

**HORICON TOWN BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

**NOVBER 19, 2015
7:00 PM**

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

Also: Tom Johansen, Skip Ostrander, Thad and Jane Smith, Bill McGhie, Joe and Linda Koch, Bob Hayes, Gary Frenz, Bob Smith, Teri Schuerlein.

Supervisor Simpson called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes... Minutes of October 15 and October 29, 2015 were approved by Motion of Councilperson Hill and Councilperson Smith.

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

Approval of November 2015 Vouchers and Abstracts...

RESOLUTION #151-2015

Councilperson Hill and Councilperson Olson introduced Res. No. 151 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF NOVEMBER 2015 ABSTRACTS

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize the payment of the November 19, 2015 Vouchers and Abstracts as follows:

General Vouchers	# 334 - 376	\$ 36,632.31
Highway Vouchers	# 194 - 211	\$ 17,196.69
General Abstracts	32 & 33	\$ 36,344.28
Highway Abstracts	32 & 33	\$ 19,357.64

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

Correspondence to the Board...

-Assoc. of Towns RE: 2016 Training School & Annual Meeting Information
-Jayne Wynne RE: Letter of opposition to concept of a Brant Lake Taxing District
-Joe Koch, Comm. RE: Letter of resignation as Schroon Lake Park District Commissioner effective Dec. 31, 2015

Resolutions...

RESOLUTION #152-2015

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 152 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2016 CONTRACTS

WHEREAS, monies have been appropriated in the 2016 Budget for contracts in the following amounts:

Emergency Service Provider	\$ 59,000.00
Horicon Historical Society	\$ 500.00
Senior Mini-Bus	\$ 4,680.00
North Warren Chamber of Commerce	\$ 6,000.00
Horicon Free Library	\$ 1,000.00
Horicon Senior Citizens	\$ 1,000.00
Chester-Horicon Health Center	\$ 5,000.00
Snowmobile Club	\$ 3,500.00

Horicon Volunteer Fire Company \$189,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a Notice of Public Hearing will be published stating that a hearing on the above named contracts will be held on Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Horicon Community Center.

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

RESOLUTION #153-2015

Councilperson Hill and Councilperson Olson introduced Res. No. 153 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:

General:

9055.8 (Disab.)	1620.1 (Bldgs-Pers.)	\$ 1,100.50
1990.4 (Conting.)	1620.4 (Bldgs-Contr.)	\$ 4,441.93
9060.8 (Hosp.)	1620.4 (Bldgs-Contr.)	\$ 8,000.00

Highway:

5110.11 (GenRpr-Pers o/t.)	5110.1 (GenRpr-Pers.)	\$ 3,192.00
5148.1 (ServOthGovt-Pers.)	5142.1 (Snow Rem-Pers)	\$10,000.00
5140.1 (Misc Brush-Pers)	5142.1 (Snow Rem-Pers)	\$ 12,500.00

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

RESOLUTION #154-2015

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Higgins introduced Res. No. 154 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ATTENDANCE AT NYS ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS TRAINING

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize Supervisor Simpson to attend the Association of Towns Training School from February 14-17, 2016. The hotel cost is \$272.00 per night, plus reimbursement for travel or mileage and meals.

Ayes: 4 (Olson, Higgins, Hill, Smith) Abstain: 1 (Simpson) Nays: 0

RESOLUTION #155-2015

Councilperson Smith and Councilperson Olson introduced Res. No. 155 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ATTENDANCE AT ADIRONDACK ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS MEETING a

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize Supervisor Simpson to attend the Adirondack Association of Towns Annual Meeting December 6-7, 2015 at a cost of \$59.50.

