

**HORICON TOWN BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

**OCTOBER 21, 2021
7:00 PM**

Present at meeting:	Sylvia Smith	Supervisor
	Michael Geraci	Councilperson
	Frank Hill	Councilperson
	Peter Palmer	Councilperson
	Robert Olson	Councilperson
Krista Wood	Town Clerk	

Also: Rob Hill, Bob Smith, Assessor Christine Hayes, Barb French, Teri Schuerlein, HS Darian Granger, ZA Matthew Magee, Izzy Modert, Jake Sauer-Jones, and John Donovan.

Supervisor Smith opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Reports... Supervisor, Town Clerk, Zoning, Justice, Assessor, Historian, Library, NWEMS, Buildings, Landfill

Approval of Minutes... Minutes of September 16 and October 14, 2021 were approved by Motion of Councilperson Hill and Councilperson Geraci.

Ayes: 5 (Hill, Geraci, Olson, Palmer, Smith) Nays: 0

Approval of Vouchers and Abstracts...

RESOLUTION #140-2021

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 140 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF OCTOBER 2021 ABSTRACTS

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby authorize the payment of the October 21, 2021 Vouchers and Abstracts as follows:

General Abstract	10	\$ 45,818.77
Highway Abstract	10	\$ 210,418.42

Ayes: 5 (Olson, Hill, Geraci, Palmer, Smith) Nays: 0

Correspondence to the Board:

- Robyn Burgess, APA RE: Agency guidelines for Town Board to consider when reviewing septic variance applications regarding shoreline setbacks
- Tyler Peet RE: Letter of resignation as Boat Steward
- Bill McGhie RE: Letter of resignation from Horicon Planning Board

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION #141-2021

Councilperson Hill and Councilperson Palmer introduced Res. No. 141 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND SET PUBLIC HEARING

WHEREAS, the Budget Officer has prepared a tentative budget for the Town of Horicon for 2022 and said Budget has been reviewed by the Town Board and certain changes have been made, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby adopt the tentative Budget as the Preliminary Budget for 2022, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby set a public hearing for said Budget on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Horicon Community Center.

Ayes: 5 (Hill, Palmer, Geraci, Olson, Smith) Nays: 0

RESOLUTION #142-2021

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 142 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BUDGET AMENDMENT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize the Bookkeeper to make the following budget amendments in the Highway fund to account for additional CHIPS monies received:

Increase	D3501 – State Aid	\$ 25,088.88
Increase	D5112.4 – CHIPS	\$ 25,088.88

Ayes: 5 (Olson, Hill, Geraci, Palmer, Smith) Nays: 0

RESOLUTION #143-2021

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 143 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BUDGET AMENDMENT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize the Bookkeeper to make the following budget amendments in the General fund to account for additional monies received:

Increase	A3991 – State Aid	\$ 24,021.47
Increase	A8090.1 – Insect Dept Pers Svc	\$ 19,357.54
Increase	A8090.4 – Insect Dept Contr	\$ 4,663.93

Ayes: 5 (Olson, Hill, Palmer, Geraci, Smith) Nays: 0

RESOLUTION #144-2021

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Palmer introduced Res. No. 144 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE TRANSFER OF FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize the Bookkeeper to make the following fund transfers in the General Fund:

<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
A9060.8 (Medical)	A7310.4 (Youth Contr)	\$ 65.40
A9060.8 (Prog Aging - Contr)	A7450.4 (Museum – Contr)	\$ 17.30
A9060.8 (Medical)	A1660.4 (Ctrl Store – Contr)	\$ 600.00

Ayes: 5 (Olson, Palmer, Hill, Geraci, Smith) Nays: 0

RESOLUTION #145-2021

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Geraci introduced Res. No. 145 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE JUSTICE COURT TO APPLY FOR GRANT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize the Horicon Justice Court to apply for a Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) Grant with the New York State Office of Court Administration for court security cameras at the estimated cost of \$10,895.00.

