

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Town of Durham held December 2, 2003, at the Town Building in Oak Hill, N.Y.

Present: William A. Carr, Jr. – Councilman  
 Gary Hulbert – Councilman  
 Robert Elpel – Councilman  
 Linda Sutton – Councilwoman

Absent: Robert Young – Supervisor

Recording Secretary: Chris Kohrs - Deputy Town Clerk  
 Others: Charles Soderblom – Town Clerk  
 Wes Moore – Highway Superintendent  
 Tal Rappleyea - Attorney for the Town

In the absence of the Supervisor, Mr. Carr called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Twenty-two people were present.

Tal reported that he was still waiting to hear from Schoharie Humane Society in order to make a final presentation of options for stray dog housing.

Charlie reported that he has had an inquiry regarding the cleaning position but to date has not received any bids. Mr. Carr suggested that the ad run again and to check around to see what other towns are doing for cleaning services.

The board reviewed the two-year EMS contract submitted for approval. The contract is for two years with a one-year statement of fees. Discussion followed. The board approved the signing of the EMS contract.

The board received a request from the Cairo Durham High School Athletic Department to use the Patrick Kellegher Little League Field for Softball. **Mr. Hulbert made the motion seconded by Mrs. Sutton to approve the requests as submitted provided none of the dates were in conflict with the Little League games, all were in favor.**

The board reviewed the application for the subdivision for Dr. Gelhorn and scheduled a public hearing for January 6, 2003.

Nick Nahaus addressed the board on behalf of the Historic Society. The Historic Society requested that the board supply them with the engineers finding on the three structures scheduled to be demolished in the village of Oak Hill. Each of the buildings have been designated as having historic architectural significance and the local Historic Society would like to exhaust further avenues to save these structures if possible. Other residents echoed the voice of the Historic Society. Mr. Carr stated that he was concerned with the liability to the town now that it has been officially determined that the structures are unsafe. The board granted the request to supply the engineer's findings to the Historic Society. In addition they were asked to report back to the board their recommendations regarding the restoration of these properties and how to make them safe in the interim. It was suggested that the town pay the Historic Society the money that would have been spent to demolish the property. They would use the money to restore or remove and

reconstruct the structure elsewhere. It was pointed out that it is forbidden by law to do this. It is required by law, that it be placed out for bid with the lowest bidder receiving the job. Additional discussion followed and it was determined that the board would hear from reasonable proposals at the next meeting.

Bonnie Greer spoke to the board and audience about her interpretation of noise, sound, and "How Do We Wish to Live". Ms. Greer would like to research a possible noise law for the town of Durham. The board agreed that this topic needed to be researched and would be scheduling future meetings to discuss and receive input from the public.

Mrs. Queen asked the board to revisit the topic of speeding through the village of Oak Hill. It seems that the truck traffic is picking up and not obeying the speed limit. She has witnessed on more than one occasion trucks with wide loads crossing into the opposite lane when going around the corner, faster than the speed limit, and without an escort car. The residents are frustrated that the state is not hearing their pleas to have the speed limit extended and or reduced. They requested the town take a more active role in this cause and suggested that the town appeal the states findings regarding the speed limit and signage. They also requested that the state provide the town with written documentation of the reviews that have been completed. It was also suggested that the speed limit be more actively enforced.

Mr. Elpel made the motion seconded by Mrs. Sutton to approve the naming of Milk Run Road, all were in favor.

Charlie explained to the board that the Code Enforcement office is in need of a new computer to run the \$600 program that they received via a grant. The current operating program will not run the program. The system that they are requesting would run \$868.20 on state bid. **Mr. Hulbert made the motion seconded by Mrs. Sutton to approve the purchase, all were in favor.**

A member of the audience told Mr. Carr that he was too harsh in his statements about the other party. Mr. Carr apologized to the speaker, but did say that in this country we have the right to disagreement.

Attorney Rappleyea reported that there was no real news on the cell towers.

**Mr. Elpel made a motion to pay Mrs. Moore \$555.00 for coordinating and completing the work on the FEMA Program. Money was paid by FEMA. Seconded by Mr. Hulbert and carried.**

**Mrs. Sutton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm. Mr. Hulbert seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Kohrs, Deputy Town Clerk