

February 21st, 2011
Regular Meeting
Petersburgh Town Board

The regular meeting of the Petersburgh Town Board was held on February 21st, 2011 at 7:00PM at the Petersburgh Town Hall, 65 Main Street, Petersburgh, New York.

Present: Supervisor Peter Schaaphok
Councilman William Seel
Councilman Richard Snyder
Councilwoman Amy Manchester
Highway Superintendent Raymond Harrison
Town Clerk Callie Crisp

Guests: Emily Harrison, Sharon Hodges, Donald Jones, Joseph Dunlop
Press: Alex Brooks, The Eastwick Press

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Schaaphok called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Resolution # 11
Audit of Bills

On motion of Councilman Snyder, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the bills as listed on abstract # 2/11 be paid in the following amounts:

General Fund # 19-60	\$22,951.73
Light District # SL1- SL2	\$ 1,421.60
Highway Fund #25-54	\$ 30,805.49
Water District # 6-10	\$ 1,271.58
Library Fund # 3-13	\$ 4,578.62

Councilman Seel seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Peter Schaaphok	Aye
Councilman Richard Snyder	Aye
Councilman William Seel	Aye
Councilwoman Manchester	Aye

Supervisor Schaaphok declared the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Resolution # 12
Approval of Minutes

On motion of Councilman Seel, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the minutes from the Regular Town Board Meeting January 17th, 2011 be accepted with minor language corrections. Councilman Snyder seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Peter Schaaphok	Aye
Councilman Richard Snyder	Aye
Councilman William Seel	Aye
Councilwoman Manchester	Abstained

Supervisor Schaaphok declared the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

REPORTS

- Town Clerk: read correspondence from NYMIR regarding a Defensive Driving Course being offered to Town employees.
- Highway Superintendent: Superintendent Harrison informed the Board that the crew has been plowing and fixing trucks. During one storm, only one truck was up and running, but most problems have since been repaired. In spite of issues with the vehicles, compliments have been received on the Highway crew's upkeep of the Town roads during the numerous snowstorms this winter. Mr. Harrison also stated that he recently broke his ribs in a fall, and that Deputy Highway Superintendent Steven Harrison has been covering his absence.
 - Superintendent Harrison reported that a fire hydrant located in front of the old Jones' garage was broken. A state truck hit the hydrant with the wing while plowing, and knocked the hydrant over. A cone will be placed over the hole in the ground to protect the valve, until the repairs can be completed.
- DCO: Lynne Torello-Burns was not present at tonight's meeting, but provided a monthly report to the Board. This report showed a total of 3 calls for the month of January. The DCO has also begun the dog enumeration within the Town.
- Supervisor: presented the Supervisor's monthly report to the Board. It showed receipts \$23,517.92, disbursements \$115,394.94, leaving a balance on hand as of February 21st, 2011 of \$162,532.15. This report is on file in the Town Clerk's office.
 - Supervisor Schaaphok informed the Board that he would be meeting with representatives from the Rensselaer County Plateau Alliance on Wednesday, February 23rd, for an informational meeting.
 - The Supervisor has also been in correspondence with County Executive Kathy Jimino and Assemblyman Tony Jordan regarding the situation with the house in the Mill Yard. Due to State regulations regarding the demolition of a building with traces of asbestos, the Town cannot afford to remove the building. The County has been informed of this position that the Town is stuck in, and may hopefully provide advice and/or assistance to resolve this problem, as Petersburg is not the only Town in this situation.
 - Town attorney Kevin Engel received a letter from Sal Ferlazzio, the legal representative for Teresa and Brandon DeWaal. The letter stated that a FOIL request was given to the Town Court last year, and to date the

request has not been fulfilled. Supervisor Schaaphok explained that the request was for recordings of specific Court proceedings, and that Mrs. DeWaal wanted them copied onto a CD. However, according to Unified Court System, the files cannot be copied, and must be either listened to at the Town Hall, or recorded by a transcriber. Both the Court Clerk and the Town Clerk have informed Mrs. DeWaal of this requirement numerous times, and have provided contact information for transcribers. Supervisor Schaaphok then read the reply that he prepared for Mr. Ferlazzio to the Board.

