

May 12, 2021
Town of Erin Board Meeting

Supervisor Schmidt called the regular meeting of the Erin Town Board to order on this date at 6:30 PM. She then asked the Clerk to call the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT: William VanRiper, Jr., Randy Evans, Daniel Delorme, Dawn Schmidt.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Michael Shutts.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Dennis, Beth & Anna Sheahan, Jeremy Keller, Gary Ratchford, Mark W. Watts, Andy Avery, Mark Margeson, Brian Hyland.

Supervisor Schmidt welcomed everyone and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made by D. Delorme and seconded by W. VanRiper, Jr. to pay the audited bills as they appear on the General Fund Abstract 5, #64-75 totaling \$29,747.75; and the Street Lighting Abstract 5, #68 totaling \$205.86; and the Highway Fund Abstract 5, #66-83, totaling \$255,236.89.

Motion Carried: Ayes: W. VanRiper, Jr., R. Evans, D. Delorme, D. Schmidt. Nays: None.

A motion was made by W. VanRiper, Jr. and seconded by R. Evans to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the regular Board meeting on April 14, 2021 and approve the minutes.

Motion Carried: Ayes: W. VanRiper, Jr., R. Evans, D. Delorme, D. Schmidt. Nays: None.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A reminder that the Chemung County's Spring Household Hazardous Waste Collection event will be Saturday, May 22, 2021 for Chemung County residents only (no businesses). Pre-registration is required by May 19, 2021 and no electronics will be accepted.
- Chemung County Soil & Water Conservation District & Highway Association will sponsor a "Tire Collection Day" on Saturday, May 22, 2021-time slots between 8:00 am & 11:00 am. The fee is \$3.00 per tire- with or without rims. No tractor or dump truck tires. There is a limit of 25 tires per resident. Chemung County residents only.
- Residents have been inquiring about renting the Town Hall.

Per Supervisor Schmidt, as of yesterday, outside opened up to 500 and inside up to 50%. The Town Hall can now be rented at 50% capacity with social distancing guidelines being followed.

AGENDA FOR THE TOWN OF ERIN BOARD MEETING, MAY 12, 2021;

1. None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Town Attorney-No report.

Planning Board-Deda Cedar-Jeremy Keller's Special Use Permit was presented to the Board. The salvage yard was opened in 1975 by his father. Nothing will change. It does not have to go to the County because it is not within 500 feet of anything that triggers it having to go to the County per General Municipal Law 39M. It will not change the character of the neighborhood. No one objected in person or in writing. It is located in the AR district. The Special Use Permit is being recommended by the Planning Board.

A motion was made by R. Evans and seconded by W. VanRiper, Jr. to accept the Special Use Permit for Jeremy Keller at 1371 Breesport Road to be transferred to 45 Keller Drive. Both permits will be for 45 Keller Drive only with 1371 permit being terminated. The salvage yard will be put in Jeremy's name. Effective with resolution passed tonight.

Motion carried: Ayes: W. VanRiper, Jr., R. Evans, D. Delorme, D. Schmidt. Nays: None.

The Planning Board talked about drones and agreed it was okay to use the drone regulation law from the attorney. It will be presented to the Board at the next meeting. A copy will be given to the Board before that meeting. The Planning Board will hold the Public Hearing. The town questionnaire that will be used to revise the town codes was given to the Board to review. Some of the questions came from the Comprehensive Plan in 2010 and some from the Town of Endfield. It is to determine what kind of town the residents would like to live in before any of the zoning codes will be changed. Will be put on the Town webpage and looking for other options on how to get it to the residents. Danielle (Beauchamp) is working with Town Clerk to find options. Supervisor Schmidt would like it to be a unique login to avoid several of the same people filling out questionnaire. Would like the Board to look over questions and come back next month with changes and comments. Then questions can be compiled and another draft prepared.

Parks, Recreation and Senior Committee-Deda Cedar-Food Truck is going well. Registration is done online and she no longer sees the number of people being served. Have been averaging 25 volunteers, mostly from the Town of Erin. A kid needs volunteer hours and is painting picnic tables, the shed, a statue and a few other things at the park. Let her know if there is anything else that he can help out with. Supervisor Schmidt is looking for an Eagle Scout that needs a project. Councilman VanRiper, Jr. will look into it and also will check with Councilman Shutts. Deda contacted Al Edwards regarding Horseheads Senior Group. They will be meeting after June 1st. Vaccinations are required, temperatures taken and masks worn. No other senior groups are planning on meeting as of yet. Supervisor Schmidt said the building can be used at 50% on a first come, first served basis with social distancing requirements being followed. There is a pile of white pine logs at the park that belong to the Town. The logs will not be good for carving for the next Wood Fest in June 2022. They have been there for two years now. Next time something is put up for bid, she suggested taking bids on it. Need to get rid of logs after the ground dries up. Top of logs are solid, but not the ones on the ground. They might have summer softball if someone can run it.

