

**Town of Starkey
Regular Meeting
February 6, 2020**

Members Present: George Lawson, Supervisor
Bill Holgate, Councilman
Alan Giles, Councilman
Caryl Sutterby, Councilwoman
Jeremy Hall, Councilman

Members Absent: None

Also, Present: Ralph Warren, Highway Superintendent
Anthony DeStephen, Assessor
Brian Quackenbush, Code Enforcement Office
Gwen Chamberlin, Chronicle Express
Robert Schiesser, Planning Board

Recording Secretary: Candace Iszard, Clerk

The regular Town of Starkey Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by George Lawson, supervisor, at the Town Hall, 40 Seneca Street, Dundee, Yates County, New York.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the January 9, 2020, regular meeting of the Town Board, were approved as written. A motion was made by Alan Giles, councilman, seconded by Caryl Sutterby, councilwoman.

*All in favor; none opposed- Motion carried.

Schedule Court Audit

- George Lawson and Caryl Sutterby will complete the Court Audit on February 14, 2020 at 9:00 AM, as Bill Holgate will be out of town.

Handy Man

- Joe Fredell is a local handy man that has expressed interest in odd jobs, and provided contact information to Brian Quackenbush, code enforcement officer. George Lawson, supervisor met with Joe earlier in the month to discuss available and interest. Joe provide his proof of insurance and hour rate (\$25/hour).
- George Lawson discussed that Joe has a background in masonry which would be beneficial for the exterior of the building, as well as his carpentry and painting experience. Joe is flexible and local, which is an asset due to the varied hours that the Town hall is open. Caryl Sutterby, councilwoman, added that he has also done work with at the Dundee Presbyterian Church.
- The board agreed to have George contact Joe to complete some jobs for the Town. The board went on to list a few areas that need attention, including the light above the board room table, windows to cut down on the airflow to keep the heat in, and blinds that need to be hung.

A motion was made by George Lawson, supervisor, seconded by Caryl Sutterby, councilwoman.

*All in favor; none opposed- Motion carried.

Pick Up Truck Advertisements

- Advertisements that were originally placed in the newspaper in January for the 2006 Chevy work truck with the plow, have been changed, to include more details and extended dates to obtain bids.

Agriculture Exemptions

- Anthony DeStephen, assessor and George Lawson, supervisor explain that the Agriculture Exemption currently does not apply to the fire district. The concern is that as fire protection costs increase, landowners that qualify for the Agriculture Exemption could be paying more for fire protection on open lands, without any buildings or structures, then they pay for town and county land taxes.
- Anthony DeStephen went on to explain how a change (adding the Fire District) in the Agriculture Exemption would impact the taxpayers, using the values from 2019 he states that the tax rate would change from \$0.775170 to \$0.902920 per \$1000.00 of assessed value. This is 14.15% increase for parcels without the Agriculture Exemption.
- George went on to explain that after talking with the Towns attorney, the Agriculture Exemption could be changed to include the Fire Contract the with just a simple board resolution. He stated that this decision would need to be made prior to March 1, 2020 to take effect for the 2021 tax year, therefore no change will happen in 2021.

George Lawson, supervisor and Bill Holgate, councilman state that they would like to have public input and discussion, via a public hearing, rather than making a board decision for/against a change to the current Agriculture Exemption. George will talk to the Town attorney about potentially making this a public referendum, which would put it on the 2020 ballot in November.

Soil Group Worksheets

- Anthony DeStephen, assessor, talked about Soil Group Worksheets; currently being updated, to provide a more accurate depiction of property, as most farms have never been surveyed, which results in inaccurate boundary lines as well as a substantially more accurate depiction of soil types. The soil group worksheets conducted by Yates County Soil and Water for \$40.00 per parcel. Anthony DeStephen stated that this is not a mandatory request, however it is in the best interest of the farmer, as Soil Group Worksheets are the base information used to calculate the Agricultural Land Exemption for qualified parcels.

