

Hamburg Town Board Work Session

Catherine A. Rybczynski, Town Clerk

1-4-2021

James Shaw, Supervisor	(Present)
Shawn Connolly, Councilmember	(Present)
Elizabeth Farrell, Councilmember	(Present)
Karen Hoak, Councilmember	(Present)
Michael Petrie, Councilmember	(Present)

ALSO PRESENT: Catherine Rybczynski, Town Clerk; Samantha Tarczynski, Director of Finance; Walter Rooth III, Town Attorney; Jen Robertson, IT Director; Christopher Hull, Director, CDBG; Sean Crotty, Sr. Public Safety Dispatcher & Emergency Manager; Dan Stanford, Town Assessor; Alissa Strauss, Personnel Director, Patrick Ryan, Director of Buildings and Grounds

NOTE: The Hamburg Town Board Meeting was conducted in accordance with New York State Executive Order 202 issued on March 7, 2020 and titled "Continuing Temporary Suspension of Laws relating to the Disaster Emergency." This order was extended on December 11, 2020 until January 10, 2021. The following is the excerpt pertaining to meetings of public bodies and read as follows:

"Suspension of law allowing the attendance of meetings telephonically or other similar service:

Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed;"

Supervisor Shaw started with stating that an upgrade could be discussed for Kim Sessanna and asking the Engineering Department assistant to help out in the short term.

Supervisor Shaw then brought up that a waterline broke over the weekend spewing a considerable amount of water. By Saturday the break became larger to the point that an emergency repair had to be called in. Private Roads are not handled by Erie County Water and the Town retained the responsibility for the maintenance and improvement of those roads.

Supervisor Shaw then stated that Russ Grosjean moved to Orchard Park and is therefore no longer eligible to be on the Assessment Board. He then stated that Brian Wielinski, Deputy Clerk, expressed an interest, spoke with Dan Stanford, and was then recommended to the Supervisor for approval. A late addition has been added to the agenda to accomplish the appointment.

Also, a vacancy exists on the Ethics Board to which he would like to appoint Mary Ann Dunne. This would also be a late addition.

Item #3 – Rules of Order for the Town Board – Rules in use are 61 years old. All members indicated they were in agreement with the new rules.

Samantha Tarczynski, Director of Finance – Updated the Board that sales tax figures were in for the fourth quarter and revenue exceeded the 2020 Budget allotment. A report would be sent out tomorrow to members.

Councilman Petrie brought up Volunteer Firefighter recruiting and the issues they have, especially now as result of COVID-19, and asked if the Town could provide some outreach online. Supervisor Shaw agreed it was a good idea. Councilman Petrie stated he would follow up with others about posting information online.

Supervisor Shaw engaged in a reading of the agenda of the stating which standard annual requests were made each year to maintain the smooth operation of Town government. He highlighted those not associated with the first meeting of the year or items that Board members had questions.

Item #14 – Gary Nelson, was at the golf course, seasonal termination

Item #19 – Conservation Advisory Board - Councilman Petrie stated he could not vote for Michael Mosey and that he did not have a replacement. Councilman Connolly stated he would speak with the Chair. Councilwoman Farrell asked that the Board be given the composition of the board, etc. and both appointments be made at the same time. Catherine Rybczynski, Town Clerk, stated that she was given the information from the Chair, Mark Lorquet. Councilwoman Farrell stated she would move to table the item.

Item #21 – Traffic Safety Advisory Board – Councilwoman Farrell stated that some members moved, but most are returning members.

Item #26 – Purchase Order Authorized Signer – Discussion took place regarding some departments such as Planning Board, Traffic Safety, and other lines in need of secondary signer. It was decided that Roger Gibson should be the signer for Planning, Councilwoman Farrell secondary for Traffic Safety. Amendments will be spelled out during the meeting.

Item #38 – Emergency Management Team – Councilwoman Farrell suggested that Highway Superintendent be included. Supervisor Shaw replied that the Deputy Superintendent has been on for two years. Councilwoman Farrell stated she would not be opposed to having both of them. Sean Crotty stated that the Highway Superintendent has been included in the past. After additional discussion it was decided to table the item until the next meeting.

Item #40 – Shoreline Revitalization Committee – Supervisor Shaw stated he would like to amend to add Hank Kleinfelder to the committee. No objections were raised.

Item #41 Health & Safety Committee – Coordinator position vacant. It was held by Kate Hilliman, however she stated she no longer has the time to fulfill the duties of the position. Councilwoman Farrell suggested that Alissa Straus, Director of Personnel, be appointed as coordinator because of the relationship the committee has with various training components.

