

OCTOBER 28, 2015

The second regular monthly meeting of the Ellington Town Board was held on October 28, 2015 at 7:00p.m. at the Ellington Town Hall, 813 W. Main Street, Ellington, N.Y.

PRESENT: Laura M. Cronk, Supervisor  
Tamara O. Miles, Councilwoman  
Roger D. Brainard, Councilman  
Sharon J. Berg, Councilwoman  
Jeffrey L. Chase, Councilman  
Dennis Colvenback, Highway Superintendent  
Karen G. Bifaro, Town Clerk /Rec. Sec.  
William Duncanson, Attorney  
Sandy Colvenback, resident  
Ellington Farman Library Board Members  
Ellington Picnic Association  
Judy Rhinehart & William Green  
Students from Falconer Central School government class

Supervisor opened the meeting at 7:00p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Participation**

Beth Speas, President of the Ellington Farman Library, informed the Town Board that they are excited about hiring a new director to start work the second week of November. The Library opened their doors on August 12<sup>th</sup> 1925. They are still working on their charter and have hired an Attorney to help clear up the problems. Mary Jane Griffith explained their budget for 2016 is \$54,389., with the 2015 budget at \$46,911. Marti Telford added that they have all worked very hard and are adding new programs all the time. The 2014 financials have been audited and found in order. They will have extra expenses this year and are asking the Town for an increase in their budget line for the Library.

Mat Pickup, President of the Ellington Town Picnic Assoc., spoke to the Town Board about the annual Town Picnic as all the events were fulfilled this year. Mary Jane Griffith gave an explanation of the financial report for the organization. Both are concerned that this event cannot go on if they do not have more volunteers and financial help to keep the Picnic returning every year. Want to continue having the Picnic but Fundraisers do not make enough money to keep it financially stable. They are asking the Town Board for any financial help the Town can give them.

Judy Rhinehart was present to ask the Town Board why, according to a postcard, taxes have not been dropped in the last four years if current Highway Superintendent has saved so much money.

Also she is concerned about the safety of the townspeople with the roads not being plowed, and the potholes are bad. She would like to see more plowing on night shift to make safe for emergency vehicles and school buses. William Green was there to observe.

Loren Kent was present to discuss the Library budget. He is asking the Town Board to support the Library and give them an increase financially to help with their budget.

Public Participation part of the meeting was closed at 7:35p.m.

**Highway Superintendent Report**

First sign of winter brought the plows out on Sunday morning (10/18). Repairs to mower were finally made so the mowing of the roadsides could be completed for this year. The "storm damage" on Abbey Hill Road has been repaired. The concrete blocks that were washed out at the bridge on 28 Mile Creek Road have been reset. Request for signs on Hunt Road, which have been replaced with new. Summer equipment has been put in storage. Did blacktop patching on Young Street. Ditching on Harris Hollow Rd., Waterman Rd. and Dean School Rd. Remembering we have 50 miles of road which means 100 miles of ditches. Started to install plow frames on the trucks.

Motion made by Miles, seconded by Berg to accept the Highway Supt. report as submitted.

VOTE: Miles-aye, Brainard-aye, Berg-aye, Chase-aye, Cronk-aye Carried.

Councilman Brainard made a motion to close public session of meeting and go into Executive Session, seconded by Chase, with Attorney, Town Board and Highway Superintendent included in executive session.

Executive session was called for the purpose of a possible litigation. No action taken.

Motion made by Brainard, seconded by Chase to close Executive session and reconvene in open session.

**Audit and Payment of Claims**

At this time the Town Board reviewed the bills as follows:

General Fund Claim Nos:	#280 - #286	\$1,525.19
Highway Fund Claim Nos:	#132	2,445.96
Trust and Agency Fund Claim Nos:	#22	<u>1,975.32</u>
ABSTRACT NO. 20	TOTAL	\$5,946.47

Motion made by Miles, seconded by Berg to pay the bills as submitted.

VOTE: Miles-aye, Brainard-aye, Berg-aye, Chase-aye, Cronk-aye Carried.

Supervisor received the following check for deposit:

10/28/15                \$86.37                Refund on NYS Insurance Fund

### **Committee Reports**

Halloween Party is at the Library from 11 to 1p.m. Halloween Parade will be in the Town Park at 7p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Motion made by Brainard, seconded by Miles to accept the minutes of October 14, 2015 as submitted.

VOTE: Miles-aye, Brainard-aye, Berg-aye, Chase-aye, Cronk-aye    Carried.

The 2016 Tentative Budget was discussed. Councilwoman Miles proposes that extra funds be added to the Library budget line, agreed by Councilwoman Berg and Councilman Chase.

Councilman Brainard would like to see the taxes lowered with unexpended balance. As of now, the taxable rate will be the same as last year (\$10.66/\$1,000.)

Motion made by Miles, seconded by Chase to approve the Tentative Budget as the Preliminary Budget for 2016.

VOTE: Miles-aye, Brainard-aye, Berg-aye, Chase-aye, Cronk-aye    Carried.

Motion made by Miles, seconded by Chase to authorize Town Clerk to advertise a Public Hearing in the Post Journal and Southern Tier Pennysaver for Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m.

VOTE: Miles-aye, Brainard-aye, Berg-aye, Chase-aye, Cronk-aye    Carried.

Regular first of the month Town Board meeting will be changed to Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> as Veterans Day is Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, regularly scheduled meeting night.

Supervisor is pleased to announce that the "Good Neighbor" Project has been completed.

A disabled resident had called State, County and Town to see if he could get help replacing a large sluice pipe in his yard that was the driveway to his home. He called the Fire Dept. as his last resort. A group of volunteer contractors were called, they volunteered their time and equipment, gravel was donated by MSB Gravel Products and Big Dog Gravel and cement barriers were donated by many. A message was sent to all highway depts. in the County searching for a large sluice pipe to be donated and was received. Fire Dept. had a volunteer to direct traffic when needed and the local restaurant donated pizza and pop to the workers and the job was accomplished.

Section of the tree that was blocking the stream in the Drainage District has been removed by the Highway Dept. Resident will use as firewood.

Caretaker bids were discussed again. Three bids were submitted, one did not have the proper paperwork, bid from Jayme & Kate Conti bid was \$29,500. and bid from Richard Cadle was \$27,972.

Motion made by Berg, seconded by Brainard to accept the bid submitted by Richard Cadle for the Caretaker for 2016.

VOTE: Miles-aye, Brainard-aye, Berg-aye, Chase-aye, Cronk-aye Carried.

Building Code Officer's report from last meeting was incorrect. A revised report has been submitted with proof of receipt in Town Clerk's report.

Motion made by Brainard, seconded by Chase to accept the revised report as submitted.

VOTE: Miles-aye, Brainard-aye, Berg-aye, Chase-aye, Cronk-aye Carried.

The Dog Control Officer has concerns about what should be done with unlicensed dog owners when they are written a ticket to appear in court and do not show up. One is scheduled for trial in November. A policy needs to be made by the Town Board in support of the D.C.O. and the courts.

Highway Superintendent has submitted the highway inventory for 2016.

Motion made by Chase, seconded by Miles to accept the highway inventory as submitted.

VOTE: Miles-aye, Brainard-aye, Berg-aye, Chase-aye, Cronk-aye Carried.

Reserve Accounts from Fund Balances were discussed by the Town Board. These need to be written down and estimate what will be needed for each. Need to remember also that future budgets will be have to be kept at lower percent. Will ask accountant to help with this.

Motion made by Berg to adjourn at 8:45p.m

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen G. Bifaro  
Town Clerk/Recd Secy