

**OXFORD TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, October 9, 2013**

**Town & Village Hall**

The Monthly Meeting of the Oxford Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Lawrence Wilcox at 7:30 pm at the Village Hall for the transaction of such business that may lawfully come before the Board. The meeting opened with the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

**Present were:**

Supervisor: Lawrence Wilcox  
Council: Jerry Locke  
              Alan Davis  
              Larry Beckwith  
              John Hofmann  
Town Clerk: James W. Hemstrought Jr.  
Highway Superintendent: Timothy Tefft

**Absent:**

**Others Present:**

Stefan Foster, "Little Merritt's Tomb" project  
Vicky House, Town Historian  
Irving Hall, Village Resident  
Ken Ryan, Planning  
15 area residents

**Minutes Previous Monthly Meeting:**

Alan Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of September 11, 2013. Motion was seconded by Larry Beckwith and carried with 5 Ayes.

**Supervisor's Monthly Report:**

Supervisor Wilcox handed out the Financial Accounting Information Sheets, Investment and Certificate of Deposit Reports, as of April 30, 2013 and the Preliminary 2014 Budget. He also gave the following Revenues, Appropriations and Checkbook Balances as follows:

**September 2013**

Revenues	\$114,719.18
Appropriations	63,873.54

**Check Book Balances:**

General	45,611.09
Highway	325,325.87
T&A	9,861.48
Payroll	16,531.55
Water District #1	1,320.18

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Stefan Foster gave a Power Point presentation of the progress and plans for "Little Merritt's" Tomb, located in the Miller/Beardsley Cemetery, Joe Hoben Road, Oxford. The cemetery and Little Merritt's tomb were in disrepair from vandalism and is being repaired and cleaned up for possible listing on the NYS National Historic Registry. The presentation was well done and showed Stefan's serious undertaking in this personal project. He is being assisted by the Town Historian, Vicky House, in securing a listing on the NYS National Registry, if approved by the Town Board. Stefan also asked the Town Board for some help in clearing the big piles of brush and cut trees around the site. Town Superintendent Tim Tefft said he would look into this and do what he can.

Irving Hall submitted the following letter and asked the Board to respond in the minutes of tonight's meeting. October 9, 2013 – First, I request the board authorize the town clerk to post on the town's website next week the Road Use Agreement template officially approved by the board months ago. Second, according to the minutes of last April's joint meeting with the Town Planning Board, "The Town Board recommended taking the 'drilling for gas and oil' uses out of  
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the following land uses: R-1, RR-2 & RM-3.” Is this a unanimous recommendation by the Town Board? If not, which members disagree? Five months have passed. When is the Oxford Town Board scheduled to discuss and approve for public hearings this zoning change?

Supervisor Wilcox asked the Board their decision on putting the Road Use Agreement template on the Town website. Decision was made that because it is only a template it didn't need to be placed on the website, but copies should be made available to the public, in paper form, if requested. Supervisor Wilcox stated that the other questions will be answered by the Town Planning Board representative during the review of the changes to the Zoning Ordinance this evening.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

The September 2013 collateralized deposit account information report was received from BNY Mellon.

E-mail was received from Mayor Terry Stark proposing a joint meeting of the Oxford Village Board, Village Planning Board, Town Board and Town Planning Board at the regular meeting of the Oxford Town Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 to be held at the Oxford American Legion banquet room on South Washington Ave., at 7:30 pm. The agenda for the joint meeting is a follow-up to the May meeting and will follow the two key points: to formally approve a plan of action regarding the Comprehensive Plan and to provide an accurate and succinct description of the work to be done.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Stefan Foster requested permission to carried on his “Little Merrit’s” Tomb project and to list “Little Merrit’s” Tomb, located in the Miller/Beardsley Cemetery, Joe Hoben Road, on the NYS National Historic Registry.

Resolution was made by Jerry Locke and seconded by Larry Beckwith to support Stefan Foster in his project and to give him permission to list “Little Merrit’s” Tomb on the NYS National Historic Registry. Motion carried with 5 Ayes.

The Assessor term of office is up for appointment and Supervisor Wilcox recommended that Delmar Cooke be re-appointed to succeed himself as Assessor for the six-year term October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2019.

Motion was made by John Hofmann and seconded by Larry Beckwith to appoint Delmar Cooke as Assessor for the six-year term October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2019. Motion carried with 5 Ayes

#### **PRELIMINARY BUDGET REVIEW**

Supervisor Wilcox presented the 2014 Preliminary Town Budget and Water District Budget for review. Following the review and a few line amount changes a motion was made by Alan Davis and seconded by Jerry Locke to hold the Public Budget Hearing on November 7, 2013, at 7:45 pm in the Village Hall. Motion carried with 5 Ayes.

The Town Clerk will see that a legal notice for the Public Budget Hearing is published in the Evening Sun newspaper, posted at the Town Office and placed on the Town of Oxford website. The Preliminary Budget will be on file in the office of the Town Clerk and available for inspection by any interested person during regular office hours.

#### **ZONING REVISIONS:**

Ken Ryan, Planning Board Representative, went over the proposed Zoning revisions to the 2007 Local Law #1. Copies were distributed to the members of the Town Board in advance of this Town Board meeting for their perusal. The changes were as follows: (1) To replace the words “Board of Appeals” with the words Planning Board throughout the document. (2) To delete “Gas Drilling” as a use permitted under Special Exception in Section 9, R-1; Section 10, RR-2 and Section 11, RM-3. (3) To include two new sections in the local law under the headings of “Telecommunication Towers” and “Noise Control”.

The Town Board agreed to the Planning Board moving forward with the proposed Zoning revisions to the 2007 Local Law #1, including filing of a form 239 with Chenango County.

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Highway Superintendent Tefft reported that the snowplow equipment is in good working condition and ready for use as needed. The highway crew has been cutting brush and changing some culvert pipes for better drainage. A letter to purchase the new truck, that was agreed upon by the Town Board at last month's meeting, has been sent. Superintendent Tefft received a phone call from Vestal Asphalt stating that they have some road material left over that they would sell at a very reduced cost. This could be used to cover about a three mile stretch of road. Superintendent Tefft recommended that the material be used on Kilroy Road. The Town Board agreed to this use of the material.

**BILLS & CLAIMS:** October 2013

General Claims #157 thru #174: Total: \$ 7,708.90  
Highway Claims #153 thru #162: Total: \$182,651.93

Motion was made by Larry Beckwith and seconded by Alan Davis to pay the bills and claims. Motion carried with 5 Ayes.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Supervisor Wilcox ask the Town Board to go into Executive Session to discuss two current litigation matters. Motion was made by Jerry Locke and seconded by Larry Beckwith to go into Executive Session at 8:45 pm. Motion carried with 5 Ayes. The two litigation matters were discussed to inform the Town Board as to what has transpired up to this date. Since no further action was needed by the Board at this time, motion was made by Alan Davis and seconded by John Hofmann to come out of Executive Session at 8:56 pm. Motion carried with 5 Ayes.

The next Town Board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall. Notice of this change of date from the usual second Wednesday will be published in the Norwich Sun and posted at the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town website.

Meeting was adjourned by Supervisor at 8:58 pm.

James W. Hemstrought Jr.  
Town Clerk