Ayes: 4 (Smith, Olson, Hill, Higgins) Abstain: 1 (Simpson) Nays: 0

RESOLUTION #156-2015

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 156 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE COMMON GROUND ALLIANCE, "ROAD, BRIDGE, UTILITY, AND COMMUNITY, ADAPTATION/SUSTAINABILITY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT"

WHEREAS, the need for a Constitutional Amendment to deal with some critical Forest Preserve issues, has been identified by the State Land Master Plan, the Commission Report on the 21st Century, multiple local governments, and AATV, and

WHEREAS, the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) acknowledged and confronted this issue on behalf of the Adirondack Park, all the Park residents, as well as, the State of New York and all of its residents, and

WHEREAS, the CGA process involved a balanced Work Group, interviews with stakeholders from all sides of the Adirondack debate, and the synthesis of all this work into a balanced and well founded solution to long standing problems, and

WHEREAS, this balanced, thoughtful, and in depth review has brought forth a proposal to resolve key road and bridge issues associate with, the safety and sustainability of County, Town, and Village Roads, and

WHEREAS, this balanced, thoughtful, and in depth review has brought forth a proposal to resolve key utility issues associated with, water, sewer, power, and fiber connections, and

WHEREAS, this balanced, thoughtful, and in depth review has brought forth a proposal to resolve small community project issues like, the Raquette Lake Water Well Amendment, the Keene Cemetery Amendment, plus outstanding issues associated with Blue Mountain Lake Water and the Blue Mountain Lake Cemetery, and

WHEREAS, while the CGA proposal does not goes as far as some stakeholders or local governments have advocated for, this represents a critical solution for some long standing, universally acknowledged problems.

Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Horicon Town Board hereby goes on record supporting this critical proposal for a Constitutional Amendment, and be it also

RESOLVED, that the Horicon Town Board calls upon the Governor and the NYS Legislature, to attain first passage of this critical Constitutional Amendment and Implementing Legislation, during the upcoming 2016 Legislative Session, and be it also

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Cuomo, Senator Little, Assemblyman Stec, AATV, and the Warren County Board of Supervisors.

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

RESOLUTION #157-2015

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 157 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE APA EFFORT TO UPDATE THE STATE LAND MASTER PLAN (SLMP)

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), has been working on an effort to Amend/Update the SLMP since the announcement of their intent to do so in December of 2013, and

WHEREAS, as part of that 2013 expression of intent, commitments were made to review two specific issues associated with the Essex Chain and the 5 Towns (Minerva, North Hudson, Newcomb, Indian Lake, and Long Lake), and

WHEREAS, nearly thirty years have elapsed, since the last review/update, despite the requirement to do such reviews/updates every five years, and

WHEREAS, it critical the APA take the responsibility for both their commitments to the 5 Towns and the more general SLMP updates, very seriously, and

WHEREAS, it is also critical that such processes take very seriously the needs of local communities, and the commitments to balance which were embedded throughout the legislative process and debate, which ultimately produced the Adirondack Park Agency Act.

Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Horicon Town Board hereby sets forth our support for:

* An expeditious completion of the work associated with the commitments made to the 5 Towns, including the concept of applying any changes to All Terrain Bikes and Non-Native Materials, Park-wide

* A broader and more comprehensive review of the SLMP, which is required, and which was started by the APA (APA Listening Sessions, plus their multiple convenings of stakeholders, in a round table format), should be re-energized and also should be completed, as a second phase of SLMP changes

* An alternative process, if a second phase is not going to follow immediately on the heels of the review of the 5 Town commitments, then AATV, CGA, or other organizations of broad interest and membership, should convene to undertake an organic review of what items within the SLMP need review and change

* All local governments and local government organizations (including but not limited to, NYSAC, AOT, Adirondack Inter-County, AATV, and the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board) taking an active role in any and all of these updates or processes

And be it also

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Cuomo, Senator Little, Assemblyman Stec, APA, AATV, and the Warren County Board of Supervisors.

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

Supervisor Simpson asked for clarification of the Resolution regarding the Cooperative Assessing Agreement with Bolton. He noted the Resolution authorized him to sign the Agreement but the terms of the Assessor's employment such as salary, benefits, etc. were not given for inclusion in the Resolution.