Ms. Strauss stated she would be willing to take on the responsibility. Councilwoman Farrell asked if that would include the stipend typically paid to the coordinator. The stipend is currently listed at \$5,000.00. Supervisor Shaw suggested that the Board take a week, talk to Kate Hilliman, give Ms. Strauss a chance to weigh the amount of work it would add to her current amount, discuss the stipend amount, and make sure that all the details are correct. Councilman Petrie stated he would move to Table the item.

Item #46 – Recreation Advisory Board – Councilman Connolly stated that Pat McAnaney requested to be removed.

Item #49 – Budget Committee – Supervisor Shaw asked that Robert McDonnell be added to the Committee.

Item #50 – Recreation Fee Recommendations - Councilman Connolly stated that the Recreation Department and Advisory Board put in a good deal of time and effort considering the fees for the coming year and took into consideration the current atmosphere and economic climate. He also stated that the fee increases were “minor” and typically involved programs that are sold-out, have a waitlist, or are beginning to cost more money to the town. He also mentioned that non-resident fees were increased more than resident fees. Councilman Connolly finished by stating that more time was needed to discuss the fees for the golf course and that the recommendations will be given to the Board well in advance of the start of the season.

Item #52 Salary & Wage – Supervisor Shaw stated that there is a need for two (2) corrections to the item. Supervisor Shaw asked Town Clerk Catherine Rybczynski if the Board could proceed with the caveat that Personnel Director Alissa Strauss make the appropriate changes. Mrs. Rybczynski replied that past Boards have proceeded in that fashion.

Samantha Tarczynski interjected and stated that historically speaking the (Salary & Wage) document have “never matched exactly” and that they are “changing throughout the year entirely.” Ms. Tarczynski added that the important thing was making sure that if someone is getting a paycheck that it is accurate. She continued that the document could be approved “as is” and Alissa can make changes as they come.

Supervisor Shaw stated that the item would be amended from the floor to reflect the malleable nature of the document.

Items #53 & 54 Supervisor Shaw addressed these items again and no objections were presented.

Supervisor Shaw stated that he would be sending out the Departmental and Liaison Assignments the following day and that the only change would be in the Deputy Supervisor who will be Councilman Connolly for the 2021 year.

Supervisor Shaw opened the floor to members for discussion.

Ms. Tarczynski informed the Board that Item #43 needed to be amended to remove the current account number and replace it with A.7140.103.

Supervisor Shaw opened the floor to Department Heads

Patrick Ryan, Director of Buildings & Grounds – Asked about the absence of a maintenance worker on the salary and wage report (Mr. Ryan explained that the Union won a grievance in September to add an additional maintenance worker). Supervisor Shaw asked Mr. Ryan to email him tomorrow and the two of them would rectify the matter with Ms. Strauss.

Catherine Rybczynski, Town Clerk – asked if the Board could observe a moment of silence in honor and remembrance of both Mr. Gerald Baldelli and Mr. John Wicka, both of whom passed away on January 1, 2021. Supervisor Shaw agreed that a moment of silence was appropriate and would be observed. Supervisor Shaw referred to both men as “stellar members of our community.”

Supervisor Shaw then told a story about his long friendship with Mr. Baldelli. Supervisor Shaw stated that during his freshman year he was having difficulty with Algebra. His mother, being friends with Mr. Baldelli’s mother, asked that Mr. Baldelli tutor the young Supervisor Shaw. Mr. Baldelli had only recently completed his teaching degree and was beginning his career educating the youth of Hamburg in the Frontier School District. Mr. Baldelli, despite his youth and inexperience in the classroom showed great promise at that time according Supervisor Shaw. He offered as proof of Mr. Baldelli’s potential and future success the conclusion Mr. Baldelli was able to surmise after six (6) weeks, or so. Supervisor Shaw quoted Mr. Baldelli as saying “Mrs. Shaw, it’s not that he doesn’t understand Algebra, he doesn’t study.” He finished by saying that the two remained friends throughout the years.

Supervisor Shaw informed Mr. Rooth that the problem with Twin Willows is the same issue facing West Arnold. West Arnold has a two inch pipe and the water pressure is not sufficient to reach some of the houses. Councilman Petrie asked, in reference to private road maintenance, repair, or replacement, who pays for the work? Typically residents who benefit from the work completed and use the lines repaired are levied a tax or charge on their tax bills. Supervisor Shaw asked Mr. Rooth to look further into the matter.

The meeting was closed at 7:00 PM as a result of the beginning of the Regular Town Board Meeting scheduled at that time and Mrs. Rybczynski being asked to call the Roll.

Open Meetings Law, Public Officers Law, Article 7, §106. Minutes.

Minutes shall be taken at all open meetings of a public body which shall consist of a record or summary of all motions, proposals, resolutions and any other matter formally voted upon and the vote thereon.

These minutes are an unofficial copy unless the original signature of the Deputy Town Clerk is affixed below. The original official paper minutes are stored in the Town’s vault.

Catherine A. Rybczynski, RMC
Town Clerk

