

Hague Town Board
1/12/2016

Supervisor Edna Frasier and Board members Martin Fitzgerald II, Steve Ramant, Michael Cherubini and Ginger Kuenzel were all present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm. Councilman Ramant led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board audited the bills.

Supervisor Frasier welcomed Mike Doud of the Solar Project Solutions who gave an update on the Solar plan to the Board. He noted that on May 14, 2015 the contract with the Town was signed. It was submitted to the utility and around June 15th the utility said the plan must be redesigned which was done in August. On November 18th they finally received the documentation from the utility that said their lines can be used. That completed Phase 1.

They are now in phase 2 which includes keeping the banks informed and closing on the property. They will have to do upgrades for the utility and there is a 60 - 90 day period for the 2nd study before they can start to build the system which they hope to do by the end of March or beginning of April. The building will take about a month and a half and then it must be checked by the utility.

They have property under contract on Sweet Road in Argyle and will also have solar panels for Warren Tire and the Town of Lake George. Supervisor Frasier thanked him for coming up on a snowy night and giving a good report.

Next Supervisor Frasier asked ZEO Cathy Clark to give the background for the Comprehensive Plan survey that was sent out and then welcomed Tracy Clothier from the LA Group to summarize the results from the survey. She said there was a very good rate of return of 25% and gave an analysis of the questions.

1. The greatest need in Hague was identified as a convenience store.
2. Additionally there is a need in the hamlet for more parking, expanded public docking and public sidewalks.
3. The most identified support services that were lacking were medical service and transportation.
4. Only 52% have internet service and a very small percentage have cell service.
5. Pedestrian traffic safety was a concern both downtown and around the Island Harbor turn.
6. A concern was given for the lack of affordable housing for Senior citizens and young people.
7. The most important long-term goal for seasonal residents was ecological preservation and for year-round residents it was retaining young people.
8. Of those responding to the survey, 107 were seasonal and 90 were year-round. Only four in the 25 - 34 year age range responded.

Clothier felt that going forward some of the most identified issues should be addressed and felt the best way to do that would be to have a forum on emergency services and bring in regional people. Another forum could be on environmental issues. A specific issue which could be addressed is to expand the public docking at the Town Park and she has done some research on the cost and possible grants. Supervisor Frasier noted that the LA group should work on plans for how to continue and let the Board know.

Councilwoman Kuenzel moved and Councilman Fitzgerald seconded a motion to pay the General, Highway and Sewer Claims just audited.

AYES: Supervisor Frasier, G. Kuenzel, M. Fitzgerald II, S. Ramant & M. Cherubini

NAYS: None

Carried: 5-0

Supervisor Frasier noted a correction to the minutes of 12/8/2015 on page 2, item 4. In the third line, "truck" should be replaced with "plow" so it reads: Smith reported that the new plow will be here...

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kuenzel and seconded by Councilman Cherubini to accept the minutes of 11/10/2015, 12/8/2015, with correction, and 1/4/2016.

AYES: Supervisor Frasier, G. Kuenzel, M. Fitzgerald II, S. Ramant & M. Cherubini

NAYS: None

Carried: 5-0

Supervisor Frasier read Resolution #43 of 2016 of thanks to former Councilman Rudy Meola. Councilman Ramant made and Councilman Cherubini seconded a motion to approve the resolution.

AYES: Supervisor Frasier, G. Kuenzel, M. Fitzgerald II, S. Ramant & M. Cherubini

NAYS: None

Carried: 5-0

Regular Committee Reports:

1. Assessor & Justice: (Cherubini/Kuenzel) - Councilman Cherubini has met with the Assessor and will meet with the Justice.

2. Buildings & Grounds/Community Center/Enhancement: (Fitzgerald/Frasier) - Councilman Fitzgerald said they should have the boiler by this Thursday. The work on the Visitors Center is done for the winter and will resume in the spring.

3. Finance & Insurance: (Ramant/Cherubini) - no report

4. Highway: (Fitzgerald/Ramant) - Highway Superintendent Don Smith noted that so far this has been the easiest winter in 35 years. Everything is up and running and the "new plow is working good." Councilman Ramant noted they got a permit to dredge and the launch area has been leveled off. Smith has taken a course on the operation of the system to collect salt data.

5. Museum & Historian: (Kuenzel/Ramant) - Councilman Kuenzel reported that a pictorial history of Warren County has been published. She thanked Councilman Ramant who alerted them to the project and to Historian Sally Rypkema, who with help from Kuenzel and Mary Behr, has Hague prominently featured in the book. She also reported that there are new swinging panels in the museum which increases display space.

6. Personnel: (Cherubini/Kuenzel) - Councilman Cherubini reported they were reviewing applications for the Planning Board.

