

Board Meeting

BOARD MEETING
JUNE 09, 2011

The Gerry Town Board met at 7:00 PM, June 09, 2011, at the Gerry Town Hall for the regular monthly board meeting.

Present were: John R. Crossley, Supervisor
Robert B. Heitzenrater, Councilman
Gary J. Swan, Councilman
Richard C. Heath, Councilman
Linda D. Bartholomew, Councilwoman
Recia L. Myers, Town Clerk
William Duncanson, Jr., Town Attorney
Mark A. Risley, Highway Superintendent
Kevin Okerlund, Town Assessor

CALL TO ORDER:

Supervisor Crossley called the meeting to order and led in the pledge of allegiance.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Richard Holley, Resident of Gerry, addressed the Town Board about his concerns with having a re-val. He commented that the state law does not require a re-val and with the economy right now he believes that there is no reason for a re-val. Kevin Okerlund, Town Assessor, noted that there is only one reason for a re-val for fair and equitable assessments. Mr. Holley read a quote from the Price Index Report noting that homes nationally are dropping. Kevin Okerlund, Town Assessor, commented that they use big cities for these comparisons from those reports and there is no comparison to a small town as ours. A lengthy discussion occurred between Mr. Holley and Mr. Okerlund comparing properties and valuations of properties throughout the town and discussing the complete re-val process. The Equalization Rates were discussed as well.

Mr. Holley commented that he feels that there is no reason for hiring GAR associates with the re-val process, he noted that residents of Ellery said they did a horrible job. Town Attorney, William Duncanson, Jr., commented that he has spoken with the Town's Attorney and they had no problems with the GAR associates. Dave Conroe, Town Resident, commented that they placed very high assessments on parcels in Ellery and he gave an example of a landlocked parcel. Mr. Okerlund noted that there are mistakes and that is why they should attend informational sessions, Grievance Day and small claims if necessary. Mr. Okerlund has worked with the GAR Associates in Jamestown and he feels they were the best to hire for the job.

Supervisor Crossley commented that the Town Board acted on the re-val process by the recommendation of the Town Assessor and the Town Accountants. The timing of when a re-val should occur was discussed and Mr. Holley asked the Town Assessor what his opinion would be and Mr. Okerlund commented maybe 4 or 5 years he is waiting on how this year's process pans out and noted that it is up to the Town Board as to when to have it done.

Arthur Woltz, Town Resident, discussed his concerns with the re-val with the Town Assessor and commented that he believes problems occurred when we were capped with Town of Ellery and he noted that the Town lost a lot of money during that time.

After discussion. Supervisor Crossley announced that there will be an Informational Session held on June 22nd at 6:00 PM at the Park Methodist Church with the Town Assessor and if anyone has any more concerns to discuss them at that time.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1) A letter from the Association of Towns was presented with them offering a conference on Natural Gas Drilling in the Marcellus Shale Region on June 24th in

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Binghamton, NY.

2) A letter was received from the Waverly Town Clerk asking for donations from everyone for the National Disaster Relief Fund for victims in the Midwest.

OFFICERS REPORT:

Zoning Officer.

Zoning Officer, Dave Crossley, was absent but submitted the following report:

June 2011

5 permits issued for June
17 pending permits
3 Certificate of Compliance to be issued
2 properties building without permits
2 property maintenance issues
1 unregistered motor vehicle
1 failure to provide documents

Dog Control Officer.

Troy Kennelley, Dog Control Officer, was absent however; he submitted the following report:

Picked up one stray dog, investigated dog bite call and issued two appearance tickets for unlicensed dogs. Wrote a few tickets for late renewal notices.

Highway Superintendent.

Highway Superintendent, Mark Risley, commented that the oiling of roads have been done and the prices went up 13% and he is concerned about his budget this year.

Mark Risley, Highway Superintendent, noted that the three entry doors at the shop are rotted and received a quote from Don Cornell for \$410.00 per door. Mr. Risley asked if there was money left for this project as other things are being done this year as well. Supervisor Crossley will check with the accountants.

Mark Risley, Highway Superintendent, commented that he is still working on the Brine permit paperwork for the DEC.

Assessor's report.

Kevin Okerlund was present and discussed the equalization rates and the concern of the re-val under privilege of the floor.

COMMITTEES, BOARDS OR AGENCIES:

Parks & Recreation

Councilman Heath stated that the Park Committee meant on June 4th for interviews with Recreation applicants and the names of the applicants suggested by the Park Committee are on a resolution being presented tonight to the Town Board. The committee also decided to add a 3rd assistant this year to sub as the program usually has 30 - 40 kids there a year.

Councilman Heath commented that they have to take care of the weeds on the playground and he asked the Highway Superintendent to fix a drop off on Wilson Street and Mark Risley, Highway Superintendent, noted he will as soon as he finishes up other projects.

Town Picnic:

Councilwoman Bartholomew reported that she has been working on advertising for the Town Picnic and is scheduled for August 13 from noon - 4 PM and she was requesting for tarps in case of rain and is planning on meeting with the committee this month.

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SPECIAL ORDERS:

Resolution No. 33 - 2011. Schedule of Zoning Fees. A motion was made by Councilman Heitzenrater; seconded by Councilman Swan. Approved.

Resolution No. 34 - 2011. Appointment of 2011 Summer Recreation Leader and Assistants. A motion was made by Councilman Heath, seconded by Councilwoman Bartholomew. Approved.

Minute approval for the May 2011 Board Meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Swan; seconded by Councilman Heitzenrater. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

No New Business.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Janet Wilcox, asked the Town Board why a re-roofing permit is required now. The Board explained that by State Code it is required now. William Duncanson, Jr., Town Attorney, commented that the main reason is insurance.

Dave Hall, commented that the lights look nice in the building now but they did have someone at court have to leave due to a condition she had concerning the lights. He also noted he has been busy trying to keep the flags up but has had issues with the wind this year.

VOUCHER APPROVAL:

Highway Fund Vouchers #79 - 96 totaling \$6,684.58 was approved on a motion by Councilman Heath; seconded by Councilwoman Bartholomew. Approved.

General Fund Vouchers #145 - 171 totaling \$5,073.97 was approved on a motion by Councilman Heitzenrater; seconded by Councilman Swan. Approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next Board meeting will be held 6:30 PM, July 14, 2011 at the town hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM on a motion by Councilman Swan, seconded by Councilman Heitzenrater.

Minutes taken by

Recia L. Myers,
Town Clerk