

OXFORD TOWN BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 13, 2017

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Oxford Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Lawrence Wilcox at 7:30 pm in 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
 Carl Koenig
 Ron Charles
 John Hofmann
Town Clerk: James W. Hemstrought Jr.
Highway Superintendent: Absent (health issue)

Others Present: Vicky House, Town Historian; Terry Stark, Village of Oxford Mayor; Roger Barrows, Dog Warden; Phil Sherman, Canice Paliotta.

Minutes Previous Monthly Meeting:

Jerry Locke made a motion to approve the minutes of November 8, 2017. Motion was seconded by John Hofmann and carried with 5 Ayes.

Supervisor's Monthly Report:

Supervisor Wilcox handed out the Financial Accounting Information Sheets and a list of the Fund Balances as of November 30, 2017. He also gave the following Revenues, Appropriations and Checkbook Balances:

November 2017

Revenues	\$16,364.82
Appropriation	45,825.70
Check Book Balances:	
General	\$32,224.16
Highway	62,678.29
T&A	2,515.90
Water District #1	1,223.53

PUBIC COMMENTS:

Canice Paliotta asked about any Bonds, etc. the Town of Oxford owed. Supervisor Wilcox stated that the Town of Oxford has no indebtedness at this time.

Phil Sherman was concerned that the Town Superintendent of Highways didn't contact him about his road and shoulder problems he reported at last month's meeting.

John Hofmann, Board member, said he would meet with Mr. Sherman and check on the problem.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Copies of "It's our Policy", the official publication of the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR), was handed out members of the Town Board.

The Municipal Shelter Inspection Report for the Chenango County SPCA was received and rated "Satisfactory". The report is on file at the Town Clerk's Office and available during regular business hours.

RESOLUTION

Retirement System Workday Hours

Carl Koenig made a motion that the following Resolution be adopted by the Town Board:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Oxford Town Board hereby establishes a standard work day for the elected and appointed officials of six (6) hours per day for the purpose of reporting for the New York State and Local Retirement System.

The affected officers are: Town Supervisor
 Assessor
 Assessor's Clerk
 Town Highway Superintendent

The motion was seconded by John Hofmann and carried by roll call vote as follows:

Carl Koenig	Aye
John Hofmann	Aye
Jerry Locke	Aye
Ron Charles	Aye
Lawrence Wilcox	Aye

OTHER BUSINESS:

SPCA Contract:

The SPCA Contract with the Town of Oxford for the year 2018 was reviewed by the Town Board.

Motion was made by John Hofmann to accept the 2018 SPCA Contract as written. The motion was seconded by Ron Charles and carried with 5 Ayes.

Town Office Lease Agreement:

Copies of a new Lease Agreement between the Village of Oxford and the Town of Oxford were distributed to the Town Board for review. The lease runs from January 2018 to December 31, 2020. This new lease is to ensure the Village compliance with their auditor's request for a formal written lease.

The Town Board was concerned with the 2% under Section V – Additional Rent. Supervisor Wilcox will discuss this with Mayor Stark. The Lease Agreement will be acted on at the January 10, 2018 Town Board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Vicky House, Town Historian, requested some advice and guidance from the town to commemorating the 100th anniversary of the United States entering World War 1 and to erect a suitable memorial in Lafayette Park.

In 1916, the NY State Archives decided to appoint a State Historian. They appointed Dr. James Sullivan and an assistant, Dr. Alexander Flick. When we entered the war, Dr. Sullivan wanted the municipalities to document what each did for the war effort. In 1919, the State Legislature directed each municipality to appoint an historian. Oxford complied and appointed Mrs. Estella June Emerson. Mrs. Emerson was a librarian at the Oxford High School. Her first task as historian was to compile all the records requested by the State Historian. She worked hard, pulled information from the newspapers and contacted families of soldiers who served and died and soldiers who returned. Her final report was over 125 pages long and included everything Oxford did for the war effort.

Vicky shared one story about an Oxford boy, Henry L. Hubbard, who was killed and also shared a short newspaper clipping about an Honor Roll that was placed in Lafayette Park with 109 names listed. The article ended with the hope that a more permanent memorial would be dedicated in the near future. It has now been 100 years and we should have an “All Wars Memorial” to honor all our soldiers.

From some research she did, Vicky shared an idea for a brick paver memorial – similar to the one in Greene. This could be placed around the Cole Memorial Fountain. The bricks are in two colors – beige for servicemen who survived the war and a red color for those who died in the war. The bricks are engraved with the names, ranks, company, etc. and we can determine what we want on the bricks. People who have ancestors who served in any war, can purchase a brick for a price (currently \$50 per brick). After the town receives a certain number of requests and money, the order is placed. When the bricks arrive, they are placed in the walk for everyone to see. She would like input from the town and village board and feels the community service organizations will most likely lend their support. The bricks would not interfere with the lawn care.

Oxford gave over 400 soldiers to fight in the Civil War, approximately 100 for the War of 1812 and over 150 to fight in The Great War and the list keeps on growing. It is now time to build them a memorial.

Vicky also shared that on December 9, 2017, she was honored with an award from the Tuscarora Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for researching, sharing and educating our history. The award included her work in the field of patriotism and preservation of our history.

Terry Stark, Village Mayor, addressed the Town Board to discuss a proposal the Village has received to construct a BMX Bicycle Track at Boname Park. Since the park is located in the Town of Oxford, Mayor Stark felt that the Town Board and Planning Board should be included in what steps needs to be taken from the Town's perspective. Following the presentation, including pictures and maps of the area involved, the Town Board was in agreement with the project and will pass this on to the Planning Board for their review.

Some of the items covered in the presentation were: the names of other towns in the area that have a BMX track, feedback from neighbors, noise ordinance, zoning codes, size of the project (2 acres) that is not a part of present park, insurance covered by the BMX organization, hours of operation.

Representatives of the BMX organization will be invited to attend the next Town Board meeting on January 10th.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

With the absence of the Town Superintendent of Highways, due to illness, no report was given.

BILLS & CLAIMS: November 2017

Claims #179 thru #200 General Fund: Total: \$46,198.61

Claims #180 thru #193 Highway Fund: Total: \$ 7,399.58

Motion was made by John Hofmann and seconded by Jerry Locke to pay the bills and claims.

Motion carried with 5 Ayes.

The next monthly meeting of the Town Board will be held on January 10, 2018 at 7:30 pm in the
Page 3 – Town Board Meeting – December 13, 2017

Village Hall.

Meeting was adjourned by Supervisor at 8:52 pm.

James W. Hemstrought Jr.
Town Clerk