Ayes: 5 (Olson, Geraci, Hill, Palmer, Smith) Nays: 0

Committee Reports...

-Councilperson Geraci reported on the following:

Personnel: The sub-committee that has been appointed to revise the Employee Handbook has their first meeting scheduled for October 27th at 9:00am. The plan is to review the handbook and suggest revisions.

NWEMS: There were 50 calls for the month with 12 in Horicon, 26 in Chestertown, and 12 mutual aid calls. The annual donation campaign is well underway and has now exceeded \$35,000.00. The funds will be used to supplement some of the operating costs. On October 7, he, along with several members of EMS squads and other Town Supervisors in the County, attended a sub-committee meeting to discuss the possibility of creating a county-wide EMS Division. This is simply a fact-finding mission at this point. There are several towns in the County that are having significant staffing issues like North Warren. Additionally, the various squads compete for the same staff members which mean the current system is not sustainable. If created, funding would partially occur through creation of an EMS tax district as well as patient reimbursements. There was an excellent overall agreement that this issue must be further studied and acted on in a timely manner. The Post-Star covered the meeting and published an article, and the Chronicle also recently published a related article. Discussions will continue as meetings are called by Warrensburg Town Supervisor,

Kevin Geraghty, who is Chair of the sub-committee. On November 4 the Horicon Town Board will hold a joint meeting with the Chestertown Town Board to discuss what is going on with the NWEMS in the two towns and to look at the financials. The meeting will be held at 7:00pm at the Horicon Community Center.

-Councilperson Hill reported on the following:

Beautification: Fall cleanup is underway.

Museums: The museums have been closed for the season. There is a water leak in the sump pump at the Museum Annex that needs to be addressed. Jason Hill showed Rob how to shut the water off for the season.

Landfill: Barb has done a good job at the Landfill cleaning things up and it looks good.

-Councilperson Palmer: Nothing to report.

-Councilperson Olson reported on the following:

ZBA & PB: There was a holdup recently with a request before the ZBA. The ZBA worked through it quickly and held a special meeting so they would not hold up the applicant. He noted that the ZBA and Planning Board do a good job and they do well serving the citizens of the community. Bill McGhie, Planning Board Chair, has sadly resigned effective December 31st and this will be a loss to the Town. He has done an excellent job over the years.

Historian: He read in the Historian's report that someone is writing a book about Teddy Roosevelt. He noted there is a picture of Teddy standing on a porch with a resident; the home burned down some time later. He said he built a vacation home on the site where the picture was taken and learned an interesting fact about the picture. He said the Town resident standing with Teddy Roosevelt was an attorney named Abel Crook.

-Supervisor Smith reported on the following:

Assessor: She congratulated Assessor Christine Hayes on her current appointment as Vice President of the NYS Assessor's Association, noting that in 2022 Christine will become the President of the NYSAA.

Youth Commission: The committee will meet on October 25th at 10:00 am at the Town of Chester municipal center. She thanked Kaitlyn Hill for keeping things moving forward and stressed this program is a great thing for the North Warren kids.

Buildings: NY Fire and Security was given the approval by the Board to update the current system. However, even though they have the main panel, they are having difficulty getting the parts in to complete the update. They have been to the Community Center several times to fix some issues.

The County came up to hang the new NYS flag with HS Darian Granger and Town employee Rob Wallace assisting them.

Bill Millington has ordered the new door for Patty's office from three different companies and nothing is available. He will take the first one that comes in.

Matt Lynch, a Brant Lake resident, has asked if he can donate a couple of benches or a sign in honor of his parents 50th anniversary to support the Beautification program in town. The Board is fine with this.

Boat Launch: October 11th was the last day for the Boat Stewards. She noted that they have done a great job juggling schedules with AWI. Jim Fitzpatrick, who works for AWI, also helped so there would be coverage at both launches as needed.

