

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham held March 16, 2004 at the Town Building in Oak Hill, N.Y.

Present: Gary Hulbert - Supervisor  
William Carr - Councilman  
Robert Elpel - Councilman  
Linda Sutton – Councilwoman  
Jodi Wood - Councilwoman

Recording Secretary: Chris Kohrs – Deputy Town Clerk  
Others Present: Wesley Moore - Highway Superintendent  
Charles Soderblom – Town Clerk

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:37 P.M. with the Pledge to the Flag. Ten people were present.

**Mr. Elpel made a motion which Ms. Wood seconded to approve the minutes of February 3 and February 17, 2004. All were in favor.**

Mr. Hulbert reported he had received a letter of complaint from a Town resident about the ambulance billing process. Mr. Hulbert called and explained the situation to the resident. Mrs. Sutton asked if the ambulance squad couldn't inform the local people that they do not have to pay this bill. There was further discussion.

Wesley Moore read the Highway Superintendents Report. They have started to haul in material for the spring road work. In addition, just less than 500 tons of Rip Rap was delivered to be used on Sutton Road where the stone arch bridge collapsed on 3/9/04. They were able to keep one lane open. Mrs. Sutton asked Wesley to write a letter informing the Historical Commission about the stone arch collapsing. Wesley asked for a motion to put the surplus equipment out to bid. The equipment is: 1- 1980 International 4300 Tandem Dump Truck, 1- 1977 R Model Mack Tandem Dump, and 1- 1992 Interstate Tagalong Equipment Trailer Tilt Deck. The bids will be opened on April 20. He also requested that he be authorized to seek bids for a 2002 or newer Tagalong 20 ton equipment trailer with these bids to be opened on April 6. **Mr. Elpel made a motion which Mrs. Sutton seconded to put the excess equipment out to bid with the bid opening date to be April 20. All were in favor. Mr. Elpel then made a motion which Mrs. Sutton seconded to request bids for a 2002 or newer Tagalong 20 ton equipment trailer with bids to be opened on April 6. All were in favor.**

No Assessor Report.

No Police Report.

Tal Rappleyea, attorney, did not attend because of the weather.

The Dog Control Report was filed.

Charles Soderblom, Tax Collector explained that there was still \$645,000 in outstanding tax bills. The Town has received all their money and has paid the County \$500,000.

There was no Task Force or Historical Committee Reports.

The Milestone Communication Public Hearing has been changed to May 18, 2004. A representative will attend.

The Justice Court requested new software. Mr. Hulbert is checking the grant that they received at the end of last year and the amount. It was thought that hardware and software were included. Mr. Cullie will check. There is a new grant application pending and they do not want to apply for the same.

Michael J. Quill Irish Center submitted the insurance form for the mass gathering permit with an expiration date of May 20, 2004. Mr. Soderblom will request a new form showing that they have insurance through the event date that they have applied for the Mass Gathering Permit. **Ms. Wood made a motion to approve the application with the stipulation that the proper documentation be received by May 1, 2004, seconded by Mr. Carr with all in favor.**

Ms. Wood reported that the Oak Hill Volunteer Fire Co. received a FEMA grant for \$45,000. The grant will cover the cost of installing in the firehouse a vehicle exhaust extraction system and a smoke alarm system that will be linked to a security system. They anticipate that the project will begin in May.

**Mrs. Sutton made a motion seconded by Ms. Wood to approve a request from the Durham Center Museum for a mailing list. All were in favor.**

Residents of McStine Lane discussed with the Board their concerns with the condition of the road. The road is private and many spots in it that are impassible. There are seven homes on the property. The Highway Supervisor and the Town Supervisor visited the site and agree that there is a concern over whether or not emergency vehicles would be able to answer a call on the road. The property owner has been made aware of the situation and has failed to correct the situation. As it is a private road, the Town has no authority to correct the situation. Supervisor Hulbert will contact the Town attorney and ask him to look into the health and safety issue and how it applies to the Town and the property owners.

Supervisor Hulbert reported that the annual audit report has been received and there were no negative findings and no official comments. He praised Mrs. Moore on an outstanding job.

Al Schmidt reported that he has issued four permits this month. The Board discussed the proposal received from the Code Enforcement office to increase fees, establish a registry of contractors and approval to hire an engineer to consult on complex building projects.

The Board will vote on each request at the next meeting and adopt approved requests into current ordinance.

At the request of Mr. Nahauss, Mr. Schmidt reviewed the process for the public hearing on buildings proposed for demolition. The property owners have been sent a letter that the public hearing has been set for April 6, 2004. The Town will hear from all interested persons and make a decision whether to proceed with the demolition after the public hearing.

The Board discussed the Reading Room and determined that additional information is needed to properly pay expenses incurred. The rent will be paid as originally agreed.

Mrs. Sutton made the motion seconded by Mr. Carr to approve the following transfer:

From:	A1990.400 Contingent	\$2,450.00
To:	A1220.401 Supervisor, Audit Report	\$2,450.00

Abstract #405, consisting of Vouchers #231 through #298 in the amount of \$47,425.63 was reviewed and approved for payment. The total amount was broken down as follows:

General Funds	\$18,579.80
Highway Funds	\$28,297.02
Street Lighting	\$ 548.81

**Mr. Carr made a motion seconded by Ms. Wood to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m.**

Minutes approved:

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Chris Kohrs, Deputy Town Clerk