

February 9th, 2012

The regular meeting of the Town Board was held on Thursday, February 9th, 2012 with the following members present: Richard Rowland, Supervisor; Daniel Pemrick, Thomas Kinsella, Daniel Cochran and Walter E. Chandler, Councilman. Also present was Town Counsel Mark Schachner, Highway Supt. Walter Barss, one reporter and approximately 18 residents.

The meeting was called to order by the Supervisor at 7:30 PM and opened with the pledge to the flag. On motion of Kinsella, C. and seconded by Pemrick, C., the minutes of 1/12/2012 & 2/2/2012 were approved as submitted by all Board members present.

Letter from Albert Clarke of Ernst Road looking for permission to have some tombstone renovation work completed at the Lincoln-Eddy Cemetery.

Town of Wilton submitted a copy of the subdivision map for the Hilltop Drive Subdivision. This is a 3 lot residential subdivision which borders the Town of Greenfield. Kinsella, C. asked that a copy be forwarded to the Planning Board

Letter from the Saratoga County Department of Public Works stating that the Draft Local Solid Waste Management Plan is available for public review and can be review and downloaded from their website. The deadline for all public comments is March 31st, 2012.

Letter from Mike Evans, 22 Mia Way, expressing his concerns regarding the proposed emergency squad agreement. All board members received a copy as well.

Lincoln-Eddy Cemetery - Mr. Clarke stated that he has been studying the Lincoln family for about 18 years. The patriarch of the family, Nedabiah Lincoln – a Revolutionary War Veteran, along with his wife and at least 6 members of his family are buried in this cemetery. The stones are old style with concrete footers. The stones have come out of the footers and have been reset in the ground. One is broken in half. At a Saratoga County Heritage Hunters meeting this past year, there was a presentation by a gentlemen who is a professional grave stone and grave restorer. Mr. Clarke stated that he contacted him and he has agreed to do the work, subject to permission of the Town, on those stones for the Lincoln Family only. Cochran, C. asked Mr. Clarke if he has spoken with the Town Historian at all regarding this family. He stated that he has spoken with the Historian on and off over the past 18 years. A lot of the information that he has gathered is included in a book that he published about the family. He also published a book about the house that he lives in which was built by a member of the Lincoln family, Dr. Harry Martin, who is buried in the Ballou Cemetery. Kinsella, C. stated that his only question would be if there was any insurance liability. Supervisor Rowland will check with the Town's insurance agent. He felt that we would need a certificate of insurance or hold harmless agreement.

RESOLUTION # 39 - Authorize Gravestone Renovation at
Lincoln-Eddy Cemetery

Motion: Cochran, C.

Seconded: Chandler, C.

RESOLVED, That Albert Clarke be allowed to contract with a professional gravestone restorer to repair and reset seven stones at the Lincoln-Eddy Cemetery in the Town of Greenfield, and

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town shall be provided a Certificate of Insurance and/or Hold Harmless Agreement prior to the commencement of work.

VOTE: Ayes: Rowland, Pemrick, Kinsella, Cochran, Chandler

Noes: None

Supervisor Rowland stated that he would like to commend the Highway Department for the work that they have done at Middle Grove Park. Since this has been a somewhat reasonable winter with little snow, they were able to remove all the brush, tree's, etc. that have been an issue at the Park. He added that he has had several residents who have stated that they were pleased and that as soon as the weather gets warmer they will be able to walk the trail again without as many safety concerns.

