

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE FERN TOWN BOARD
April 10, 2023

Chairman Erwin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Also present were Supervisor Drewa, Supervisor Saak, Treasurer Demko and Clerk De Clark.

Constituents present were Patrick Wloszczynski, Ann Drewa, Diane Thomas, Janet Wenzelow and Rich Wenzelow.

Agenda

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to approve the agenda.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to approve the town minutes from March 13, 2023.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Monthly Report

Treasurer Demko presented the monthly Treasurer's Report which included account balances and interest rates.

Moved by Supervisor Saak to approve the treasurer's report.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Drewa.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Monthly Bills

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to approve the monthly bills.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

JET Logging

In attendance is Diane Thomas, Jack Thomas of JET Logging's mother. Diane stated that Jack has been having a rough time with his business because of Covid and the inability to obtain truckers. Diane noted that JET Logging has paid the Town of Fern two checks, one for \$640 on 12-10-20 & one for \$205 on 2-24-21. She stated that there was also a check for \$2,937.32 issued on 6-20-21 but the check was never cashed or received by the town.

Diane stated that Jack has Balsam and Basswood that was taken off the town road sitting in his yard and that Jack is prepared to take a loss on this wood. Chairman Erwin confirmed that all the wood was now off the town road.

Diane submitted copies of scale tickets which Pat W. reviewed and stated that they were calculated honestly. Pat stated that the town is still owed approximately \$5,000.

Diane asked if the Town would accept a payment in good faith of \$1,000 payable today. Supervisor Saak inquired as to how much longer it might be before the Town received another payment. Diane indicated that it wasn't possible to say, but that she is now doing all of Jack's accounting and any extra money that comes in would be paid to the Town.

Supervisor Drewa asked what was actually owed to the Town and if we could get a copy of the contract that JET Logging signed with the town. Diane said she would get a copy of the contract to the town.

Clerk De Clark stated that there was also money from the state for Covid relief for businesses that were negatively affected by the pandemic. She suggested that Diane research this possible source of income relief for JET Logging.

Chairman Erwin thanked Diane for coming in to update the town on the situation. Diane gave a check for \$1,000 to Treasurer Demko.

Town Hall Flooring

Supervisor Drewa had received a quote from Baseman Brothers for refinishing the hardwood floors in the Town Hall. The quote was \$8,293 without tax. This includes all the floors in the hall.

Supervisor Drewa stated that they are booked out until the fall of 2023 and the town would be responsible for cleaning out the rooms in preparation for the work.

Chairman Erwin noticed that the quote requires the town to supply a 3-phase power source and the town does not have a 3-phase power source. Chairman Erwin stated that Mike Demko an electrician would have to be consulted on the power before any decisions can be made.

New Accountant

Chairman Erwin stated that he had heard from the town treasurer and clerk that the current accountant, Scott Sternhagen, was not treating the town in the manner expected of an accountant.

Treasurer Demko stated that Sternhagen was not providing information and reports in a timely manner and was rather rude about the issues when approached with them. Clerk De Clark read a copy of an email exchange between the treasurer and Scott in which Scott was very short and rude to the Treasurer.

Clerk De Clark stated that she had recently spoken to Deb Emond, the accountant she uses to see if she would be interested in becoming the accountant for the town. Deb stated that yes, she would be interested but would like a little further information as to what would be required of her as the accountant. Clerk De Clark gave Treasurer Demko Deb's contact information to share what would be required of her if she became the town's accountant. Clerk De Clark stated that Deb was already the accountant for the town of Niagara.

It was determined that the town would stay with Sternhagen until he finished the May reports that are due, and he has been working on.

Moved by Supervisor Drewa to accept Deb Emonds as the town's accountant.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Saak.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Board Member Comments

Supervisor Drewa reminded everyone that it's time to think about the upcoming Spring cleanup. The cleanup is always the Saturday after Mother's Day which will be Saturday 5-20-23 at 9:00 am.

Pat W. was thanked for the great job he did on the snow removal for the April 1st snowstorm. Pat said the 600 truck did a great job and worked awesomely.

Supervisor Drewa asked why the town minutes were no longer being emailed to the board members. Clerk De Clark stated that when she had tried emailing them in the past they came back as non-deliverable. Clerk De Clark stated that the minutes can be found on the town website.

Constituents Concerns

Constituent Pat W. asked if the town could put a thank you in the paper for the town residents who helped him clean up the roads after the snowstorm. Chairman Erwin stated that yes, this would be done.

Adjourn

Moved by Supervisor Saak.

Motion seconded Supervisor Drewa.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti De Clark, Town Clerk