

September 14th, 2017

The regular meeting of the Town Board was held on September 14th, 2017 with the following members present: Daniel Pemrick, Supervisor; Daniel Cochran, Walter E. Chandler, MaryAnn Johnson and Rick Capasso, Councilmen. Also present were Mark Schachner, Town Counsel; Walter Barss, Highway Superintendent; Duane Wright, Deputy Highway Supt. and 12 residents.

The Board convened as a Board of Health at 7:25 PM.

Unsafe Building 7 Lake Desolation Rd.- Supervisor Pemrick states that Jack Baugh has notified him that his attorney is waiting for a Judge to sign an Order of Reference will send the foreclosure case to a referee. The Supervisor states Mr. Baugh continues to stay in contact with the Town and would like to table any action and grant Mr. Baugh 30 days until our October meeting. The Town Board agrees.

Unsafe Building -6 Main Street- Supervisor Pemrick states an Unsafe Building report was issued by the Code Enforcement Officer. The house at 6 Main Street is located at Lake Desolation and is in a state of disrepair and the foundation is failing. On a motion by Capasso, C. and seconded by Johnson, C, the Town Clerk is directed to send a Notice of Unsafe Building to the property owners and that a Public Hearing be scheduled for 7:25 PM on October 12th, 2017.

The regular meeting of the Town Board was called to order with a Pledge to the Flag at 7:30 PM. On a motion by Capasso, C. and seconded by Chandler, C. the minutes from 8/10/2017 were approved by all Board members present.

Thank You letter- Cystic Fibrosis- Town Clerk states that she received a letter from Elise Shaver, Operations Specialist for Cystic Fibrosis thanking the Town for their cooperation for a charity Bike ride at the same time as the Town Wide Garage Sale.

Town of Greenfield Historical Society- The Historical Society would like the Town's permission to continue the Farmer's Market at Middle Grove Park until the end of September. The last market was September 8th and would like to continue until September 29th. The Town Board agrees and appreciates the work of the Historical Society members.

RESOLUTION # 111- Approve Community Center use –Cub Scout Pack 18

Motion: Johnson, C.

Seconded: Capasso, C.

September 14th, 2017 continued

Resolved, the Town Board hereby approves the use of the Community Center for Cub Scout Pack 18, Mondays September 11, 2017 thru June 25, 2018.

Vote: Ayes: Pemrick, Cochran, Chandler, Johnson, Capasso

Noes: None

RESOLUTION # 112- Landowner Permission for Mulleyville Snowmobile Club

Motion: Cochran, C

Seconded: Johnson, C.

Resolved, the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign the 2017-2018 Snowmobile Landowner Permission with Mulleyville Snowmobile Club allowing them to cross Town property with their trail system.

Vote: Ayes: Pemrick, Cochran, Chandler, Johnson, Capasso

Noes: None

Sue Gardner Pineridge Court – Sue Gardner states that she is a firm supporter of Single Payer Health Care. Her understanding is that it costs \$10,000 per year for health care for an individual. In other developed countries the cost is \$5,000 with better health outcomes. She is a firm supporter of this system. Supervisor Pemrick thanks her for her comments.