Mike Chandler, 92 No. Greenfield Road – Mr. Chandler stated that he was here on behalf of the Greenfield Fire District. They have met internally several times over the past several weeks and have decided to step up the EMS Program at this point. They are looking at moving around their EMS vehicles to better cover districts 1, 2 and 3. They may put together a duty roster to make sure that there are at least some EMT's going to a call. They are looking into the possibility of purchasing more defibrulators. They currently have 10. This would allow them to be able to outfit some of the Chief's who are EMT's and First Responders. In addition, they are looking into changing their tones so that all 4 companies get toned out for every EMS call. Mr. Chandler stated that as a Fire District, they have several questions/concerns regarding the proposed emergency squad contract with Empire. They have some concerns with how incidents with multiple patients will be handled. How would mutual aid work with a for profit agency vs. a non-for-profit agency? They are also concerned about radio communication. It is very important to be able to know when they are going to be arriving at a scene; be able to update them regarding the status of the patient, etc. Will they have a County radio? For structure fires it is important to have at least 2 ambulances at the scene. One would be used for transport and the other for the firefighters on the scene. The concern would be if the First District would be charged for this and/or will the District be charged per person for the rehab part of it. On the occasion that there is a serious accident/trama and a helicopter may be involved, will they call for the helicopter or will they just transport themselves to Albany. Mr. Chandler stated that this is an option that his usually left to the ambulance staff. It has been practice that the EMT's on scene have been able to get supplies out of the ambulance. Will that continue or will they have to go to Saratoga Hospital to get them? Will there be a cost to the Fire District? Where are the ambulances going to be coming out of? Will they be coming out of West Avenue or is it Maple Avenue? Empire is supposedly going to be on 2nd & 3rd call for the City and they questioned how that would effect the Town, especially with the mutual aid plan.

Tim Kemp, 39 Hemlock Drive – Mr. Kemp stated that he has been a Greenfield resident for 21 years and he joined the Fire Department approximately 15 years ago. In responding to the fire calls over the first few years, he found that the majority of the calls were medical calls. He decided to take the EMT certification Program which he completed in 1999. He responded as an EMT for the Fire Department and volunteered his time with the Saratoga Emergency Squad for 11 years on the Friday overnight shift. Mr. Kemp compared emergency services with the food service industry.

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There are three grades of food service – fast food i.e. McDonalds, Burger King, Wendy's, etc. Then you have middle priced such as TGIF, Ninety-Nine, etc. Finally you have 4 or 5 star restaurants. With emergency services you have a for profit, a not-for-profit and a private ambulance service. Mr. Kemp stated that often the day you need an ambulance is the worst day of your life and do you really want to make that a bargain. He stated that with a for profit agency, they are in the business to make money. Their employees have had adequate training. Most often they do hard billing which means if the cost is more than what your insurance will cover, the patient will be responsible to pay for the rest. With a not-for-profit their focus is on service. Value and not economy is what controls their operation. Their employees are "top talent". They search for the best, most experienced individuals. This comes at a cost. As far as billing is concerned, they soft bill which means if your insurance does not cover the full cost they will accept whatever you can give them if you can not make it complete. Mr. Kemp added that a not-for-profit also offers a place to learn. It is a beginning point for people that may enter the medical field professionally. It provides them the opportunity to get their foundation in a volunteer environment and move on to bigger things if interested. In a city setting, where you are much closer to hospital/medical facilities, it may not make such a big difference. However, in a rural setting it is very important to have a reliable service in place. Mr. Kemp believed that over the past 13 years or so the Town of Greenfield has gotten a bargain from Saratoga Emergency Services. We have received high quality advanced life support service at a very low cost. He would not like to see the Town go backwards with its emergency coverage and felt that by going with a for profit service that would be the case. Mr. Kemp stated that it was his understanding that the yearly cost to the Town for a not-for-profit service would be approximately \$160,000. Dividing that amount by the population of the Town means it would cost approximately \$22.00 per year per person or \$88.00 per year for a family of four. He compared that to the cost of delivery of The Saratogian for the year, which is \$108.00. The Fire District Tax costs him \$265.00; the Highway Department is \$314.00. The Library Tax that is added to the school tax bill is an additional \$210.00 per year for his family. He did not think that it was a good value for the residents of the Town to go with a bargain basement ambulance service.