RESOLUTION #158-2015

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 158 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION #81-2015 REGARDING SHARED ASSESSOR

WHEREAS, the Horicon Town Board authorized Supervisor Simpson to sign the Cooperative Assessing Agreement with the Town of Bolton effective April 20, 2015, and

WHEREAS, the Horicon Town Board now wishes to specify the details of the Shared Assessor position for the Town of Horicon, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the position of Shared Assessor, as related to the Cooperative Assessing Agreement, held by Christine Hayes will pay \$28,000.00 from the effective date of April 20, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Health insurance and employee benefits (as per the Town of Horicon Employee Handbook) will be shared equally between the Town of Horicon and the Town of Bolton as will any associated training costs, dues, and meeting fees. Retirement costs will be handled individually by each Town.

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

Committee Reports...

-Gary Frenz updated the Board on the NWEMS noting they had 40 calls, are in need of volunteers, and they have been approved by Mountain Lakes for a two year renewal.

-Councilperson Sylvia Smith noted that a letter of thanks had been sent to the Lazy Moose for their donation of the fall decorations that had been placed around Town. She said there are no more vacant cemetery lots for sale in the Brant Lake Cemetery. Councilperson Smith suggested the Board consider marking the walkways in the South Horicon cemetery and seeding Section B in the spring. She and Councilperson Hill are still waiting for samples on the sign. Lastly, Councilperson Smith said she and Supervisor Simpson had met with the Town Historian to go over some goals and suggestions for improvements. She noted that they plan on meeting with the Historical Society next.

-Councilperson Olson said Harvey Leidy had asked him about a locker for the Boat Launch to be used by the Stewards for the equipment. Councilperson Olson thought it would be a good Eagle Scout project so he will pursue this and said it will be done by spring 2016.

-Supervisor Simpson said there had been discussion on getting more picnic tables for the Town. He said Jack Baker has been able to get the materials to build the picnic tables donated by Curtis Lumber.

Old Business...

Board of Assessment Review Alternate: Supervisor Simpson noted that no applications have been received. The Board decided to wait a month before advertising again.

Roof Insulation and Repair Bids: Supervisor Simpson said two bids were received for the roof repair and insulation project on the Community Center. The Board agreed both bids were much higher than anticipated based on the engineer's review. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to reject the bids and re-advertise. The Board would like to have the bid opening on Monday, December 7th but the Supervisor will need to check his schedule before setting the meeting for the bid opening.

RESOLUTION #159-2015

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 159 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO REJECT BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER ROOF REPAIR AND INSULATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Horicon legally advertised for bids for the Community Center Roof Repair and Insulation Project, and two bids were received and opened on November 6, 2015, and

WHEREAS, the two bids came in at a higher amount than was projected by Cedarwood Engineering, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby reject the two bids received on November 6th and authorizes the Clerk to re-advertise for bids for the roof repair and insulation project to be received by December 4, 2015.

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

Accounting Software: Supervisor Simpson said he has been looking into new accounting software for the Town, and he has a quote from Williamson Law for \$7,773.00 for the initial purchase. The maintenance cost going forward would be \$998 for the accounting/budget software and \$935 for the payroll software. He noted this is the software the Bookkeeper currently uses in Warrensburg and it is much more advanced than the current software. He said there is money in the 2015 Budget for this purchase.

RESOLUTION #160-2015

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Smith introduced Res. No. 160 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF NEW ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Horicon does hereby authorize the purchase of accounting/budget and payroll software from Williamson Law at a price not to exceed \$7,773.00.

