

October 12, 2022

The Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held a regular meeting on October 12, 2022.

Present were: James Eisel Sr., Supervisor
 Matthew J. Taylor, Councilmember
 Patrick F. Funk, Councilmember
 Lisa M. Driscoll, Councilmember
 Erik R. Reeve, Councilmember

Also present: Russell Hatch, Supt. of Highways
 Linda E. Goss, Town Clerk

Others present: Gloria Anderson
 Elizabeth Page, Editor for The Mountain Eagle

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor James Eisel Sr..

Supervisor Eisel led the Board and those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Eisel asked if the Board had received the minutes from the regular meeting held on September 14, 2022? The Board had received the minutes. Supervisor Eisel asked the Board if they had any questions, comments or corrections to be made to the minutes? The Board had no questions, comments or corrections to be made to the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes from the regular meeting held on September 14, 2022 as presented was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Matthew J. Taylor. All voting Aye.

Linda E. Goss informed the Board that she has receive a copy of a letter from NYS Department of Transportation to Susan McIntyre, Commissioner for the Delaware County Department of Public Works on a speed limit reduction on Austin Road. The speed limit will be reduced to 35 MPH on the south end and 45 MPH on the north end of Austin Road. The Town will be responsible for putting up the signs on Austin Road. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Eisel updated the Board on Titus Lake Road. He has spoken to the Town Attorney and who is working on the complaint and will file it with the Town Court shortly. A discussion was had.

Supervisor Eisel reported to the Board that he has received a State Aide check in the amount of \$7,090.00. Councilmember Funk asked Supervisor Eisel what is this check for? Supervisor Eisel answered that it is a lump sum of money from the State for sales tax. A discussion was had.

Russel Hatch informed the Board that the Austin Road project is finished. The only thing left to do is pave over it. He would like to let everything settle and they pave it next year.

Russell Hatch reported to the Board on the grant application for the Reed Road and Gun House Hill Road project. He has talked to Delaware County Soil and Water and they are hoping to hear something by the end of November. The applications have been moved up to the State level where they will be reviewed. This is a positive thing.

Russell Hatch informed the Board that he has spoken to the County about the hidden driveway sign for County Hwy 33. They said that they will look into it.

Russell Hatch reported to the Board that he has talked to the salesperson about when the Town will be receiving the new loader. The salesperson thinks it may be available at the end of October.

Russell Hatch informed the Board that the Highway crew are getting the trucks ready to plow snow. They are also working on filling the sand shed. A discussion was had.

A motion to accept the Town Clerk's September report in the amount of \$536.12 was made by Matthew J. Taylor seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

Councilmember Funk asked if the AED had been installed at the Transfer Station? Supervisor Eisel answered that the AED has been purchased and has been received. It still needs to be installed and the employees still need to have training. Councilmember Taylor added that two signs also need to be put up one on the outside of the building and the other on the wall by the office. A discussion was had that the signs were included in the purchase of the unit. Russell Hatch added that he will schedule training for the Highway employees and the Transfer Station employees. Linda E. Goss asked to be added to the training. Supervisor Eisel asked where do they do the training? Russell answered at the Fire House. A discussion was had.

The abstract and vouchers for the month of September were presented to the Board. Presented were General Claims #217 to #236 in the amount of \$7,958.24; Highway Claims #151 to #169 in the amount of \$91,113.04 and Transfer Station Claims #044 to #047 in the amount of \$781.79. A discussion was had on the bill for Young/Sommer LLC. Councilmember Taylor asked about the report from the Code Enforcement Officer (CEO). Councilmember Driscoll added that what was turned in was just his mileage. Supervisor Eisel added that the CEO was doing inspections for open permits and other work. Councilmember Taylor requested that the CEO add to his report a short simple description of why he traveled to a property. This way the Board will know if a project is ongoing. Councilmember Taylor sees the mileage but does not know what each stop is for. A discussion was had. A motion pay the vouchers as presented was made by Matthew J. Taylor seconded by Lisa M. Driscoll. All voting Aye.

The Supervisor's report for the month of August was issued to the Board.

Supervisor Eisel issued the Board the tentative budget for 2023. Supervisor Eisel went over the budget line by line with the Town Board. On the Summary of Town Budget page 2 he gave the Board two different options. The first had \$50,000.00 in the Less Unexpended Balance line for the ambulance service. The raise of the overall budget would be 5.14%. The second removed

the \$50,000.00 for the ambulance service from the Less Expended Balance line. The raise of the overall budget would be .091%. The other two Towns are not putting funds in their budgets for the ambulance service this year. In discussing it with the Attorney Supervisor Eisel thinks that the ambulance service is moving along. They know that the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation has funds to cover it this year. There is another ambulance service in Town. It is called Ambulnz which is out of the Hudson Valley. They have ambulances in Walton at Delaware Valley Hospital. The County Department of Mental Health is using them for transport. They have a building in Hobart across from Gun House Hill Road, a certificate of need and they are operating. How this will effect Head Waters EMS he does not know. Councilmember Taylor added that the Town of Stamford and the Town of Kortright are not putting funds in the budget for ambulance service because everything is behind. Head Waters EMS has not made that much progress where we can guarantee them funding. He agrees with Supervisor Eisel. Why should we start raising our taxes if we do not even know if this is going to get off of the ground. Hold off on this for a year and let them figure it out. As of right now I do not know why we would raise taxes. Supervisor Eisel added and this other ambulance service is out answering calls. The discussion continued. A motion was made to go with the second option raising the budget .091% was made by Matthew J. Taylor seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye. A motion to approve the tentative 2023 budget with the inclusion of a more detailed monthly report to be required from the Code Enforcement Officer was made by Matthew J. Taylor seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Eisel issued the Board the Town Salary Survey done by the County. The Board can look this over to see how we compare to other Towns in terms of salaries etc..

Councilmember Driscoll asked Supervisor Eisel if the Transfer Station has a budget? Supervisor Eisel answered yes. Councilmember Driscoll asked if it was included in the Town budget? Supervisor Eisel answered no. Councilmember Driscoll asked do we discuss that? Supervisor Eisel answered no. He discusses it with the two other Town Supervisors that run the Transfer Station. He can get a copy of the Transfer Station budget for Councilmember Driscoll. Councilmember Driscoll agreed she would like to see it.

Councilmember Reeve asked Supervisor Eisel in looking over the Town Salary Survey done by the County it lists accumulated sick leave. How does that work? Supervisor Eisel answered that is negotiated in the Union contract. If an employee has sick days left over at the end of the year they can bank that number of sick days. There is a limit of how many sick days can be banked. When they reach the total number of sick days that can be banked the employee has the option to cash in those sick days. The discussion continued.

Councilmember Taylor asked Supervisor Eisel if the Union has come up with another representative? Supervisor Eisel answered yes.

A discussion was had on the Association of Towns annual training.

Councilmember Funk asked Russell Hatch if the Town is on the list for a new truck? Russell answered no. That list is done in January. He is on the list to be put on the January list. The discussion continued.

Linda E. Goss on behalf of herself and her husband Charlie Goss thanked Supervisor Eisel and the Delaware County Board of Supervisors for passing a resolution opposing recently enacted NYS legislation regulating legally authorized concealed carry gun permits and banning concealed carry in public places as being an unconstitutional attack upon the rights of law abiding citizens. Supervisor Eisel added that it was to let the NYS legislation know what they think of the controversial issue. The resolution was adopted unanimously. The discussion continued.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM by Matthew J. Taylor seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

The next public hearing and regular meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Linda E. Goss

Town Clerk