Mike Evans, 22 Mia Way - Mr. Evans had dropped off a letter earlier in the day for the Board members. He stated that he estimated the cost of the ambulance service for a \$200,000. house to be approximately \$160. per year. Mr. Evans stated that he was a professional firefighter and paramedic. He understood that cost to the Town was very important, however he asked that the Board look at what they would be getting in services for the cost. He too believed that the Town had been underpaying for services for the past several years. Saratoga Emergency did not increase their billing costs and contracting fees to keep up with the growing expenses of providing these services and as a result they are going out of business. Mr. Evans stated that Wilton EMS is a sustainable first rate community oriented professional organization that holds their providers to the highest standards, far exceeding the basic requirements. Mr. Evans included in his letter some of the basic items that he knew that they deploy that he has used and that he felt would be a great benefit to the residents of the Town. Mr. Evans stated as far as the radio system was concerned, the radios were all County owned and

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they had been taken out of the Saratoga Emergency ambulances. If Empire assumes their ambulances they would not have those radios. The new County radio system is very good and they are able to communicate between the fire department and ambulance. This is a big benefit. He added that this is a very expensive system to buy into and Empire is not currently part of the County Mutual Aid Plan. Mr. Evans believed that the price that Wilton EMS has quoted was a break even price. All the money that they receive that is above and beyond their operating costs goes back into clinical care, i.e. providing the best possible tools and training for their employees and volunteers. Mr. Evans added that with a for profit service, their goal is to make money. There are rumors out there that there are actually larger companies looking at buying out Empire and down the line the Town could be dealing with people from down state who have never heard of Greenfield. In addition, their employees are union members who can go on strike and they have in the past. He suggested that Board members take the time to visit the Wilton EMS facilities and take a closer look at their operation. At this time, Empire would be operating out of the old Maple Avenue Fire Station and it does not appear that they will be moving to the West Avenue facility in the near future. Mr. Evans did not feel that the Board was comparing apples to apples when they were looking at Empire Ambulance versus Wilton Emergency Services. He added that you are going to get what you pay for and he hoped that the cost was not the only factor that was taken into consideration when the Board was making their decision.

Nate King, 465 Maple Avenue – Mr. King stated that he was Chief of the Wilton Emergency Squad. He understood that the Board had a very tough decision to make dealing with the budget, etc. He wanted to comment on a couple of items regarding Wilton Emergency Services. They have a large number of volunteers who are actually from the Town of Greenfield. They provide these volunteers with educational training. In addition, if they are interested in going further into a paramedic program, the squad will pay for a portion of their training as long as they sign on to volunteer with the squad for two years. If they were able to guarantee coverage of a driver or paramedic through these volunteers, it could lower the cost to the Town in the future. Mr. King provided the Board with a copy of their Wilton Budget, broken down by line items and an explanation of each. They are just looking to be able to break even at the end of the year. Mr. King added that they would look to be part of the community. They offer a car seat safety check program. In addition, they would provide first aid, etc. for community events. Kinsella, C. asked Mr. King how many calls they responded to in a year for Wilton. He stated that they had approximately 1,800 calls. Cochran, C. asked how many calls they would expect to have from Greenfield. Mr. King stated that according to the numbers that were provided to them for last year they are figuring on about 700 calls. Pemrick, C. asked what the rate of increase has been annually as far as cost was concerned. Mr. King did not believe that they have raised their rates in the last 2 years.

John Lant, 45 Woodard Road and Greenfield Fire Chief – Mr. Lant felt that the three gentlemen who spoke ahead of him provided a lot of facts. He stated that he has been a fireman for the past 38 years and has been to a lot of fires and emergencies. He has been dealing with the Wilton Emergency Squad for the past 25 years and they are always very professional. He expressed his concern for the volunteer fireman in

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Greenfield, as well as the residents, and hoped that before the Board made a decision tonight that they give this matter a lot of thought and do the right thing for the people.

George Miller, 271 Young Road - Mr. Miller stated that he was associated with SEMS for a number of years and worked along side the guys from Wilton at mutual aid calls. They have an incredibly high reputation for services and emergent care in the field which he felt that the Board needed to take into consideration. Mr. Miller added that one of the main concerns was with the possibility of hard billing. There are a lot of Senior Citizens living on fixed incomes, as well as under insured or uninsured citizens in the Town. The insurance companies pay much less than what is billed by an ambulance corp. Medicare and Medicaid pay significantly less. If hard billing is in place, the citizen will be expected to come up with the difference.

