

Town of Niles
Regular Meeting
May 13, 2010
Niles Town Hall

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

Others: Fred Covert, Steve Cuddeback, Bill Sheppard, Brody Smith(Attorney), Karen Porter, Don Klein, Jim Matijas, John Nolte, Moravia School Board Members: Steve Fland, Joe Gentilcore Jr., Michelle Lyon, Cathy Benson, Ann Haessner, Laura Wells, Michelle Brantner, Jeff Carmichael

The meeting was opened at 7:00 by Supervisor Slagle with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moravia Central School Budget presentation

Introductions were made and a presentation was given by all board members, Superintendent Brantner and School Business Manager Jeff Carmichael. The budget vote is May 18th from 7:00am-9:00pm. Supervisor Slagle thanked Mrs. Brantner for her support on our broadband grant process.

Town Hall Basement Project

Katrina from Studio Five did a presentation of the renovations needed to complete the basement and accommodate the History Room. It would include the kitchen appliances, base cabinets, counter top, concrete stain on the floors and wall coverings. The estimated cost was \$60 per sq foot or \$39,000 to complete the job.

Councilwoman Eberhardt suggested that we table it for further discussion.

Supervisor Slagle brought up the need for a new water system as the water has a very strong odor in all the faucets. There is also a problem with the small on demand hot water system as they have been replaced twice.

He will investigate what the best replacement option is.

The front basement wall is still leaking even after rain gutters were installed. The suggestion is to dig up around the wall and install a barrier to prevent the water leakage. Further investigation will have to be done.

April 8, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Councilwoman Winters and seconded by Councilman Edmonds. All voted Aye, motion passed.

Meeting was opened to the floor:

John Nolte representing the Planning Board stated that there will be a meeting in June with the DEC, Owasco and Skaneateles Lake watersheds to discuss the Glen Cove Road permit issue.

Steve Cuddeback gave an update of the new County radio project for the UHF450 five County trunk system that will cost \$15 million dollars. They found ways to save money with precast buildings and other consolidated purchases.

He also discussed the possibility of the Towns picking up the snow plowing of County roads as a cost savings.

Karen Porter gave an up-date on the swim program. The swim program at the YMCA will run from July 6th to July 29th (Tue. and Thur). Based on 40 children the cost will be \$1560 plus the cost of the bus. Jim Ellis thought that there would be no impact based on the budget as we pay for the bus expense. Children eligible are those enrolled in kindergarten thru sixth grade. The recreation Program will be appointing a new director at the next meeting and expect the town to approve the same program as last year. Children eligible for this must have completed kindergarten thru sixth grade. Sign up is June 12th 9am-11am and June 16th 6pm-8pm.

A discussion on nonresidents taking advantage of our Clean-up Days took place. Proper ID will be needed to bring material to drop off.

Communications:

Verizon is now available in a 3 mile radius of the work center which is south of the old town barn. They are contacting people from the sign-up sheet at the clerk's window. Supervisor Slagle suggested that we look into changing the town to this service as a cost savings. A motion was made by Councilwoman Eberhardt and seconded by Councilman Juli to investigate and change if there is a cost savings. All voted Aye, motion passed.

Supervisor Slagle stated that Clarity Connect grant is continuing and there is a need to have as many residents demonstrate the need and interest in it by filling out the survey at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L3GBMKZ>. There are also paper forms at the clerk's office. These need to be completed by the end of May.

Deputy Town Clerk:

Robin Sheehan has been appointed Additional Deputy Town Clerk for the Town of Niles by Christine Nolte.

A motion was made by Supervisor Sagle and seconded by Councilman Juli that Robin Sheehan possesses the power to perform the duties of the Town Clerk and the First Deputy Town Clerk during their absence or inability to act. All voted Aye, motion passed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Winters and seconded by Councilman Edmonds to set the compensation for the Deputy Town Clerk at \$10 per hour and change the office hours. All voted Aye, motion passed. The new office hours will be posted at the Town Hall and on the website. Thursday office hours will be from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM except on the second Thursday (regular Board Meeting), which will be from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Supervisor's Report:

The supervisors report was discussed with no additional questions.

