

LUMBERLAND TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2017

The Lumberland Town Board held a Regular Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, at 7 p.m., at the Town Hall in Glen Spey, N.Y. Supervisor Jenny Mellan opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board members reviewed and initialed the vouchers prior to the meeting opening.

Roll Call was administered to those members present:

Supervisor Jenny Mellan
Councilman/Deputy Supervisor Leigh Sherman
Councilman Joseph Carr
Councilwoman Zoriana Gingold
Councilman James Akt was Absent

Also present were Town Clerk Virginia Horn, Deputy Town Clerk Michele Myslinski, Historian Frank Schwarz, Constable Robert Maas, Rose Carr, Robert King, Kaitlin Haas from the Sullivan County Democrat, Highway Superintendent Don Hunt, Jr., Mike Rajs, Caroline Akt, Chief Constable Patrick Cahill, Debbie & Vincent Martino, Attorney for the Town Danielle Jose-Decker, Supervisor's Confidential Asst./Bookkeeper Jeanne Mulcahey, Supervisor's Clerk Heidi Spannos, Fire Dept. President Ann Steimle, Planning Board Chair Sharon Sparling, Code Enforcement Officer David Sparling, Code Enforcement/Assessor Clerk Laurie Terry, Yarron Fidler, Isabelle Hammond, Therese Hammond, Amy Schwartz and Kelsang Zangmo from the Kadampa Meditation Center and David Hulse from the River Reporter.

MINUTES

Councilman Carr made a motion to accept the Workshop Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2016, the Regular Meeting of December 14, 2016 and the Minutes of the Year-End Meeting on December 29, 2016, seconded by Councilwoman Gingold, all in favor, so carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Monthly Reports:
 - a. Supervisor
 - b. Highway Superintendent
 - b. Town Clerk
 - c. Buildings
 - d. Constables
 - e. Fire Dept.
2. UDC letter for support – River Valley Visitor Center
3. Attorneys for Town letter- FOIL Information
4. Upper Delaware Scenic Byways Delegate Position
5. Planning Board Mtg. Minutes – Nov.

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6. Fire Dept. 2017 Officers Appointments Listing
7. Planning Board Resolution & Site Plan Review Decision – Camp Chayei Sura
8. Buildings Dept. 2016 Annual Report
9. Town Clerk 2016 Annual Report
10. Attorney for the Town Letter

Supervisor Mellan reported the Supervisor's Reports were for 2016 to date and 2017 to date. Supervisor Mellan noted that Item #10 was our Town Attorney for the Planning Board.

PRE-FILED RESOLUTIONS

- #45 - Town Donation – Youth Program
- #46 - Hgwy. Software Grant Appt.
- #45 - Highway Superintendent Request -Highway Equipment Surplus
- #46 - 2016 Year-End General Fund Budget Transfers
- #47 - 2016 Year-End Highway Budget Transfers
- #48 - Code Enforcement Office Temporary Coverage (Late File)
- #49 - Planning Board members training expense request (Late File)
- #50 - Amend Mileage Re-imbusement (Late File)

Supervisor Mellan stated the surplus of the Dodge Durango was a General Fund surplus. Supervisor Mellan questioned if Resolution #45 needed to be a late file? The Town Clerk verified that Resolutions #45, #46 & #47 were discussed at the Workshop Meeting and did not have to be late files, they just had to be written up.

The Town Clerk reported they received the amended mileage re-imbusement rate today so it was added as a late file resolution.

Proclamations

- New Business

REPORTS OF BOARD MEMBERS

Councilman Sherman reported that the transfer station in Eldred will no longer be taking any construction and demolition materials and any of these have to be taken directly to Monticello for disposal. Councilman Sherman stated he wanted everyone to be aware that with this change if you are scheduling any construction or demolition the cost of transporting these items to Monticello may be passed on to you. Councilman Sherman stated that taxpayers still get charged by Sullivan County for the solid waste fee on their tax bills and still have to pay per bag at the transfer station.

Councilman Sherman reported that the New York State Tax Rebate that was given to homeowners was a direct result of the Towns keeping under the 2% tax cap and that we should also be given one again this year since the budget was kept under the tax cap again.

