

February 9, 2022

The Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield held a regular meeting on February 9, 2022.

Present were: James Eisel Sr., Supervisor
Matthew J. Taylor, Councilmember
Patrick F. Funk, Councilmember
Lisa M. Driscoll, Councilmember
Erik R. Reeve, Councilmember

Also present: Russell Hatch, Supt. of Highways
Linda E. Goss, Town Clerk
Laurel (Laurie) L. Bedford, Assessor

Others present: Henry L. Browning
Steve Weiner
Gloria Anderson
Daniel Savatteri
Elizabeth Page, Editor for The Mountain Eagle
Bettye J. Darling

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Supervisor James Eisel Sr..

Supervisor Eisel led the Board and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Eisel asked if the Board has received the minutes for the organization meeting held on January 12, 2022? The Board has received the minutes. Supervisor Eisel asked the Board if they had any questions, comments or corrections to be made to the minutes? The Board had no questions, comments, or corrections to be made to the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes for the organization meeting held on January 12, 2022 as presented was made by Matthew J. Taylor seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

Linda E. Goss reported to the Board that she had received by Priority Mail a Standardized Notice Form for Providing 30 – Day Advance Notice to a Local Municipality that Applicant Name, 1897 Tavern LLC, Trade Name, Tavern of the Stamford, located at the Stamford Golf Course, 163 Taylor Road is applying for a liquor license.

Linda E. Goss read a letter of resignation effective January 31, 2022 from David Numbers Chairman of the Board of Assessment Review. Supervisor Eisel has sent Mr. Numbers a letter of

thanks for his many years of excellent service as Chairman of the Board of Assessment Review. Supervisor Eisel has spoken to the remaining two members of the Board of Review about the Chairman position. The discussion continued. A motion to appoint Lee R. Marigliano Chairman of the Board of Assessment Review was made by Matthew J. Taylor seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

Supervisor Eisel updated the Board on the tickets issued to the property owners on Austin Road & Wood Road. The return date to court for the three property owners who had received tickets had to be cancelled because of a COVID diagnosis. Supervisor Eisel has spoken to the Code Enforcement Officer. The Code Enforcement Officer emailed the Court and asked that the charges be dismissed. The Code Enforcement Officer has witnessed all three property owners cleaning up their properties. Supervisor Eisel spoke to the County Prosecutor about this case. If the cleaning up does not continue once the snow and ice have melted this case can be put back on the judges docket. The Code Enforcement Officer has six months to do that. The discussion continued. Steve Weiner stated that there is a lot more cleaning up to do. One property is very small and is overflowing with garbage, scrap metal and trash. The property with the trailer frame they still have a lot of junk in the back. There are junk vehicles and unregistered vehicles. They can't be moved. They have not been moved in years. Councilmember Funk added that he and Councilmember Taylor have gone out to the property that Mr. Weiner is talking about and there are four unregistered vehicles and the rest of the vehicles are registered. The discussion continued. Councilmember Taylor concluded that the Town Board members have been up to the property numerous times. They visited the properties before there were any efforts to clean up. They visited the properties within the last ten days and they are very much improved. The case is not being closed they are leaving it open. At this time of year it is not possible for the property owners to do anything more. The discussion continued.

Supervisor Eisel updated the Board on their concerns at the Transfer Station. He has met with the other two Town Supervisors and has asked them if they can find a person that could help at the Transfer Station when needed. One Supervisor is working on it. The other Supervisor has a part time employee he is thinking about it. This way we will have some names and telephone numbers on hand if help is needed. The discussion continued.

Supervisor Eisel has gotten the latest recycle list for residents and the haulers. He has given it to both of the other Town Supervisors to pass out. All of the Clerks will be passing them out. Supervisor Eisel has also given some to the Transfer Station Attendant to pass out. He has also asked one of the haulers to include the recycle list with their bills which are sent out once a month. They have agreed to do that. They are also going to speak to their employees about being better at separating out items to be recycled.

Supervisor Eisel has ordered a new sign from the County for when the Transfer Station is closed. It will be a couple of months before he receives it. There are several signs that need to be replaced which have been ordered but have not been done. The County has a grant to do

this. They are hoping to have all of the signs done within the next month or two. In the mean time Councilmember Driscoll has ordered a sign online. It is a tripod style sign. This will also be set up when it is needed.

Gloria Anderson asked if the new website will have a new address or are you just updating an older website? Councilmember Driscoll answered it is a new website with a new address. It is not up and running just yet. Both Councilmembers Taylor and Funk added that the new website looks good. Councilmember Driscoll added that hopefully within the next couple of weeks we can go live with it. Councilmember Funk added that with the website it will be a good site to get information. Linda Goss thanked Councilmember Driscoll for all of her hard work getting the website developed and up and running. She has done a wonderful job.

Supervisor Eisel informed the Board that in their packets is a resolution for the adoption of the Delaware County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan Update. This is an update that needs to be done every five years so that the Town is eligible to apply for and receive FEMA funds. A discussion was had.

RESOLUTION NO. 05 OF THE YEAR 2022

Councilmember Patrick F. Funk offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

TITLE: ADOPTION OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL ALL-HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE.

