

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham held May 18, 2004 at the Town Building in Oak Hill, N.Y.

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

Absent: William A. Carr, Jr. – Councilman

Recording Secretary: Chris Kohrs – Deputy Town Clerk
 Others Present: Wesley Moore - Highway Superintendent
 Tal Rapplelea – Attorney for the Town
 Charles G. Soderblom – Town Clerk

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M. with the Pledge to the Flag. Thirty people were present.

Mr. Elpel made a motion and seconded by Ms. Wood to approve the minutes from last month with a correction on page 147 to show the trailer bid going to Don Millious. All were in favor.

Mr. Hulbert reported that the County Fair will be held in East Durham this year. He received correspondence from three engineers who will be forwarding information and prices on repairing the stone arch bridge on Hervey Street. Also, Shannon Green from SEMO will be here Tuesday May 25 at 7:30 as guest speaker.

Wesley Moore, Highway Superintendent, read his report for April. They hauled in 1000 tons of Item 4, which was used on Allen Teator Road near the Kohrs Farm. On May 26, Kingston Reclamation will be coming in to grind the road approximately 8 inches deep, 18 feet wide and inject 9000 gallons liquid calcium at the same time to build a new roadway. This is being done through the Chips Program. Item 1 is being stockpiled for paving Brown Road on the 9th and 10th of June under Chips. The men have also been working on the dirt roads. Liquid calcium has been ordered for dust control.

The judges report has been filed.

The Assessor report has been filed. Grievance Day is May 27, 2004 from 1 pm to 4 pm and 6 pm to 9 pm. Gordon sat with the roll and has scheduled final roll review for Thursday morning May 20, 2004.

Al Schmidt read the building inspectors report. They issued 13 permits last month.

The police report was read.

Tal Rappleyea, attorney, discussed the cemeteries of the town and would like to establish guidelines and perhaps a cemetery board.

Attorney Rappleyea wanted to review the franchise agreement with Milestone before approval is made.

The dog control report was received.

Tax collector reported that there were still 252 unpaid bills totaling \$434,812.77.

The task force reported that the reading room has been operating for five weeks and offers internet, fax, copying service. They have had 76 visitors and there are 40 books out on loan.

The Historic Commission reported that the Oak Hill committee is working with New York State Offices of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation in trying to have a certain area in Oak Hill designated as a Historic District.

The committee has been given a copy of the map that the state is using in their feasibility study as well as a list of the residents within the map borders. The residents have been mailed notification letters and the state is awaits their response by June 17, 2004.

Mr. Drake of Milestone Communications cable service was introduced by Supervisor Hulbert. Mr. Drake gave a brief history of the service Milestone has provided the town.

At 7:50 p.m., Supervisor Hulbert closed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing for the cable contract with Milestone Communications.

A resident inquired as to when service would be extended to the areas of the town that currently do not have service. Mr. Drake explained that they follow the New York State formula to determine feasibility to a service area and it typically cost \$10,000 per mile to provide service. Unlike a telephone company, there is not an universal service obligation with cable service. Typically, if there are less than 35 homes per mile they are not required to provide service. However, if a resident should offer to incur some of the expense to receive cable an agreement could be worked out.

In response to the question as to if requested would they provide the service to make a home cable ready Mr. Drake explained that they only provide the service to the building and it is the home owners responsibility to provide the service from the cable box to the television. The homeowner could contact an electrician to complete the wiring.

Mr. Drake explained the he picks the channels that will be broadcast however; he has no say in what the channels program. He further explained that they would be conducting a survey in the future to retrieve information on the quality of programming and wishes of the consumer. If anyone has a specific request for extended service, he would check into the feasibility and report his findings to the board.

In response to a question, regarding internet service Mr. Drake explained that it is being considered but a timetable has not been established. When the service is offered, you will be able to purchase with your cable package or separate at a premium rate.

A resident expressed his satisfaction with the service and their practice of reducing the bill if the service is out for an extended period. Mr. Drake explained that by law they are required to reduce the bill if the service is interrupted for four or more hours consecutively. The consumer must request the reduction in order to receive the reduction.

Mr. Drake will review the map for accurateness. The public hearing was closed and the regular meeting reopened at 8:10 p.m.

Ms. Wood made a motion seconded by Mrs. Sutton to approve the contract between The Town of Durham and the Durham Reading Room Inc.

The situation with McStein Road is progressing in the right direction. All but one homeowner has responded. The residents need to get together and obtain quotes to bring the road up to specs.

Mrs. Sutton made the motion seconded by Ms. Wood to approve the following transfers

From:	General Surplus	\$4,050.00
To:	Court Equipment A110.200	\$4,050.00
From:	Contingent A1990.400	\$ 242.23
To:	Court Contractual A1110.400	\$ 242.23
From:	Parks, Contractual A7110.400	\$ 273.70
To:	Parks, Equipment A7110.200	\$ 273.70

Abstract #409, consisting of Vouchers #407 through #469 for \$48,483.49 was reviewed and approved for payment. The total amount was broken down as follows:

General Funds	\$18,948.13
Highway Funds	\$29,035.99
Street Lighting	\$ 499.37

The board received a written request from Durham Union Cemetery to assume responsibility for the cemetery as no one on the board could continue to maintain it.

They have provided the town with the bankbooks. **Mrs. Sutton made the motion seconded by Ms. Wood that the board assume responsibility for the Durham Union Cemetery, all were in favor.**

Mrs. Sutton made the motion seconded by Ms Wood to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Chris Kohrs, Deputy Town Clerk