

TOWN OF WINFIELD
April 14, 2021
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of the Town of Winfield Board was called to order at 7 p.m. by Supervisor Charles Osborn.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Osborn	----	Supervisor
Jay Kulczak	----	Councilman
Michael Peo	----	Councilman
Susan Korosec	----	Councilwoman
William Kwasniewski	----	Councilman

ALSO PRESENT:

Douglas Paul Jones	---	Superintendent of Highways
Tracy Donley	---	Town Clerk
Robert Royce	---	Park Commissioner
Raymond Donley	---	Codes Officer/Herkimer County Legislator
Keith Watkins	---	Zoning Board of Appeals Chairperson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Andrew Gannon (WW Star), Howard Wakefield & Jonathan Knauth

General Fund claims # 64 - # 83 and Highway Fund claims # 28 - # 34 were listed on the Abstract of Voucher sheets.

- A motion was made by Councilman Kwasniewski and seconded by Councilwoman Korosec to accept these Abstracts as presented.
- The motion was carried unanimously.

The Supervisor's and Town Clerk's reports for March 2021 were audited by the Board Members present.

- A motion was made by Councilman Kwasniewski and seconded by Councilman Kulczak to accept the reports as audited.
- The motion was carried unanimously.

The minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on March 10, 2021 were read and edited by each Board Member present.

- A motion was made by Councilman Kwasniewski and seconded by Councilman Peo to accept these minutes as corrected.
- The motion was carried unanimously.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

1. Supervisor Osborn confirmed with John Pustay that he would accept being appointed to the Board of Assessment Review.
 - A motion was made by Councilman Kwasniewski and seconded by Councilman Peo to appoint John Pustay to the Board of Assessment Review..
 - The motion was carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

1. Superintendent Jones stated the bleachers in the Winfield Town Park will need to be replaced soon.
2. Superintendent Jones called Five Star to get estimates on a new loader. A new loader costs \$174,000 and a used loader costs \$168,000. Purchasing a new loader will allow for the NYS contract pricing. The transmission is broken on the current loader, parts to fix it is approximately \$28,000. Trade in value for the 2008 loader is \$45000. The budget was reviewed by the Board Members. Discussion ensued.
 - A motion was made by Councilman Peo and seconded by Councilwoman Korosec to have Keith Watkins start the financing agreement to purchase the new loader
 - The motion was carried unanimously.

PARK COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

1. Mr. Royce received a call from Jonathan Fernandaz about using the 2nd playfield in the Town Park for soccer. Mr. Royce informed him that they would need to provide insurance.
2. Councilman Kwasniewski stated July 3rd is a possible dedication date for the new playground and historical marker.
3. Mr. Donley received an estimate from Rommel Fence LLC on replacing the gate at the Route 20 entrance with a new 20' width and 3' tall Cantiliver slide gate. There will be a 1' gap between ground and fence to make it 4' tall. The fence is vinyl coated chain link fence. While the rear entry gate will be replaced with a new 4' high x 18' double swing gate on straightened existing posts. Materials \$3,665, Labor & Equipment \$3984, Totaling \$7649.
 - A motion was made by Councilman Peo and seconded by Councilwoman Korosec to proceed with the gates once the official quote has been received, reviewed and approved by each Town Board Member.
 - The motion was carried unanimously.

CODES/ZONING OFFICER'S WRITTEN REPORT:

1. Mr. Donley is working on the 5th permit for the year.
2. Mr. Donley completed 15 hours of online training.

3. Mr. Donley rewrote the manufactured home section of the Winfield Town Zoning book, which is any manufactured home less than 18' wide should not be placed on any parcel unless in a mobile home park.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Supervisor Osborn received the purchase contract prepared by Attorney Pat Quinn for the sale of .38 acres bordering 406 Curtis Avenue and Clapson Road to Mr. Greg Rogers.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Councilwoman Korosec suggests the Town review the Marijuana Regulations and Taxation Act and how it may or may not affect the Town.
2. Councilwoman Korosec reviewed the Federal Government American Rescue Plan. In July the Town could receive \$230,000 to be shared with the Village. Splitting of the funds? Possibly by population. Limited use of the said funds per Mr. Schumer. If the Town can not use the funds, the Town is allowed to give funds to the Village, School, another governmental organization or return it to the State.
3. Eileen Ucekay is retiring as the Village Clerk after 45 years of dedicated service. Supervisor Osborn will write a proclamation in honor of her.

GOOD OF THE TOWN:

1. Guest speaker Jonathan Knauth of the Town of Columbia spoke on large solar farms. He was involved in writing the Law that the Town of Columbia currently has in place regarding solar farms. The Law does not encourage nor discourage solar farms. Mr. Knauth encouraged the Board to use the Town of Columbia's Solar Law as a reference. He also stated the property tax exemption should be opted out of - "We hereby opt out of the property tax exemption, meaning the Solar Farms will pay property taxes". Article 10 process or 94C does take the Town Laws into consideration, therefore it is important to get laws in place. Solar is to offset fossil fuels. Central NY uses hydro, nuclear and wind, therefore, no fossil fuels. Mr. Knauth also advises the Town to review battery energy storage law. Discussion ensued.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Councilman Kwasniewski moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Peo.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The next Winfield Town Board Meeting will be held May 12, 2021 at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Donley
Town of Winfield, Clerk