

**September 19th, 2011
Regular Monthly Meeting
Petersburgh Town Board**

The regular meeting of the Petersburgh Town Board was held on September 19th, 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
Councilman David Green
Highway Superintendent Raymond Harrison
Town Attorney Kevin Engel
Town Clerk Callie Crisp

Guests: Emily Harrison, Sharon Hodges, Joseph Dunlop, Terry Neaton, Teresa Scchitano-deWaal, Duane Goodermote Jr., Vallis Goodermote, Jackson Goodermote
Press: Alex Brooks, The Eastwick Press

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

**Resolution #45
Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Councilman Snyder, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the minutes from the Regular Town Board Meeting on August 15th, 2011 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 Manchester	Aye
Councilman David Green	Aye

Supervisor Schaaphok declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

REPORTS

- Town Clerk: has been working on preparing paperwork for FEMA and working on budget information.
- Highway Superintendent: Raymond Harrison gave a report in regard to the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, which hit the area on August 28th, 2011. The storm created a substantial amount of flooding, and the days that followed brought heavy rains that increased damage to the already flooded sites. In

Petersburgh, Mr. Harrison reported that out of 23 roads, 34 Town roads were washed out. The Highway Crew worked around the clock to ensure that the majority of roads were travelable within a couple days; however, two roads remain closed. Stillman Village Road and Dill Brook Road remain impassable, as the Stillman Village bridge and portions of both roads were washed down the river. As required, The Highway Superintendent has obtained the permits from DEC that allows the crew to enter streams and river ways for repair. Without these permits, municipalities will be deemed ineligible for FEMA reimbursement. Mr. Harrison reported attending a meeting with FEMA today to begin the application process, along with Supervisor Schaaphok and Highway crewman Steven Harrison. The Highway Crew has been working overtime on storm damage repair, and is awaiting culverts and other such materials that will need to be replaced. Despite their hard efforts, Mr. Harrison has received numerous complaints from residents in regard to the storm cleanup, and timeliness of repairs. Another complaint addressed by Mr. Harrison was an accusation of theft against the Highway Crew, involving wood debris left by the storm. Mr. Harrison presented the Board with two letters had been received thanking the Highway crew for providing homeowners with the salvaged wood, indicating that the wood was not stolen. The Town Clerk has also received a number of compliments from residents about the efficiency of the Highway Crew during this state of emergency.

- Rescue Squad: Amy Manchester spoke on behalf of the Petersburgh Rescue Squad in regard to an emergency call on September 4th, 2011. Ms. Manchester reported that along with Mr. Snyder, the two youngest members of the Rescue Squad responded to a cardiac arrest situation, and were able to save the patient. Ms. Manchester commended the 17 and 18-year-old ambulance crewmembers, and expressed how proud the Squad is of their accomplishments. A recognition ceremony will be scheduled to honor the actions of the two young squad members.
- Supervisor: Peter Schaaphok presented the Supervisor's monthly report to the Board. It showed receipts \$31,488.15, disbursements \$61,571.46, leaving a balance on hand as of September 19th, 2011 of \$337,907.14. This report is on file in the Town Clerk's office. Supervisor Schaaphok addressed the Board in regard to the increasing expenditures for storm damage repairs, stating that the Town may not have enough cash on hand to cover the bills. As FEMA reimbursement is not guaranteed, and may not arrive before the year's end, Supervisor Schaaphok has been researching the requirements for obtaining a Revenue Anticipation Bond. The amounts incurred from storm damage bills are being tracked so that damage reports can be provided to FEMA. It was reported that municipalities might be eligible to receive up to 70% reimbursement through FEMA.

OLD BUSINESS

- PVMCC Liability Insurance: no new information has been reported.
- Fire Alarm Systems: is on hold, as the primary contact is on vacation until September 20th.

- Broken Wheel Bridge: while there is no new information on the grant, the bridge survived the storm!
- Building Permit letter: a final draft of the letter was presented to the Board, and to Attorney Kevin Engel for review. A discussion took place regarding the language changes made, and time frame for permit requirement. The Board concluded that permits would be required for structures built within the past five years, and that state codes would mandate that the buildings be included on assessments regardless of whether the permits were obtained or not.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2012 Budget Workshop dates: the Board scheduled the first budget workshop to be held on October 12th, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Petersburg Town Hall.
- Town Employment Policies: Supervisor Schaaphok addressed the Board in regard to a payroll issue. A part-time employee of the Youth Program was laid off from their full-time job earlier this year, and applied for unemployment benefits. This application listed the Town of Petersburg as a part-time employer, resulting in the Town's accountability for over \$1,000.00 in unemployment charges. As the Youth Program has always run on a small budget, this unexpected bill endangers the future of the program. The larger issue involves the payroll process for the Town's employees, in that this situation could occur in the future with other employees. It was decided that only independent contractors should be paid by voucher and file a 1099 tax form, while other workers would have to file via W2. The Board agreed that salaries should be paid from salary accounts (.1), rather than with contractual expense funds (.4). This issue will be discussed further during the budget process.
- Highway Superintendent Salary: Town Clerk Callie Crisp brought to the Board's attention the lack of compensation of overtime for the Highway Superintendent. While the Highway crew has been working almost double the usual amount of hours in a week, only the crew is reimbursed for overtime. Superintendent Harrison, as an elected official, has a fixed salary and therefore is not reimbursed for extra work. Attorney Engel stated that the salaries of elected officials could not be changed once adopted, and suggested that the Town Board could set a precedent regarding the subject if they so wish.

PUBLIC ADDRESS

- Planning Board Chairman David Miller was present to speak about several issues. The process of abandoning several Town roads is ongoing, and the Planning Board attorney has been consulted about the bordering landowners. It was suggested that the Board avoid the issue, as the law states that the landowners are responsible for solving land-lock problems. Mr. Miller agreed to mail a letter to all five residents that would be affected by the abandoning of roads. Mr. Miller then addressed the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, stating that it was a rude awakening for emergency procedure within the Town. He suggested the Town ensures self-dependence by obtaining

emergency supplies from the County and setting up the Memorial Hall as a stocked shelter. In addition, Mr. Miller indicated that fresh ideas were needed for the Town's local government practices, as "the same 14 people" have been involved with the Town for decades. Volunteers for the Rescue Squad and Fire Department are becoming scarce, as the younger generations seem uninterested in being involved. Mr. Miller appealed to the Board to keep this in mind, and consider alternatives for the future.

- William Seel: stated that although he and Ray have had their differences in the past, he wanted to thank him for his efforts at the Broken Wheel bridge site in the aftermath of the hurricane. In addition, Mr. Seel stated that Ray kept the Fire Department updated of road conditions throughout the storm two to three times a day, providing efficient communications for emergency situations. Ms. Manchester and Mr. Snyder agreed with this assessment, stating that the Rescue Squad was also kept aware. The State and County road crews were waiting out the storm while the Petersburg Highway crew was out during the worst of it unplugging culverts and such. Ray was commended for his dedication and efforts during the disaster.

Resolution #46
Audit of Bills

On motion of Councilman Snyder, the following resolution was adopted. Be it resolved that the bills as listed on abstract # 9/11 be paid in the following amounts:

General Fund # 221-243	\$10,047.40
Light District # SL1- SL2	\$ 589.49
Highway Fund #181-213	\$49,697.46
Water District # 45-48	\$ 720.11
Library Fund # 59-66	\$ 5,081.04

Councilman Green 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
Councilman David Green	Aye

Supervisor Schaaphok declared that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

On motion of Councilman Green, seconded by Councilman Seel, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Callie Crisp, Town Clerk