Code Enforcement-John McCracken- Asked if Board would like to utilize the shared services for the contractor for maintenance - mow lawns and pick up garbage. If a resident is cited for junk and debris, high grass, etc. and it is not cleaned up, John can hire contractor who charges \$41/hour to clean up. If it is not paid by the resident, it goes on their tax bill as a lien. They will not take cars.

A motion was made by D. Delorme and seconded by D. Schmidt to use John McCracken's contractor with shared service to clean up after citations are issued for junk, debris and high grass.

Motion Carried: Ayes: W. VanRiper, Jr., R. Evans, D. Delorme, D. Schmidt. Nays: None.

Starting tomorrow a guy will be in town all day and then once a week after that putting door hangers on doors that are in violation. The door hangers give the residents a week before a reinspection with a phone number to call, then a formal letter with 10 days, then a follow up letter with 10 days. It is about a 30-day process.

Deda asked about adding a late fee for dog license renewals. Board feels it will deter people from paying it at all. Feels there is no benefit.

Highway Superintendent-Steve Tyler- We have been working on repairing our equipment so we can start the summer grading. We have been cutting and trimming trees and filling potholes. We got truck #12 back from Hawk Frame and Axel. I went and picked up the new truck in Hornellsville. I made an appointment with the license bureau to license both. The earliest appointment is June 10th. We replaced a pipe on Jackson Creek side of Walker Hill. Was approached by the Farr's on North Greenbush. There are two ditches that cover the length of North Greenbush, down across the road, run between their property and the neighbors, run down behind the park and fire station into a diversion ditch and eventually into the creek. About 100' of that is plugged up and running through their yard. They wondered if the Town could clean that. It has been done in the past. January would have been the time to change the loader in but due to Covid everything has been pushed back. CAT has so many loaders because of Covid that no one is buying. A new loader is \$180,858.00 with a trade in of \$154,858.00 leaves a difference of \$26,000.00 to upgrade. Pictures were sent last week to an auction site and they will write us a check for \$158,000.00 for our loader to buy it outright. CAT will sell us a new one for \$179,000.00 if we go with that deal. That would be a \$21,000.00 upgrade. Save about \$5,000.00 selling it outright instead of trading it back to CAT.

Motion was made by D. Delorme and seconded by W. VanRiper, Jr. to move ahead with selling the loader to purchase upgrade.

Motion Carried: Ayes: W. VanRiper, Jr., R. Evans, D. Delorme, D. Schmidt. Nays: None.

Steve will contact auction site and get things started. Loader has to go up as surplus before it can be sold. Will have that information including VIN# for next meeting.

County Representatives-Brian Hyland & Mark Margeson-Mark Margeson-There are changes in IT and they are looking for a director. The rules and regulations have been put out for the American Relief money that is coming to the county, city, and communities. County has a committee with three legislatives to work with the executive branch to discuss what to do with the money. The County did not replace a lot of jobs. The Nursing Facility is losing about \$3.5 million per year. The County makes up for that with support from the State, but unsure how long that will continue.

Brian Hyland-an email was forwarded today regarding the American Relief money. Encouraged to think about how the Town has been affected and what funds are needed to heal from Covid.

Supervisor Schmidt-There are four criteria that need to be met and as a small municipality we do not meet any of them. It is a challenge for us. We did not interrupt business. It is a Federal Government earmark that cannot be distributed. A lot of the small communities are in the same situation.

Deputy Supervisor Delorme-A notice was put online regarding rural broadband and a list of names and addresses will be given to Mark by Friday to network.

Brian Hyland-There is \$10,000 from Casella to be divided with six municipalities.

Mark Margeson-Open meetings have started again. Things will become active again.

Supervisor Schmidt-Asked about cemetery that has been forgotten by the County. It is located past Breesport Church at the point of County Route 1 and Latta Brook Road. Sign is dilapidated and needs to be redone. There is a Civil Air Patrol group out of the Armory that meets and asked about cleaning up the cemetery. The group will follow up with Mark. It gets mowed twice a year by the County. There are trees that are down and need to be removed. There are 176 tombstones. Both Supervisor Schmidt and Mark Margeson will follow up on the meeting that took place last night to find out more information.

Andy Avery-The compost facility will have extended hours Tuesday and Thursday until 7:00 through the end of the month.

