

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Eaton Councilman Higgins
Councilman Potter Councilman Hitchcock
Councilman Wolf Hwy Superintendent Moshier
Assessor R. Pearl-Lamphier Town Clerk M. Peck
Also present: Nancy C. Barney-Catt. Co. Real Property Tax Director, and
townspeople.

ABSENT: Comptroller C. Hemphill, Attorney W. Tuttle

Salute to the Flag at 7:00 PM opened the meeting.

#1-MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Wolf to approve the minutes from the 3/9/06 regular Town Board meeting and public hearing as written. 2nd by Potter. Higgins-aye, Potter-aye, Hitchcock-aye, Wolf-aye, Eaton-aye. CARRIED.

#2-MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Wolf to approve the minutes from the 3/10/06 Town Board Meeting on assessments as written. 2nd by Hitchcock. Higgins-aye, Potter-aye, Hitchcock-aye, Wolf-aye, Eaton-aye. CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Progress report from Kirk Wilson, PE of Foit-Albert Assoc. for February 2006.
2. Town of Allegany Planning Board minutes from 1/31/06 meeting
3. Town of Allegany Planning Board minutes from 2/13/06 meeting
4. Town of Allegany Joint meeting of Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals minutes from 3/1/06 Public Hearing.
5. Letter from NYS DEC regarding the Giardini Bros. Gravel Pit Modifications
6. Catt. Co. Dept. of Economic Development, Planning & Tourism - info request letter regarding the Geographic Information Systems *** **Supervisor Eaton asked the Assessor if she would check with Carol Horowitz, (Town Planner) to see if this is already in place or not *****
7. NYS Attorney General - letter regarding Neighborhood Watch as a Catalyst for Community & Home Safety conference in Albany on 5/24/06.
8. NYS DEC - letter regarding funding for land/water/conservation, etc.
9. NYMIR - seminars on Preventing Law Enforcement Liability Claims
10. Memo of information from Judge Paul Kelly regarding East Resources in Chipmonk.
11. U.S.S. - Charles Schummer - letter regarding funding availability for "Community Renewed Environment Program"
12. Assoc. of Towns notice of the 6th Annual Town Finance & Management School in Rochester, NY on 5/10 - 5/12/06.
13. SAMPO - notice of training seminars regarding budgets & reductions
14. NYS Offices - notice of availability of various funding.
15. ISO - Building Codes summary of survey

NEW BUSINESS

#3-MOTION TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN DATA BRANCH CONTRACT

Motion by Higgins to authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the contract with DataBranch for an amount not to exceed \$2500.00. 2nd by Potter. Higgins-aye, Potter-aye, Hitchcock-aye, Wolf-aye, Eaton-aye. CARRIED.

- Allegany-Limestone School requested use of the voting machines for school board and budget elections on 5/16/06. Per the Supervisor, the voting machines now belong to the County and therefore, the school will have to contact the County to request use. After 2006, lever voting machines are illegal to use in NYS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#4-MOTION TO REFER SIGNAGE ISSUES TO PLANNING BOARD FOR REVIEW

Motion by Eaton to refer the signage issues and the section of the Zoning Ordinance II that deal with signs to the Planning Board for review and possible update pursuant to Cattaraugus County's recommendation. 2nd by Potter. Higgins-aye, Potter-aye, Hitchcock-aye, Wolf-aye, Eaton-aye. CARRIED.

#5-MOTION TO REFER WINDMILL ISSUES TO PLANNING BOARD FOR REVIEW

Motion by Higgins to refer to the planning board issues regarding windmills and the zoning ordinance. 2nd by Eaton. Higgins-aye, Potter-abstain, Hitchcock-aye, Wolf-aye, Eaton-aye. CARRIED.

- Supervisor Eaton advised that due his change in work duties, he will be unable to attend many future meetings on Thursdays and would like to know if changing the meetings to Wednesdays would be okay with everyone. All present advised that it would be okay with them. Supervisor Eaton will check with the Association of Towns first, before any major changes are made. This matter will be TABLED to the next meeting (4/13/06).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- John Moshier - has received 152 of the 911 signs from Little Valley. They will be putting them up as soon as possible. He also spent last week in Albany regarding the CHIPS money for the roadways.
- Joe Wolf - the Town Hall heating system is in. They will be looking at the basement work that needs to be completed next. (for storage)
- Jim Hitchcock - he has met with Mark Lombardo regarding the updating and changing of some signs.
- David Potter - regarding the Timber Assessments (910) the NYS ORPS met with the Governor's people regarding this. The ORPS office claims that by taking the

timber off of real property, it will hurt the Towns. The Governor's office claimed that they are hurting the towns already. The next step would be to get the NYS Association of Towns involved in this issue as we are not alone in this. Mr. Potter believes that progress is being made.

- Mike Higgins - advised that the board minutes are now being put on the web-site for everyone's use. Also, he and Supervisor Eaton will meet to discuss water issues and then they shall contact Eric Wohlers of the Catt. Co. Health Dept. for further information.
- Robin Pearl-Lamphier - advised that they are taking appointments from residents that would like to discuss their assessments starting Saturday, 3/25/06 (informal assessments)
- Supervisor Eaton - he advised he is struggling with this 100% assessment this time around. If something is 100% at a certain amount, how can they now not be at 100% if nothing has changed? He does not know where the state got their figures. Where did they come up with 87%?

From the floor:

Mel Duggan - Had questions about timberland. How can they be different?

Robin (assessor) - the property being discussed in classified as "timber land" 910 class. This does not include all land.

Bucky Peck - all timberland did not get raised. Some went down.

Councilman Potter - all timber land (910) owners will be receiving a letter (going out tomorrow) to advise them to come in with cut records and they their assessment may be adjusted accordingly.

Bill Giardini - questioned if there are a specific number of acres that this affects?

Robin (assessor) - yes, letters will go to property owners of 910 class property.

Ellen Peck - questioned how trees can be taxed; corn and hay are not taxed.

Councilman Potter - people are working towards not having trees taxed. There is a good newspaper article in an Albany, New York paper. (he provided a copy)

Bucky Peck - how does the state know about trees, how can they put a price on a piece of land?

Robin (assessor) - they take aerial photos of lands.

Mel Duggan - is this a state-wide thing? Do all towns do this?

Councilman Potter - yes, they are starting to do this - all towns that are at 100%

Ron Kyser - he does not understand the assessment regarding timberland.

Alberta Riggs - we paid GAR the first time, and they did a 100% assessment. If a house was sold for more than that amount, then obviously GAR did not do their job. Only a couple of houses she knows of sold for less than what they were assessed for.

Phil Yehl - he does not understand the system. His house was compared to houses that were no way the same as his.

#6-MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

Motion by Potter to adjourn meeting. 2nd by Hitchcock. Higgins-aye, Potter-aye, Hitchcock-aye, Wolf-aye, Eaton-aye. CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Peck
Town Clerk
3/24/06