Supervisor Rowland stated that he has had discussion with the County regarding radio and communications. It is his understanding that Greenfield and/or Empire would be allowed radios if they were chosen to service our Town. He stated that he spoke with a representative from Empire this morning and they are looking at having three ambulances available in the area and they would be looking to communicate with all three of them. Supervisor Rowland stated that he has been assured by the Sheriff's Department that if we contract with Empire, they would be part of the mutual aid system and any dispatch. The Sheriff's Department has to dispatch any communities' ambulance service. Supervisor Rowland was aware that there was an issue regarding renovations that needed to be completed at the West Avenue Station. Empire has stated that they would position an ambulance accessible to Greenfield without delay. There would not be any hard billing. The Town's contribution will be accepted to help cover the costs. Empire has also indicated that they will make themselves available for fire calls and they plan to provide the same service that SEMS has provided. Supervisor Rowland stated that he understood that SEMS let things go until they were critical and they have put the Town in a very hard position. The Town did not find out about this transition until the Monday before Thanksgiving, after the Town budget had been passed. At this point, any contract that the Board enters is going to require a budget amendment. The money is going to have to come out of reserve funds. Supervisor Rowland stated that the Town has been living on mutual aid for the most part since the beginning of December. The Town looked at doing its own Certificate of Need, however that would cause the Town to have to get into billing which would require the hiring of staff. The Town had to raise taxes above the 2% tax cap because the budget could not be balanced even after having to dig into the reserve funds. If the budget is not balanced, within 4 years the Town will be out of reserve funds. That will cause a significant raise in taxes. The Board has cut all areas of the budget and will continue to do so. Supervisor Rowland felt that at this point, the Board needed to hear from both parties. This evening was the first time he had seen the figures from Wilton. Cochran, C. noted that the original figure given by Wilton was \$100,000. and now we are hearing \$160,000. Nate King stated that the original figure was only a ballpark figure. Cochran, C. stated that they are struggling as a Board with having to raise taxes. Every \$50,000. or \$60,000. means a lot. Supervisor Rowland stressed that any decision that might be made this evening does not affect the taxes for this year. The money would have to come out of reserves until next year at which time,

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even if everything is kept the same, a tax increase will be required. Kinsella, C. asked if there was any kind of written proposal from either group that delineates the services which they will provide i.e. hard billing, soft billing, radio's, number of ambulances, where they will be housed, etc. Supervisor Rowland stated that the only thing that he had from Empire at this point was an agreement to work within the former SEMS contract. Jay Ellsworth, Barney Road & Asst. Chief of Fire District – Mr. Ellsworth stated that if it is not in the contract it does not exist. The Board has to have a contract that they have read and understand before they accept anything. All the Board is looking at is a number and they have nothing else. Kinsella, C. stated that he would like to see proposals from any potential providers outlining the scope of service. He would like to have them by March 1st. Cochran, C. stated that the Town needed to get through this dilemma with SEMS going down first, however they then needed to look at what do with ambulance in the future. He was on the ambulance committee in 1994 when all this was talked about. The best option at the time was for SEMS to come up and cover the bottom 2/3rds of the Town. Now we are looking at the possibility of having Wilton cover the same thing, however they are quite a distance away. Mr. King stated that in his opinion the Town would get better service. They would be housing an ambulance in the center of Greenfield. Pemrick, C. asked that a projected rate of increase over the next five years be included in the proposals. Chandler, C. stated that the Board is going to have to start thinking about this for next years budget. The Board was very constrained this year and may have to reach out to the public for their comments and concerns regarding this situation. Andrea Mann, 653 North Creek Road - Mrs. Mann asked if the proposals will be made available for the public to review before the next meeting, at least a summary. Supervisor Rowland stated that would depend on when the Board receives the information. The Board is going to have to have time to review any proposed contracts first. Kinsella, C. stated that he would look at this as a best value type contract and he would assess the proposal against what he values as important.

