

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 8, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Burke Town Board was held on March 8, 2016 at the Burke Town Court House. Supervisor David Vincent declared the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said.

Roll Call:

Councilman:	Arnold Lobdell Bill Wood Jim Otis, absent Tim Crippen
Supervisor:	David Vincent
Supt. of Highways:	Tom Russell
Town Clerk:	Elizabeth Downing
Bookkeeper:	Judy Dumont
Code Officer:	Jim Dumont

A motion to accept the February 9, 2016 minutes as read was made by Tim Crippen and seconded by Bill Wood. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Bill aye, Tim aye, Jim absent and David abstain.

New Business:

1. Councilman Lobdell discussed Burke's Volunteer Fire Department and Highway Department's lack of training for Emergency Response Training in case of a Natural Gas related event as per Burke Resolution #25 of 2009 offered by St. Lawrence Gas with Franklin County Legislature Chairman, Bill Jones. Jim Moore, from St. Lawrence Gas, said that a training session was held in Chateaugay. Jim Lobdell, Burke Fire Department President and Gene Nesbit, Burke Fire Department Chief stated no written correspondence was received at the Burke Fire Department for this training. Jim Moore e-mailed Councilman Lobdell dates that Gas Emergency Response Training was held in Malone and other communities. The Burke Fire Department can get training scheduled. It is highly recommended that the Burke Highway Department also attend this training.
2. The Courthouse is still having electrical issues. Julie King, a Burke resident, who shares a transformer with the Courthouse, has not had any further electrical issues. The problem will continue to be investigated.
3. A motion was made to accept the proposed 2016 NYMIR Burke Town Insurance Quote and pay the premium by Arnold Lobdell and seconded by Tim Crippen. Roll Call: Arnold, aye, Bill, aye, Tim, aye, Jim, absent and David, aye.
4. The Board discussed extending the Tax Collector and Supervisor positions from 2-year to 4-year positions. The Board also discussed changing the Highway Superintendent's position from an elected to appointed position. All Councilmembers agreed that changing the Tax Collector and Supervisor positions from 2 years to 4 years was a good idea. The Board noted that if the Highway Supervisor was changed to an appointed position the Board could become liable for any issues resulting from an appointed Highway Superintendent's decisions. It was also noted that not many Burke Citizens are complaining about the job that is currently being done by the Highway Department. Legal fees to change the both items are quite expensive. A motion to have Burke Town Attorney, Nathan Race, to proceed with the required paperwork to change the Tax Collector and Supervisor positions from a 2-year term to a 4-year term was made by Tim Crippen and seconded by Bill Wood. Roll Call: Arnold, aye, Bill, aye, Tim, aye, Jim, absent and David, aye. The appointed Highway Supervisor discussion will be discontinued.
5. The Burke Town Procurement Policy should be reviewed yearly. A motion to accept the existing Burke Procurement Policy for 2016 was made by Arnold Lobdell and seconded by Tim Crippen. Roll Call: Arnold, aye, Bill, aye, Tim, aye, Jim, absent and David, aye.

Highway Supervisors Report:

1. Tom Russell, Highway Superintendent, is still looking for someone to inspect the town of Burke's bucket truck. Councilman, Tim Crippen, recommended that Tom look into a company named QUEST, which inspects the bucket trucks used by Nelson Tree Service bucket trucks. Tom will look into QUEST.
2. Councilman, Bill Wood, asked Tom if the County and other Town's are still willing to tear down the old Town Hall. Tom stated as far as he knows they still are.

The Highway Committee did not meet.

Old Business:

1. Donald Johnston, representing the Burke Adult Center, thanked the Town of Burke for the Burke Adult Center's contribution from the Town of Burke. If possible, he stressed that an increased contribution would be appreciated next year. The Adult Center is working on raising funds to buy a third new vehicle. He also noted that the Adult Center has revamped their kitchen, redesigned their heating system and is working on negotiating a settlement with the company that put in their septic system for payments that are still outstanding. The Adult Center is working with other entities in their fund raising activities.

The Code Officer collected \$88.00 for the month of February. A motion to accept the February 2016 Code Officers Report was made by Tim Crippen and seconded by Bill Wood. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Bill aye, Tim aye, Jim absent and David, aye.

A motion to accept the February 2016 Financial Report was made by Bill Wood and seconded by Tim Crippen. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Bill aye, Tim aye, Jim absent and David, aye.

No Public Comments were made.

Bills were paid.

A motion to adjourn at 8:10 P.M. was made by Arnold Lobdell and seconded by Tim Crippen. Roll Call: Arnold aye, Bill aye, Tim aye, Jim absent and David aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Downing, Town Clerk



Recorded by, Elizabeth A. Downing, Town Clerk