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Supervisor Mellan reported the Town is being charged the dump fee when we pay a company to pick up our garbage. The Attorney for the Town is checking into that.

Supervisor Mellan reported she received information from Eagle Creek from the Code Enforcement Officer regarding their license renewal. Supervisor Mellan noted that there was a form included that if there is anything anyone needs to have addressed regarding Eagle Creek we have until 2022 to notify them. The Code Enforcement Officer stated it was quite a procedure with getting their license renewal. Supervisor Mellan stated she would like to see this taken care of now.

Supervisor Mellan reported she received the Time Warner Cable contract to recoup the fees owed to the Town, however, there was a discrepancy and she sent it on to the attorneys who are reviewing the contract before anything is finalized.

Councilwoman Gingold reported she received several calls from residents on what a great job the Highway Superintendent and his team were doing on the roads.

The Town Clerk reported they are busy and requested permission to read the following statement:

HAPPY NEW YEAR
LUMBERLAND CLARIFICATION

This is in response to the recent postings on a social media site. I have been the Town Clerk for 15 years now and it has been my pleasure working with and for my community. I was appointed to my position in 2002 and have won each election in succession up to date. It has been a great concern and disappointment that in recent months that these postings have been directed at those of us who have served our community with compassion and competence. I would like to clarify a couple of facts: #1 –2 years ago I selected my deputy with the full guidance from the New York State Association of Towns on the process of the appointment. I chose my Deputy for her work ethics, job performance and proven longevity record in her previous employment. She was not my “friend” but we were “friendly” and we worked together in retail and, in fact, she was my boss. She, however, knew one of our Councilmen’s family for many years before I met her. I had the full unanimous support of my Town Board in my selection and I think my deputy has proven she was the best choice for the position and in many instances she has gone above and beyond her duties.

#2 – the only 2 elected positions within the Town that are NOT considered part time are the Town Clerk and the Highway Superintendent. Contrary to the recent postings I welcome anyone to walk in our shoes. We are salaried which means we get paid the same amount regardless of how many hours we work. If you divide our hours spent in our jobs with our salary I am sure we make less hourly than most of the Clerks working for the Town. As Town Clerk, among the numerous duties of my position, I make after hours appointments, on occasion work on weekends, attend many meetings outside office hours and I am on call as Registrar to receive paperwork that

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needs to be filed in my office. The Highway Superintendent, among his many duties, spends countless hours out on the roads during storms in the winter, and in the summer, to assure that if anyone needs to travel the town roads they will be safe. The behind the scenes work speaks for itself with tons of paperwork that needs to be addressed on any given day.

#3 – A recent posting on this particular site mentioned that the Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor drove over to the Town of Highland just to congratulate our newly appointed Court Judge. It was unfortunate that I had a Dr.'s appointment that morning and the newly appointed judge needed to sign her Oath of Office as soon as possible to expedite registering for judicial training. The Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor had an appointment with the bank in Eldred and volunteered to take the Oath of Office over to the new Justice to swear her in so she could expedite signing up for judicial training as soon as possible. Unfortunately our internet systems were down in our offices and the Court Justice's paperwork had to be done in the Town of Highland. I appreciate their efforts in helping to assure the new judge's appointment was completed.

Those that are posting or supporting this online social media site have made it their mission to try to have you believe that those of us working together in the Municipal Offices are not happy and do not get along. Anyone that stops by the offices will tell you otherwise! We have had a highly productive year with leadership that speaks for itself. I struggled for quite some time to respond to all the inaccurate information being continuously posted. I am continually amazed that the person(s) behind this social media site and those that support the site have made it their mission to discredit those of us who have been elected or those that have been appointed by the same elected officials that have been voted in by the majority of the voters in our Town. 2017 will be my last year in office and although I will miss all the friends, coworkers and acquaintances I have made along the way I promise you that I will work diligently in the coming year to assure that my office will be left in very capable hands and I will continue to support those who are **IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR COMMUNITY.**

**Virginia V. Horn
Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar
Town of Lumberland**

The Town Clerk Thanked everyone for listening to her. The Deputy Town Clerk reported their office has taken in over half a million in tax monies and will be starting to write out checks.