WHEREAS, Delaware County, with the assistance of the Albany Visualization and Informatics Lab (AVAIL), has gathered information and prepared the Delaware County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Board of Supervisors determined the Resolution 107 of 2003 that a multi-jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan representing all the Towns and Villages in Delaware County would be more efficient to produce than each community drafting and adopting its own; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County is a local unit of government that has afforded the citizens an opportunity to comment and provide input on the Plan and the actions in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, Delaware County and the Town of Harpersfield have reviewed the Plan and affirm that the Plan will be updated no less than every five years.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town of Harpersfield Town Board that the Town of Harpersfield adopts the Delaware County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan as this jurisdictions Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and resolves to execute the actions in the Plan.

Seconded by Councilmember Lisa M. Driscoll with the vote as follows:

Adopted this February 9, 2022 at the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Harpersfield.

Supervisor James Eisel Sr. Aye.

Councilmember Matthew J. Taylor Aye.

Councilmember Patrick F. Funk Aye.

Councilmember Lisa M. Driscoll Aye.

Councilmember Erik R. Reeve Aye.

Russell Hatch reported to the Board that the Highway crew has been out plowing and sanding the roads.

Russel Hatch informed the Board that he still has not completed the Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys for 2022. He has reached out to Delaware Engineering for an estimated cost for the project on Austin Road. They have not gotten back to him. Without the cost for the project on Austin Road he does not know how much will be left to put toward road maintenance. He hopes to have that estimated cost from Delaware Engineering to complete the Agreement for next month's meeting. Councilmember Taylor asked is there an update on the front end loader? Russell answered that it has been ordered. Councilmember Taylor asked what about the trade in with John Deere? Russell answered that the Town will be better off going to auction to sell the old loader. Councilmember Driscoll asked if Russell has received the truck bed he has purchased? Russell answered that he has received the old truck bed that he has purchased and is still waiting on the new truck bed that he has ordered. The new truck bed is supposed to be delivered in February. That was what he was told back in July. He has not heard anything from them since.

Laurie Bedford reported to the Board that she has sent out the agriculture exemption renewal forms. She has received many of them back. Some of them with have included the maps from Delaware County Soil and Water. She will be taking these renewals to Delhi on Friday to get some help from the Office of Real Property on where to go from here. She and Rudy Tompkins worked today in the office on changes that have to be to Delhi by the end of this month. The discussion continued.

A motion to accept the Tax Collector's January monthly report with the Town receiving taxes collected in the amount of \$1,129,118.91 and \$33.76 in bank interest and the County Treasurer's Office receiving taxes collected in the amount of \$333,720.05 was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Lisa M. Driscoll. All voting Aye.

Laurie Bedford asked if the Board would like her to bring up the new website on her computer? The Town Clerk tried to bring it up on her laptop but was unsuccessful. Councilmember Driscoll

just wanted to be sure that everyone has had an opportunity to look at the new website. This way if any changes need to be made she can take care of them. A discussion was had.

A motion to accept the Town Clerk's December report in the amount of \$145.35 was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Matthew J. Taylor. All voting Aye.

A motion to accept the Town Clerk's January report in the amount of \$152.70 was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Matthew J. Taylor. All voting Aye.

The Town Clerk apologized to the Board that the abstract for the January vouchers was not complete. The vouchers were presented to the Board. The abstract for the January vouchers will be mailed out to the Board members with the minutes. A motion to approve paying the January vouchers as presented was made by Matthew J. Taylor seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye.

The Supervisor's report for the month of December was issued to the Board. Supervisor Eisel informed the Board that this is the end of the year report. The Town Bookkeeper will be doing the Town's annual financial report and provide the Board with the fund balances. The Bookkeeper has balanced all of the lines. Some of the lines have gone over and if there are any funds left over she will move them to balance those lines. Councilmember Funk noted that the line for Buildings Contractual is way over. Councilmember Driscoll agreed. Supervisor Eisel added that was because of replacing the Salt Shed roof. He reminded the Board that the Town has received \$55,000.00 in COVID funding which would offset the cost of the new roof on the Salt Shed. Now that the Town has managed to have enough fund balance to pay for the Salt Shed roof the COVID funds could be used toward the ambulance service this fall. Supervisor Eisel continued that in round numbers that is \$100,000.00 that will help the Town get through that spike. A motion to approve the Supervisor's report for the month of December was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Matthew J. Taylor. All voting Aye.

Councilmember Taylor updated the Board on the ambulance service. Supervisor Eisel informed the Board that the individuals who have agreed to be members of the Board are Eileen King, Town of Harpersfield, Darby Hartwell, Town of Stamford, Meg Hungerford, Town of Kortright, Debbie Kosier, Town of Kortright, Mary Lee Hill, Town of Harpersfield, Dwayne Martin, Town of Stamford and Kelly Quarino, Town of Stamford. Councilmember Taylor continued that now that they have a Board their lawyer is setting up the not-for-profit. So this is moving forward. Supervisor Eisel added that as soon as they have that set up then they can get together. Councilmember Taylor added and have meetings. Supervisor Eisel continued and have interviews for an administrator. Councilmember Funk asked if it has been decided to use the building in Hobart? Councilmember Taylor answered no decisions have been made. They could not move forward until they established a Board. A short discussion was had. Supervisor Eisel added that this is an independent 501-C-3. This Board will represent the Towns.

A motion at 7:43 PM to go into executive session for potential litigation was made by Patrick F. Funk seconded by Matthew J. Taylor. All voting Aye.

A motion at 8:30 PM to come out of executive session was made by Matthew J. Taylor seconded by Patrick F. Funk. All voting Aye. No action was taken in executive session.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Linda E. Goss

Town Clerk