

**Village of Tupper Lake
Board of Trustees
Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013
Location: Board Room
Meeting: Regular 6:00-8:45 PM

At the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held this date, the following were present: Mayor Paul A. Maroun, Trustees Leon LeBlanc, Richard Donah, Thomas Snyder, David Maroun and Village Clerk/Treasurer Mary A. Casagrain.

Also present were Volunteer Fire Department Member John LaMora, Hope Frenette from ARTA, resident Ronald Lascala, Electric Department Superintendent John Bouck, Police Chief Eric Proulx, Code Enforcement Officer Peter Edwards, Fire Chief Carl Steffen and News Reporters Shaun Kittle, Ted Morgan and Dan McClelland.

Call Regular Meeting
To Order Mayor Maroun called the Regular Meeting to order and established the agenda at 6:00 pm.

Pledge Pledge of allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence and prayer for the safe return of missing teen Collin Gillis.

Open Public Period: Ms. Hope Frenette stated she wanted to put to rest the rumors that ARTA is in favor of disassembling the travel corridor which is now primarily used for train travel. She echoed that they are not in favor of this because the corridor is historic and on the national registry.

Peter Edwards Mr. Peter Edwards added that the travel corridor is no different than Route 3 & 30.

Dan McClelland Mr. Dan McClelland added that the community needs the Village and Town to support tourism for recreation activities in order to support the local economy.

Hope Frenette Ms. Hope Frenette added that the chamber is no equipped to handle tourism with current personnel or funding, what we need is a marketing plan, it will be key to all succeeding.

Mayor Maroun Mayor Maroun added that he has asked the Franklin County Tourism Council for \$8,000 to help develop a tourism brochure for the area and it is in the works.

Approve Minutes Motion by Trustee Snyder, seconded by Trustee Donah to approve the Board Minutes from September 16, 2013 and October 15, 2013. (Carried 5-0)

Code Enforcement: Accept September Report Motion by Trustee Snyder, seconded by Trustee Maroun to approve the September 2013 Monthly Code Report. (Carried 5-0)

Broadband Roundtable October 24, 2013 Motion by Trustee Snyder, seconded by Trustee Maroun to authorize the Code Officer's attendance at the Rural Communities Broadband Roundtable conference October 24, 2013 at the WildCenter from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. (Carried 5-0)

Review Sample
Animal Ordinances

Code Enforcement Officer Peter Edwards presented the Village Board with several examples of neighboring communities that have modified their local codes via local law to prohibit farm animals. It was suggested that we create a sample local law for the board's consideration next month, and if wanted, a public hearing would be set to adopt it.

Fire:
Accept September Report

Motion by Trustee Snyder, seconded by Trustee Maroun to approve the September 2013 Monthly Report. (Carried 5-0)

Vehicle Update

Fire Chief Carl Steffen gave the board an update on recent inspection of vehicles etc. He advised that our aerial device and ground ladders were inspected and there were several deficiencies that were noted which he highlighted in detail. He advised that the repairs need to be completed within 60-days in order for the inspection to be certified.

He also noted that the chassis inspections are due next month and he expects Century Fire and Woodworth to each work on a few of the vehicles as to keep our options for future service open and available to us.

ESB Press Release
Read

Trustee Donah read aloud a press release concerning the status of our Tupper Lake Emergency Service Building Project which summed up that fact that each low bidder on each of the four primary contracts for the Emergency Services Building Project are extending their award contract date to April 1, 2014 with no changes in their bids.

Police:
Accept September Report

Motion by Trustee Snyder, seconded by Trustee Maroun to approve the September 2013 Monthly Police Report. (Carried 5-0)

Loud Mufflers
Discussed

At the Mayor's request the Police Department are reviewing sample of laws to prohibit the installation of after market mufflers to vehicles to enhance the noise that is emitted as they accelerate. Acceptable decibel reading devices will be researched.

Sex Offender
Ordinances

Chief of Police Eric Proulx advised that he has consulted our legal counsel and if the village were to enact a local law prohibiting sex place of residence would be unconstitutional and at this time he doesn't want to pursue local legislation further.

October 31, 2013
Trick or Treat Event

Chief of Police Eric Proulx advised that earlier this year he applied for a parade permit for the Chamber of Commerce to host their "Trick or Treat on Park Street" event from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. The road will be closed off to through traffic from Stewarts to Wawbeek Avenue. Anyone that lives or works in that vicinity may want to relocate their vehicles on the side streets as to experience no interruptions.

Winter Parking Ban

Chief of Police Eric Proulx advised that the winter parking ban starts at 12:01 pm on November 15, 2013, his department were advised to give warnings for the first week if weather permits.

DPW:
Playground Update

It was noted that our playground lighting was installed and operational, however, the ground works has been idle for a few weeks and our construction consultant AEDA is following up the contractor to get a status update and projected completion date.

Pleasant Avenue The reconstruction of Pleasant Avenue has been completed with the final binder and top coat being completed in the past two weeks.

Hayride Authorization Motion by Trustee Snyder, seconded by Trustee Donah to authorize Mr. Thomas Shaheen to use the Municipal Gazebo and Gazebo Use Park for a holiday hayride for our youth this Saturday, October 26, 2013 with a rain date of October 27, 2013. (Carried 5-0)

Rail/Trail Discussion Trustee Donah gave a brief background on the Rail/Trail support & Trail Resolution and debate and asked for the board's support of a trail resolution as follows:

Rail Removal Support

Resolution #01 – 2013

WHEREAS; The Village of Tupper Lake has long supported the building of a community connector trail within the Village and Town of Tupper Lake that would bring additional recreational and economic benefits to our community, only to be delayed continually by the NYS Department of Transportation at expense to the local taxpayer.

