

Town of Murray Board Meeting

February 8, 2011

Present: Supervisor John Morriss, Councilwoman Kathy Case, Councilmen Lloyd Christ, Ed Bower and Paul Hendel, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Highway and Water Superintendent Ed Morgan, Code Enforcer Ron Vendetti, Planning Board Chairman Charlie Felice, Assessor Lynn Wood, Legislator Kenneth Rush, Nick Quaranto, Joe Sidonio, Kevin Diehl, Charlie Diehl, George Karpenko

Pledge to flag.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Hendel approving and accepting the 12/14/10, 12/28/10, 01/04/11 and the 01/29/11 Town Board meeting minutes Motion Carried

George Herring entered the meeting.

Legislator Kenneth Rush spoke about the County Nursing Home. The cost to run the nursing home for 2011 will be \$1.25 million. The cost next year will be closer to \$2 million. If anyone has any questions, he will always try and answer them.

Privilege of the Floor

Kevin Diehl was present to discuss the incentive zoning we spoke of a couple months earlier. Kevin asked the board what possible incentives he could offer to the Town in order to keep his project moving forward. The Town has equipment for excavating so that wouldn't be an option. Helping with the purchase of equipment or furniture for the Town Hall addition and a monetary donation was discussed. The Town Board needs to discuss this. They will do whatever possible to accommodate his time plan so they will have a decision for the March meeting. By the April meeting, hopefully the Town Board could okay it. Jeff Martin suggested that Kevin have his engineer present in case the Board has questions.

Assessor: Lynn reported that the State is no longer reimbursing training costs. Towns will have to pay in full. The office is receiving exemptions on a daily basis and they are getting ready for tentative roll (March 1).

Code Enforcement: Ron's clerk Val has been assisting him with paperwork, etc. He has been issuing unlicensed vehicle notices. He has also begun sending notices to residents explaining that it is the law to have house numbers that are visible. The law states they must be 4 inches high, and

must be a contrasting number on your house so they are easily read. If your house is more than 150 feet from the road, the numbers must be placed on a post, tree or rock. The law states that house numbers on mailboxes do not count.

Ron is in the process of writing up a draft/example of unlicensed car Local Law No. 1 of 2009. He would like to go through these laws/codes and put them in a more linear fashion. He will show Jeff when he is finished with the draft. Discussion of policies that the Town should have; violence in the workplace, sexual harassment. These are just some of the policies that need to be in place.

Old Business

Supervisor Morriss directed the building committee to move forward with their work and get the drawings completed. The committee will meet with the architect to discuss what is needed and order the plans made. Motion by Bower, Seconded by Case authorizing the Building Committee to have the plans for the building addition drawn up. Motion Carried

New Business

Councilwoman Case suggested that the employee policies that are now in place be dated when they were approved and accepted.

Supervisor Morriss briefed the Board about a conversation he had with Ron Myers of the Holley Volunteer Ambulance. He would like to set up a time to speak to the Town Board and the Fancher Hulberton Murray Fire Commissioners as HVA is having some financial difficulties. Discussion regarding this. Ed Morgan stated that the ambulance service used to be part of the fire dept. and were compensated through the town. At least a few years back, they made the choice to be independent from the fire dept. HVA is required to provide the Town with financial reports and reports of all calls, a list of members etc. and we have yet to receive any of these reports. Councilman Hendel suggested they be invited to a meeting, and hopefully they can bring these reports. Maybe we can also find out why we never receive the required reports.

Supervisor Morriss discussed an article in the Suburban News that stated snowmobilers are welcome to travel on the Erie Canal towpath. The state has given permission but it is up to the individual towns if it will be allowed. This is something to think about in case the Town is approached next winter. The only major worry for the Town is liability. Councilman Hendel said he would try to find out some information regarding this and report back to the Board.

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Christ adopting the employee benefit package and employee policies that were presented Motion Carried

Discussion regarding the County Animal Control contract. The contract that the County sent us to sign is asking for 68% of all local dog licensing fees that the Town collects. This is the same amount we have been sending them but with the state out of the picture, the county no longer has to send them a percentage. Of the 68% that was previously sent, 53% went to the county for shared animal control. That is the amount that Cindy is suggesting we continue to pay. Legislator Rush said he would ask why the county is asking for this additional amount when there are no longer dog damage claims and the state is no longer a part of the equation. Motion by Case, Seconded by Christ to table the County Animal Control Contract until the March board meeting. Motion Carried

Attorney Jeff Martin

Jeff brought the board up to date regarding the Wishing Well property. The executrix of the estate is looking into getting a home equity line of credit and coming up with the money necessary to get the site cleaned up. The attorney is anxious to close the estate but he cannot do this with the Town's claim sitting there. Ron stated it has been a full year and he would like to send something to the executrix stating that clean up needs to begin within one month.

Jeff said at some point there will be a petition from the school for annexation of the 43 acres into the village. Presently this is on hold because the land is in National Grid's franchise area. Whether National Grid will require a buy out is unknown at this time.

Town Clerk

Receipts for January totaled \$1,727. General fund received \$460.22. Tax collection has been going very smoothly.

Highway and Water Superintendent

Ed Morgan received notice from Steve Hawley's office today stating that the state kept the CHIPS funding the same amount as last year. Advocacy day is next month in Albany and they will not be asking for more CHIPS funding, but just that the amount remains the same.

Ed presented the Agreement for the Expenditures of Highway Moneys to the board. All board members signed.

Motion by Bower, Seconded by Hendel authorizing the purchase of a stainless steel sander for our salt shed mixing operation at a cost of \$6,817.15 Motion Carried

Ed believes there was surplus grant money left over from Water District No. 13 that wasn't spent. Is that money still available? Jeff said he would check into this. Ed also asked the board what the Town is doing with water district No. 15. Does our Rural Development application stay current? Jeff will contact Kathy Dear to see if the Town should be doing something or just wait.

Public Comments

Joe Sidonio has concerns of the Town losing revenue because of Ridge Road Station closing. Lynn stated that the property assessment is \$500,000. Lynn also said that Diaz Chemical assessment was reduced \$522,000. Mr. Sidonio also questioned why house numbers on mailboxes are prohibited. Ron stated that mailboxes are not always in front of the home so it can be difficult to know which mailbox belongs to which house.

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Bower that Ron Vendetti be authorized to sign 'unlicensed dog' citations Motion Carried

Motion by Christ, Seconded by Christ approving the supervisor's financial report and that the following bills be paid: Motion Carried

General Fund	Claims 21-57	\$25,058.12
Highway Fund	Claims 23-46	\$52,742.24
Water District No. 1	Claims 2-6	\$584.37
Water District No. 2	Claims 1-5	\$683.60
Water District No. 3	Claims 1-5	\$1,543.01
Water District No. 4	Claims 1-4	\$1,139.19
Water District No. 5	Claims 1-4	\$534.71
Water District No. 6	Claims 2-7	\$625.73
Water District No. 7	Claims 1-4	\$3,970.98
Water District No. 8	Claims 1-4	\$2,165.04
Water District No. 9	Claims 1-2	\$988.48
Water District No. 10	Claims 3-6	\$396.68
Water District No. 11	Claims 1-10	\$5,651.89
Water District No. 12	Claims 1-4	\$670.52
Water District No. 13	Claims 1-4	\$901.41
Water District No. 14	NONE	\$0.00
Water District No. 15	NONE	\$0.00
Water District No. 20	Claims 1-2	\$912.72

Motion by Hendel, Seconded by Bower to that meeting be adjourned
Motion Carried

So adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