The Attorney for the Town she will be going to training at the end of the month, noting some of the issues being addressed will be the Zombie Law and the issue of short term rentals

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The Historian, Frank Schwarz reported there will be a Heritage Day on June 17th at 11 a.m. in the Town Hall & Museum with a lecture. Schwarz also noted that there will be a Memorial Day Observance ceremony on May 29th at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall.

Historian/Grant Writer, Frank Schwarz, reported he has been working on the energy efficiency of the buildings, noting that the one toilet in the Town Hall was continuing running but he fixed it. Schwarz reported the highway truck grant is being reviewed. Supervisor Mellan questioned if this was the final paperwork for the grant? Schwarz reported the paperwork was sent certified and it is being reviewed and they will get back to him. Schwarz reported there is still some money left on the SAM Grant that was for energy conservation, noting there were 3 major things being addressed. Schwarz reported they got a quote for LED bulbs to replace all the existing ones in all the buildings and he is looking at getting the ancient heater in the front hallway in the Municipal Building replaced.

The Highway Superintendent reported they are busy taking care of the roads and repairing trucks.

Fire Department President, Ann Steimle, reported they had 376 calls by the end of the year, noting the call volume keeps going up. Steimle reported they have held events and continue to do training. Steimle reminded everyone that every Monday night they are at the firehouse if anyone wants to stop by and that they are now accepting EMS personnel that do not have to qualify as a fireman first.

The Chief Constable noted the monthly Constabulary report.

The Code Enforcement Officer, David Sparling, reported the request for the change in temporary coverage was due to the illness of the recent person doing the coverage. Sparling stated that Dave Kuebler has done an excellent job for the Town before. Sparling reported he talked to Frank Schwarz about the LED lights for the buildings. Schwarz questioned if the transfer station will take the old light bulbs? Councilman Sherman stated they will have to find out, noting they may have to be returned to where they were bought? Councilman Carr questioned if the lights can be changed in the Senior Center? Sparling reported the Senior Center will also be getting the new light bulbs.

OPEN FLOOR TO PUBLIC

Constable Bob Maas noted that with the New Year everyone should be checking their inspection stickers to make sure they are up to date.

Planning Board Chair Sharon Sparling thanked the Town Board for all the appointments to the Planning Board. Sparling reported that we 5 out of the 7 local camps have been going through the permitting process through the Planning Board which gives a better idea of the camp and its operations. Sparling also noted the camps are giving our emergency services a site plan. Sparling noted the Planning Board needs another Alternate Member, noting the

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position has been advertised and the Planning Board will interview applicants at their next meeting.

Dave Sparling announced that there is a transfer station in Port Jervis that only charges \$5 a bag for Seniors and is open 6 days a week. Sparling stated they still do not take electronics either. The Highway Superintendent reported they are finding discarded electronics along the sides of the roads because people can't take it to the transfer station. Councilman Sherman stated it was a County decision and has nothing to do with the town.

Supervisor Mellan noted the Special Announcements. Supervisor Mellan reported the Town Board Workshop Meeting will be the 1st Wednesday of February and the Regular Town Board Meeting will be the 3rd Wednesday in the month of February.

ABSTRACTS

2016 -Audit and Approval of General Fund & Highway 2016, General Fund Claims G16-#695 through #709, in the amount of \$ 9,853.44, Highway Fund Claims #H16 - #568 through #602 in the amount of \$ 23,994.94, with a total of Abstract #14 , 2016 of \$33,848.38.

2017 Audit and Approval of General Fund & Highway 2017

General Fund Claim G1#001 -#032 in the amount of \$44,614.00, Highway Prepaid Claims in the amount of \$15,000.00 and Highway Fund Claims H1# 001 in the amount of 64,010.00, with the total of Abstract #1, 2017 of \$ 123,624.00.

Motion By: Councilman Leigh Sherman Second By: Councilman Joseph Carr, all in favor, so carried. Councilman James Akt was Absent

Councilman Carr made a motion to adjourn at 7:44 p.m., seconded by Councilwoman Gingold, all in favor, so carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia V. Horn, Town Clerk