

The Town of Fenton Town Board held its regular Work Session on Wednesday, January 24th, 2018, at 6:00 PM, at the Fenton Town Hall, 44 Park Street, Port Crane, New York.

PRESENT:

Town Board Members	Gary Holcomb, Deputy Supervisor Michael Husar, Councilman Thomas Moss, Councilman Richard Pray, Councilman
Town Clerk	Melodie Bowersox
Administrative Asst./Bookkeeper	Susan Crosier

ABSENT:

Town Board Member	David Hamlin, Supervisor
Town Attorney	Albert Millus, Jr.
Highway Superintendent	Randy Ritter

OTHERS PRESENT: Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Member Cindy Cook, 10 members of the General Public

Residents' Time

- **Meeting Rules/DOT Service Road** – Resident Meta Parks asked, "What can Residents' comment on?" Mr. Holcomb said anything. Mr. Moss disagreed with Mr. Holcomb and said that the new Meeting Rules say that in Work Sessions the topics of discussion during public comment time should be strictly to what is on the agenda. At the Town Board Meetings, Residents may discuss any Town business during the Residents' Time. Meta then asked, "What is DOT Service Road?" Mr. Holcomb answered that DOT stands for Department of Transportation and this refers to the Service Road issue that the Town has with the five ton weight limit situation with Port Dickinson. The businesses and students in our community are having difficulties gaining access to the Interstates. There has been discussion about what can be done about this matter.

Residents' Time closed at 6:11 PM

Review Abstract #1, 2018

- Hillcrest Water District: Answer USA - B661601012018/Answering Service - January - Voucher #6 - \$50.00 – Mr. Husar asked why we have a cell phone stipend with voice mail and still pay \$50.00/month for an answering service to answer the phone and notify the Water Department that there is a phone call. Mr. Pray will speak to Greg Starley, the Hillcrest Water & Sewer Operator, to see how the process works. Bookkeeper Sue Crosier said that originally Greg's cell phone stipend was for Dog Control not the Water Department. Resident Mary Jo Bowie shared a recent story that involved the Water Department and she said there is a procedure that is followed. Greg came to her home the day after she called to follow-up with her issue with water. Resident Tim O'Hare spoke on behalf of Greg and said that he has been to his residence

to explain water issues and has been very helpful. Mr. Husar replied to Tim's comment that he was not saying Greg was not doing his job, just that there seems to be a duplication in spending.

- Hillcrest Water District: Lowe's Companies Inc. - Insulation - Vouchers #17, 19 – Mr. Holcomb asked why there were insulation purchases for the Water Department. Mr. Pray replied that there were roof and squirrel problems that ruined the insulation in the ceiling. The insulation had to be replaced and the squirrel holes had to be sealed up
- After a review of the Abstract, **Mr. Husar moved to approve payment of the bills for Abstract #1, 2018**, seconded by Mr. Pray. **Motion carried.**

VOTE: Ayes 4 Holcomb, Husar, Moss, Pray
Nays 0
Absent 1 Hamlin

Review Proposed Water Laws – The Public Hearing for the Water Laws will be scheduled for the Town Board Meeting in February. Mr. Pray explained that there was an assumption that the current Town Code had an element in it that prohibited the use of private wells within the Hillcrest Water District. The first new Water Law states that if you are currently serviced by the Water District you will have to discontinue the use of your private well. All other water services in the County have already established this stipulation. There is a commercial operation on the Service Road that is using a private well. Not a lot of water is used and a water bill is paid by the commercial operation, but if one of the larger businesses decided to put in a private well and draw from the same aquifer the Hillcrest Water Department uses, this could be a big problem. The second new Water Law includes revisions to the water fines, as the current fines were miniscule. After Mr. Holcomb read the first proposed Water Law, Mr. Pray noted that Atty. Millus changed the 90 day clause he had in section A to 'in a timely fashion' ("If the landowner fails to comply with this law in a timely fashion...") Mr. Holcomb will ask Atty. Millus about this sentence. After Mr. Holcomb read the second proposed Water Law, there was a brief discussion about the minimum fines and the 90 day clause amongst the Town Board and the Residents.

Well Refurb Status/Brown Water/Billing – Mr. Pray said the new pump and motor have been installed. The pump and well are up and running again at full capacity. The soft start motor controller is not in yet; there was a technical problem when they went to install it. It is currently running from 600 gallons/minute to 1200 gallons/minute. This is what caused the brown water starting on Thursday. Due to the force, it stirred up all of the sediment in the pumps. As far as he knows, the system has been clear the past three days and it should remain clear unless there is a main break. Resident Judy Cummings asked how many wells the Town has. Mr. Pray said the Town has three pumps and three wells but basically only two are used because one of them has a lot of sulfur in it.

DOT Service Road – Mr. Holcomb contacted the Trucking Association who is looking into the requirements for the Interstate access. He also saw on the Port Dickinson website that there

was going to be an Executive Session to discuss the five ton weight limit issue. Mr. Holcomb had heard that the NYS DOT and/or the Trucking Association were going to have discussions with Port Dickinson on behalf of Mr. Cole, First Student, and BMI who have had access to that road for many years. Mr. Moss expressed confusion about the First Student situation with the Service Road in regard to the route they are using and when they are receiving tickets; other Town Board Members and Residents felt the same confusion and suggested selective enforcement was an issue. The Service Roads belong to the Town but several years ago they belonged to the State.

PA System Performance – The new PA System was used for the first time at the Planning Board Meeting last night and worked very well.

Open Items List – A list of Open Items for the Town Board Members only will accompany the Agenda for reference to address ongoing issues. The PA System, for instance, can be removed from the Open Items list.

Winter Parking Revisions – Atty. Millus will be drafting a new Local Law to address Winter Parking Rules. Basically if it is snowing there are to be no cars on the roads. There had recently been discussion about alternate street parking but now that has been tabled. Residents expressed their concerns with the new suggestions.

Mayor's Meeting – Mr. Holcomb attended the Mayor's Meeting on the Binghamton Sewage Treatment Plant. Municipal Supervisors and outside users were invited to the meeting to discuss what is happening at the Plant. The costly project that they originally started out with was just to rebuild the wall that collapsed. The new Mayor reviewed the situation and identified the electrical and piping systems as having problems as well. Essentially the entire Plant is being revamped, bringing the total cost of the project to approximately \$262,000,000. The project is expected to be completed by the middle or end of 2019. Grant funding and FEMA money have been received to assist with the project plus bonding will be involved over the next 2-3 years. The Town's rates have not increased in 2018; other Towns have seen an increase of 8%.

At 6:57 PM, Mr. Pray adjourned the meeting.

Melodie A. Bowersox, Town Clerk