



# TOWN OF MASONVILLE

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STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF DELAWARE  
TOWN OF MASONVILLE

September 1, 2021

The Town Board of the Town of Masonville was called to order at 7:37 pm.

**PRESENT:**

Supervisor: Betty Scott  
Council: Bill Thomas, Jeri Brayman & Steve Roff  
Town Clerk: Linda Bourn  
Highway Superintendent: Chuck Smith

**ABSENT:**

Chuck Smith & Karleen DuMond

**PUBLIC:**

Present: Steve Tiska, Angela Ellis, Jen & Gary Scott, Dave Barnes, Dick Ewain, Neil Brayman, Paul and JoAnn Miller, Arnie Jump, Ron Longwell, Rodney Wagner, Andrew Pastore, Collin Frost, Chris Lawes & Judy Jackson

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Led by Betty Scott.

**MINUTES:**

Motion by Bill Thomas, seconded by Steve Roff to approve the August meeting minutes, all in favor, motion carried.

**FLOORTIME:**

1. Judy Jackson asked the board to approve her to go to the NYS Magistrate's Association conference this is for education purposes. Judy would pay for one night, the state would pay for one night and one night would be paid out of her budget. The cost is expected to be around \$225.00. A motion made by Steve, seconded by Bill all in favor carried for Judy to attend this.
2. Angela asked what can the town know about Highway Supervisor situation, Betty told her that as an elected official, the board cannot direct his work, and the board cannot discuss what is happening. The town board does not have the authority to remove an elected official from office. The only oversight the board has is over the budget. Betty states that the only way we can control that position we would have to change it to be an

appointed position. In order to do this we would have to hold a public draft a law, then have a public meeting and get it on the ballot for the people to vote on. At this time, there is not time to get that on the ballot for this November. Betty understands that the people are concerned about this, but the NYS laws are very clear on what we can do or not do. Angela thought it would be nice if the tax payers could ask Chuck some questions if he showed up to the meeting. Betty told Angela that elected officials are not required to attend meetings, although it is expected that they will be attend.

3. Steve Tiska says that Chuck could lose his job due to malfeasants. There is a lot to that job if anyone would look up the highway manual they would see what all is involved.
4. Steve Tiska brought up the speed limit signs he has requested. Steve says that the road has been modernized under the chips program since it was first put in and there were only 3 houses on the road, today there are 30 houses and the road has been made wider than it was and there are no shoulders and the road, in some spots go down 30 or 40 feet. Steve feels like we may have been looking at two issues the first one being the sides of the road and speed limits versus curve, driveway signs etc. second is the speed, and it is 40 miles per hour on the Sidney part and 55 miles per hours on Masonville part. Steve quoted an article from the paper that stated that the town would be liable only if there was an accident and the highway superintendent knew that a sign should have been there and was not. He would like Betty to speak to the insurance about the liability Betty again asked the board if they want to make a motion to look at the signs on Pine Hill and the board again said they did not. The cost is too much for all the signs that are needed and the fact that they don't feel the signs would change the way people are driving and there is going to be no enforcement. Bill stated again that he was told from Sidney that a petition needs to be signed in order for the state to look at the road. Steve said that the CHIPS money could be used for signs. Betty explained that if we used the CHIPS money, we would be taking away from road repairs. Steve is asking that a letter be sent to the insurance company along with his prior notices that he submitted to the town. Betty does not feel that it is necessary as she has already contacted the lawyer and we are not doing anything at this time.
5. Dave Barnes asked if there are regular audits of the Town. Betty told him that we have to send a report each year to the Comptroller. The Comptroller offices performs random audits such as what was done recently with the fire district. Steve Roff thinks that we should do our own audit just to make sure things are being done correctly. Betty will look into what the process is to get an audit done.
6. Angela asked about the meeting minutes and how long before they can be published. Betty says that she feels a couple of weeks would be an acceptable time for them to get them posted on the new web site. Betty says there is no rule that says they have to be posted. Angela said that as a Town Supervisor she should be interested in more than what is legally required of you; it needs to be about transparency and to let people know what happens at these meetings. Judy said that everybody in this town knows that the first Wednesday of every month, she also said that in all her time attending these meetings this was the most town people she has ever seen show up for the meeting. In full transparency, Betty stated that Angela offered to do the town web site a few months ago when Betty asked the board to approve paying a company to design the web site. In the past, there have been several people that volunteered to do the web site and they did create them, but they we never consistently updated and now no one can even get them removed from the searches. Betty has been working with the web site designer along with the summer intern; there have been other issues that have been of more importance than the web site at this time. Betty feels that having the web site is important and it will get done. Betty also felt that having a volunteer to do the web site we would not have the control of what gets

