Town of Independence

Regular Meeting

February 8, 2024

The Independence Town Board met in the Town Hall on February 8, 2024 at 7:00 pm for the regular monthly Board meeting.

Present: Supervisor Reichman; Council Meunier, Bissett and Howe; Town Clerk, Bissett; Highway Superintendent Acomb; Doreen Pensyl, resident and WCS students, observing the meeting process. Absent: Council Brubaker.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was brought to order by Supervisor Reichman at 7:00 pm.

A motion was offered by Council Bissett, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to accept the January 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion was offered by Council Meunier, seconded by Council Howe and carried by all to accept the Public Hearing Minutes, from January 29, 2024.

A motion was offered by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to accept appoint Mary Bissett as Town Clerk. Council Bissett recused himself from the vote, due to a conflict of interest. Council Howe then administered the Oath of Office to Mary Bissett.

Council Reichman welcomed the visiting student and resident Pensyl. Resident Pensyl advised she was looking for solutions to tractor trailers that are traveling Skinner Hill Road and Forsythe Road to make deliveries to residents on Skinner Hill Road. There are signs posted disallowing vehicles over 8 ton from traveling these roads. The Board will take it under advisement and investigate solutions to this problem.

Superintendent Acomb gave the Highway report which included putting green LED lights on Peterbilt and International, new hydraulic pump and clutch on International, finishing cutting brush on Harris Road. The excavator was brought back to the shop to check out drives, taken to George and Swede for further inspection and repair, changed blown hydraulic lines on Peterbilt and International, replaced air valve on International, repaired sander chain in Peterbilt, changed coverboard on wing of Peterbilt, changed coverboard on Mack, replaced 4 sections of cutting edge, replaced all springs, took down Christmas lights in town, plowed and sanded several times, pushed back drifts, replaced brake chamber on International and trimmed branches on Teeter and Kenyon Roads. Excavator has been moved to Saunders Road for graveling, Teeter Road will also require graveling this summer. Chris Waters to haul trees off the site near the Foth property in April or May. All employees have watched the mandatory harassment video.

Superintendent Acomb discussed problems with radio reception, suggested a repeater for the tower to allow workers to communicate with each other, estimated cost is $6,000.00. Supervisor Reichman will contact the County to see what may have changed to cause this issue.

Resident has laid maple lines (2” steel pipe) under the road after being denied permission to do so by the highway superintendent. Superintendent Acomb to photograph site and document interactions with resident.

Board discussed water leaks: owner of the funeral home is currently out of state and the water has been turned off until he is available; the other leak is located on the resident’s property, the town can fix the leak and charge the resident, the Supervisor is working on the issue.

The LED lighting installation is nearly finished; the records room has been added to the project and the front outside light.

When all Council members are present, a date will be set for the Teamster’s meeting.

The Board reviewed the AHPC update, nine homes have been chosen at this point for distribution of the $400.00 grant for home improvements.

There has been a theft at the Casey Road Solar Project site, 200’ of installed copper ground wire was removed. The town officer is investigating, message was sent to Mr. MacKay of OYA to warn him to take steps to monitor the sites.

The Board discussed installing new carpet and/or laminate flooring in the Town Hall and the purchase of a shed for storage; Supervisor will get estimates for the same.

The Board reviewed and discussed the resident’s letter regarding a damaged and dangerous utility pole located on Skinner Hill Road. The Supervisor has discussed the matter with Frontier and they have agreed to fix the same.

A motion was offered by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to allow the school budget vote to be held at the Town Hall on May 21, 2004 between 12:00 noon and 8:00 pm.

A motion was made by Council Meunier, seconded by Council Bissett and carried by all to donate $250.00 to the Ladies Auxiliary for the 2024 Annual Easter Bunny visit.

Board reviewed and accepted the Clerk’s report, Bookkeeper’s report and payroll audit and Police Department report.

A motion was offered by Council Howe, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to pay abstracts #2-2024 in the following amounts:

General #14-30 $ 6,416.95

Highway #10-26 $16,638.28

Water #9-17 $ 4,370.80

X-mas Lights #1 $ 340.00

A motion to adjourn was offered by Council Howe, Seconded by Council Bissett and carried by all at 8:06 pm.

Mary G. Bissett, Town Clerk