

May 16th, 2011
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting
Petersburgh Town Board

Public Hearing

The Petersburgh Town Board held a Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing those present for or against the proposed Dog Control Law of the Town of Petersburgh on May 16th, 2011 at 6:45 PM at the Petersburgh Town Hall, 65 Main Street, Petersburgh N.Y. The revisions were presented prior to the Regular Town Board meeting. Notice of the time, place, and date of the hearing was posted in the Post Office, Office of the Town Clerk, and published in The Eastwick Press.

Present: Supervisor Peter Schaaphok
Councilman William Seel
Councilman Richard Snyder
Councilwoman Amy Manchester
Councilman David Green
Highway Superintendent Raymond Harrison
Dog Control Officer Lynne Torello-Burns
Town Clerk Callie Crisp

Guests: Rensselaer Plateau Alliance members, Sharon Hodges, Corey Aldrich, Emily Harrison, Joseph Dunlop

Supervisor Schaaphok opened the hearing at 6:45 PM to anyone desiring to make comments for or against the changes made.

Sharon Hodges inquired about the qualifications for Kennel Licenses. A discussion took place in regard to this topic.

With no other comments, on motion of Councilman Snyder, seconded by Councilman Seel, Supervisor Schaaphok closed the hearing at 6:59 PM.

Regular Meeting

Following the Public Hearing, the regular meeting of the Petersburg Town Board was held on May 16th, 2011 at 7:00PM at the Petersburg Town Hall, 65 Main Street, Petersburg, New York.

Present: Supervisor Peter Schaaphok
Councilman William Seel
Councilwoman Amy Manchester
Councilman Richard Snyder
Councilman David Green
Dog Control Officer Lynne Torello-Burns
Highway Superintendent Raymond Harrison
Town Clerk Callie Crisp

Guests: Corey Aldrich, Sharon Hodges, Emily Harrison, Joseph Dunlop

Rensselaer Plateau Alliance:

Jim Bonesteel, President
Bob Stegemann, Vice President
Walter Kersch, Treasurer
Dick Gibbs, Board Member
Sherry Gibbs, Board Member

Following the Pledge of Allegiance the Supervisor called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Resolution #26

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Seel stated that there were a couple corrections to the minutes. A line was removed from a discussion during Public Address, and Resolution #25 was amended to reflect the correct language. On motion of Councilman Seel, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the minutes from the Regular Town Board Meeting on April 18th, 2011 be approved pending 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 Amy Manchester	Aye
Councilman David Green	Aye

Supervisor Schaaphok declared the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

REPORTS

- Town Clerk: Callie Crisp informed the Board of her attendance at the New York State Town Clerk's Annual Conference. A copy of the class schedule was distributed to the Board. Ms. Crisp also asked the Board for Anne Schnoop to be appointed as the second Deputy Town Clerk. Although the Board gave its approval to begin training, it was decided not to make a resolution for the appointment until Mrs. Schnoop is needed to cover the office.
- Highway Superintendent: Raymond Harrison reported that the crew has been working on cleaning the trucks, filling potholes, and waiting for the rain to stop. Supervisor Schaaphok informed Mr. Harrison that he has been researching a State savings plan that the highway crew showed interest in joining.
- Library Director: Sharon Hodges announced that the Library Plant & Bake Sale, held annually to benefit the Library, would take place on Saturday, May 21st, in addition to the Town Wide Tag Sale.
- Supervisor: Peter Schaaphok brought up the issue from last month regarding the Building Inspector and Assessor, and stated that it has not yet been resolved. Supervisor stated that the remainder of the Supervisor's report and the audit of the bills would take place later in the meeting, so that the RPA Presentation could be given first.