posted. Betty also wanted it known that she does care about this town and she believes in full transparency, but at the moment there are more important things going on than the web site.

7. Masonville days planning is going along good. We have the following set up:

- Masonville Rod & Gun Club is doing a chicken barbecue at the library from 11- sold out
- Vaccines will be done at the Town Hall 11-1

Angela asked if they could use the town rider insurance to cover the parking lot at the library. Betty said that the library should have their own insurance and it is not part of the town insurance. Betty says that she has to send a written formal letter that the Town has to be approved. Betty will do it, but in the future for the rider to be in effect, there has to be a formal letter. Angela says that it has been discussed at every meeting for the last 3 months. Betty asked what kind of activities are being done at the school. Angela says there will be:

- Kids games
- Basketball – new pavement and back boards have been completed

Going forward Betty asks that she be given a request to approve the functions at the school for

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Received a check from the Town Clerk for money collected in July \$684.21. And a check for the penalties from tax collection for \$3,000.00
- Received a check from the court for \$570.00 for July
- Letter from Trout Creek Fire Department for permission to use McLaughlin Road, Part of Teed Rd and part of Pine Swamp Rd for their upcoming UTV parade and poker run on September 26. They will have a pace vehicle and police at all major intersections. There are several other activities going on that day such as Garden Tractor Pulls, Corn Hole Tournament and food. The event is planned to raise money for new fire equipment.
- Letter from Adirondack-Appalachian Regional Emergency Medical Service Council about CON from the Dowsnville Fire District. Just a notification for us this really has nothing to do with us.
- American rescue plan sent a notice that they were increasing it by \$513.38. We received half now and then half next year so we received a check for \$256.69.
- Social Services is looking for foster parents.

### **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

- Roadside mowing seasonal roads
- Couple of days hauled in millings from route 206 project
- Used the millings to resurface the Route 8 end of Beals Pond Rd
- Half day helping Sidney pave and half day helping Deposit oil and stone
- New driveway pipe installed on Pine Hill, replaced rotten driveway pipe on Beals Pond Rd
- Started to gravel Mormon Hollow before the snowplow turn around
- Stockpiling stone deliveries for our oil and stone projects to do in September
- Cleaned up trees fallen from wind storm on Gould Dean & Teed Hill Roads
- Spot ditched areas on Beals Pond Rd and Shears Rd
- Cleaned up junk for a dump run and got rid of old tires
- Various truck and equipment serve and repairs
- Started to fix washout areas on Clark Rd

- Truck #6 has been having transmission issues so it was removed and the guys took the tranny out of the parts truck and installed it in #6. It works but not perfect at this time. We are in the process of flushing the system and may need to order a shift relay valve to resolve the issue. If all fails we can get an Allison remanufactured tranny w/a 3 year warranty at a cost of around \$7,000. Hope we have luck with the parts truck unit as it has been sitting for about 10 years.
- The first round for CHIPS payment has been accepted and we will see a check this month for \$106,334.00/ The next round will give us a check for \$148,840.00 in December. 3.3 Miles, 4 roads
- 2021 Highway Department Inventory completed with estimated current values

