

The regular meeting of the Berkshire town board was opened at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Mike Simmons beginning with the pledge of allegiance.

Members present: John Stoughton, Fraser Williams, Ronald Hartwig, Lillian Hoffmier, and Mike Simmons. Also present Karl Spoonhower Highway Superintendent.

A motion to accept the mar. minutes was made by Ronald Hartwig 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Stoughton and carried.

Privilege of the floor:

Ron Dougherty a representative of TING (Tioga interest in natural gas) was present and spoke on preparing for gas drilling in our area. They are working on documents that they hope will help towns deal with the changes that occur when drilling does move into the area.

Brett Welch: Representing the fire dept. asked if there was a possibility the fire dept could park the fire trucks at the town barns while they are building the new fire station. Ronald Hartwig suggested that if the new part of the highway garage could get finished as soon as possible then the old part would be available for there use. He also added that heating the old part is a big expense that could be cut way down by getting the new part done and putting in the waste oil furnace before next winter. Karl Spoonhower was asked to figure up how much it would cost to finish the new part. We would consider hiring some other workers to help complete it. There were also some concerns on security of the town barns. The fire dept. would be expected to respect the privacy of the town barn and only use the part the fire trucks are parked in.

While Brett was present the board asked if he would like to mow for the town again this year and he agreed to do it at the same rate as last year. A motion to renew the contract with Mr. Welch was made by Ronald Hartwig seconded by Fraser Williams and carried. Fraser Williams also asked Bret if he could get something to him for the newsletter.

Reports:

Co. planning board- James Lacey- They had 3 site plan reviews one was Tioga- windmill ordinance approved by the county planning board. Went to a meeting about gas drilling down in PA and found it very interesting.

Code officer-Lee Virtue absent

Town clerk-Constance Liddington-passed

Justice-Charles Brundza- absent

Highway-Karl Spoonhower- Screen rental awarded to the low bidder Whittemore construction at 2500.00 per month. Excavator 2900.00 per month if needed on a motion made by John Stoughton seconded by Mike Simmons and carried.

We worked Payne Marsh road and are planning on working all of the dirt roads.

Planning board-Kenneth Ceurter-We went to Susquehanna water basin meeting on gas drilling.

Dog control-Ronald Raab- The town has a change of dogs licensed by 72%. When he started the dog census there were 254 dogs now there are 554. He also needs permission to access info from the state. He asked Connie for Marches roles.

Assessor- Cathy Edwards- passed

Supervisor- Mike Simmons- We will be working on the annual report.

Old Business:

Variance- In executive session on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 it was decided unanimously by the board to deny the variance requested by Harold Swartwood. Our decision was based on information provided to us, and a recommendation by the planning board to deny the variance. A letter was sent to the Swartwoods telling them of the decision.

Newsletter: Coming the first week in May. We are now paying for printing. At this point we have enough advertisers to cover the cost of the newsletter. Ronald Hartwig is working on an e-mail list of people who would like to receive the newsletter electronically this would of course save money on printing and mailing the newsletters.

Sidewalks: We need to work a plan to do some work on Depot Street. All remaining sidewalks need to be done by Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Maple trees have been donated by Scott Albrecht, they need to be dug and planted on Depot Street. Also topsoil is needed to put in spots that have settled along the new sidewalks.

Library Lights: Ronald Hartwig and a friend worked on these. Two of them still don't work but can be fixed. Sending Regis Schaffer a thank you.

Town wide trash pickup: Good to go. Ronald Hartwig is going to put out an email telling people to wait until Sunday evening to put out any metal because people are going around and picking it up for junk. The metal is usually sold by the town and helps cover the cost of the clean up.

New Business:

Fund transfer- \$40,000.00 dollars needs to be transferred from DA99019 into the highway capitol reserve fund. A motion to transfer these funds was made by Ronald Hartwig and seconded by John Stoughton and carried.

Bids for town hall construction-The town board needs to come up with some specs for the roof before we put this out to bid. Steve McElwain is meeting with Ronald Hartwig and Fraser Williams they will ask him about specs. Also we will talk to some contractors to get some ideas on the roof.

Attorney for the town- The town of Berkshire has been in contact with the town attorney and they have decided we part ways. We have 3 laws they are supposed to be looking at Mike Simmons will check on them. Mr. Simmons will also be checking with Malon Perkins and see if he would consider representing the town of Berkshire on an as needed basis.

Board concerns-

Code Enforcement: Lee Virtue the code officer is gone a fair amount of time. In his absence Cathy Edwards has been covering for him. We as a board feel she needs to be compensated for her time, which she is not at this time. Ronald Hartwig suggested giving her 75% of his pay while he is away. Ronald Hartwig made a motion to pay Cathy Edwards for the month of May and John Stoughton seconded carried.

Warrants:

A motion to pay the highway warrant as audited by the board vouchers #37-#58 totaling 11,497.88 was made by Ronald Hartwig and seconded by Lillian Hoffmier and carried.

A motion to pay the General Warrant as audited by the board vouchers #44-#55 totaling 4971.31 was made Fraser Williams and seconded by Lillian Hoffmier and carried.

A motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm was made by Ronald Hartwig and seconded by John Stoughton and carried.

Respectfully submitted

Constance Liddington