**TOWN OF HUME**

**JULY 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm**

**TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The regular monthly meeting of the Hume Town Board; Allegany County, Fillmore, New York was held at the Fillmore Park Pavilion. Officials in attendance were: Supervisor Darlene Mason, Councilmen: Christopher Austin, Peter Hopkins, Joel Clark, Town Clerk Dawn Bentley, Bruce Hinz arrived late

Others present were:

Cory Potter

Kevin Peet

Leslie Clagett

Thomas Bower

Rondus Miller

Daniel Miller

Richard Mason

Melissa Mills

Cynthia Burton

Patty Hodnett

Joel Stroud

Melanie Samsel

Roger Samsel

Glenda Hooker

Ben Hooker

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Mason, Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and a moment of silence was observed.

**MINUTES**

Motion made by Councilman Hopkins to accept meeting minutes from June 24th. Seconded by Councilman Austin. 4 ayes 0 noes So carried

Motion was made by Councilman Austin to amend the meeting minutes from June 17th. The Entry read Councilman Hopkins made motion to grant the project so long as Code Enforcement makes sure Distributed Sun LLC meets all code regulations. The new entry will read as follows:

“Councilman Hopkins made motion to grant the project variance sought by the application submission of Distributed Sun, LLC on behalf of Hume-Solar l, LLC and Hume-Wiscoy Solar II, LLC for the project to be located on 58 acres of land at the corner of Dugway Road and Wiscoy Mills Mills Road, the Town board conditionally approves the project permit which is the object of the application. The conditions are that the Applicant must still satisfy those conditions, criteria and regulations that the Code Enforcement Officer determines are required. It is discussed and understood at the June 17th meeting that the PILOT agreement and Host Community Agreement remain to be negotiated. Seconded by Councilman Clark.” Seconded by Councilman Hopkins.

4 ayes 0 noes So Carried. June 17 minutes will reflect the amendment

**COMMUNITY FORUM**

Melanie Samsel ask to speak to the board. She wanted her questions in the minutes

Question 1: What are the Boards Plans for the Museum and how are they going to make up for the lost square footage:

Town Board responded that there have been discussions over the years to move the courtroom upstairs. But due to the Social Distancing regulations the court cannot open up until they are met. The Museum would move upstairs until we can get the lift installed. Then the courtroom could move upstairs.

What is the timeline? We are looking at next year.

Why is the court moving to the Museum? Why wasn’t Museum given more time to move.

Again, due to social distancing requirements, the court cannot open until those requirements are met. The JCAP monies that were awarded to the Town of Hume, we were being allowed to use those monies to create a space that met the social distancing requirements. The grant monies have a timeframe built into them and they have to be use before a certain date. That is why there wasn’t’ more time.

Why was money use at the Town Hall if courtroom was going to be moved? Inspection was done at the Town Hall and in order to bring it up to code, the bathroom and the courtroom had to be handicap accessible. That is what the original JCAP money was used for.

Why wasn’t a new building just built?

Town Board responded, we are just trying to utilize the space that we have already without building. When we have useable space, why not use it.

Suggestion was made that maybe the Board could put a list of all town owned buildings on the Website. Also if the Board could put out a periodic newsletter outlining what is happening in the town, to keep people up to date.

The Town Board has been talking for 2 ½ years to move the court to the Museum. But due to the current situation it was the time to get it done.

Museum staff thanked the Highway Department for helping the day of the move, for taking great care in moving delicate items. They did a great job.

What are the chances of getting the Grant again?

Town Board, this is the second year in a row that we have received this Grant; the Town of Granger received it 3 years in a row.

Why wasn’t more notice given?

Because due to the COVID – 19 the courts cannot open until they can meet the social distancing regulations. Our courtroom has never been in compliance, it is the 2nd smallest courtroom in Allegany County. Everyone in the courtroom has to be so many feet away from the Judge.

What about emergencies? Panic buttons will be installed just like they are right now in the Town Hall. If they need additional security they can contact the Allegany County Sheriff’s Office.

No one wants to see the Museum go away or close, but it is a luxury and the board can open it and close it if necessary. We are experiencing a short growing pain, this is short term. Museum needs to work with the board.

It was suggested at the November 6th, 2019 meeting to move the Clerk’s office to the Museum, but it wasn’t in the minutes. The Town Board discussed it and at the December 11th, 2019, at that time wouldn’t be moving because they had other plans.

Some of the minutes on the web-site will not open. We are in the process for fixing this error, but if anyone wants a hard copy all they need to do is come into the office and get a copy.

From the May 17th meeting, the discussion about the Town Clerk’s salary and a recommendation was made and accepted, will be updated in the minutes to reflect the recommendation.

Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend the Board meetings, every 2nd Wednesday of each month.