Warren Rosenthal- Lake George Land Conservancy- Mr. Rosenthal was invited to speak by Councilman Chandler. He is the Conservation Manager for Lake George Land Conservation and has been speaking to Towns and organizations about an invasive species, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid or HWA. He states the rate of new invasive species, plants and animals, is increasing. World trade is increasing dramatically and that is usually how these pests are introduced. NY State is the epicenter for world trade. We have more invasive species than anywhere in the United States. The Emerald Ash Borer is set to destroy all the ash trees and has no known predators and there is nothing we can do. The Woolley Adelgid targets Hemlocks and we can make a difference. It is an aphid with no natural predators in the Northeast. It has natural predators in the Northwest. NYS has been funding Cornell to set up a laboratory to start breeding the predators that will hopefully take care of this destructive pest. We need to be vigilant, we need to be looking out for them. The smaller the outbreak the easier to manage it. There is a large outbreak in Schenectady County which is not far away, and a smaller outbreak at Prospect Mt. in Lake George. Greenfield is in the middle and he is asking us while we are walking around, while we are outside to look at the Hemlocks, flip the branches over look underneath, look for white fuzzy balls at the stems. If you spot them take a photo of it, try to get a GPS coordinate of it and send it to the State to the number on the brochure. They will send out a team to confirm that it is HWA. The State and NYC did not take any action of the large outbreak in the Catskills and now it is spreading. His goal is to stop it before it enters the Adirondack Park. His message is to advocate to our elected officials and ask to commit resources. They are looking for 2 teams on the ground focusing on Northern Saratoga County and Fulton County where the outbreaks are and to keep it out of the Adirondack Park. When an outbreak is confirmed the State sends in a team to determine how to respond. There are two insecticides that are applied directly to the tree, no spraying is involved. HWA is asexual so even though we have a cold winter it can survive with one bug left. 99 % of the Hemlocks have been killed in the Great Smokey Mountains, millions of Hemlocks. This is what we could face in the Adirondacks if we don't address this. Capasso, C asks what the predators can do. Mr. Rosenthal states that one is a beetle and a fly that come in and eat the HWA. It does work. There has been some success down South, but it takes a huge amount of predators to combat this. Chandler, C asks about the Land Conservancy.

September 14th, 2017 continued

Mr. Rosenthal states they have about 5000 acres and a large water shed that is lined with Hemlocks. If the Hemlock dies there is nothing to take its place. This species is so destructive they feel they need to get the word out. That is why he is here tonight. The Town Board members thank Mr. Rosenthal for the very energetic and informative presentation.

Discussion New York Health Act- Supervisor Pemrick recognizes Dr. George Jolly and colleagues that are here to discuss Health Care costs.

Jay Ekman, 40 Bump Hill Road - Describes friends that have been on a roller coaster of health issues. He states that health care comes down to money. Family budgets and taxes and the good use of tax dollar to provide affordable healthcare for people and save money. Unfortunately, healthcare has been thrown into a Republican or Democratic issue. This is a human or humane issue. As elected officials the Town board has the power and opportunity to do something to move this along in New York State.

Dr. George Jolly, 47 King Road - States he is a retired doctor. He received satisfaction by helping people maintain their health. He became discouraged and saddened about the realization that the United States Health care system is rigged against his patients. American health outcomes, example how long we live is not the best in the world compared to other developed countries. Medical Crisis is the largest cause of personal bankruptcy in the country. The per person cost of healthcare in the U.S. is twice of what it is in other developed countries in the world. Access to the health system is controlled by a business whose business model says that in order to make money, we have to deny care. That is the way for profit insurance works. They make money in profit is they don't spend it on health care. He feels there is something wrong with that. Another concern he has is cost. It is about 17% of what people make. Town healthcare is rising yearly. The rising cost of healthcare is pushed on to employees with increased co-pays, increased deductibles. Any raises are eaten up by rising healthcare costs. They are here because of an opportunity called the Single Payer Healthcare Finance it is coming to us as the New York Health Act. This would pay for all necessary medical care. It would replace all insurance, get rid of all commercial insurance, including Medicare and Medicaid. The costs would be paid by New York Health Trust Fund. All New York State residents would be covered, no question of eligibility. Cover basic dental and vision. No deductibles or co-pays. It is not socialized medicine. Care would be given by given by private Doctors and hospitals. The New York Health Trust would be funded by progressive taxes, on earned and unearned income, like dividends and interest. People with lower income would pay less, higher would pay more. Funds for Medicare and Medicaid would be rolled into that fund. He explains that it would be a dramatic savings for the Town of Greenfield. Because it is simplified there is a drastic reduction in paperwork and administrative costs at every level throughout the system. It also presents the opportunity to reduce drug costs through negotiations with drug companies like the VA is doing now. There will be a reduction in fraud because the system is transparent. Dr. Jolly states that he would like to come and spend time with anyone to answer questions and to make sure of the opportunity this presents. This was passed by the NYS Assembly in the spring and is being addressed by the Senate. Capasso, C. asks when the Senate will vote on this. Dr. Jolly states in September, but it is waiting to come out of the Health Committee. It is being blocked right now. But it is people like those here tonight writing budgets who are willing to say to the Senators why not bring this to public discussion. D. Pemrick, Supervisor asks what the argument is against it. Dr. Jolly explains that it is different from what we do now. Supervisor Pemrick asks who loses in this. Dr. Jolly says the Insurance companies, drug companies and insurance companies. You will see resistance because we are paying exorbitant prices.