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

Sand Pile: Supervisor Simpson addressed the issue of Town residents taking sand. He explained that early last spring residents were told they were no longer allowed to take sand from the sand pile at the Highway Department. This stemmed from complaints made by the Highway Superintendent and the

Highway Department regarding the sand being taken by out of town commercial sanding companies. Supervisor Simpson has researched this and conferred with Counselor Schachner about having a Town Sand Use policy. He said he feels it is not right to deny residents access to material they paid for. He added that the Town cannot let people take the sand for commercial use because that would be an abuse of taxpayer's property. Supervisor Simpson has drafted a Sand Use policy which the Board has reviewed and feels will be a good solution. The following Resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #161-2015

Councilperson Higgins and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 161 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT SAND USE POLICY

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Horicon has received strong input from residents concerning the use of winter sand and wants to ensure residents safety, now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby adopt the following Sand Use Policy as set forth below:

Town of Horicon Sand Use Policy:

Overview: The Town Board of the Town of Horicon has received strong input from residents concerning the use of winter sand. The Town Board is focused on ensuring residents safety and providing safe access to their properties in the event of an emergency.

Administration & Enforcement: The administration and enforcement of this policy shall be under the authority of the Town Board, and reviewed annually or as needed.

Policy: The Town of Horicon allows residents of Horicon to use available sand, and sand-salt mixture, at the Town of Horicon Highway Department. It will be provided on a first-come-first-served basis, and residents will only have access to amounts not needed for Town use by the highway crew.

Notes:

1- Salt is only available for the Town of Horicon Highway Department, and is not to be available for use by any residents.

2 – No sand may be taken for use by commercial sanding companies or sold.

Abuse/Controls: Any questions or problems with this policy and procedure must be addressed to the Town of Horicon Town Board.

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

Supervisor Simpson added that if commercial companies or non-residents try to take sand it will be the responsibility of the Town employees to stop them. A sign will be posted that states "Residents only, no commercial vehicles".

Privilege of the Floor...

-Jane Smith gave the Board the final report for the year from ESSLA and noted the money was well spent. She thanked the Town for their support.

Executive Session... Councilperson Higgins made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Olson, to move to Executive Session to discuss the history and performance of a particular employee, all in favor. The Board moved to Executive Session at 7:50 PM.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:16 PM and Councilperson Smith made a motion to return to Regular Session, seconded by Councilperson Olson, all in favor. There was discussion on the history and performance of a particular employee and no decisions were made.

Town Landfill... Supervisor Simpson explained the Board is considering increasing efficiency at the Landfill by reducing the Landfill schedule by eight hours. He added the reality is with the tax cap limit and the decrease in volume the Board needs to do something. He stressed this is in no way a reflection on the employees at the Landfill; adding that they do a great job. The Board agreed the Landfill will be open four days a week from 8am to 4pm on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. This will take effect January 1, 2016.

RESOLUTION #162-2015

Councilperson Olson and Councilperson Hill introduced Res. No. 162 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO REDUCE TRANSFER STATION OPERATION

WHEREAS, the Town of Horicon operates a Waste Recycling/Transfer Station located on Landfill Road at the location of the former Town Landfill; and

WHEREAS, the station has been operated on a 5 day per week basis for many years; and

WHEREAS, Town personnel engaged in operating the Station has consisted of the Recycling Supervisor and Sanitary Landfill Attendant both as full-time employees; and

WHEREAS, volumes of waste taken to the Station have substantially decreased in recent years; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this decrease, it has become progressively and substantially more expensive for the Town to continue to provide this service;

WHEREAS, although the Town has no obligation to provide waste disposal services, it nonetheless wishes to continue to do so, but in a manner that is less expensive and has less impact on the Town's budget and Town taxes, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby reduces operation of the Town waste Transfer/Recycling Station to four days per week; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the positions of Recycling Supervisor and Sanitary Landfill Attendant are hereby made part-time hourly positions, as with all Town part-time positions, with no benefits; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this reduction in operation and service is provided as a means to lessen the increasing economic burden which operation has caused as a result of decreased waste disposal and associated revenues.

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

Adjourn... There being no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM by MOTION of Councilperson Higgins and Councilperson Olson, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

Town Clerk