- o The Water District bills have been dispersed. Due to the late mailing, the due dates for the payments were adjusted accordingly.
- o Town Attorney Kevin Engel was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to attendance of the Association of Towns meeting currently taking place in New York City.

OLD BUSINESS

- Site Plan Review Law Fees: no results yet; matter was tabled.
- Heating Situation at PVMCC: In regard to the heating system issues, Supervisor Schaaphok met with PVMCC's previous engineer, Dave Sadowsky, Mason Hubbard, Roger Lemere, Carlton Coon, and Rolland Hewitt to discuss possible solutions. Although the heat is working, the system is not receiving enough airflow. The installation of a cold air return would correct the problem; a quote was provided for approximately \$750.00 to complete the work.
- Heating in the Town Hall: the new furnace in the Town Hall was recently working incorrectly as well. Carlton Coon came to provide repair service, and said that the furnace will need to be checked and maintained once a week. Mr. Coon explained that the new broiler is much smaller than the previous, and the return tank was designed for a larger broiler. The return tank has been leaking, and is need of repair. The furnace will require flushing once a week, and a meeting took place with various Town Officials in which Mr. Coon demonstrated the process. Once the return tank is fixed, the flushing process will still need to continue to ensure proper functionality. A schedule has been created to track the weekly checks. Mr. Coon provided for two options: the return tank could be rebuilt for about \$510.00; or replaced for around \$1,500.00. All Board members were in agreement to purchase a new tank, and also to approve the work required at PVMCC.

Resolution # 13

Approval of Heating Repairs

On motion of Councilman Seel, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Town Board approves the heating repairs to be performed at PVMCC and the Town Hall, and hereby authorizes the repair work to commence. Councilwoman Manchester seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Peter Schaaphok	Aye
Councilman Richard Snyder	Aye
Councilman William Seel	Aye
Councilwoman Manchester	Aye

Supervisor Schaaphok declared the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

- Town Board Appointment: David Green has agreed to fill the remainder of Raymond Broadwell's term, ending December 31st, 2011. Mr. Green is the current Deputy Supervisor and also a former Town Board member, therefore entering the position with experience.

**Resolution # 14
Appointment of Town Board Member**

On motion of Councilwoman Manchester, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that David Green be appointed to the Petersburg Town Board to complete the remainder of Raymond's Broadwell's term, ending December 31st, 2011. Councilman Seel seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Peter Schaaphok	Aye
Councilman Richard Snyder	Aye
Councilman William Seel	Aye
Councilwoman Manchester	Aye

Supervisor Schaaphok declared the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

- Amend Resolution # 1 of 2011: Although a raise was put into the DCO salary during last year's budget process, the increase was not shown in Resolution # 1 of 2011, approved during January's Organizational Meeting. A resolution was passed to amend this oversight.

**Resolution # 15
Amendment to Resolution # 1 of 2011**

On motion of Councilman Snyder, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that Resolution # 1 of 2011 be amended to read:
Dog Control Officer.....\$3,000.00 per year, paid quarterly by voucher, instead of \$2,400.00 per year. Councilwoman Manchester seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Peter Schaaphok	Aye
Councilman Richard Snyder	Aye
Councilman William Seel	Aye

Supervisor Schaaphok declared the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

