

SEPTEMBER 25, 2012
TOWN OF PIERREPONT
PUBLIC HEARING: Local Law #5-2012: Exceeding the Tax Levy Limit Imposed
upon Real Property Pursuant to General Municipal Law S3-c(5)
REGULAR MEETING

Present:	Supervisor	Thomas Latimer
	Councilman	John McIntosh
		Neil Thomas
		Roger Murray
		Dahl McCormick
	Town Clerk	Melanie Thomas
	Town Attorney	Charles Nash
	Highway Superintendent	Shawn Spellacy

Residents & Public:

Charles Gerrish	86 Elm St., Potsdam, NY
Brett Grandaw	978 Green Rd.
Eileen Basham	Hannawa Falls, NY
Mercy Spellacy	CR 29
Art Wilson	279 Morgan Rd., So. Colton, NY
Deb Christy	367 Judson St. Rd., Canton, NY
Barb Daniels	Town Historian
Ike Guyette	Town Assessor/Code Enforcement Officer
Scott Sutherland	SLC Legislator (287 CR 29)
Malcolm Owen	145 Irish Settlement Rd.

PUBLIC HEARING

Supervisor Latimer called the public hearing to order at 7:15 PM. He stated that the purpose of this hearing was to hear comments on exceeding the 2% tax cap on property taxes. He stated that we do not plan on exceeding the cap, but just in case we need to, we will be able to. He asked if there were any comments from the public.

Mr. Charles Gerrish stated that he was pleased when the governor passed the tax cap law and he is opposed to the town wanting to override it.

Supervisor Latimer stated that we may not go over 2%, but we don't know what the county will do as far as sales tax, etc.

Mr. Gerrish said that is not a good enough excuse and he said that we should remember at election time who votes to raise taxes.

Councilman McCormick stated that no one on the board wants to raise taxes, but we don't know what will happen in the future and the 2% override is like an insurance policy.

Mr. Gerrish stated that towns and counties need to say “no” to the state and cut the waste in government.

Deb Christy and Art Wilson spoke in favor of the passing the local law.

Motion by Roger Murray, seconded by John McIntosh, to accept the SEQR for Local Law #5-2012 and to authorize the supervisor to declare a negative declaration, all in favor.

Supervisor Latimer declared the public hearing closed at 7:38 PM.

REGULAR MEETING

Supervisor Latimer called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

Motion by Neil Thomas, seconded by Dahl McCormick, to accept the minutes of the August 28, 2012 Regular Meeting as submitted, all in favor.

Motion by John McIntosh, seconded by Roger Murray, to accept the Supervisor’s Report for the month of August 2012 as submitted, all in favor.

Motion by John McIntosh, seconded by Roger Murray, to accept the Town Clerk’s Report for the month of August 2012 as submitted, all in favor.

Motion by Dahl McCormick, seconded by John McIntosh, to accept the Justice’s Report for the month of August 2012 as submitted, all in favor.

Motion by Dahl McCormick, seconded by Neil Thomas, to accept the Code Enforcement Officer’s Report for Permits #62-67 as submitted, all in favor.

Motion by Roger Murray, seconded by John McIntosh, to accept the Assessor’s Reprot for the month of August as submitted, all in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter to all Town Elected Officials, from Councilman Steve Burke, Town of Macomb, regarding St. Lawrence County Budget.

Letter to Town Clerk Melanie Thomas, from Dale C. Vaughn, Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman, regarding area variance for Robert Bradish and Tamela White (approved).

Letter to Supervisor Thomas Latimer, from Karen St. Hilaire, St. Lawrence County

Administrator, regarding public officials conference.

Summary of Energy Savings Plan by National Grid.

Proposal for lighting upgrade by S&L Electric.

Notice of one-day seminar on Personnel Management, Labor Relations and Ethics (sponsored by Association of Towns) on November 2, 2012.

Notice of Adirondack Initiative Forever wired Annual Conference at Clarkson University on September 28, 2012.

Letter to Supervisor Latimer and Town Board members, from Joseph Liotta, regarding incident with motorcycles at the Canoe Place Inn.

E-mail to Supervisor Latimer, from Bradley Harte, NYS Deferred Compensation Plan.

Thank-you note to Highway Superintendent Shawn Spellacy, from Beech Plains Cemetery Association.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Dahl McCormick, seconded by John McIntosh, all in favor, to adopt Local Law #5-2012: Exceeding the Tax Levy Limit Imposed upon Real Property Pursuant to General Municipal Law S3-c(5).

Motion by Neil Thomas, seconded by Roger Murray, all in favor, to reappoint Clifford Streit to the Board of Assessment Review for a 5-year term (10/1/12 to 9/30/17).

We had National Grid do an energy efficiency inspection. The results are in the board members packets and will be discussed next month.

We have had an application for a Verizon tower on the Parmenter Rd.

OLD BUSINESS

AMP: We normally budget \$5,000 for AMP, but we will not need to this year.

Motion by John McIntosh, seconded by Neil Thomas, all in favor, to authorize payment of **General Fund Abstract #9, Vouchers #209-240, Total \$6,086.18.**

Motion by Dahl McCormick, seconded by John McIntosh, all in favor, to authorize payment of **Highway Fund Abstract #9, Vouchers #313-327, Total \$5,573.61.**

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

St. Lawrence County Legislator Scott Sutherland wanted to introduce Deb Christy, who is the new trail coordinator for St. Lawrence County. Deb Christy stated that she and the trail oversight committee have been looking at our request to open up 1 mile of CR 24. They have discussed possibly opening up all the way to the Town Barn, since many people unload their ATVs there anyway. They will also talk to landowners to possibly get the trail off the road. Art Wilson added that it would really help out the ATV riders if they could use the town barn parking lot. Supervisor Latimer thanked Deb and Art for their comments.

Charles Gerrish stated that he was at the last board meeting with a complaint and he is here again for the same reason because nothing has been done. He stated that site preparation is definitely being done on Mr. Collins' lot for something. Supervisor Latimer stated that he has looked at the lot and he didn't see anything other than firewood and a wood processor. He has the right to cut trees on his own land. If he begins to build something, he needs a building permit. Mr. Gerrish left the meeting.

Town resident Malcom Owen stated that he went to a Colton-Pierrepoint school board meeting to ask why his school taxes were so high. They told him to ask the Town Board, so that is why he is here. Supervisor Latimer stated that the Town of Colton is assessed at a lower rate than Pierrepoint, so Pierrepoint residents pay more for school taxes. He advised Mr. Owen to go see Darren Colton, who is the director of the Real Property office.

St. Lawrence County Legislator Scott Sutherland reported that the county is borrowing \$12 million. He explained that he originally was against it, but after the treasurer explained the reasons, he reluctantly changed his mind. He also said that the administrative budget for the county is better than we thought it was going to be. As far as sales tax redistribution, it is too late for this year.

Motion by John McIntosh, seconded by Neil Thomas, all in favor, to adjourn.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie J. Thomas
Town Clerk

