

**TOWN OF FORESTPORT
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FORESTPORT TOWN HALL
NOVEMBER 19, 2014 @ 6:30 PM**

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilwoman Nancy Kardash
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski
Councilman Ronald Scouten
Councilman Charles Scott
Supervisor Parker Snead

MEMBERS ABSENT

Town Clerk Shelley Entwistle

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by Supervisor Snead.

NEW BUSINESS PUBLIC:

Greg Albrecht of Trackside Blazers had nothing to report this month.

Planning Chairman T.J. Entwistle asked the Board to review the health insurance eligibility language from NYSHIP. He stated he feels he is eligible according to the language, and asked for a motion to approve his application if the Board members agree.

A motion was made by Councilman Scott and seconded by Councilwoman Kardash to approve Mr. Entwistle's application retroactive to his application date of October 29, 2014. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – no
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead – no

NEW BUSINESS (Board):

Supervisor Snead reviewed comments from David Ultsch published in a letter to the editor from the *Adirondack Weekly*. He specifically addressed Mr. Ultsch's concerns regarding the alleged gift of a town owned mower to a town employee, the subcontracting of

the mowing of town owned properties, the purchase of marine grade plywood for use at the town hall, the excavation of a power line at the Scouten Field, and the purchase of recreation equipment. Supervisor Snead reviewed the cost of each of these items to the taxpayers. Limited discussion took place within the gallery. Mr. Ultsch was not in attendance.

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilman Scott to table the approval of the draft employee handbook. Councilman Scott stated he feels a workshop is necessary to fully review the content. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

Supervisor Snead called for a minimum salary amount for health care eligibility. Councilman Scott stated he feels this discussion will require a workshop as salary benchmarks are only one part of the issue. Supervisor Snead asked again for a number as a starting point, and suggested \$10,000. After limited discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilman Scouten to set the minimum salary at \$10,000 with the possibility of adjusting the amount in the future. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

Joan Ingersoll of the gallery addressed the Board regarding the healthcare switch to Blue Cross/Blue Shield from a retiree perspective. She stated she felt the Town should have notified retirees on town letterhead rather than the insurance representative. Her other concerns dealt with the short timeframe between notification and the informational meeting, as well as the lack of Board attendance at the informational meeting. She also reported that she feels the new plan is a good choice with the exception of the prescription portion. She stated for the record that this is her opinion as a retiree and that she does not speak for other retirees. The Board reported that the change in health plans will be effective January 1, 2015.

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilman Scott to effect the change from NYSHIP to Excellus as the official town healthcare provider as of January 1, 2015. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

A motion was made by Councilman Scott and seconded by Supervisor Snead to table the approval of the opening of a portion of Buck Lake Road for ATV access pending further discussion. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

Discussion took place regarding the decoration of the Art Jones Memorial Tree for the Christmas season. Supervisor Snead has asked the Ritter/Jones family to take part in the decoration of the tree. Gerry Ritter spoke on behalf of the family and stated they would like to take part and will investigate the cost and amount of material necessary as well as procuring a bucket truck for the decorating of the tree.

OLD BUSINESS (BOARD):

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilman Scouten to approve the 2015 budget as presented. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilwoman Kwasniewski to reratify the Hazard Mitigation Resolution as of November 19, 2014. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

ABSTRACTS:

GENERAL:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kardash and seconded by Supervisor Snead to approve Abstract #11, Vouchers #767-854 in the amount of \$31,661.09. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

HIGHWAY:

Discussion took place regarding the purchase of road sand from Kratzenberg Masonry. Supervisor Snead inquired as to why the Highway Department purchased the sand there. He stated he'd like to discuss the matter briefly before approving payment. Councilwoman Kwasniewski stated the Board needs to be more proactive in their review of Highway expenditures.

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilwoman Kwasniewski to approve Abstract #11, Vouchers #333-411 in the amount of \$61,735.33 with the exception of Voucher # H14-411. (Kratzenberg Masonry). Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – abstained
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

TOWN CLERK MINUTES:

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilman Scott to accept the minutes from five separate meetings in their entirety. (10/7/14, 10/14/14, 10/21/14, 10/15/14, 11/5/14) Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Nothing this month.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilwoman Kardash to accept the Town Clerk's monthly report. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Snead reported transfers for the month (see attached). A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilwoman Kwasniewski to approve the transfers to sewer district. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilwoman Kardash to approve the transfer to highway. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

JUSTICE REPORT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilman Scouten to accept the monthly Justice Report. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

PLANNING:

Supervisor Snead inquired to Planning Chairman TJ Entwistle regarding the status of several illegal subdivisions within the town. Chairman Entwistle reported that he, Assessor Brown, and Planning Clerk Kratzenberg met with the Oneida County Finance director and attempted to meet with County Clerk DePerno, as the issue lies there. With no apparent progress, the Planning Board is investigating remedies at the town level for the future.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kardash and seconded by Supervisor Snead to accept the Planning monthly report as presented. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

CODES:

Supervisor Snead discussed the possibility of hiring a second codes officer to assist Brad Smith in an effort to provide better service to the taxpayers. The Board will research the matter.

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilwoman Kardash to accept the Codes monthly report as presented. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

ASSESSOR'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilwoman

Kardash to accept the Assessor's monthly report as presented. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kardash and seconded by Supervisor Snead to accept the Animal Control monthly report. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

RECREATION:

Supervisor Snead report the Haunted House was well received and that he would like to have a ping pong tournament at the town hall.

NOCOOG:

November 2014 announcements were reviewed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Scott requested an executive session for a personnel matter, and the Board retired at 8:45 pm. They returned at 9:10 pm with action taken.

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilman Scott to terminate James Freeman's employment. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Parker Snead and seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Kardash to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash - yes
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes
Councilman Charles Scott – yes
Supervisor Parker Snead –yes

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm by
Supervisor Snead.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Entwistle
Forestport Town Clerk