

**HORICON TOWN BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

**AUGUST 20, 2020
7:00 PM**

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

Also: John Donovan, Barb French, and Teri Schuerlein.

Supervisor Simpson opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Olson, seconded by Councilperson Hill, to go into session as the Local Board of Health. The Board moved into session as Local Board of Health at 7:00 PM.

Local Board of Health

1) Septic variance request for 241 Palisades Rd / Soderman / tax map #71.12-1-28:

-Zack Monroe, Winchip Engineering, said the owner is proposing to remove the existing residence and replace it with a new one that will sit farther away from the lake. This will also require replacing the wastewater system. Mr. Monroe said they are proposing a replacement wastewater system which does not meet the setback to the lake, the owner's well, or the new structure. They are proposing the Norweco system to better address the separation distance to the lake. They are requesting variances for the following setbacks: 1) Proposed absorption bed to mean high water mark of lake where 100' is required and 69' is being proposed, which is a variance of 31'; 2) Proposed absorption bed to drilled well where 100' setback is required and 56.4' is being proposed, which is a variance of 43.6'; 3) Proposed absorption bed to proposed house where 20' is required and 3.9' is being proposed which is a variance of 16.1'.

-Councilperson Olson asked if the application is complete; ZA Olson said it is. Councilperson Olson then noted the drawings look very sophisticated, and he asked Mr. Monroe if the owner would be ok with the cost of having Cedarwood Engineering review this. Mr. Monroe said yes and noted that they proposed a Norweco on a previous project and Cedarwood felt the Norweco was a great solution.

-Supervisor Simson asked what "structure 1" was referencing. Mr. Monroe said "structure 1" is the proposed main house.

RESOLUTION #81-2020

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 81 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon, acting in its capacity as the Local Board of Health, considers the application made by Winchip Engineering for a septic variance at 241 Palisades Rd in Brant Lake complete, and does hereby set a Public Hearing for Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Horicon Community Center pending review by Cedarwood Engineering.

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

2) Septic variance request for Lakeview Dr. in Brant Lake Estates / Halvorsen / tax map #36.12-1-36:

-Zack Monroe, Winchip Engineering, explained this is a revised septic proposal for this property. He said this is a vacant lot in the subdivision that was approved by the Department of Health back in the late 60's. The proposal is to build a home and construct a septic system. Mr. Monroe said the primary problem is the stream that runs through the middle of the lot and it also has a shallow water table, therefore, they are proposing a raised system to be in compliance with the requirements for a system in shallow bedrock. He noted that with a raised system the setbacks are measured from the toe of the fill slope not the from the actual trenches in the field. Mr.

Monroe said they are now proposing a Norweco enhanced treatment unit, rather than the previously proposed Presby system, because of the decreased setbacks of a raised system. The proposed system will need the following variances: 1) Proposed absorption field toe of fill slope to stream where 100' is required and 12.5' is being proposed, which is a variance of 87.5'; 2) Proposed absorption field toe of fill slope to property line where 10' is required and 0.0' is being proposed, which is a variance of 10.0'; 3) Proposed absorption field toe of fill slope to house where 20' is required and 0.0' is being proposed, which is a variance of 20.0'.

-Supervisor Simpson asked if this proposal would need Department of Health approval. Mr. Monroe said not any more than any other variance that is issued.

-Councilperson Olson noted two of the variances are at 100% and the third is at 87.5% which he considers to be quite severe and does not know how this can be allowed. Mr. Monroe noted again these measurements are from the toe of the fill slope not the system itself. Councilperson Olson said this is not an ideal building lot and a system should not be put in just because it fits. Mr. Monroe noted this lot is the same as the other lots around it which have homes on them. Councilperson Olson responded that nothing can be done about the other lots that are there, but something can be done about this one. He said this is a very difficult variance to approve in his mind and he would like to see Cedarwood Engineering review this.

RESOLUTION #82-2020

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 82 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon, acting in its capacity as the Local Board of Health, considers the application made by Winchip Engineering for a septic variance at Lakeview Drive (36.12-1-36) complete, and does hereby set a Public Hearing for Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Horicon Community Center pending review by Cedarwood Engineering.

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

A Motion was made by Councilperson Olson, seconded by Councilperson Smith, to go back into regular session. The Board moved back into **regular session** at 7:11 PM.

Regular Meeting

Reports: Supervisor, Town Clerk, Zoning, Justice, Assessor

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of July 16 and July 31, 2020 were approved by Motion of Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Palmer.

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

Approval of Vouchers and Abstracts:

RESOLUTION #83-2020

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 83 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF AUGUST 2020 ABSTRACTS

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby authorize the payment of the August 20, 2020 Vouchers and Abstracts as follows:

General Abstract	8	\$ 42,219.77
Highway Abstract	8	\$ 30,533.63
HM/Adk Church	8	\$ 3,420.00

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

Correspondence to the Board...

