

Town of Winfield
September 18, 2013

The regular meeting of the Winfield Town Board was called to order at 7 p.m. by Supervisor Charles Osborn. Members present were Councilmen Howard Marsh, Michael Peo, Robert Royce. Councilwoman Sandra Smith was absent. Guests present were: Codes/Zoning Officer Raymond Donley (and his son), West Winfield Star Bill Kwasniewski, Board of Appeals Chair Keith Watkins, Tracey Casler, Jill and Don VanValkenburgh, Rob & Roxanne Sweet and Mick & Linda Cienava.

General Fund claims #160 - #181 and Highway Fund claims #58 - #69 were listed on the Abstract of Voucher Sheets. A motion was made by Councilman Marsh and seconded by Councilman Royce to accept these Abstracts as presented. The motion was carried unanimously. The Supervisor's and Town Clerk's report for the month of August, 2013 were audited by members present. A motion was made by Councilman Royce and seconded by Councilman Peo to accept these reports as audited. The motion was carried unanimously.

The minutes from the regular Board meeting held August 14, 2013 were read by each member. A motion was made by Councilman Royce and seconded by Councilman Peo to accept these minutes as read. The motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor's Report:

1. Ben Snyder from the LaBerge Group has agreed to meet with the Board at 6:30 p.m. before the October 9, 2013 regular meeting to discuss a comprehensive plan with the cost being anywhere between \$45,000 to \$150,000. Supervisor Osborn asked the Board their opinion on budgeting for this in 2014. All agreed that at least \$10,000 should be budgeted in 2014 as a starting point for this.
2. In the absence of the Highway Superintendent, Supervisor Osborn informed the Board that the estimate to bollards (posts in concrete) to protect the new EFIS system on the outside of the Highway Garage is \$4240. After discussion, the members present on the Board decided that the Town Highway Department can do this project instead of hiring an outside firm.
3. The sand and salt for the winter is now being put up. There is not a State Contract for the salt yet.
4. The Highway Department would like a new arm mower (app. \$25,000) for next year. Supervisor Osborn will get more information from the Highway Department concerning this and check to see if he can put this in the budget.

Codes/Zoning Report:

1. Permits have slowed down.
2. He has met with Attorney Quinn concerning the three properties that he has been working on.
 - a. Barrett property: Attorney Quinn needs to get a court order in order to put a legal notice in the paper to address the issue with any known relatives about the codes violations. He will be posting this property this week. Attorney Quinn has filed the paperwork with the Court and hopes that the papers will be answered next week in court.
 - b. Bernie Taylor property: The same legal process needs to be done on this property and Attorney Quinn has requested more pictures from Mr. Donley on this. Attorney has also filed the paperwork with the Court for this property.
 - b. The same thing needs to be done with the Hatmaker property on Babcock Hill Road as their 30 days are over. He has visited the property finding that they have not done much and found no evidence of sewage being dumped or of sewage smell except from the manure that had been recently spread in the area. The Health Officer has also visited the property and has submitted his report that a receipt for the disposal of sewage was present. He checked with the campground concerning this receipt and found that the receipt was legitimate.
3. The following were questions asked of Mr. Donley about the Hatmaker property:

How long is temporary for the use of motor homes/recreational vehicles located on property as defined in the zoning/codes/planning book?

Answer: Temporary is not defined in the zoning/codes planning book. and he will have to check this out.

Have the unregistered vehicles (2 RV's, 1 motorcycle and 1 Camero) been checked for legal registrations?

Answer: As a Township, we are not able to get this information without a court order but Mr. Donley will do his best to find this out.

When they go to court what will happen and how is it handled?

Answer: Mr. Donley explained that they will appear as well as himself and state both cases. The Judge will probably

ask them if they can get it cleaned up. They will answer yes and the Judge will give them another 30 days. More than likely this 30 days will expire and not enough work will be done on the property. The process takes a very long time, possibly more than a year through the Court system. Supervisor Osborn informed everyone that the tickets that the Hatmaker property owner is responding to are probably the ones from the DEC and possible the Cedarville Fire Department. Mr. Donley informed everyone that the fines to the Town could be up to \$250. per violation per week.

There was additional discussion from residents about the most recent fire September 1, 2013 and the dumping and burning on Meetinghouse Road prior to that date. Mr. Donley will contact the DEC representative that was present on 9/01/2013 to discuss the events of that night and the results of any ticketing and hearings. There was also a discussion on back taxes owed to the County and how it is handled. Tracey Casler also informed the Board and Mr. Donley about another incident with one of the residents of the Babcock Hill Road property and her husband, Phil Casler. Also, the young girls are walking up and down the road and also stopping at the end of her driveway and not leaving. She has contacted the Troopers about this and they were called about the accident.

4. Councilman Marsh asked Mr. Donley what is happening on the Doremus property. Mr. Donley informed him that the person in the home at this time has informed him that she will work on the issues.

Old Business:

Ken Roberts updated the Board about the room renovation at the Highway Garage. The bid specs are at the attorney's office. Supervisor Osborn will try to put extra money in the General Fund to cover this expense.

New Business:

1. Supervisor Osborn informed the Board that the new law about no smoking on the play ground at the park will require signage for that area. He will see if there are signs available free of charge.
2. Mr. Wakefield, park maintenance, talked to Councilman Royce about possibly the Town purchasing a "doggy" bag machine for the Park. After discussion, the Board would like to try signs prior to this stating that dog owners/walkers must clean up after their dogs in the park. Keith Watkins will attempt to take a picture of a sign posted in another park.
3. Supervisor Osborn has informed the Board that the Budget will be delivered to the Clerk prior to September 30, 2013.
4. Trash Day – Regional Recycling is now charging for the service that they provide. The Board approved using them for the September, 2013 trash day and further investigating other options for the spring clean up.
5. The Affordable Health Care Act requires that all employees be notified of their options. All employees will find this information in their paychecks prior to October 1, 2013.
6. Keith Watkins reported that the Board of Appeals had received and acted upon one variance recently. The property owner decided that instead of filling out all of the paperwork for the variance that they would move the structure 10 feet to be in compliance. He was also asked about the chicken processing plant that may be in place on Route 51 in the future. So far, he has seen no activity.
7. Supervisor Osborn brought up the Humane Society bill that was received from the seizing of dogs from the Bernie Taylor property on Meetinghouse Road. It is over \$2,000. Several Board members felt that we are under contract with the Humane Society for this service, but they would still like to pursue talking with the Humane Society to see if there is a lesser amount that could be paid. Supervisor Osborn will talk to them to see what can be done. The comment was also made that we should bill the owner if we are responsible for the whole bill.
8. Councilman Marsh questioned the Workmen's Compensation line item being over budget according to the Calogero report for August, 2013. Supervisor Osborn reviewed this with the Board. He will review his reports to see if these items were coded wrong. Councilman Marsh's concern is that we must make sure that we have enough in the 2014 budget for this item.
9. Councilman Marsh asked if the person mowing three cemeteries is covered under the General Liability? Supervisor Osborn answered that this person because they are being paid a wage would be covered under the Workmen's Compensation.

The next meeting of the Winfield Town Board will be October 9, 2013. Ben Snyder from LaBerge Associates will be present at 6:30 prior to the regular meeting time of 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Councilman Royce moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Marsh. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debrah B. Jones, Clerk