Supervisor- Dawn Schmidt-Starting May 12th the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program goes into effect. It is a \$15.00 program depending on where you sit economically. Encourages everyone in community to get word out. You need to sign up individually for your household in order to qualify. It will be posted on the website. The location for the tire collection on May 22, 2021 is at the Chemung County Fairgrounds. The Town of Erin is interested in having a tire collection day. Chemung County Soil

and Water will help sponsor one on Saturday, June 5, 2021 from 8:00 am-11:00 am. Call the Town Hall to register and receive an appointment. Town of Erin residents only. The cost will be \$3.00 per tire-with or without rims with a 25-tire maximum per resident. The Horseheads School budget is May 18, 2021 from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Horseheads High School. Get out and vote for the school budget. Spring cleanup is starting, garbage, unregistered vehicles, etc. Reminds the Board to answer the phone calls. Dogs and cats are being dropped off. Please be aware and contact dog control. Asked Councilman VanRiper, Jr. about the Town sign. He is still looking into options.

Mark Watts-Update on the Beaver Pond-met on April 30th-DEC was asked if it was a legal operation and in compliance to take the dam out and they were. There was a permit issued. The reason the dam was removed is because the cross pipes that go under North Chemung/Breesport Road were under water and water was coming up the other side of the ditch. They released enough water so that it is one foot below the cross pipes. The landowner was told they would like to maintain that one foot below the pipes. Landowner would like six inches. Set the spillway to that depth. Waiting for paperwork and should be placed in July. Cross pipes were replaced in 2014 and they were not underwater at that time.

Andy Avery-He is very sorry for all the calls that were received. In hindsight, the Town should have been contacted. They were concerned about the inch or two of water on the road and the heavy rains predicted that night and someone coming around the curve. The cross pipes have been raised twice in the past. The Beaver Pond is getting deeper. More work needs to be done on the large culvert. It was $\frac{3}{4}$ plugged when they started.

Supervisor Schmidt-It might help if the ditches on the east side of the road were cleaned. There were no problems until the gravel pit. The water has never been across the road. A call to the Town would have been nice to let us know you were draining the second largest thing in our community. The ecosystem was disrupted. The residents were upset. If it happened at Eldridge Park the entire county would be upset. Would like to be treated like everyone else in the community.

Mark Watts-If the DEC and Army Corp allow, they are going to put in an osprey nest. He will give John McCracken copies of proposed plan pending DEC.

Dennis Sheahan-(??)- Asked Mark Watts how far the water was dropped from the Beaver Pond. His response was 2-3 feet. Dennis said the pond is approximately one-half mile long by 200 feet wide. That is over 11 million gallons of water. The pipes are not draining because the ditches have not been cleaned.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Beth Sheahan-98 Halloran Drive, Breesport-Concerned about the Breesport Fire Department not being informed about the water. It is one of their water sources. She looked on the DEC website and it says permission is needed in writing before you disturb a den not a blanket permit that they issue in January. No one contacted the landowner prior to that being taken out. She spoke with him yesterday. He was contacted and was told they were going to do some work. He was not told they were going to remove the dam. According to Mark Watts, the landowner did not make the meeting on April 30th, said to have Chris Yearick do it because he was dealing with his wife's health issues. Landowner said to do whatever Chris says to. That is why the landowner did not know they took it out that day, but he knew before yesterday.

Andy Avery-Read the actions authorized by DEC on the permit. The permit was issued in January.

Mark Watts-There are numerous areas in the county that have beaver issues. A blanket certificate is issued every year that says for this year, if it happens in this area, we have permission.

Beth Sheahan-So it is a blanket certificate so they don't know when or where you're going to do it. So, they were not notified in writing, it's just a blanket certificate for you to use. It is a little unsettling

for a community person to think that a blank permit is how it went about. It impacted more than just you. Like with the fire department.

Mark Watts-The public is not notified when it is private property.

Andy Avery-He drafted a formal policy for anytime they are touching a beaver dam or working off the right away that does address those concerns.

Gary Ratchford-1614 Breesport Road-Update on banners-have done 75, but four have been removed because people in Breesport wanted them in front of their houses. He thanked the Board for their help. The comments are good.

Dawn Schmidt-Park Station is open, busy and anticipate full capacity all summer. Hopefully getting internet by the front gate. Park Station is not going to put anyone in the caretaker house. The caretaker did not want to relocate. Trying to figure out options for the house.

Andy Avey-There is construction going on at Park Station. Removing the old concrete by the swimming area and being replaced, repairs to the parking lot, and a new sign. Hopefully completed by Memorial Day.

With no further comments from the public Supervisor Schmidt closed this portion of the meeting.

A motion was made by R. Evans and seconded by D. Delorme to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.
Motion Carried: Ayes: W. VanRiper, Jr., R. Evans, D. Delorme, D. Schmidt. Nays: None.