-Robert Schaefer RE: Warren County engineering models used in FEMA flood risk project

-AOT RE: Calendar of dates and registration info for virtual training

-Neil Brandmaier RE: Notice of change in residency in relation to application for SLPD alternate
-Chris Burke RE: Mask issue at Landfill

Discussion on Correspondence...

-In regard to the letter about the mask issue at the Landfill, Councilperson Olson expressed concern over the abuse the landfill employees are taking when asking people to wear masks. He suggested posting a prominent sign stating, "Masks are Required by Order of the Town Board". Supervisor Simpson noted the Governor's directive is six feet, or, if you cannot maintain that distance you must wear a mask when outside. He said since there is no law the town could be legally challenged on this. He also asked how this would be enforced. Councilperson Olson said he wants the sign to protect the employees because people should not be challenging the employees. There was lengthy discussion on this; it was finally decided by the other Board members that an official sign would be placed at the landfill stating, "Please wear a mask", and if the problem persists they will address it. Councilperson Olson noted he is not in agreement with this because he feels the Board needs to step up and take responsibility.

Resolutions...

RESOLUTION #84-2020

Councilperson Palmer and Councilperson Olson introduced Res. No. 84 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AGREEMENT TO EXPEND HIGHWAY MONIES

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby approve an additional 2020 Agreement to Expend Highway Monies, submitted by the Highway Superintendent, in the amount of \$70,642.00 for reconstruction on a 2700' section from the intersection of Hayesburg Road and Cemetery Road to the intersection of Hayesburg Road and Crystal Lake Road.

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

RESOLUTION #85-2020

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 85 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BALANCE OF PAYMENT FOR 1881 UNION CHURCH PROJECT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize the final payment in the amount of \$3,420.00 for the completion of the capital construction at project at the 1881 Union Church. This payment will now close out the account.

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

Committee Reports...

Councilperson Sylvia Smith reported on the following:

-Volunteers of the Historical Society have been very busy cleaning, sorting, and inventorying at the Horicon Museum. It has been mostly volunteer work except for time from Vicki, Kevin, and Rob. There will be a lot of items going to the 1881 Annex, and they hope to hold the Open House and Grand Opening for the Annex next spring/summer.

-Two applications have been received for the Court Clerk position so far. Interviews will be set up after the last ad runs this week.

-AWI will be done at the boat launches on Labor Day, but the Town's employees will work through Columbus Day with adjusted time schedules.

-The final report for the CFGMR cemetery headstone project has been submitted. Greg Bolton is doing a great job, and he will continue working into the fall because the Town will match the grant. The ultimate goal is to get all of the cemeteries done.

Councilperson Bob Olson reported on the following:

-Councilperson Olson said Sonny cannot perform the duties at the landfill and they need a backup. The clerk has run an ad.

-Applications had come in for the Planning Board alternate opening a while ago and those people should be interviewed while they are interviewing for Court Clerk.

-Neil Brandmaier had applied for the SLPD alternate opening but was not a resident. He has since changed his residency to Horicon, so he is now eligible.

RESOLUTION #86-2020

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 86 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT NEIL BRANDMAIER AS ALTERNATE SLPD COMMISSIONER

WHEREAS, James Maday tendered his resignation as SLPD Alternate Commissioner effective May 18, 2020, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby appoint Neil Brandmaier to fill the unexpired term of Alternate Schroon Lake Park District Commissioner that will expire on December 31, 2020.

Councilperson Frank Hill reported on the following:

-They will be getting an estimate to make repairs on the Cemetery truck.

-He looked into getting a new pump for the park.

Old Business...

Landfill Fee Schedule: Supervisor Simpson said the Board discussed amending the landfill fee schedule to address the deficit at the July meeting. He looked at a couple of the neighboring towns to see what they charge. He asked the Board if they had reviewed the fee schedule and had any suggestions. Councilperson Olson said the fees should cover the cost of operation and asked Supervisor Simpson if he had any recommendations; Supervisor Simpson said he did not as he had expected the Board members to review this. Councilperson Hill said does not see how fees can be raised enough to break even. Supervisor Simpson said the Town may have other options available other than raising prices, and all options should be looked into. Scott Olson suggested a few options the Town could look at.

Firefly LOSAP Administration:

RESOLUTION #86-2020

Councilperson Smith and Councilperson Olson introduced Res. No. 86 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO ENGAGE FIREFLY ADMIN INC. TO ADMINISTER LOSAP PROGRAM

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize Supervisor Simpson to sign the letter of engagement with Firefly Admin Inc. to handle administration of the LOSAP program.

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

New Business...

-Supervisor Simpson said the 2021 Budget preparation is underway. He said he asked the departments to be as conservative as possible to try and come in with a flat line budget. He said the County has seen a decrease in sales tax revenue due to the impact of the Covid pandemic which means the Town's revenue will decrease significantly. He noted the revenue could be impacted for the next two or three years so this would be the most conservative approach to give the Board the most flexibility next year.

Privilege of the Floor...

Adjourn... There being no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM by MOTION of Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Smith, all in favor.