**PUBLIC HEARING 202-b for the Municipal Wastewater Treatment Improvements Project** – OPENED 7:48 pm

Tom Bower asked how come his foil request information has not been answered and why he had to go through such formalities; he had asked state agencies for information before and didn’t need a form. Also since he hadn’t received the information anyone coming to the meeting was ignorant as far as what was going on.

Supervisor Mason addressed the foil request, stating that the MOU hasn’t been addressed or has it been signed. It is still in negotiations. MOU cannot be given out until it is completed.

Tom wanted to make sure the minutes reflected the fact that he is not being given the Preliminary Engineering Report for the Town of Hume Water Improvements, as well as the MOUs with the Town of Caneadea for water and wastewater.

Supervisor Mason expressed that the Town Legal Representative advised her to not give the Preliminary Engineering Report for the Town of Hume Water Improvements and the MOUs, because they were still being negotiated.

DEC still hasn’t signed off the project as of yet. DEC didn’t accept the Engineering Reports.

Tom, challenged the legal advice from Richard Buck, so what is the purpose of tonight’s public hearing when we have no information.

Councilman Clark, DEC come in to ask questions and answer questions, plans get changed, but overall what is best for the taxpayers. Councilman Austin, things are revolving and changing all the time, this alters the timeline.

Councilman Austin made a motion to tab le the Public Hearing until the Town Board meeting on August 12th, 2020. Seconded by Councilman Hopkins 5 ayes 0 noes so carried

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED at 7:55 pm

**HIGHWAY**

Chips money was due on the 24th, used it all. Applied for everything – hopefully we will get it all back. Took 18,900 out of maintenance for truck, should have enough to get through until the end of the year, but we may have to move some money over.

Hiring a new guy, would like to advertise for the position July 13th thru August 7th, it not too busy would be a good time to hire someone and train them. They would need CDL – Train for the Class B water license. I would like an operator/mechanic – not a class mechanic, just need someone who can maintain, not fix.

Councilman Austin suggested that we set a policy for hiring, we may need to look into past minutes to see how it was advertised.

Councilman Clark made motion to advertise for a new hire, also to get with highway and report back to the board. Seconded by Councilman Hopkins 5 ayes 0 noes So carried

The truck that is on the equipment grant, its deadline is the 10th or date that it would arrive is not specified. There is a 8 month waiting period for the excavator.

Supervisor Mason pointed out that they are still waiting on paperwork to complete the loan agreement.

Councilman Hopkins made a motion for Highway Superintendent to order the excavator that is listed on the USDA Loan Grant application. Seconded by Councilman Clark 5 ayes 0 noes so carried.

**WATER/SEWER**

Both tanks have been cleaned. Meters have been read. We need a meter to keep track of flushing, they run about 1200 with back flow.

Sewer - still working on the bed, cleaning tanks, and risers

**DOG CONTROL**

We had a successful Rabies Clinic on June 13th, over 250 pets. The people from the county that were sent to help were very impressed.

We did not offer licensing at the clinic as usual to offer forgiveness of late fees, couple that with strange hours/policies regarding COVID, can we offer a forgiveness period of the rest of July and August, possible September?

Motion made by Councilman Austin to forgive the late fees for the rest of July and also August for dog licensing. Seconded by Councilman Hopkins 5 ayes 0 noes So carried.

**MUSEUM**

Rondus Miller reiterated that the fellas from the Highway Department that were there to help her in moving the items from the museum upstairs, were very respectful and she wanted to extend her Thank You.

When she begins organizing she might need some help in moving some items.

Also the Flag at the Firehall they could not lower during their Memorial Day Service because the handle and the wreath are both locked in the firehall.

Councilman Austin stated that because it was not a town organized event, legally they couldn’t give them the crank to lower the flag.

Rondus also said the flag needs replaced. Town Clerk will look into checking on what size it is and where to get one as well as the cost and report back to the board.

Councilman Clark made motion to have contractor install the plumbing for the upstairs bathroom since he has everything opened up, and that we are ready to install fixtures they can just be put in without tearing anything else apart. Seconded by Councilman Austin. 5 ayes 0 noes so carried

**SUPERVISOR**

Carson Sonnleitner contacted me and gave a price on what he would charge to make a new sign for the outside of town on County Road 4. He said it would cost $70 for materials; he was not looking to make any money for himself. He also thought he could just copy the design that is on the other sign on the other side of town.

Councilman Hinz made motion for the price not to exceed $250 for the Sonnleitner boy to fix the sign Seconded by Councilman Austin. 5 ayes 0 noes So carried.

Motion made by Councilman Austin to pay all bills. Seconded by Councilman Hopkins. 5 ayes 0 noes So carried.

Motion made by Supervisor Mason to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Austin..

5 ayes 0 noes So carried.

Minutes are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Dawn Bentley

Town Clerk