NEW BUSINESS

- Rensselaer Plateau Alliance Presentation:

Present: Jim Bonesteel, President
 Robert Stegemann, Vice President
 Walter Kersch, Treasurer
 Dick Gibbs, Board Member
 Sherry Gibbs, Board Member

The President of the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA) Jim Bonesteel began the presentation, which included a PowerPoint Slideshow. The RPA is an organization working to support the conservation of the Rensselaer Plateau. The Rensselaer Plateau is made up of the following Towns: Hoosick, Pittstown, Berlin, Grafton, Petersburg, Poestenkill, Brunswick, Sand Lake, Nassau, and Stephentown. 19 Members currently make up the RPA, which meet once a month and hosts educational seminars as requested. Mr. Bonesteel stated that the purpose of the RPA is to conserve the area for future generations, and to provide benefits for the included Towns. The Alliance promotes all recreational activities, businesses, and forest industries; and is working to provide education and continue conservation.

Vice President Bob Stegemann spoke next in regard to the Conservation Plan of the Alliance. The RPA is working to gather information from landowners, municipalities, and local stakeholders in order to identify the values and conservation needs of the area. A "tool box" will be created to enable action for the Conservation Plan. The RPA is also currently conducting an ecological

assessment to determine various impacts on the Plateau. Eventually, a GIS-format database will be created and made available to the public.

The RPA encourages communities to collaborate toward conservation for the future, and encourages the public to attend the upcoming Community Values Meetings to be held around the area.

- Court Clerk Position: The Supervisor read correspondence from Judge Sears and Judge Montgomery, which stated that Court Clerk Barbara Snyder would be retiring from the position effective June 30th, 2011. The letter stated that the position of Court Clerk had been advertised, and after reviewing the resumes received, the Judges chose Callie Crisp as Mrs. Snyder's successor beginning July 1st, 2011.
- Copier Proposal: Quotes were obtained from several companies, and the proposal selected was provided by Berkshire Graphics, Inc. A quote was shown to the Board for a Cannon Image Runner 2525 digital copier system. The machine costs \$3,450 to purchase, or \$118.00/month for 36 months to lease. The Board moved to purchase the copier.

Resolution #27 Copier Purchase

On motion of Councilman Snyder, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the Board hereby approves the purchase of a Cannon Image Runner 2525 digital copier system from Berkshire Graphics, Inc., in the amount of \$3,450.00. 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 Amy Manchester	Aye
Councilman David Green	Aye

Supervisor Schaaphok declared the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

- Harassment and Discrimination Policy: this document has not yet been reviewed by the Town's attorney, and also still requires a second compliance Officer to be designated. The matter was tabled.
- Water District Billing: Supervisor Peter Schaaphok informed the Board that all of the Water District billing records are now located at the Town Hall. Town Clerk Callie Crisp has been working to organize the information, and to create digital files for the Water District. The Supervisor suggested that the billing procedures be incorporated into the Town Clerk's duties. The Board consented to Ms. Crisp's management of the Water District Billing.
- USDA Appointment: Supervisor Schaaphok addressed the Board in regard to an appointment made by a representative of the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development. An appointment was recently scheduled for a Compliance Review at the Town Hall; however no notice or approval of

the meeting was provided in advance. Supervisor Schaaphok was unable to attend, and was concerned after reading the requirements of the review. The document requests personal information such as gender and ethnicity of employees, which Supervisor Schaaphok views as inappropriate. The Board consented to his request to write a letter in protest.

- BAR Appointment:

Resolution #28
BAR Appointment

On motion of Councilman Seel, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that Barbara Snyder be appointed to the Board of Assessment Review for a five-year term ending September 30th, 2015. 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 Amy Manchester	Aye
Councilman David Green	Aye

Supervisor Schaaphok declared the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