September 14th, 2017 continued

There will be lobbyists everywhere and they will be loud. We should not be wasting the money we are now.

John Foster- Squashville Road – Has resided in the Town of Greenfield for 16 years. He is here to ask the Town Board for their support in the form of a resolution that can be forwarded to our New York State Senators. The New York Health Care Act has passed in the Assembly the last three years while never getting out of the Healthcare Committee in the Senate. He began to pay attention to healthcare when his daughter and grandsons came to live with them. The boys had normal childhood illnesses, flu, ear infections, etc. The out-of-pocket costs for simple illnesses would have been in the hundreds of dollars. Then one of the boys was admitted to Albany Med for three nights. The costs were in the thousands of dollars. His daughter was re-entering the work force and would have incurred massive debt. Now she is a wage earning tax payer, contributing to the system, resides on her own with her two sons, medical debt free thanks to Medicaid and Saratoga County. New York Health Act, providing universal coverage, would relieve counties and local governments of the Medicaid costs, such as the one incurred by Saratoga County on behalf of a Mom and her two sons. He makes the point that we all need healthcare insurance as we all get sick or injured. Costs are unbelievably high and one healthcare crisis can over run individual or family. He describes a recent fall that cost \$27, 000 without staying in the hospital. Healthcare companies ensure their profitability by denying coverage. He feels that passage of the New York Health Act would save administrative costs would be drastically reduced as it would allow the State to become the single insurer, drug prices would be lower through negotiation with drug manufacturers, fraud would be reduced through simplified billing system. The law allows for a higher reimbursement rate that would create an additional 10.8 billion dollars resulting in increased services to the insured and more money to the providers, it's a win- win. It would be financed through earned and unearned income. This bill would deliver affordable healthcare for all New York residents. He encourages the Town Board to consider this and sign the resolution supporting this bill. He thanks the Town Board for their time and consideration.

Dr. George Jolly- 47 King Road- States that he would be more than happy to meet with anyone who would like to discuss this further. Supervisor Pemrick and Town Board members thanks everyone for the thoughtful presentation. He asks the Board members if they would like to discuss what we heard or consider it at another point. Johnson, C. states she would like to have a chance to look into this, as she doesn't understand completely how this would work. Capasso, C. states that he would like to see what the holdup is on it as it hasn't come out of the Senate and he would like to speak with our Senator and ask what her position is. Chandler, C. states he feels that is what they are asking us to do. Johnson, C. agrees. Joan Stunzi, Bookkeeper states that she would like to have some research from the Towns standpoint so we fully understand. Johnson, C. asks if she understands, it would be on your income taxes? Joan Stunzi states that there are unknowns per say and we need to research this.

RESOLUTION # 113- Appoint Planning Board Member

Motion: Cochran, C.

Seconded: Johnson, C.

Resolved, That the Town Board hereby appoints Robert Roeckle to fill the unexpired term of Dr. John Streit to expire June 20, 2024.

Vote: Ayes: Pemrick, Cochran, Chandler, Johnson, Capasso

Noes: None

September 14th, 2017 continued

Resolution # 114- Reappoint Rick Schwartzbeck Board of Assessment Review

Motion: Capasso, C.