Proposed Local Law #1-2012 - Supervisor Rowland stated that the public hearing was held last week. The Board received a report from the Town Engineer which was read at the hearing. Supervisor Rowland explained that an Appendix in the Code disagreed with Code body of the law. The Appendix language allows for the 4' separation requirement due to soil constraints. The Engineer believes that this should remain in effect. Board members agreed and accepted the recommendation of the Engineer. No action was taken to adopt the proposed local law.

Brookhaven Timber Agreement – Supervisor Rowland stated that all the insurance documents and paperwork has been received from the logger. He has given the forestry service the go ahead and they should be starting soon. The Town should receive just over \$12,000. for the timber. Removal of the trees will help to clean up the pavilion area and allow use of them again.

Environmental Committee Vacancy – Supervisor Rowland stated that the Board received a letter from Jan Hill, Co-Chairman of the Committee, asking that the Board consider filling the open position with the current alternate member. The Board received one new application from Emily Hill.

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RESOLUTION # 40 - Appoint Environmental Committee Members

Motion: Kinsella, C.

Seconded: Cochran, C.

RESOLVED, That the Town Board hereby appoints Vince Walsh as an Environmental Committee Member, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Emily Hill be appointed at Environmental Committee Alternate Member.

VOTE: Ayes: Rowland, Pemrick, Kinsella, Cochran, Chandler

Noes: None

Level of Assessment - Supervisor Rowland stated that the Assessor was not able to attend the meeting this evening so the item has been removed from the agenda.

Stan Weeks, Ashlor Drive – Mr. Weeks stated that the Friends of the Kayaderosseras Board of Directors wanted to thank the Town for supporting their group over the years. A lot of trout were stocked in the Town of Greenfield this past Fall. He stated that DEC has now decided that they are no longer going to stock from Rock City Falls up. They are going to see if the natural habitat is going to support the fish that are already there.

Agreement to Spend Highway Funds – Highway Supt. Barss stated that the State requires him to put together a list of the roads he plans to resurface in the coming year. At this point he is looking at completing 7.2 miles of road at an approximate cost of \$680,000. It includes Bump Road, sections of Medbury Road, Braim Road, Young Road, Ormsbee Road and Wilsey Road. This will take approximately 15,000 tons of Blacktop. They may have to make adjustments to this list depending on costs once the blacktop season starts.

RESOLUTION # 41 - Agreement to Spend Highway Funds

Motion: Pemrick, C.

Seconded: Chandler, C.

RESOLVED, That the Town Board hereby approves the Agreement to Spend Highway Funds for the Year 2012 as submitted by the Highway Superintendent.

VOTE: Ayes: Rowland, Pemrick, Kinsella, Cochran, Chandler

Noes: None

RESOLUTION # 42 – Advertise for Seasonal Part Time Parks
Maintenance Worker

Motion: Kinsella, C.

Seconded: Chandler, C.

RESOLVED, That the Town Clerk be directed to advertise for a Seasonal Part Time Parks Maintenance Worker and that the deadline to apply shall be March 8th, 2012.

VOTE: Ayes: Rowland, Pemrick, Kinsella, Cochran, Chandler

Noes: None

UDAG Committee Vacancy – Supervisor Rowland stated that the Board had received a letter of resignation from Ralph Stacey from the committee due to health reasons.

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RESOLUTION # 43 – Advertise for Opening – UDAG Committee

Motion: Pemrick, C.

Seconded: Cochran, C.

RESOLVED, That the Town Clerk be directed to advertise for an opening on the UDAG Revolving Loan Fund Committee and that the deadline to apply shall be March 1st, 2012.