- Water District Issues:
 - Leak in the Water Tower: During a routine check by Water District Superintendent Todd Stradinger, it was discovered that the water tower had a small hole in a side panel, about ½" in diameter and 30' high. The hole appears to have been caused by a bullet. The State Police were called, and a police report was filed. Supervisor Schaaphok spoke with the tower's manufacturer in regard to fixing the hole. The proper repairs cannot be completed until the tank can be drained in the spring. The company advised the Town to temporarily plug the hole with a wooden cork to deter contaminates. An estimate of \$1,000.00 was provided to fix the damage. The insurance company has been put on notice, and the Town will be accountable for a \$500.00 deductible once the repair has been completed.
 - Billing: All Water District rent bills have been dispersed. Due to the late mailing, the due date for the bills has been extended accordingly. Supervisor Schaaphok has been in contact with both Water District Superintendent Stradinger and Water District Billing Supervisor Fred Humphrey, in regard to Water District related documents. Currently most Water District records are not kept at the Town Hall, causing a lack of information available to the Town Clerk. It was decided to relocate the records to the Town Hall, to ensure that billing information and other records are more easily accessible. The Town Clerk has been working on compiling a list of contact information for all current Water District Patrons, which was shown to the Town Board. Supervisor Schaaphok then reported that the water meter installations were once again in process and almost complete.
- Sales Tax Extension: Supervisor Schaaphok received a letter from Rensselaer County Executive Kathy Jimino, requesting the Town's support in a 2-year extension on the 1% sales tax increase. Currently the rate is 8%; the approval of the extension leave this rate unchanged, otherwise the rate would drop to 7%. A resolution made by Rensselaer County prompted the request for support from all Towns. The 8% rate resulted in \$32,126.00 for Petersburg last year, and the Board agreed to support the extension of the 1% increase.

Resolution # 16
Approval of Rensselaer County's 2-Year Extension of the 1% Sales Tax Increase

On motion of Councilman Seel, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Petersburg Town Board hereby is in approval with Rensselaer County's 2-Year Extension of the 1% Sales Tax Increase. Councilman Snyder seconded such motion, and roll call showed the following results:

Supervisor Peter Schaaphok	Aye
Councilman Richard Snyder	Aye

Councilman William Seel
Councilwoman Manchester

Aye
Aye

Supervisor Schaaphok declared the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

- Youth Program Funding: An e-mail was received from Jean Brooks at Rensselaer County Department for Youth, asking for support in opposing the new State budget that cuts funding for Youth Programs. Supervisor Schaaphok stated that while he understood the concern, the State has to make budget cuts somewhere. The income received from the State for Petersburg's Youth Group is not substantial enough to cause a lapse in the program. The Board agreed to not respond to the letter's request, and suggested that individuals who feel differently can send their opinions to the legislatures.

PUBLIC ADDRESS

- Library Director Sharon Hodges: inquired about an electrical problem with the light switches in the Library. The Board advised Mrs. Hodges to schedule a service call from one of the Town's electricians.
- Donald Jones: was present to inform the Board about a confrontation between himself and two Highway crewmembers. Mr. Jones stated that two Highway Department employees came to his place of work to address an issue regarding the way he plows his driveway. Mr. Jones was appalled that this discussion was held where he is employed, and in front of co-workers. He felt that the way the situation was handled was uncalled for and unprofessional. The Board agreed with Mr. Jones, and inquired further about the complaint. Highway Superintendent Harrison explained that Mr. Jones plows the snow from his driveway across the road, leaving ridges that freeze and harden across the road. This recently caused a car to go off the road, which is what prompted the two Highway crewmembers to confront Mr. Jones. Mr. Harrison reiterated that he was absent this week due to injury, and apologized for the way the issue was handled in his absence. The Board agreed that in the future, problems should be addressed by the Highway Superintendent, rather than by the crew.
- Joseph Dunlop: was present to inform the Board of the broken fire hydrant, which had been mentioned earlier in the meeting. Mr. Dunlop then inquired about the Water District Superintendent, and whether or not meters had been installed in Town buildings. Mr. Dunlop voiced his concerns with the partner that Water District Superintendent Stradinger brings along during meter readings. Mr. Dunlop inquired about whether or not the partner is paid by the Town, and was informed that he was not.
- Councilman William Seel: addressed the method of plowing the Town buildings, and asked if any problems may occur once the snow piles melt. The substantial snow accumulations received this year have caused an issue regarding the placement of plowed snow. Councilman Seel was concerned that the large snow piles surrounding the buildings would cause water

damage and leakage once warmer weather arrives. He suggested keeping the Town Park road plowed next year in order to dump large amounts of snow into the field, where melting would not affect any buildings. A suggestion was also made to remove the eve gutters from PVMCC, so that the snow and ice would slide off the roof rather than building up. In conclusion, it was reported that this year's winter has had the largest amount of snowfall since 1971!

With no further business, on motion of Councilman Snyder, seconded by Councilman Seel, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Callie Crisp, Town Clerk