

## TOWN OF DEPOSIT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Town of Deposit held their regular Town Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 5:00pm. Councilmen present- Carl Clark, Robert Mills, and Lonny Schaefer. Town Supervisor-Thomas Axtell, Highway Superintendent- Daniel Axtell, Code Enforcement Officer-Peter Hathaway, Town Clerk Beverly Hartz, and Deputy Town Clerk- Elizabeth Polomcean. Absent- Councilman William Morley, and Bookkeeper-Rebecca Walley

1.1 Re-organizational meeting- Everything was reviewed and passed.

1.2 Public Participation- Brian Begeal came to ask if there were any more developments on the Easy St. /Catskillrondak Road situation. CEO Hathaway stated that he was going to discuss that more in his report but that it was decided that the gate would be locked open until the Association contacted our attorney which has not happened yet Councilman Clark stated when he went by it was locked shut. With a quick discussion it was concluded that Councilman Clark was talking about a different gate on a different road. It was asked if this is only an issue about the gate if there are more than 2 permanent residences, CEO Hathaway stated that this was correct. Mr. Begeal also asked if there was any developments on the Roods Creek Road wash out. Highway Superintendent Axtell stated that they have a design to be discussed at next week's highway committee meeting. Supervisor Axtell stated that it is on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting.

2.0- Minutes and Reports

2.1 The Town Board Meeting minutes from December 15, 2022 were reviewed. Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Clark seconded. Motion carried.

2.2 The Payment of Bills was reviewed. The bills that were paid in General Fund #. Highway Fund- Item #1-61-65, Item #3-121-127, Item #4-36. Councilman Mills made a motion to accept the payment of bills. Councilman Clark seconded. Motion carried.

2.3 The Financial Report- Bookkeeper Walley was absent and did not get the financial report done. Supervisor Axtell stated that no one has heard that there are any issues. Councilman Mills made the motion to accept the Financial Report. Councilman Schaefer Seconded. Motion carried.

2.4 The Highway Department –Highway Superintendent Axtell stated they diverted water run-off on County Route 20, Schofield Road, Roods Creek Road, field entrances and driveways. On County Route 20 they also did some ditching.

There were 10 days of snow and ice removal done during the month of December. Due to the mild weather they also did some mowing on Town roads.

The transmission oil pan on truck #4, a 2019 Ford F550, developed a leak from corrosion and was replaced. The chain broke in the sander for truck #7, a 2016 Volvo; the chain was replaced as well as sprockets and bearings. The cylinder from the CAT grader was removed for a rebuild. Other fleet routine maintenance was also completed.

Councilman Schaefer made a motion to accept the Highway report. Councilman Mills seconded. Motion carried.

2.5 No Health Officer report at this time.

2.6 Code Enforcement Officer Report- CEO Hathaway stated there was one building permit issued. The Town had a special meeting with the Easy Street Road Association. During this meeting, it was decided that the gate would remain locked open until they talk with the Town's attorney. At the end of the year there had been a total of 18 permits issued, 2 new home permits, 1 demo permit, and 2 for solar panels. The required census report for building permits was completed. Councilman Mills made a motion to accept the Code Enforcement Officer's report. Councilman Schaefer seconded. Motion carried.

2.7 Planning Board Meeting Report- No report, the meeting was cancelled.

2.8 The Dog Control Officer Report-The DCO report stated that there were 2 calls in December. 1 was for a dog at large and the dog was taken to the shelter. The other was for a barking dog; tickets were issued for the dog not having a license and the dog barking. Councilman Mills made the motion to accept the Dog Control Officer's report. Councilman Clark Seconded. Motion carried.

2.9 Town Clerk Report was reviewed. Town Clerk Hartz stated that there were no deaths this past month. She stated that there were a few dog licenses issued for the month as well as a marriage license. Town Clerk Hartz stated that tax season has started and that the day before the meeting she had a stack of mail 6 inches high of payments that were posted.

Councilman Schaefer made a motion to accept the Town Clerk report. Councilman Mills seconded. Motion carried.