Covid: There were 30 new cases of Covid in the county yesterday (Oct 20th) and there are currently over 400 being monitored. She noted that 100% of the employees in the Community Center as well as 100% of the Town Board members are vaccinated. Ginelle Jones gave accolades to the Town's Highway Department as they have the highest vaccination rate among Highway Departments in the County having only one employee left that is not vaccinated. Ginelle would like to do an ad based on Horicon to sell the benefits of being vaccinated to other towns in the County.

Septic transfer: The County has voted to bring the septic transfer law that is being researched to a public hearing. This law would allow Warren County to handle the septic approvals involving waterfront properties instead of the towns, however, this needs more research. Horicon has the most waterfront in the County and it was noted that all waterfront needs to be included. There will be a public hearing on November 17th at 7:00 pm at the Lake George Town Hall on this topic. There will also be another public hearing at the Warren County Board of Supervisors meeting on November 19th. Anyone wishing to attend is encouraged to do so because the people need to be heard on this.

-Landfill Supervisor Barb French reported that the copper has been taken to R. Cohen, the bottles are all cleaned up, the tires have been taken away, and the batteries have been cleaned up; the Town has been paid for all of it. She also cancelled the water service from Crystal Rock because they would not deliver on days the Landfill was open. She reminded the Board that the contract for the bottle pickup is due to renew in December.

Old Business...

-*New Highway Pickup*: The Clerk advertised for bids for the new Highway pickup, and one bid was received from Warren Ford.

RESOLUTION #146-2021

Councilperson Palmer and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 146 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AWARD TRUCK BID

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby award the pickup truck bid to Warren Ford for a 2022 Ford F-250 pickup, as per the specs, at a price of \$30,100.00.

Ayes: 5 (Palmer, Hill, Olson, Geraci, Smith) Nays: 0

-*New Tandem Dump Truck*: HS Granger asked the Board if he could go ahead and order the 2023 Western Star tandem dump truck with box. He said the price for the new tandem dump truck, including the box, on state contract came in at \$217,433.70. HS Granger said if he orders the truck now it probably will not be in until the middle of next year.

RESOLUTION #147-2021

Councilperson Palmer and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 147 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF TANDEM DUMP TRUCK

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize Highway Superintendent Darian Granger to order the 2023 Western Star tandem dump truck at the estimated cost of \$217,433.70.

Ayes: 5 (Palmer, Hill, Olson, Geraci, Smith) Nays: 0

New Business...

-*Lights in Heintzelman*: Supervisor Smith explained the lights in the Heintzelman Library are pulling away from the ceiling and need to be replaced. She said they should be replaced with period specific lights instead of the more modern lights. She asked the Board for their thoughts and if they would like to get estimates. Councilperson Hill said they should think about it and get some estimates. Supervisor Smith asked that those estimates be in within the next two weeks.

-*CSEA Contract*:

RESOLUTION #148-2021

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 148 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CSEA CONTRACT AS PROPOSED

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby approve the new CSEA contract as proposed for a three-year term which will take effect January 1, 2022.

Ayes: 5 (Olson, Hill, Palmer, Geraci, Smith) Nays: 0

Privilege of the Floor ...

-John Donovan noted that Ethan Hall, architect, did a study on the Heintzelman Library. Mr. Donovan suggested the Board look at Mr. Hall's notes from that study to see what lights could be used and what the cost might be.

-Jake Sauer-Jones, NWEMS, said a lot has started to happen with questions about the Squad and how things are running and it appears to be mainly from the Horicon Town Board. He said he and Izzy Modert have brought the Squad from the ground up and have created a system of top-notch care. Mr. Sauer-Jones said they monitor their

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employees and hold them to a high standard of care, and he noted that some employees have left. He said all of the EMS members are fully vaccinated and they have served on the front lines during Covid. Mr. Sauter-Jones noted that NWEMS has come a long way. He said he wants the residents to understand that EMS squads are becoming the backbone of many communities. He asked the Town Board not to stop the progress, but, instead to keep the support in place.

Adjourn... There being no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM by MOTION of Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

Town Clerk