VOTE: Ayes: Rowland, Pemrick, Kinsella, Cochran, Chandler

Noes: None

Records Management Grant - Supervisor Rowland advised that Town Court would like to apply for a grant to purge their old records. He explained that they would like to apply to the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF). They would be working with an outside agency to assist in applying for the grant, with the understanding that if the Town is successful and receives a grant they would use his services to do the work. There would be no cost to the Town. However the Town will have to obtain a User Name and Password in order to access the eGrant system which we would have to give to them in order for them to submit an application on behalf of the Town.

RESOLUTION # 44 – Authorize Town Justice to Apply for LGRMIF Grant

Motion: Cochran, C.

Seconded: Chandler, C.

RESOLVED, That Town Court is authorized to obtain the assistance of Alden Stevens to apply for a Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) Grant on behalf of the Town.

VOTE: Ayes: Rowland, Pemrick, Kinsella, Cochran, Chandler

Noes: None

RESOLUTION # 45 – Reappointment of Zoning Board of Appeals Member

Motion: Cochran, C.

Seconded: Pemrick, C.

RESOLVED, That the Town Board hereby re-appoints Paul Lunde as Zoning Board of Appeals members with said term to expire 2/16/2017.

VOTE: Ayes: Rowland, Pemrick, Kinsella, Cochran, Chandler

Noes: None

Monthly reports were submitted by the Town Clerk, Supervisor, Highway Supt., UDAG Revolving Loan Fund and the Town Justices.

RESOLUTION # 46 – Highway Bills

Motion: Pemrick, C.

Seconded; Kinsella, C.

RESOLVED, That Highway Bills # 16 to # 36 in the amount of \$141,149.81 be paid, subject to audit.

VOTE: Ayes: Rowland, Pemrick, Kinsella, Cochran, Chandler

Noes: None

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RESOLUTION # 47 - General Bills

Motion: Chandler, C.

Seconded: Pemrick, C.

RESOLVED, That General Bills # 46 to # 95 in the amount of \$47,678.21 be paid, subject to audit.

VOTE: Ayes: Rowland, Pemrick, Kinsella, Cochran, Chandler

Noes: None

RESOLUTION # 48 – Park Bills

Motion: Chandler, C.

Seconded: Cochran, C.

RESOLVED, That Parks Bills # 11 to # 24 in the amount of \$3,287.51 be paid, subject to audit.

VOTE: Ayes: Rowland, Pemrick, Kinsella, Cochran, Chandler

Noes: None

RESOLUTION # 49 - UDAG Bills

Motion: Kinsella, C.

Seconded; Cochran, C.

RESOLVED, That UDAG Bill # 1 in the amount of \$5,750.00 be paid, subject to audit.

VOTE: Ayes: Rowland, Pemrick, Kinsella, Cochran, Chandler

Noes: None

On motion of Cochran, C. and seconded by Chandler, C., the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:50 PM to discuss a personnel matter. Clerk was not present for session and no minutes were filed. On motion of Chandler, C. and seconded by Pemrick, C., the Board returned to regular session at 9:37 PM.

Supervisor Rowland stated that no action was taken during the session. The personnel matter would be addressed with the employee.

Supervisor Rowland added that the Board also briefly discussed the emergency squad proposals while they were in executive session because it is a contract negotiation. He explained that the Board will request for the proposals to be submitted by March 1st. They will most likely schedule a workshop meeting for March 6th at which time they will ask that a representative from the organizations be present.

Supervisor Rowland stated that the Highway Supt. had provided the Board with information regarding the possible purchase of a greens mower off of State Contract for Brookhaven Park. The cost of the mower is \$39,254.54. Board members in agreement that this was something that could be purchased from UDAG Funds

RESOLUTION # 50 - Purchase Greens Mower from State Contract

Motion: Pemrick, C.

Seconded: Kinsella, C.

RESOLVED, That the Town Board hereby authorizes the purchase of a Greens Mower for Brookhaven Park from State Contract at the cost of \$39,254.54, and FURTHER RESOLVED, that the purchase will be made from the UDAG Fund.

VOTE: Ayes: Rowland, Pemrick, Kinsella, Cochran, Chandler

Noes: None

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On motion of Chandler, C. and seconded by Cochran, C., the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Town Clerk