

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN
JUNE 15, 2020
VIA - TELECONFERENCE**

The Regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown was called to order by *Supervisor Lawrence Eckhardt* at **7:04PM** at the Town Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

(X) Supervisor Lawrence Eckhardt
(X) Councilman Philip Roder
(X) Councilman William Jennings
(X) Councilman Everett Madden
(X) Councilman Pam Kueppers
(X) Town Clerk Stephanie Wagar

() Highway Superintendent, Alden Goodermote
() Assessor, Jennifer Van Deusen

A quorum **(X)** was **()** wasn't established.

17 from the Public were present

Due to the COVID-19 this meeting is being conducted via Teleconference.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

- Claim **#136-20** through **#159-20** in the amount of **\$27,063.94** to be approved from the **General Account**
- Claim **#83-20** through **#97-20** in the amount of **\$65,413.29** to be approved from the **Highway Account**
- For a **Total of \$92,477.23 (\$28,221.69 Paid to Metz Wood on 5/28/2020)** audited and approved by the Town Board.

MOTION BY: KUEPPERS

SECONDED BY: JENNINGS

VOTES OF: 5 AYE 0 NAY

Minutes of the **MAY 18, 2020 Regular Board Meeting** were approved by the Town Board as written.

MOTION BY: RODER

SECONDED BY: KUEPPERS

VOTES OF: 5 AYE 0 NAY

TOWN CLERKS REPORT: The Town Clerk turned over the sum of **\$556.39** to the Supervisor for the month of **MARCH 2020 DEC Adjustment \$1.66 to Town, NO DEC Adjustment in April (no DEC sales).**

JUSTICE COURT REPORT: The distribution from the office of the State Comptroller, Justice Court Fund to the Town of Stephentown for the month of **JANUARY 2020** was \$_____ and for the month of **FEBRUARY 2020** was \$_____, and for the month of **MARCH 2020** was \$_____ and for the month of **APRIL 2020** was \$_____, and for the month of **MAY 2020** was \$_____. **(No reports have been received at this time.)**

TRANSFER STATION REPORT: The Transfer Station deposited a total of **\$10,236.11** for the month of **MAY 2020.**

Bags: **\$6,345**

C&D & Metal: **\$2,982.11**

Tires: **\$ 204**

Stickers: **\$390**

Appl. & Electronics: **\$315**

Propane Tanks: **\$ 0**

W. Jennings: the bears have not been back. Noted people are using the transfer station more, sales are over \$10,000 this month.

ACCOUNT TOTALS:

GENERAL \$432,979.11

HIGHWAY \$846,321.18

GENERAL RESERVE FUND \$227,440.65

HIGHWAY RESERVE FUND \$477,414.41

BEACON ESCROW \$ 885.19

BEACON ESCROW FOR PLANT (BOND) \$5,000 & \$70,000.

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Supervisor Eckhardt opens the meeting up for public comment.

S. Nathan: states she is here on her own behalf and not representing any organization. She stated that she does not wish to proceed with the issue or concern she had last week at the workshop meeting, and thanked the board for the opportunity to speak.

Supervisor Eckhardt introduced the people from the public who were present at the Town Hall.

J. DeFrest: provided an outline of what took place two weeks prior to this meeting between the Stephentown Veteran's Organization and the Indivisible of Stephentown group. The group wanted to hold an event at the Veteran's Park and the board of directors for the Veteran's organization denied the use of the park to the political group. The Veteran's reported that they remain neutral and they do not allow political gatherings at the park for these reasons.

Supervisor Eckhardt: states Diana Clark has submitted a letter to be submitted in the record. (Letter has been attached to these minutes).

J. Brokalis: spoke on behalf of the veterans.

L. Wick: addresses concerns regarding the private way he resides on, and family member hoarding and dumping along the sides of this private way. Old Coach Way – he requested the Town's assistance in maintaining the private way along with requesting culverts and gravel if the Town Highway could not maintain it. He reported logging being done by a neighbor who has been dumping the logs on his property.

Supervisor Eckhardt and Councilman Jennings directed him to reach out to the Code Enforcement Office. Town Clerk stated she would email him the Code Enforcement's contact information.

K. Roppolo: updates on the Library and the Youth Commission Food Program. The food program will run 2 days and people can come pick up the meals at the library.

R. Corbett: Youth Commission program update, currently have 15 kid signed up for virtual programs, looking to get to at least 20 if we get close to the number we will still hold the programs. Programs will be offered on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 2 programs will run each day.

K. Roppolo: asks about opening to other towns

P. Roder: doesn't believe this is in our best interest.

Supervisor Eckhardt: agrees will Councilman Roder.

P. Kueppers: stated it is a special time and believes we need to help people.

W. Jennings: all about helping others but agrees with Supervisor Eckhardt and Councilman Roder that it should remain in town.

P. Flint: update on the Cemetery Markers for the Revolutionary War Soldiers. Looking for a committee to help put together a celebration looking to hold this celebration on Veteran's Day to honor the Revolutionary War Soldiers.

