REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN APRIL 20, 2020 VIA - TELECONFERENCE

The Regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown was called to order by *Supervisor Lawrence Eckhardt* at **7:02PM** at the Town Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

(X) Supervisor Lawrence Eckhardt
(X) Councilman Philip Roder
(X) Councilman William Jennings
(X) Councilman Everett Madden
(X) Councilman Pam Kueppers
(X) Town Clerk Stephanie Wagar

(X) Highway Superintendent, Alden Goodermote(X) Assessor, Jennifer Van Deusen(X) Town Justice, Cyril Grant

A quorum (X) was () wasn't established. **4** from the Public were present

Due to the COVID-19 this meeting is being conducted via Teleconference.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

- Claim **#87-20** through **#115-20** in the amount of **\$17,859.53 to be paid** from the **General Account**
- Claim #47-20 through #66-20 in the amount of \$45,400.92 from the Highway Account
- For a Total of \$63,260.45 audited and approved by the Town Board.
- MOTION BY: KUEPPERS SECONDED BY: MADDEN

VOTES OF: 5 AYE 0 NAY

 Minutes of the MARCH 9, 2020 Public Hearing - Cable Franchise were approved by the Town Board as written.

 MOTION BY: KUEPPERS
 SECONDED BY: JENNINGS

 VOTES OF:
 4 AYE
 0 NAY
 1 ABSTAINED (RODER)

Minutes of the MARCH 16, 2020 Regular Board Meeting were approved by the Town Board as written.MOTION BY: JENNINGSSECONDED BY: MADDENVOTES OF:3 AYE0 NAY2 ABSTAINED (RODER & KUEPPERS)

TOWN CLERKS REPORT: The Town Clerk turned over the sum of **\$489.50** to the Supervisor for the month of **MARCH 2020. (NYS DEC System is down – an adjusted report will be submitted once received).**

JUSTICE COURT REPORT: The distribution from the office of the State Comptroller, Justice Court Fund to the Town of Stephentown for the month of **JANUARY 2020** was **\$______** and for the month of **FEBRUARY 2020** was **\$______**. **(No reports have been received at this time.)**

TRANSFER STATION REPORT: The Transfer Station deposited a total of **\$6,652.00** for the month of **MARCH 2020 (compared to \$6,640 from March of 2019) – Reports are attached for review.**

Bags: \$4,932	C&D & Metal: \$1,418	Tires: \$42
Stickers: \$220	Appl. & Electronics: \$30	Propane Tanks: \$10

<u>ACCOUNT TOTALS</u>: GENERAL \$518,546.66 GENERAL RESERVE FUND \$227,440.65 BEACON ESCROW \$ 885.19

HIGHWAY \$962,142.80 HIGHWAY RESERVE FUND \$477,414.41 BEACON ESCROW FOR PLANT (BOND) \$5,000 & \$70,000.

<u>REPORT FROM THE TOWN BOARD:</u>

RESOLUTION NO. 28 OF 2020 THE TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN TOWNBOARD REVALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, the Town of Stephentown (hereinafter the "Town") has not had a townwide revaluation of real property assessment since 2015; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interests of the Town to perform a revaluation of all taxable parcels within the Town to maintain and preserve a fair and equal tax base for the benefit of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is responsible for giving direction to the Town Assessor with respect to revaluation of properties within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town has received a proposal from David Galarneau for personal services to assist and train the Town Assessor, Jennifer Van Deusen in conducting a revaluation of real property; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board accepts the proposal and will hire the personal services of David Galarneau to assist the Town Assessor in performing said revaluation and related services in the amount of \$25,000.00 on Town payroll;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the duly convened Town Board of the Town of Stephentown, Rensselaer County, New York, that the Town Board hereby approves proceeding with the town-wide revaluation and hereby authorizes the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with David Galarneau to perform such service under the terms and conditions of the previously submitted proposal of services, such agreement not to exceed the sum of \$25,000.00 and payment for the same shall be procured from the personal services "A" Fund budget and paid pursuant to such agreement; and it is further

RESOLVED that the Town Board directs that the Assessor is authorized to begin the revaluation process for a town-wide revaluation to be effective on the 2022 tax roll for town and county taxes and 2021 for school taxes.

By motion made by Councilman William Jennings, and seconded by Councilman Philip Roder, the foregoing resolution was adopted by a majority of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Stephentown on the 20th day of April, 2020 as follows:

VOTES OF: 5 AYE 0 NAY

Discussion regarding the revaluation: Council Roder expressed concern regarded the school taxes, documentation provided by the Assessor's office indicated we are better at a higher equalization rate.

Grievance Day – the Town Board & Assessor are encouraging those who want to grieve their assessment to mail in all the documentation for the safety of the residence and the members of the Board of Assessment Review.

Justice Court Update given by Justice Grant: received notice today that the Courts will remain closed until 5/30/2020. They have set up video conferencing for required arraignments. A Judge from each district has been assigned, the Sand Lake Judge was assigned for our area. Have been in communication with the court clerk she will provide an update for the website.

Discussion on Town Hall Roof replacement: The BID process has been put together by the attorney, we will replace the entire roof, even the portion that was put on this past fall on the new addition as it would make things easier for the contractor. Council Kueppers reported just receiving the documentation from the attorney and would share the information after she has had a chance to read through it.

Discussion on CHIPS funds for the Highway & Town Budget: Supervisor Eckhardt expresses concern regarding whether or not the State will be issuing these funds due to the pandemic. Spoke with the Senator who believes these funds would be rescinded but could be with the changes that are taking place. Received 40% of sales tax so far, there are 3 more checks to receive. The Town Clerk and Town Court revenues may see a hit. Supervisor reports that he will send out a document to show where the budget may take a hit due to the pandemic. The Town Hall Roof project is projected to be around \$40k and may need to hold off on this project until 2021. Council Jennings reports the Governor said to expect a 20% hit on Sales Tax due to people not spending. Landfill funds seem to be good and no effect at this time.

Discussion on Youth Program: Supervisor Eckhardt spoke to Library Director Roppolo and told her to continue as scheduled until we hear further. Council Roder expresses concerns with liabilities and that the board needs to be aware of these liabilities.

Discussion on Census: It is encouraged by the Census and Town Board that residents complete the form online, the link to complete the form is located on the home page of the Town's website. This will prevent someone from knocking on your door. Door to door visits have been postponed.

Discussion on Franchise Agreements: Supervisor Eckhardt informs that all documentation has been signed and the Town has completed everything on our end.

MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Discussion regarding Grants for Cemetery Markers: Pat Flint the Town Historian completed and was awarded grant funds for 4 Cemetery Markers in the Town (Gardner Hill, Calvin Cole, Baptist and Brockway Cemeteries.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 7:58PM

MOTION BY: RODERSECONDED BY: KUEPPERSVOTES OF:5 AYE0 NAY

A **Workshop Meeting is held every second Monday of every month at **7:00PM** at the Town Hall next one will be held on Monday, May 11th, 2020 at 7:00PM at the Town Hall.

The next **Regular Meeting of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown will be held on **Monday, May 18, 2020** at **7:00 PM** at the Town Hall.

Ostephanie M. Wagar

Town Clerk