

**Town of Willsboro**

**Office of the Town Clerk**

**MINUTES**

**Public Hearing on Cold War Veterans Exemption Draft Local Law**

**TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**DATE: September 9th, 2020 AT 6:00 PM**

**LOCATION: WILLSBORO TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Supervisor, Shaun Gillilland, Councilors: Lorilee Sheehan, Steve Benway, Charles Lustig, Lane Sayward

**Guests:** Win Belanger, Polly Belanger, Terry Pulsifer, Anna Reynolds, Hannah Jacques, Darren Dickerson, Greg Gordon, Roger Sayward, Todd Hodgson

Supervisor, Shaun Gillilland called the public hearing to order at 6:00pm.

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Gilliland briefed the public on the Cold War Veteran’s Exemption Draft Local Law. The exemption would allow 10 percent up to a maximum of $8,000 or 15 percent up to a maximum of $12,000 for property tax purposes. At the 15 percent exemption rate, local homeowners would pay .01 cent more per 100,000 assessed value based upon current tax rates.

Public Comments:

Win Belanger- Asked if you had to be active duty or reserves? Asked by combat vet if the Cold War Vet would get same as a Combat Vet? Veterans are 15% and asked if the Cold War would be 15%? He felt that everybody that is a vet should get the same exemption.

Rodger Sayward- Asked if other towns or counties are doing this? Supervisor Gillilland stated he did not know the exact number of towns, but there are some towns that do offer this exemption.

Win Belanger- Stated no exemption is given to a veteran, you have to qualify as a war time veteran with dates listed and then qualify for the second step of being in the combat area. Cold War Veteran has a time period as well.

Steve Benway- Stated during the Cold War they didn’t know if they were going to be a combat vet or not, but they still stepped up to serve the country and should consider that.

Supervisor Gillilland closed the public hearing.

Supervisor Called the Town Board Meeting to order.

**Supervisor Gillilland called for a resolution to approve the Minutes from the 12th of August 2020 regular Town Board meeting. Charlie Lustig moved. Steve Benway seconded. All in favor and the motion carried.**

Reports:

Supervisor

**Correspondence: Municipal Shelter Inspection Report:** NYSDOT shared services agreement: Supervisor Gillilland stated that they will discuss later in the meeting.

**Town: Budget development**: Budget season and have to have tentative budget by 30th of September so please submit any changes or wants before that date**. Broadband update**: Talked to SLIC about broadband issue and still not cooperative with NYSEG poles on Stowersville Road and have not gotten the permits yet, the engineering has been completed for Mountain View Drive, Coonrod Road, up NYS Route 22, Sunset Drive, Farrell and Point Road. Plan on offering service by the end of the year. **Water Meters installation**: Still installing and calling residents for appointments to be made. Oram will be back next week. The process is a little slower due to agreeing to have someone come in the home. **Vets Memorial project:** Construction due to start next week. Salmon monitoring stations: US fish and wildlife have been putting telemeter along the river., **Ag & Mkts dangerous dog housing crisis:** Average about 3 in Essex County every year. Only one DPW is qualified to house them and that is Moriah. SPCA wants thousands of dollars to house them at their building, Jim Monty is working to help resolve this issue.

**Willsboro Essex EMS:** The organization is looking to have their own ambulance station. Gillilland stated that he offered a piece of property across the street from DPW and they do not want to do it as it is not centralized enough. EMS wants to proceed on buying a piece of property out on Middle Road and the cost is $18,000 and will need variances to get that building built there. EMS is being charged $5,000 per station for housing of ambulances, so it is understood why they want their own station.

**Water and Sewer report:** Water use is down and the water ban may be lifted based on

Pat McCauliffe’s (head of water/sewer) recommendation.

**County:** Covid-19 infections at Essex Center are down and appear to be under control. Essex County requested the State to come in and do an investigation and asked Federal Government and Stefanik’s office to step in and help with procedure. Got 1st positive of a county employee, whom is a resident of Clinton county not Essex county and the person were isolated quickly. Public Health states if a positive, been contacted within 6 feet, unmasked for 10 minutes or more, then the person is to be considered a contact.

**Motion to accept Warrant:** **Lorilee Sheehan moved to accept the warrant report. Steve Benway seconded. Roll Call: Benway, Sayward, Sheehan, Lustig, Gilliland. All in favor and the motion carried.**

**Town Clerk Report:** The report is in your packet. It has been steady with hunting and fishing licenses this month and will probably continue to be as the month progresses. The town clerk hours have been adjusted from 10am-3pm.

**Parks/Rec/Golf Couse:** It has been steady at the course with the amount of play. Next week Justin will start to do aerification and some yearly close out procedures. The beach is closed and picked up for the summer. DPW will work to get the bath houses closed up for winter.