- Town Park: After an inspection of the Town Park, NYMIR (New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal) had asked that the park be closed until some renovations are completed. They have requested that the hardware on the swings to be converted to 'S' joints, a plastic slide to be removed due to a crack, and the ground to be covered in a protective coating such as sawdust. Highway Superintendent Raymond Harrison has been working to complete the repairs. It was decided to request a written list of required repairs, rather than the verbal instructions that were provided. The park will remain closed until it is brought up to code.
- Water Tower: a short discussion took place in regard to the repairs to the damaged Water Tower. The hole still is in need of a plug, which will be completed soon.
- Dog Control Law revisions:

Resolution #29
Approval of Revisions to Dog Control Law

On motion of Councilman Green, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the revisions made to Local Law No. 3 of 2010, the Dog Control Law of the Town of Petersburg be approved as presented. 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 Amy Manchester Aye
Councilman David Green Aye

Supervisor Schaaphok declared the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

- Supervisor's Report: The monthly Supervisor's report was presented to the Board. The report showed receipts \$30,058.86, disbursements \$91,410.02, leaving a balance on hand as of May 16th, 2011 of \$508,798.47. This report is on file in the Town Clerk's office. Supervisor Schaaphok informed the Board that the Highway account was over due to both the gas tank and new pickup truck coming out of the 2011 budget, when it had been budgeted for 2010. Bookkeeper Charles Guntner is currently working to rectify this error.
- Highway Superintendent: Raymond Harrison stated that the two old trucks would be put out to bid. He also reported that the Gradall was once again in need of repair, therefore the crew would be installing a new pump. Councilman Seel suggested researching a lease or contract for a different machine, to determine the most cost effective option.

PUBLIC ADDRESS

- Corey Aldrich: was present to publicly thank the Highway crew for doing a great job sweeping the roads. Mr. Aldrich stated that the road where he resides, Dill Brook Road, is in excellent condition.
- Joseph Dunlop: agreed with Mr. Aldrich's assessment of the road conditions. Mr. Dunlop then questioned the sweeping of Main St., which is a County road and therefore swept by their crew. Highway Superintendent Harrison stated that an agreement had been made for the County to sweep the municipal parking lot in exchange for the water used from Petersburg. Mr. Dunlop stated that the County should not be filling their sweeping trucks from the Town's hydrants, as it is a violation of the Town's Water District law for anyone except the Fire Department to remove water. He also protested the usage of chlorinated water, which is paid for by the Water District, for the sweeping. Mr. Dunlop suggested that the County trucks could fill up in the river nearby, or that the Town purchases a high-capacity hydrant meter so that the amount of water being removed can be recorded and reimbursed. Lastly, he expressed concern due to an incident he viewed on May 3rd of this year. Mr. Dunlop stated that he witnessed the County fill their sweeping truck in Petersburg, and proceeded directly to Hoosick with the full load of water. Mr. Dunlop believes that the Water District should be reimbursed for the water used. Supervisor Schaaphok stated that this issue would be looked into (research done the day after the meeting showed that the County used only 2,000 gallons, which amounts to \$4.00 worth of water).

OTHER BUSINESS

- Kennel Fees: Town Clerk Callie Crisp addressed the high cost of kennel fees in the Town's Dog Control Law, and mentioned several resident's concerns over the yearly renewal. A suggestion was made for a standard renewal fee, in

order to encourage license renewals. A discussion took place about the mandatory State surcharges and whether or not it would be cost effective to have a standard yearly fee. Research will be done to find out whether the State legislature would allow for the removal of a kennel license requirement.

- Audit of Bills:

Resolution #30
Audit of Bills

On motion of Councilwoman Manchester, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the bills as listed in abstract #5/11 be paid in the following amounts:

General Fund # 105-126	\$42,458.57
Light District # SL1- SL2	\$ 0
Highway Fund #101-116	\$ 9,717.08
Water District # 22-25	\$ 568.55
Library Fund # 31-40	\$ 4,632.72

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 Amy Manchester	Aye
Councilman David Green	Aye

Supervisor Schaaphok declared the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

With no further business, on motion of Councilman Seel, seconded by Councilman Snyder, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Callie Crisp, Town Clerk