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Truck**

- We have not received any quotes from Chuck; Steve has received one from International. There is some price discrepancies on what Chuck said it would cost \$10,000.00 to rehab the body. It is really \$32,450.00.
- Jerri felt that everyone was against what Chuck said on letting Neil pick the truck. Jerri said that Neil liked the size and felt safe and comfortable in that truck and he is a larger person so that should be taken into consideration. She thinks that the highway guys should have a say in what truck is picked. No one here has driven a snowplow for 8 hours a day and he should be able to choose as a tax payer.
- Bill and Steve think we should standardize our trucks.
- Betty stated there are several factors in choosing the truck such as delivery time and a truck our drivers can drive. Jeri asked Neil if any of the other trucks would work for him as far as comfort.
- There are options that would make the seats more comfortable that we could look at when choosing the truck. There are also different configurations for the cabs as well. We need to look at service for them too.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Sidewalk project will be delayed due to the weather. He is behind on workload as this has been a wet summer.
- The August of 2018 flooding claim with FEMA has been on a COVID hold for over a year. The total claim for the Town was \$64,696.0 minus 12.5% that the town covers. 75%, of that FEMA covers and the other 12.5% by NYS equals \$56,609.00. We did receive \$48,000.00 already. Chuck had a meeting with Homeland Security/Emergency Management on 8/23/21 to close out this claim. All they need is the last documentation to show all involved have been paid and proof of payment by canceled check. This will allow State Emergency Management office "SEMO" to cut us a check for the last of the claim money.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### ***Dog Control Officer's Report:***

- 11 Calls
- Mileage \$109.04

**Code Officer's Report:**

- August \$690.00
- No mileage

**SUPERVISOR REPORT:**

- Betty attended mental health meeting & supervisors meeting
- Met with Senator Mike Martucci, Assemblyman Joe Angeleo & Assemblyman Antonio Delgado. Mike Martucci and Betty discussed that we were purchasing a new truck and he thought maybe they could help with the SAMS grant. Betty will follow up and see if we can get some of the truck covered on the grant.
- County is continuing with the DPW construction.
- Behavioral Health Clinic due to open soon in Walton. Thanks to Joann Miller as she has been a big part in the new building.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**MOTIONS:**

- Motion by Bill Thomas, seconded by Steve Roff all in favor, motion carried to allow Trout Creek to use some of our roads for their event on September 26, providing they carry liability insurance.
- Local law #2 motion to pass made by Bill Thomas, seconded by Steve Roff, and all in favor carried.
- Motion by Steve Roff, seconded by Bill Thomas to request an audit of the highway department, all in favor carried.

**GENERAL:**

113	Shupperds	\$120.00
114	VOID	\$0.00
115	Fastenal	\$72.50
116	Laing Trucking	\$43.00
117	Boulder	\$136.56
118	Quill	\$18.79
119	Quill	\$173.72
120	By the Books	\$760.00
121	NYSEG	\$493.11
122	NYSEG	\$226.43
123	Coughlin & Gerhart	\$299.00
124	Office of State Comptroller	\$785.00
125	Office of State Comptroller	\$445.00
		<b>\$3,573.11</b>

**HIGHWAY:**

92	Jess Howes	\$496.70
93	Interstate Billing	\$706.66
94	John Winn	\$4,309.52
95	Scoville Meno	\$402.29
96	Five Star Equipment	\$48.57
97	Mirabito	\$2,684.20
98	Rogo Fastener	\$346.60
99	Cooks Brothers Truck Parts	\$845.34
100	Vestal Asphalt	\$152,310.76
101	Carver Sand	\$22,168.45
		<b>\$184,319.09</b>

ABSTRACT OF CLAIMS:

Motion by Jeri to pay all abstract of claims, seconded by Bill, all in favor carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 PM

*Linda Bourn*

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Linda Bourn  
Town Clerk

Entered into executive session to discuss personal matter, contract negotiations and litigation at 9:23.

Ended executive session at 10:43