7. Planning/Zoning/Stormwater: (Fitzgerald/Ramant) - ZEO Clark gave her end of the year report and noted that it was a busy year for single family houses. Except for one, all houses that had been demolished will be rebuilt. She cited Pam Peterson and Judy Gourley for their perfect attendance at the Planning Board meetings.

8. Recreation & Promotion & Youth: (Ramant/Cherubini) - Councilman Ramant reported he has plans for the Music in the Park about wrapped up.

9. Sewer District # 1 & 2: (Frasier/Kuenzel) - Supervisor Frasier reported that the boiler in the Dodd Hill pump station had been replaced and work has been done on Overlook. The Sewer Asset Management Committee is working on the Sewer Law.

10. Town Park & Beautification: (Kuenzel/Ramant/Cherubini) - They are still working to get another lifeguard for the summer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Councilman Cherubini made and Councilwoman Kuenzel seconded a motion to participate in the Municipal Sewage System Asset Management Pilot Program.

AYES: Supervisor Frasier, G. Kuenzel, M. Fitzgerald II, S. Ramant & M. Cherubini

NAYS: None

Carried: 5-0

2. Councilwoman Kuenzel discussed that Justice Midgley applied for and got a grant to replace the floor in the Court room and for a new phone system for the Community Center which will have full functionality including caller ID. Councilman Ramant made and Councilwoman Kuenzel seconded a motion to update the quote for the system and move forward with having it installed.

AYES: Supervisor Frasier, G. Kuenzel, M. Fitzgerald II, S. Ramant & M. Cherubini

NAYS: None

Carried: 5-0

3. The Board members should audit the necessary books by January 20, 2016.

4. Councilwoman Kuenzel made and Councilman Ramant seconded a motion to appoint Michael Cherubini to the Warren County Youth Board.

AYES: Supervisor Frasier, G. Kuenzel, M. Fitzgerald II, S. Ramant & M. Cherubini

NAYS: None

Carried: 5-0

COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

1. Councilman Fitzgerald made and Councilwoman Kuenzel seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Michael Cherubini from the Planning Board & Board of Assessment Review effective 1/1/2016.

AYES: Supervisor Frasier, G. Kuenzel, M. Fitzgerald II, S. Ramant & M. Cherubini

NAYS: None

Carried: 5-0

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Councilman Fitzgerald made and Councilman Ramant seconded a motion to accept an offer from Benchmark Forest and Land Management to do a “cruise of property” on the Town property adjacent to the Carney/Bloomer Mt property which is going to be logged.

AYES: Supervisor Frasier, G. Kuenzel, M. Fitzgerald II, S. Ramant & M. Cherubini

NAYS: None

Carried: 5-0

2. Councilman Fitzgerald made and Councilman Cherubini seconded a motion to authorize Supervisor Frasier to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for shared services with NYS DOT. Councilman Fitzgerald asked Supervisor Frasier to remind them to plow all the way to the mountain.

AYES: Supervisor Frasier, G. Kuenzel, M. Fitzgerald II, S. Ramant & M. Cherubini

NAYS: None

Carried: 5-0

3. Councilman Fitzgerald made and Councilwoman Kuenzel seconded a motion to authorize Supervisor Frasier to sign an Agreement with the County for the fuel farm.

AYES: Supervisor Frasier, G. Kuenzel, M. Fitzgerald II, S. Ramant & M. Cherubini

NAYS: None

Carried: 5-0

4. Councilman Fitzgerald made and Councilman Ramant seconded a motion to give permission for Michael Cherubini to attend the newly elected conference in Albany.

AYES: Supervisor Frasier, G. Kuenzel, M. Fitzgerald II, S. Ramant & M. Cherubini

NAYS: None

Carried: 5-0

5. Councilman Ramant made and Councilwoman Kuenzel seconded a motion to adopt a resolution to process the Adirondack Smart Growth application by the LA Group for extending the public dock at the Beach.

AYES: Supervisor Frasier, G. Kuenzel, M. Fitzgerald II, S. Ramant & M. Cherubini

NAYS: None

Carried: 5-0

6. Councilwoman Kuenzel made and Councilman Cherubini seconded a motion to award the contract for redesign of the Town Website to Mohawk Valley GIS at a cost of \$3,475 plus \$400 annually for maintenance and upgrades to software. The funds for this were already approved in the 2016 budget.

AYES: Supervisor Frasier, G. Kuenzel, M. Fitzgerald II, S. Ramant & M. Cherubini

NAYS: None

Carried: 5-0

Councilwoman Kuenzel made and Councilman Cherubini seconded a motion to adjourn.

AYES: Supervisor Frasier, G. Kuenzel, M. Fitzgerald II, S. Ramant & M. Cherubini

NAYS: None

Carried: 5-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Stock, Acting Recording Secretary