**DPW Report:** Paved Sanders Road a couple weeks ago, which was a little over 7/10 of a mile. We got our new truck last week after waiting a year and half. We will be putting it in service next week after truck company comes up and walks us through everything. We are working on the backhoe a little bit and noticed the rear end was making quite a bit of noises. A mechanic came up and suggested we buy a rear end which will be $5600 and it is a 1999 with 7 thousand hours on it. We would like to look at purchasing an excavator using CHIPS money, which has $90,000 left. Travis would like to purchase the rear end for the backhoe for $5600 and keep as a spare to run to water plant and do small jobs. Travis states you can use the CHIPS money for equipment. Bids are already state approved so we don’t have to go out to bid. Supervisor Gillilland stated that we get several excavators and try them out, as the state could take that money back, so why not use it. Westport and Wilmington purchased new excavators with the CHIPS money and did not do any paving this year either. Want to use all of CHIPS money because we are not sure if there is going to be rollover or not for next year. Councilman Benway has two backhoes and Sheehan and Sons have one and both volunteered for the Town to use theirs if needed until the Town’s is fixed. We can rent a backhoe from Abelee for $1,800 a month. Councilwoman Sheehan stated that maybe we need to start doing long term planning, maybe a 5-year plan for purchasing equipment, so we aren’t stuck with these spur of the moment purchases, although it is hard to predict when repairs/breakdowns will occur. Travis stated that there was a packet that was given last year stating the hours with it and have an equipment fund for that every year out of budget. Census of the board is that Travis can go out and shop for the excavator.

**Motion to purchase the rear end for backhoe. Benway moved and Sheehan seconded. Roll Call: Benway, Sayward, Sheehan, Lustig, Gillilland and the motion carried.**

**Building & Codes Report:** Terry Pulsifer was asked to start giving a monthly report and in the

board packet you will find a printed copy of all of the August work. Thirteen permits were done

for the month. The agendas for the Planning and Zoning Boards is also attached.

**Todd Hodgson – Presentation on Willsboro Point Septic & Drainage Study:** There are two

high density areas in the town of Willsboro. There were also plans in 1980 to put sewer on

Willsboro Point. The Buena Vista planning areas are the lakeside and trailer park side.

Stormwater concerns are in this area with development and pricing in fixing these issues.

The presentation is available on the town website.

Supervisor Gillilland stated that there are issues with drainage and this study proves it. If we

take the plan, we are going to have to change easements. A decentralized system would be a

community septic system where everything goes and septic management is replacement of

failed systems, which all of them are going to need raised bed systems. There is a real problem

and a long-term strategy is needed.

**Old Business:**

**Supervisor Gillilland called for a resolution to adopt Local Law for authorizing Cold War Veterans Tax Exemption at 15% or up to 12 thousand dollars. Moved by Lustig seconded by Benway Roll Call: Benway, Sayward, Sheehan, Lustig, Gillilland and motion is carried.**

**Supervisor Gillilland called for a resolution authorizing to sign NYSDOT Shared Services Agreement Renewal Resolution snow/ice agreement. Moved by Sheehan seconded by Lustig Roll Call: Benway, Sayward, Sheehan, Lustig, Gillilland and motion is carried.**

**New Business:**

**Supervisor Gillilland called for a resolution for appointment of Margaret Adkins as Zoning Board Alternate Member for term of 5 years. Moved by Lustig seconded by Sheehan**

**Supervisor Gillilland called for a resolution to pay the Methodist Church $5,000 for summer youth meals. Moved by Benway seconded by Sayward. Roll Call: Benway, Sayward, Sheehan, Lustig, Gillilland and motion is carried.**

**Youth Commission Sports Resolution**: County Youth Commission is not organizing fall sports this year. Section 7 for Public High Schools is not making their decision until 21st of September and we will wait until NYS Section 7 makes their recommendations.

**Resolutions/Discussion from the Board:**

**Public Comment**: Win Belanger asked about his report being posted on the town website, as well as the state with traveling restrictions. Supervisor Gillilland stated we are not the only region to request and not getting an answer from Governor’s office. Win Belanger wanted to know why the EMS building needed to be centralized when the majority of the calls are with Willsboro. Greg Gordon asked how much money is given from the town to EMS yearly. How they are going to make the building work with $10,000 was questioned.

**Supervisor Gillilland called for a resolution to enter Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations: Moved by Lustig and seconded by Sayward.**

**Supervisor Gillilland called for a resolution to exit executive session: Moved by Benway and seconded by Sayward. All in favor and motion is carried.**

**Supervisor Gillilland stated no decisions were made in executive session.**

ADJOURNMENT –

**Supervisor Gillilland adjourned the meeting.**

Adjourn