WHEREAS; The Village of Tupper Lake is now in danger of losing NYS grant monies dedicated to this community connector trail project due to delays brought on by NYS Department of Transportation officials now claiming right of way to a 100 plus year old abandoned railroad spur, after the project was approved and work by Village employees undertaken.

WHEREAS; The Village of Tupper Lake through this NYS grant funded community connector trail will provide improved access to the thousands of people visiting our busiest tourist destination, the Wild Center, to the rest of the business community and vice versa, connecting to the Municipal Park and the proposed Adirondack Rail Trail.

WHEREAS; with the all the abandoned rails gone, the rail bed would be in optimum condition for trail purposes, and

WHEREAS; the removal of the rails and ties would make the corridor much more attractive as a trail than if the rails and ties were to remain in place making the economic benefits imparted to nearby communities greater, and

WHEREAS; this would create a unique long-distance trunk trail that could provide public access to the open space and recreational resources of the Adirondack Forest Preserve, provide trail linkages with remote Adirondack communities and local trail systems and thereby impart economic benefits to the region by attracting trail users, and

WHEREAS; because trail uses would be promoted, this would require less funding from the State and other sources for corridor construction and maintenance, and

WHEREAS; the travel corridor is the State of New York Snowmobile Trail Plan's most critical link. There is no other practical long-distance trail route through the Adirondack Park for snowmobiles, and

WHEREAS; it appears that there would be a more rapid and greater economic benefit to the Villages situated along the corridor through multiple use recreation with the rails removed, and

WHEREAS; the Remsen to Lake Placid Travel Corridor Unit Management Plan (UMP) suggests, an alternative of designation of the corridor as a multi-use recreation trail. There is no singular issue related to state land use in the Adirondacks presently generating as much public interest as the possible rail to trail conversion. The New York State DOT & New York State DEC have been remiss in not proceeding to opening the UMP in a more timely fashion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; The Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Tupper Lake hereby supports the removal, salvage and sale of the rails along the corridor with the proceeds of said sale to be put into development of the multi-use recreational trail concept, and

FURTHER RESOLVED; The Village Board of the Village of Tupper Lake for the good of our economy, hereby requests that Governor Cuomo, DEC Commissioner Martens, DOT Commissioner McDonald and expedite, opening and reviewing the UMP to effect a rail-to-trail conversion of the corridor, and

Promote Members
W/WW Helper to
W/WW Workers
Arsenault & Willett Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc to promote Water/Wastewater Helper Joseph Arsenault and Maxwell Willett to the position of Water/Wastewater Worker now that they met their two year milestone and has attained their water licenses retroactive to October 5, 2013. (Carried 5-0)

Matthew Merrihew Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc to promote Water/Wastewater Helper Matthew Merrihew to the position of Water/Wastewater Worker w/License now that he has met his two year milestone and has attained his retroactive to October 5, 2013. (Carried 5-0)

Town Resident Reminder
W/S Re-levy A reminder that Water & Sewer bills are due by October 31, 2013 for residents outside the Village of Tupper lake or they will be levied to the Town of Tupper lake and Franklin County 2014 Tax Bills.

Franklin County Auction
Reminder Mayor Maroun reminded the community that tomorrow October 23, 2013 Franklin County will be auctioning off foreclosed properties at Mo's Restaurant in Malone beginning at 10:00 am. He advised that there are 11 parcels in the Village alone.

STAR Certification
Deadline 12/31/13 Mayor Maroun reminded the community of the new requirement for property owners to recertify for STAR. It was noted that it can be done on line or by calling the designed phone number. Any resident who is over the age of 65 are exempt from this requirement or if you are a new property owner, certifications for both can be completed at the Town of Tupper Lake Assessor's office. In the event your household income exceeds \$500,000 you do not qualify.

Treasurer:
Approve Warrant Motion by Trustee Donah, seconded by Trustee Maroun to approve the October 21, 2013 in the amount of \$392,721.45 for payment of the bills and abstracts for the month September 2013. (Carried 5-0)

Review Cash
Position Review the monthly cash position for September 30, 2013.

Special Meeting
11/04/13 @4:00 pm A special meeting has been scheduled for Monday, November 4, 2013 at 4:00 pm to adopt the tax and water/sewer re-levy.

Call In:
There were no calls received.

Enter Executive
Session Motion by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Maroun to enter Executive Session at 8:05 pm to discuss personnel issues for the Police, Fire, Electric and Small Cities. (Carried 5-0)

Exit Executive
Session Motion by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Snyder to Exit Executive Session at 8:37 pm. (Carried 5-0)

Officer Wesley Hoyt
Promoted to Sergeant Motion by Trustee Snyder, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc to promote Officer Wesley Hoyt to the position of Police Sergeant effective today, October 23, 2013. (Carried 5-0)

Public Sector HR

Personnel Services

Motion by Trustee Snyder, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc to utilize Public Sector HR for ongoing personnel issues involving NYS Retirement and Worker's Compensation. (Carried 5-0)

Back-up Fire Drivers

Approved

Motion by Trustee Snyder, seconded by Trustee LeBlanc to authorize the training of additional volunteer fire department members as back-up fire drivers, who not be compensated. (Carried 4-1, Trustee Maroun "Abstained")

Small Cities AHOP

Modification

Motion by Trustee Maroun, seconded by Trustee Snyder to authorize a contract modification to AHOP Recipient Ms. Megan Paiement to temporarily sub-let or rent her home out on Vachereau Street. (Carried 5-0)

Adjournment

Motion by Trustee LeBlanc, seconded by Trustee Maroun to adjourn at 8:45 PM. (Carried 5-0)

Mary A. Casagrain, Village Clerk/Treasurer