P. Roder: doesn't want to completely disregard other towns in the youth commission program. Asks what other towns are doing. Suggests reaching out to the other towns to see if they would be willing to help with the funding. If they are open to help with support and funds we would be open to other towns joining.

S. Wagar: update on election being held at the town hall on Tuesday, June 23rd. Town Hall Meeting room remains closed to the public.

M. VanHorn: asks if the group that wanted to meet at the veteran's park was for Black Lives Matter and if it was for a protest.

Supervisor Eckhardt: reports it was the Indivisible of Stephentown group and a group of people were looking to gather at the park.

P. Kueppers: reports a person or group went on social media and said people were being bused in to riot.

M. VanHorn: how does one join the DAR?

Supervisor Eckhardt: reach out to Phyllis DeFrest.

M. VanHorn: asks if the library consider extending registration.

K. Roppolo & R. Corbett: would need time to plan, it would be difficult to extend with the time restraint.

REPORT FROM THE TOWN BOARD:

RESOLUTION #30 of 2020

REQUEST FOR BIDS ON TOWN HALL ROOF REPLACEMENT

WHEREAS: the Town Board desires to solicit bids for the replacement of the existing roof at the Town Hall, located at 26 Grange Hall Road, Stephentown, New York, now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Town Board hereby calls for bid proposals, in conformance with the bid specifications and Notice To Bidders, available at the Town Clerk's Office, which are to be received and considered publicly at the Town Board's regular board meeting scheduled for the 20th day of July, 2020 at 7:00PM, the time and place specified in said public notice.

MOTION BY: ECKHARDT

SECONDED BY: RODER

VOTES OF: 5 AYE 0 NAY

Motion: Go into Executive Session 8:00PM to discuss personnel matters. (Meeting was broken out to Break Out Rooms on Zoom)

MOTION BY: ECKHARDT

SECONDED BY: JENNINGS

VOTES OF: 5 AYE 0 NAY

Motion: Come out of Executive Session 8:16 PM

MOTION BY: ECKHARDT

SECONDED BY: JENNINGS

VOTES OF: 5 AYE 0 NAY

RESOLUTION #31 of 2020

APPOINTMENT OF DOG CONTROL OFFICER

WHEREAS: the Town Board has requested letters of interest to fill the vacancy of the position of Dog Control Officer, and

WHEREAS: the Town Clerk received three letters of interest from:

1. Maggie Banker
2. Lynn Burns
3. Doug Goodermote

,now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Town Board would like to appoint Maggie Banker to the position of Dog Control Officer for the Town of Stephentown effective July 1st, 2020, and further be it

MOTION BY: JENNINGS

SECONDED BY: RODER

VOTES OF: 5 AYE 0 NAY

To the Stephentown Town Council

I am writing to you as an individual and Veteran, not representing our Stephentown Veterans Group. My purpose is to promote a better understanding of what a Military Veteran is, and why we may view things differently.

As Military members we take an oath to protect our country from enemies, both foreign and domestic and yes, we protect American Citizen's right to free speech and all Constitutional rights. Personally, I don't want to be remembered as the Veteran that fought for a particular cause during the time of a conflict. I have served for 24 years. During that time, I have served my Country proudly as have my father, step- father and 2 uncles. I want to be remembered for my family's willingness to serve no matter what the cause. We have done this out of loyalty to our Country.

I, as a Veteran, didn't always agree with our politicians and not always with the several Commander and Chiefs I have served under. I was not allowed to say I don't agree with a particular agenda or I didn't vote for that President and I won't participate this time. That was never an option. If I felt strongly, I could have resigned my commission or effect change through constructive actions which I have done several times during my career.

Some things most civilians don't know. When in uniform we are **not allowed** to express our political opinions in public. We do, however, protect citizens rights to do so. When in an "area of conflict", I have been told to be in uniform and stand and smile as part of group behind a politician. In some cases, this is nothing more than a photo op to show the people back home that they support our troops and get votes. The reality is, in a small number of cases, some of these politicians could care less about the Military or their service. In other cases, I have had the honor to be in the presence of "high ranking officials", who don't want their photo taken and they genuinely do care about the Military.

I feel the Stephentown Veterans Memorial Park is not a place to politicize any agenda. The purpose I heard for coming to the park was to honor those Veterans from the Civil War who fought against slavery. Yes, there is a no more noble cause. This was to be done as part of a larger protest. The group wanting to do this I have been told, had a political agenda.

My personal belief is that the park is to honor the individuals that served and, in many cases died for, their Country not a political agenda. In my opinion, this would dishonor those very Veterans that people say they want to honor.

Sincerely,

Diana Clark

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:26PM

MOTION BY: KUEPPERS

SECONDED BY: JENNINGS

VOTES OF: 5 AYE 0 NAY

****A Workshop Meeting** is held every second Monday of every month at **7:00PM** at the Town Hall next one will be held on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7:00PM at the Town Hall.

****The next Regular Meeting** of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown will be held on **Monday, July 20, 2020** at **7:00 PM** at the Town Hall.

Stephanie M. Wagar

Town Clerk