

Town of Niles
Regular Meeting
Town Board
August 11, 2011
Niles Town Hall

Present: Rickey Slagle, Supervisor
Bernard Juli, Councilman
Barbara Eberhardt, Councilwoman
Alberta Darlene Winters, Councilwoman (Absent)
Clarence Edmonds, Councilman

Others: Bill Sheppard, Fred Eberhardt III, Anna DeWitt, Don DeWitt, Dan Murphy,
Mike Gorr, Fred Covert, Dennis Bell Jr., Tiffany Bell, Bob Martin, Bill Sheppard,
Jerry VeVone, Ray Meier, Sue Newell, Robin Sheehan, Pat Steger, Bob Carson
(Stadium International), Chester Mau, George Case, Pat Farkas, Ron Kemp, Peter
Severson, Tammi Severson, Forest Ruttgers.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Slagle with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Hearing on Subdivision:

Supervisor Slagle discussed the removal of one sentence from Section 190-1 of the Subdivision law and inquired to any input from town residents in attendance. The Board deemed appropriate to remove the sentence in question. The required paperwork is to now be submitted to Attorney Smith and filed with his office.

Review and Approval of July 14, 2011, minutes:

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Eberhardt to approve the July 14, 2011, minutes as written; upon further discussion; Councilman Juli noted there was no motion to approve the Supervisor's report indicated in the July 14th minutes. The Board discussed the Supervisor's report for July and the report was unanimously approved by the Board. Motion was made by Councilwoman Eberhardt to then approve the July minutes; seconded by Councilman Edmonds; motion was unanimously passed.

Open Floor to the Public:

Supervisor Slagle opened the floor to the Public. Chester Mau presented the Board with a written claim of damage to his vehicle. Mr. Mau stated that the Highway Department was negligent in maintaining a town roadway which resulted in washout conditions of the road. Mr. Mau claimed as a result of the washout there was tire damage to his truck. He offered to present the Board with pictures of the damage.

Discussion between Members of the Board and Attorney Meier transpired. The Board suggested paying for ½ of the damage to the vehicle. Mr. Mau was satisfied with this offer. He is to submit a copy of the invoice at a later date to the Board for reimbursement. A motion was made to pay for ½ of the cost to replace a tire, balancing, and mounting for Mr. Mau's vehicle. Motion was made by Councilman Juli; seconded by Councilman Edmonds; and unanimously passed by all members of the Board.

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council:

Members of the Board reached a decision to join the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council. The Organization is beneficial in preserving and protecting the lake. Currently there are two levels of membership offered when joining the Watershed Council. Supervisor Slagle is to receive clarification of these levels from Attorney Smith at a later date. Motion to join the Council pending further information was made by Supervisor Slagle; seconded by Councilwoman Eberhardt; and unanimously approved.

Communications:

There will be a Clean-up day at the West Niles Fire Department on Saturday August 20, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. No tires will be accepted at this clean up location.

The Final Assessment Roll has been completed by the assessor and was published on July 6, 2011. The roll is currently available for viewing on the Town website.

Supervisor Slagle noted an informative meeting to be held with a Teamsters Representative scheduled for next week.

The kitchen renovation is nearing completion. There has been a slight delay due to waiting for the countertops, sink, and a replacement cabinet. The renovation is expected to be completed shortly.

Hydrofracking:

There are presently 300 signatures from Niles residents supporting a ban on Hydrofracking. Mr. Gore spoke briefly regarding the importance of community involvement on Town level to enact a ban on the practice. Recently five Central New York Towns have passed bans on the practice.

The Board and Attorney Meier discussed the possibility of enacting a Moratorium for the Town to be held for duration of 1 year. Further information is needed at this time to assist in making a determination. Attorney Brody Smith is to provide needed information regarding Moratorium to the Board at a very near date.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Eberhardt to hold a public hearing on September 8, 2011 regarding a Moratorium to ban Hydrofracking in Niles for duration of 1 year. Motion was seconded by Councilman Juli and unanimously approved by all members of the Board.

Highway Report:

Pat Steger reported on an unsettling event which occurred recently while the Niles Highway Department was teamed up with Sempronius working on town roads. A Sempronius worker capsized the roller equipment they were operating into a ditch. Thankfully the worker was not injured however there was damage done to the roller. The equipment is owned by Sempronius and as a result of their good deed to assist us; their equipment was then damaged. Mr. Steger then reported that the loader equipment previously purchased by the town has recently been delivered.

There was discussion regarding the possible truck purchase between the Board and Pat Steger. Pat informed the Board that if the decision to purchase the truck was made now that delivery would occur in late October to early November thus arriving in time for the winter season.

Following discussion by the Board; Motion was made subject to a permissive referendum to purchase the new truck for the amount of \$167,412.00 and for the sale of the current truck to take place at auction. Motion made by Councilman Juli; seconded by Councilman Edmonds; unanimously passed.

Supervisor Slagle presented figures depicting the savings for the Town when hiring part time employees rather than full time. There was discussion amongst the Board members regarding the need for more manpower in the Highway Department. There are safety issues which the Board feels imminent to address and also for there to be adequate manpower available to efficiently operate equipment. General consensus by the Board was that to have 3-4 part time employees would be beneficial for safety and manpower reasons.

Assessor:

Mr. Stanford has completed and filed the Final Tax Roll which was published on July 6, 2011. There is also a link on the Town web site in which residents may now view the completed role.

Mr. Stanford recently inquired to Supervisor Slagle regarding the purchase of a new program. This possible purchase will be discussed at a later date when it is closer to budget time. Also allowing time for any possible changes which the county may make concerning the program it currently uses.

Code Enforcement:

Jerry VeVone indicated that there are currently 4 permits out; with a total of \$550.00; 3 of which are for decks and 1 for an addition.

Mr. VeVone also expressed desire for at least one Board of Appeals members name and phone number to be posted on the Town website as it would be helpful to him in assisting residents.

Finance:

John Morris the Bookkeeper is currently out on vacation. Supervisor Slagle reported that Mr. Morris is still in training for the position. Finance reports were given to the Board Members. There are no significant changes in which to report.

Clerk:

Dennis Bell Jr. spoke out on the Fire Departments behalf and indicated that such an agreement should not be an issue.

Supervisor Slagle indicated that the board meeting scheduled for September 8, 2011 is to take place 1 hr. early. The Board members are to meet at 6:00 p.m. for Executive Session; the purpose being, collective bargaining. Executive session will then end and be immediately followed by the normally scheduled Board Meeting at 7 p.m.

A Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Juli; seconded by Councilwoman Eberhardt; motion unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Newell