3.0- Old Business

3.1- Review of Roods Creek Road repair project- Superintendent Axtell stated that he met with Geo-Stabilization International who specializes in this issue. They use earth stabilizing nails with concrete to make steel reinforced columns in the earth to stabilize the ground. He stated that the Highway Department would be

working with them and using an excavator, which we may have to rent a bigger one but one of the men on the crew is a good operator. The company builds several shelves and nails which go in almost vertically on the bottom to stabilize the ground. A concrete wall and fabric enforcement will be used to stabilize the ground. He stated that this way would give us an almost 4ft shoulder on the road when there currently isn't a shoulder. Soil and Water engineers assessed the situation and they stated they can't put their stamps on a stack stone wall, which is what is done customarily. A stacked stone wall would put us out of the right of way on the road which may cause issues with the property owners that would have more of a right of way taken. Superintendent Axtell stated with the fact that Geo-Stabilization International needs the men to help with the project; he feels we should wait until April. This way, the men can do snow and ice removal if needed. The Geo-Stabilization International people would be working 6-10 hour days. He stated that he would also like for the bank to settle a little more before the project begins. Supervisor Axtell stated that the biggest issue is how we pay for it. He suggested that the highway department committee meet next week so they can discuss if we can pay for some of it out of our fund balance and discuss maybe taking a bond out for the rest. Highway Superintendent Axtell stated part of the issue is that the stream comes right at the bank of the road in that area. Mr. Begeal asked if there is a chance of maybe diverting the stream. Highway Superintendent Axtell stated that is part of the discussion. Mr. Begeal asked if there is any chance of getting grants to pay for the project. Highway Superintendent Axtell stated that he has looked into it and hasn't found any but he believes if he does find any they will be reimbursable grants, which means we would pay for the project first and they would pay the money back. Councilman Mills asked if the estimated amount includes the gravel, stone, and men's overtime or just Geo-Stabilization International's cost. Superintendent Axtell stated that the amount is just for their cost. The budget has an amount that he hasn't fully gone over but has gotten close for the men's overtime. Superintendent Axtell stated that he is worried that if he waits too long Geo-Stabilization International may get booked and not be able to complete the job. He would like to get them on board ASAP, because he also has a chipping project that needs to be done this summer. Councilman Mills asked if they can give him a schedule to see when we can try and get them in. Superintendent Axtell stated when he met with them in November they said to talk to them about 2-3 weeks before we would like the project to start. Councilman Mills is worried that this is a lot of money for a secondary road. Superintendent Axtell stated while

it is a secondary road there is a large population up there and it is used for stone hauling as well. Supervisor Axtell asked if next Tuesday, January 17 at 2pm works for the Highway Department committee meeting. Councilman Mills stated that 2pm does not work for him. Supervisor Axtell asked if 1pm works better. Councilman Mills stated yes. The meeting will be held on January 17 @ 1pm.

#### 4.0- New Business-

4.1- Approve contract with Delaware County Planning for advisory services for 2023- Supervisor Axtell stated the amount is \$3,500. He stated we have paid for that service for many years. We do this so that a representative from Delaware County Planning Board is at our Planning Board meetings. They are there as a consultant and to make sure we are doing things in accordance to Town of Deposit's Subdivision regulations. Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the contract. Councilman Clark seconded. Motion carried

4.2- Tax Exemption discussion with Assessor- Assessor Herzog-Ottens stated that the governor signed a law into effect on December 23 that the assessor has to send out seconded notices to the senior citizen exemptions. She stated that this is a post card and it goes to everyone who owns a home in the Town of Deposit. She stated that this company is going through Delaware County and for \$.49 a postcard and a low fee and they will send it out. Supervisor Axtell asked how long the Town has been doing senior exemptions. Assessor Herzog-Ottens stated it has been several years, ever since STAR came about because it is enhanced STAR. She stated that the county has a level, the Town has a level, and the school has a level that the seniors have to be below. She stated that currently we only have around 4 seniors that meet that amount. She stated that the county is changing their income limit. Assessor Herzog-Ottens stated that if someone is below that limit, they have to come see her before March 1<sup>st</sup> to have the exemption put on the school bill for this year and the Town and County bill for next year. Town Clerk Hartz asked if it is for their primary residence. Assessor Herzog-Ottens stated yes and they have to prove that it is their primary residence. Councilman Mills asked if they would get a postcard for every residence they have in the Town of Deposit. Assessor Herzog-Ottens stated yes but it only applies for their primary residence. Town Clerk Hartz asked if the Town has to change their limit because the County is. Assessor Herzog-Ottens stated that no, we do not have to change our limit. Town Clerk Hartz asked who came up with the Town's limit. Assessor Herzog-Ottens said that it was before her time, she thinks that it was from back when the STAR program started. The Town set their limit for the senior exemption. Mr. Begeal asked if it changes the

STAR program. Assessor Herzog-Ottens stated that it is enhanced STAR and you have to be below a certain income level. Assessor Herzog-Ottens stated that it would cost more for her to do the postcards herself than to let the County send them.

Councilman Schaefer made a motion to pay the County to send the postcards. Councilman Mills seconded. Motion carried

5.0-Informational Items-none

Councilman Schaefer made a motion to adjourn meeting at 5:53pm. Councilman Mills seconded. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 5:00pm

Beverly Hartz  
Town Clerk