

REGULAR MEETING

August 31, 2015

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Busti was held on August 31, 2015 at 6:45 p.m., at the Town of Busti Administration Building, 125 Chautauqua Avenue, Lakewood, New York with the following members present:

Supervisor Jesse M. Robbins
Councilman Brett A. Muecheck
Councilman Jim Andrews
Councilman Todd M. Hanson
Councilman Kenneth J. Lawton

Supervisor Robbins called the meeting to order with the salute to the flag and a moment of silence was observed.

Present at the meeting were: Highway Superintendent Melvin Peterson, Lakewood-Busti Police Chief John Bentley, Code Enforcement Jeff Swanson, Court Clerk Elizabeth Davis, Assessor Clerk Cathleen Andrews, Deputy Highway Superintendent Randy Milks, Highway Employees – Greg Johnson, Eric Ecklof, John Francisco, Parks & Maintenance Employee – Randy Sargent, Cara Birrittieri, Lakewood Memorial Library Officers - Kathi Anderson & Myra V. Blasius, Phyllis & Fran Jenkins, Colonial Benefits Agent Louis Croce, and Post Journal Reporter Mallory Diefenbach.

Kathi Anderson noted that she and other representatives from the Lakewood Memorial Library met with Supervisor Robbins regarding the library's proposal for the 2016 Town Budget and would like to work with the board in any way possible for support with the upcoming budget.

Phyllis Jenkins voiced a concern regarding the traffic on Orr Street. She is concerned because drivers are ignoring the stop sign at Garfield Road and Orr Street and then speeding as they drive the blind hill where the speed limit is 45 mph. Chief Bentley will have the LBPD monitor the area. The procedure to reduce the speed limit would require a letter to the Department of Transportation from the town board to request a traffic study. It was decided to have LBPD patrol the area and see if there is a change, if there continues to be a speeding issue the town board will submit a letter to the DOT requesting a traffic study.

Town Clerk Darlene Nygren reported that the Clerk's office has begun selling the new season hunting licenses; applicants have until October 1st to apply for a Deer Management Permit. The town's application for Deer Management Assistant Program has been submitted to the state, approval should be received by the end of September. She reminded the board that Bob Freeman, Executive Director for Committee on Open Government will be speaking in West Valley, NY on Wednesday, September 16th from noon to 3pm, and reservations should be made September 4, 2015. The Town Clerk office will close at 10:30 am that day to allow both the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk to attend the event. Town Clerk Nygren noted that Cummins Engine Plant will hold a Community Recycling Day, September 19th, 8am – noon.

Chief John Bentley reported 7,730 incidents year to date. Two part-time patrol officers have been hired to fill vacant positions. The department is looking into DWI initiatives through Operation Crackdown that would enable the department to put additional patrols on. The chief has met with the new owners of Stateline Speedway regarding the re-opening on Saturday, September 5th. Chief Bentley noted that there has been an increase in the number arrests for shoplifting at Wal-Mart due to the store's Loss Prevention Department being more active. The arrests/incidents at Wal-Mart can be more than shoplifting, they have varied from hitting a deer in the parking lot to drug arrests.

Highway Superintendent Melvin Peterson reported that the department assisted the Town of Kiantone blacktop a mile of Riverside Road. The recently purchased tub grinder is at the shop, the department is repairing some of the hoses and then it will be ready for use. Superintendent Peterson noted that he had ordered salt under the old contract and that the new salt contract has a 6% increase.

Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Swanson reported building permits being issued has slowed down.

Councilman Hanson noted that he has contacted two different companies about installing solar panels on town buildings; the companies are unable to do the project because it is too small. He is trying to locate a company that can install the solar panels.

Supervisor Robbins moved the following resolution which was duly seconded by Councilman Hanson,
RESOLVED, that the town be authorized to request bids for pressure washing and painting the administration building at 125 Chautauqua Avenue, Lakewood.
Upon roll call vote, all aye.

Supervisor Robbins noted that Tina Sardo, program instructor for the Golden Agers Aerobics, has informed the town that the group will continue to meet at Lakewood Baptist Church; Mrs. Sardo is hoping to run the program through her personal insurance.

Louis Croce, Colonial Voluntary Benefits District General Agent, presented insurance premium and coverage packets to the town employees present. He noted that Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance has now joined the market place; however Health Republic Insurance remains the least expensive option. Enrollment for the new year has to be completed by the end of October. Discussion followed. Some employees noted they have had their HRA card declined, these employees should contact Mr. Croce and he will attempt to resolve the problem. He recommends that the town switch from NOVA to another company for the HRA accounts; NOVA works primarily with Independent Health which could be part of the problem. His recommendation is Task Manager.

Supervisor Robbins moved the following resolution which was duly seconded by Councilman Lawton,
RESOLVED, that the town pay an employee healthcare premium allowance based on the Health Republic Silver Plan, up to \$850 per month per employee.
Upon roll call vote, all aye.

Supervisor Robbins moved the following resolution which was duly seconded by Councilman Muccheck,
RESOLVED, that Court Clerk Elizabeth Davis be authorized to attend the 2015 Annual NYS Magistrate Court Clerk Training – September 27-30, 2015 in Niagara Falls, NY.
Upon roll call vote, all aye.

Supervisor Robbins moved the following resolution which was duly seconded by Councilman Muccheck,
RESOLVED, that Assessor Clerk Cathleen Andrews be authorized to attend RPS V4 Training, October 29, 2015 in Batavia, NY, including a hotel stay the night before.
Upon roll call vote, all aye.

Supervisor Robbins moved the following motion which was duly seconded by Councilman Andrews,
MOVED, that the Town of Busti vote in favor of the slate of Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance Board of Directors candidates as presented.
All aye, carried.

Councilman Lawton moved the following motion which was duly seconded by Supervisor Robbins,
MOVED, that Supervisor Robbins be authorized to sign the SWCS – 2015-16 Capital Project Lead Agency Designation form.
All aye, carried.

Supervisor Robbins moved the following resolution which was duly seconded by Councilman Muccheck:
RESOLVED, that Supervisor Robbins be authorized and directed to pay the presented General Fund, Highway Fund, and the Joint Recreation Fund for Abstract No.17 from warrant #610 to and including warrant #640 in the amount of \$29,327.97.
Upon roll call vote, all aye.

Supervisor Robbins moved to accept the town board minutes of August 17, 2015 which was duly seconded by Councilman Lawton.

All aye, carried.

Councilman Andrews reported that he participated in the Grandfondo event on Saturday, August 29th. There was a great turn out and he thanked Councilman Lawton for his part in organizing the event.

Councilman Hanson reported that HCH Interiors will be installing the flooring for the holding cell area which will complete that area.

Supervisor Robbins moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm which was duly seconded by Councilman Andrews.

Respectively Submitted by:

Darlene H. Nygren, Town Clerk