Information Technology Services

- Last month it was decided that it is in the best interest for the Town of Starkey to get an additional quote for service from SCT Computers of Penn Yan, using the same specification recommendations. George Lawson, supervisor, consulted with SCT computers, of Watkins Glen, NY based on the recommendation of SCT, the quote for service included an additional port in preparation for anticipated future phone service changes. Total quote \$2761.00 with a 3- year quarterly maintenance agreement (Labor hourly rate \$75.00). If no maintenance agreement hourly rate would change to \$90.00.
- George Lawson, supervisor, asked for an updated quote to include the additional ports for phone service as well as a maintenance agreement from William Lawson so that both quotes would be quoting the same updates. William Lawson Jr. submitted an updated proposal for updating the townhall's local area network as well as a per hour cost for on call services as needed. Total quote \$1840.00 with a 3- year quarterly maintenance agreement (Labor hourly rate \$20.00).
- The board decided that based on the price that it is in the best interest of the Town to have William Lawson Jr. complete the IT update.

A motion was made by Bill Holgate, councilman, seconded by Jeremy Hall, councilman.

*4 in favor (Bill Holgate, Caryl Sutterby, Jeremy Hall, Alan Giles); none opposed; 1 abstention (George Lawson)

Motion carried.

Wastewater Law

- Implementation of the Wastewater Law was discussed. The board discussed that following the public outreach, (via flyers, mailings and public hearing) to educate property owners on updates and changes to the existing regulations; George and Brian discuss if it would be reasonable to have a 2 year voluntary inspection period with the new regulations, prior to a mandatory inspection schedule implementation. Implementation is agreed that one 3rd of the Town of Starkey's Seneca Lake shorelines (Zone 1 "Critical Water Protection") would be inspected each year for the 1st 3-years, followed by Zone 2 (Systems not within 200 feet of a DEC classified waterbody), then the remaining parcels with the expectation of all Wastewater system inspections completed within 5 years of the mandatory inspection implementation date.

Highway Report—Ralph Warren

- Ralph Warren, Highway superintendent reported, that he is working on the 284 Assessments, has been delaying in hopes of a more accurate oil price for the spring.
- Snow removal is continuing, more sand has been needed. Sand and Salt is mixed at a 2 to 1 ratio.
- The brush pile has been ground up into mulch. Ralph is looking for an outlet to dispose of it, as it is not a "desirable" product for gardens. Bill Holgate questions if the mulch pile should be made available to Starkey Residents. George suggests contacting Auctions International to see if it is a product that could be sold at auction. Ralph will investigate options for the removal of the mulch pile.
- Ralph has also scheduled culvert assessment with Yates County Soil and Water. Town of Starkey is on the schedule for 2021.

Supervisor's Report — George Lawson

- Planning board is seeking a new member for the position, currently held by John Frederick, whose current term ends 3/9/2020. John has decided not to run for an additional term. A classified advertisement has been placed in the paper to recruit individuals.

Code Enforcement Report — Brian Quackenbush

- Brian presented his annual report to the Board. Highlighting that 39% of the septic inspections that he conducted in 2019 failed. He states that expects similar results with the anticipated Wastewater Law changes.

Town Clerk — Candace Iszard

- The monthly town clerk report was given to the Board. Candace reported that the tax collection is well underway.
- Candace plans to attend the Town Clerks conference scheduled for April 26-29 in Albany this year with a Notary Class being offered on Sunday.

Other Business

- Caryl Sutterby, councilwoman presented information including pros and cons of websites. She would like to open discussions on developing a Town of Starkey website. She also presented the February Our Town Rocks calendar of events for February.

Budget Transfers

There were no budget transfers this month.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION 4-2020

Information Technology Service Upgrade

On a motion by Bill Holgate, councilmen the seconded by Jeremy Hall, councilmen the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 4 Jeremy Hall, Caryl Sutterby, Bill Holgate

 Nays 0

 Abstention 1 George Lawson

RESOLVED that the Town Board, Town of Starkey does approve the William Lawson, Jr. proposal to update the Information Technology Services at the Starkey Townhall, 40 Seneca Street, Dundee, NY.

Audit of Claims

On a motion by Bill Holgate, councilmen, seconded by, Caryl Sutterby, councilmen the bills contained in the February 5, 2020 Abstract have been reviewed by the Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

	General Fund	Vouchers Number: 17-G through 38-G	\$4,695.77
	Highway Fund	Vouchers Number: 7-H through 19-H	\$13,686.16
Ayes	5	George Lawson, Alan Giles, Bill Holgate, Jeremy Hall, Caryl Sutterby	
Nays	0		

With no further business, on a motion by George Lawson the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



Candace J. Iszard, Town Clerk