Seconded: Chandler, C.

Resolved, The Town Board hereby reappoints Rick Schwartzbeck to the Board of Assessment Review with said term to expire 9/30/2022.

Vote: Ayes: Pemrick, Cochran, Chandler, Johnson, Capasso

Noes: None

Discussion- Witt Development- Walter Barss, Highway Superintendent, states that he has spoken with a representative for Witt Development and they have received prices and expect to be paving by October 1st. He spoke with Charlie Baker, Town Engineer and seems to be fine with that, but cautions to watch for ground temperatures.

Discussion – Add Laborer Position to Highway Department - Highway Superintendent, Walter Barss states there is a Part time Position and would like to make that a permanent position. They are asked to do more from the State and County through Stormwater Management, more paperwork and more inspections. They could use the help as the Town is growing. They are looking in the near future at another plow route, which would add another truck. It would be a benefit as it helps when you are working on the road to have the extra person. Capasso, C. asks if the pay rate would be for laborer. Highway Superintendent Barss states it would be the lower laborer rate. Johnson C. asks if this is something you would like to do now, or budget it for the first of the year. Highway Superintendent Barss states the first of the year.

Discussion – Brookhaven Park -- Duane Wright, says that the Pavilion area is getting ready for the 5K. The area is being prepped now so they will be ready for the race. They reviewed with Charlie Baker the bridge on the 18th hole who referred it to a company that does bridge engineering and gave us an estimate. Supervisor Pemrick states that we are going to have Nordic and other events. Highway Superintendent Barss says it has a 60 ft. span made out of wood. Chandler, C. asks if we looked into prefab. They are pre-engineered and guaranteed. Duane Wright states that they are looking into that and have local businesses bid on setting it.

Fundraiser American Red Cross- Supervisor Pemrick states that the Town of Greenfield is working with the American Red Cross and will donate the proceeds from Golf on Sunday September 24th, to the Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. There will be golf specials. Also the Haven Tee Room will donate 50% of profits to that Fund. It is advertised and on the Websites and hopefully will have TV coverage there.

RESOLUTION - # 115 – Transfer of Funds

Motion: Johnson, C.

Seconded: Capasso, C.

Resolved, That the Supervisor be authorized to make the following Transfer of Funds:

\$ 342.49	From: A8090.4	To: A8020.4
\$ 500.00	From: A1220.2	To: A1310.4
\$ 74.43	From: A1010.2	To: A1310.4
\$2072.51	From: A1990.4	To: A7140.4

September 14th, 2017 continued

\$3754.83	From: A1990.4	To: A1630.4
\$ 71.36	From: CR7110.41	To: CR7110.4
\$3952.33	From:CR7180.2	To:CR7180.4

Vote: Ayes: Pemrick, Cochran, Chandler, Johnson, Capasso
Noes: None

Monthly reports were submitted by the Town Clerk, Highway Dept., Town Justices, Brookhaven, Supervisor's Financial Report, UDAG and Quarterly Report from Jessup's Landing.

RESOLUTION # 116- General Bills

Motion: Chandler, C.

Seconded: Capasso, C.

Resolved, that the General bills from #559-627 in the amount of \$38,856.73 be paid.

Vote: Ayes: Pemrick, Cochran, Chandler, Johnson, Capasso

Noes: None

RESOLUTION # 117- Highway Bills

Motion: Chandler, C.

Seconded: Johnson, C.

Resolved, that the Highway Bills from # 200-226 in the amount of \$194,185.06 be paid.

Vote: Ayes: Pemrick, Cochran, Chandler, Johnson, Capasso

Noes: None

RESOLUTION # 118- Parks Bills

Motion: Chandler, C.

Seconded: Capasso, C.

Resolved, that the Parks Bills from # 202-232 in the amount of \$12,872.05 be paid.

Vote: Ayes: Pemrick, Cochran, Chandler, Johnson, Capasso

Noes: None

On a motion by Capasso, C. and Seconded by Cochran, C. the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.