Clean-up Days:

Supervisor Slagle stated that there is still an excess of \$80,000 in the Garbage Account. Councilwoman Winters had checked on garbage cans and the cost would be \$53 thousand so that idea was tabled.

A chipper price was gotten by Pat Steger with the base unit cost \$14,011 and with extras and diesel the cost would be \$18,480. After discussion, Councilwoman Eberhardt asked to table the purchase until we see how much brush comes in on junk days. Attorney Smith has examined the original resolution and we could use the excess funds to buy the chipper.

Sales Tax Distribution:

Supervisor Slagle showed a chart of the sales tax distribution and we have an increase in revenue due to property value update efforts in place already despite less total sales tax revenues in the County.

Assessor:

Mr. Stanford stated that the re-valuation was moving forward and the data was being verified on vacant lots with several being found to have sheds or other building on them and one lot on the lake with Zero dollar assessment. He is again interviewing for a Data Collection Clerk as Linda Wright declined the position.

There was a question about Ag exempt buildings that have value and should there be a zero \$ permit needed to construct them in order to capture the improvement.

Code Enforcement:

Jerry VeVone was not in attendance but sent a letter indicating he has had 20 building permits to date this year and many phone calls. Our Town seems to have more activity than neighboring Towns. He also cited the inspection of the Town's property requested by a property owner that abuts the town land. DEC was called to check the reported oil spill from a drum and old equipment was in the hedge row, a report was filed.

Clerk:

The clerks report was reviewed.

Highway:

Mr. Steger said he cleaned up the oil that was reported in Jerry's letter and removed a small amount of dirt. The old machinery was also removed. The DEC has closed the report on the incident.

Mr. Steger said he is going to the Highway School in Ithaca on June 1st. It will be free for him. A detailed report of 3 roads needing repair was reviewed. Councilman Edmonds asked if the money was in the budget and Mr. Steger said it was. A motion was made by Councilman Juli and seconded by Councilwoman Eberhardt to approve the repair of Cream Hollow and Glen Cove Roads and hold on Gahwiler Road. Councilwoman Winters abstained, all others voted Aye, motion passed. Mr. Steger will look into what is required to make Gahwiler a seasonal road.

Attorney:

Mr. Smith worked on follow up to the ongoing litigation transcripts that have just been released. The new date for completion of the documents is June 7th. Mr. Smith also gave a briefing on FOIL requests. Only documents that ALREADY exist may be requested by the Foil process.

Abstracts:

There was a discussion about a \$3,000 repair bill that had not been pre approved by Mr. Steger. A motion was made by Councilman Juli and seconded by Councilman Edmonds to pay the abstracts. All voted Aye, motion passed.

Town Barn water issue:

The recommended the size of de-humidifier needed to eliminate the ongoing problem is a 195pt per day. Supervisor Slagle has a price for a 250 pt/day for \$2192 and for the recommended unit of 195 pt/day of \$3175. We need to make a decision before winter. Hardy Construction has not been back to re-install the insulation as of this date. VIP Structures are following up with Rich and Gardner.

Audit:

A second quote from an Auburn company was received today for a price comparison and the issue was tabled until it can be reviewed before a decision is made.

Creamery update:

Councilman Edmonds has worked on a proposal and has some conflicting information about prevailing wages related to the Wicks Law. Mr. Smith will look into the issue and Supervisor Slagle will search the files to see if we have a Town Procurement Policy.

Other business:

There has been a propane leak and an ongoing furnace issue that UpState is working on repairing.

An Appreciation Gift for the Comprehensive Plan Committee has been investigated by Councilwoman Winters and Eberhardt. There will be 15 gifts made by a local business. A motion was made by Supervisor Slagle and seconded by Councilman Edmonds to allow up to \$250 for the purchase of the gifts.

All voted Aye, motion passed.

Adjourn:

A motion was made at 9:45 by Councilwoman Winters and seconded by Councilman Juli to Adjourn. All voted aye. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Barbara A. Eberhardt