesting the Town Board study their usage sheets they have received tonight and then hold a meeting in March to further discuss the current rates for water usage.

Supervisor Geraghty told the Town Board the Town Clerk would like permission to send out the bills for the first quarter, as is.

DISCUSSION - BAND STAND SURVEY BIDS

Supervisor Geraghty opened discussion explaining the Town Board accepted the bid of David Barrass for the Band Stand Grant program grant, there was a second bidder, the LaBerge Group. Supervisor Geraghty said the bid Mr. Barrass submitted was the lowest bid with a total fee of \$1800.00, the LaBerge Group bid fee was \$2875.00. This bid was submitted to the Town Board at the regular December Town Board meeting, and, awarded. Supervisor Geraghty said he wished to have this submitted in the minutes.

SPECIAL MEETING, WARRENSBURG TOWN BOARD, DECEMBER 30, 2013

DISCUSSION - ATTORNEY FEES

Supervisor Geraghty explained to Councilperson Baker-Marcella the meeting for the Organizational Meeting has been scheduled for the swearing in of Town Officials. Supervisor Geraghty asked Councilperson Baker-Marcella if she wished to discuss the Attorney contract now, before the warrant is paid.

Councilperson Baker-Marcella said when she checked in the budget before approving this bill, she found that this account is almost \$2000.00 over budget and her concern is that they are supposed to have a retainer. Councilperson Baker-Marcella asked the Town Board to review the current contract and bill before they approve the new contract. Councilperson Baker-Marcella asked Supervisor Geraghty what the increase in fees would be with the new contract. Supervisor Geraghty explained the increase would be to \$26,000.00, up \$2000.00. Councilperson Baker-Marcella said she had called Bob and he had told her they had written off half of the billing, he billed and it only included half of the billable hours spent. Councilperson Baker-Marcella said she had never understood the contract to read the way it does.

Discussion ensued on what the contract contains and what the special services are that are listed on the contract. Councilperson Baker-Marcella said she wanted to have a conversation with Mr. Hafner and see if they could get better control over how much time is spent calling him and actual emails. Councilperson Baker-Marcella said it was her feeling there needed to be more control to see that what they are budgeting is what they are spending or go out for request for proposals. Councilperson Baker-Marcella said she has already started calling other towns to see what their legal budget is.

Councilperson Reed said that some of his billing is covered and reimbursed. Supervisor Geraghty explained that the developers have reimbursed the attorney expenses.

Councilperson Baker-Marcella said that would make a difference, if the Town is getting reimbursed for the legal fees for the Price Chopper and the other special projects. Supervisor Geraghty explained the only times they have paid extra to Bob that he is aware of is \$1920.00 for the financing where he did the EFC refinancing in June and this last one for the truck financing.

Councilperson Baker-Marcella told the Supervisor if they pay this bill today they are around \$2000.00 over budget. Supervisor Geraghty explained that would be the \$1900.00 and the \$920.00. Supervisor Geraghty said he called and inquired about the \$1900.00, it was done in June or July, and the Attorney explained it was the EFC financing. Supervisor Geraghty said that the firm puts a lot of time and effort in their financing, every time we buy a bond there is a book and a lot of paperwork.

SPECIAL MEETING, WARRENSBURG TOWN BOARD, DECEMBER 30, 2013

Councilperson Reed asked if they knew what other towns spend for legal services, and, said this is a lot less than we paid last year. Councilperson Reed said if the Town did not have a contract we would have paid a lot more, and, if they were to look at what the town paid in other years they would find this is a lot less.

Discussion ensued on legal fees. Councilperson Baker-Marcella said she wished to have more control here about who calls him and that she would like to remind the people here who call him to keep the conversations short, have your thought together and that kind of thing, maybe even send an email instead.

Councilperson Reed said her only other concern is that the Town has all of these other projects going on and the Attorney is involved in them. Councilperson Rounds agreed. Councilperson Baker-Marcella said she was not looking to change Attorney's; to think that you can just request what you request is going to get approved is not appropriate either. Councilperson Reed said she did not feel this was a lot of money for attorney fees for a town and that she would like to see some other towns, with putting him on a retainer the Town has saved over \$8,000.00.

Supervisor Geraghty said he is happy with the workmanship from the firm.

Discussion ensued on different cases that have been handled and the fees involved.

RESOLUTION #227-13

PAY BILLS

On motion of Councilperson Reed, seconded by Councilperson Alexander, the following resolution was ADOPTED

AYES 5 Alexander, Rounds, Geraghty, Reed, Baker-Marcella

NAYS 0

IT IS RESOLVED to pay the warrants as outlined on Abstract #13-2013 in the following amounts:

General fund	\$28,562.98
Highway fund	\$12,784.49
New Well	\$ 7,737.14
Sewer fund	\$ 6,811.08
Water fund	\$ 8,599.30

RESOLUTION #228-13

BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS

On motion of Councilperson Reed, seconded by Councilperson Alexander, the attached resolution was ADOPTED

AYES 5 Alexander, Rounds, Geraghty, Reed, Baker-Marcella

NAYS 0

SPECIAL MEETING, WARRENSBURG TOWN BOARD, DECEMBER 30, 2013

DISCUSSION - WATER BILLING SPREADSHEET

There was discussion on the water rate billing spread sheet that was given to the Town Board. Town Clerk Combs told the Town Board her Deputy Kathy prepared the spread sheet. Supervisor Geraghty said this gives the Town Board a true picture, that Kathy went through and figured that if they raised the gallons to 30,000 and what the estimated usage would be based on their usage this year. Supervisor Geraghty said this was excellent data; they will also reach out to Tom Suozzo and hold a workshop meeting with him.

Discussion ensued on the spreadsheet with questions being asked about location of certain accounts, and usage of certain accounts.

DISCUSSION - PURCHASING

Councilperson Baker - Marcella said she wanted to make sure that everyone is checking for prices, doing comparisons, before they make a purchase.

On motion of Councilperson Baker-Marcella, seconded by Councilperson Reed, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Combs, Town Clerk