

# Town of Denning – Town Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Supervisor Brooks.  
Held on Tuesday, March 4th, 2014 at the Denning Town Hall.

Present: Supervisor Brooks

Councilmen: Mike Dean, Kevin Smith, and Greg Vurckio

Absent: Councilman Paul Schoonmaker, hospitalization.

Also present: Highway Superintendent Dan Van Saders

The Town Clerk Minute Book was signed prior to the commencement of the meeting.

The Town Clerk gave the Board members their copy of the agenda and Resolutions 29 to 31 of 2014, the Mike Pries Insurance Proposal, Central Hudson Energy Bulletin, the CWT minutes for January 2014 as well as mail to Councilman Mike Dean.

Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of last month's minutes by Town Clerk Joy Monforte.

Motion to adopt and approve as read by Councilman Mike Dean, 2nd by Councilman Gregory Vurckio. All in favor. Motion carried by a 4 to 0 vote.

Correspondence – Supervisor Brooks

- The monthly donation from the Frost Valley YMCA in the amount of \$8,500.00 has been received and is gratefully acknowledged.
- A letter from Red Hill Knolls resident, Eric Kutner, in regards to logging. Discussion follows: logging notification and trespassing. Supervisor Brooks will call both, Mr. Kutner and Mr. Mcosco.

Highway Report by Highway Superintendent Dan Van Saders

- Highway Superintendent Dan Van Saders remarks they are having equipment problems. The 550 is at John's Truck Parts getting the transmission rebuilt.
- There is a host of problems with the 2008 International.
- Stating he spoke with Supervisor Brooks and purchased a drop in sander for the pick up which cost \$5,000.00.
- He reached out to Ulster County and they will send 2 trucks to do Frost Valley Road using their material.
- The extended warranty expires 10-31-14 on the International, he is exploring options for the truck, as repairs would be high.
- Arkel will give him the value of the truck.
- Supervisor Brooks comments on the unusual event of replacing the newest truck, he is afraid the truck would be a money pit.
- Councilman Gregory Vurckio remarks you would usually start with the oldest.
- Highway Superintendent Dan Van Saders remarks the current repairs would cost \$10,000.00 if not for the extended warranty.
- Salt & sand delivered; told by driver there wasn't any left in the yard to load and deliver.
- \$44,000.00 in salt & sand cost last month, approximately \$18,000.00 for this month and approximately \$10,000 outstanding.
- Highway Superintendent Dan Van Saders remarks a fiscal budget transfer from Maintenance of Streets may be needed.

- Stream meeting, hydro seeding was one the things discussed and will be done on Peekamoose, Brooks Hill and Sugarloaf Roads.
- Supervisor Brooks remarks they, Soil & Water, will not have any funds until the fall.
- Supervisor Books informs the Board that he has again spoken with U.C. Legislator John Parete and he has assured him that Bridge 100 is being engineered. He, Supervisor Brooks, also gave him Soil & Water Coordinator Karen Rauter's information so the Clair Road project could be closed and funds received.

Code Enforcement – No Report

Planning Board Report- Councilman Mike Dean

- Received a letter from resident C. Mooney looking for direction in regards to a 3-lot sub division.
- William, the Blue Hill Lodge manager attended the meeting request extension on permits which are set to expire, he informed the Planning Board the order of the construction being finished: the art center, pavilion and then the micro brewery.
- Members will be attending training in Halcott.
- ZBA took no action at their meeting and another meeting has been scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> of March.

Highway Superintendent Dan Van Sadlers requests permission to go out to bid for material.

Motion to adopt and approve by Councilman Mike Dean, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Kevin Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Mike Dean	AYE
Councilman Paul Schoonmaker	ABSENT
Councilman Kevin Smith	AYE
Councilman Greg Vurckio	AYE
Supervisor David Brooks	AYE

Motion carried following a unanimous roll call vote with 1 absentee.

Supervisor Brooks requests the Town Board take the week to review the proposed NYMIR insurance policy by Mike Pries Insurance for approval next week. Owner Dave Bodenstein has offered to attend a Board meeting if anyone has questions. He notes the policy premium has decreased by \$100.00.

Resolution No. 30 of 2014

OPPOSING THE NEW CAPACITY ZONE

WHEREAS, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), in an order issued on August 13, 2013, accepted the tariff revisions proposed by the New York Independent System Operator to create a New Capacity Zone (NCZ) that groups the mid-Hudson Valley (electricity load zone G) in the same capacity zone as Westchester and New York City (Zones H, I, and J); and

WHEREAS, this order is scheduled to go into effect on May 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the NCZ is to address existing transmission constraints by altering the price signals in wholesale energy markets to attract investors in new plants whose Installed

Capacity (ICAP) will be sufficient to meet electricity needs in times of peak demand; and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission (PSC) opposes the creation of the NCZ, stating that the order ignores PSC proceedings underway to address transmission constraints by upgrading transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, these transmission upgrades were recommended by the Governor's New York State Energy Highway Blueprint, which seeks to increase the capacity of transmission lines to carry 1,000 MW of additional lower-cost power from the north and west to meet downstate needs, eliminating bottlenecks in transmission; and

WHEREAS, the PSC is currently reviewing four proposals to accomplish the task of upgrading transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, the PSC further stated on September 12, 2013, that the NCZ will result in unjust and unreasonable electricity rates, possibly increasing rates by as much as 25%, costing rate-payers in the new zone over half a billion dollars in a three-year period; and

WHEREAS, Central Hudson-Fortis, a utility serving rate-payers in Zone G, also opposes the creation of the NCZ, estimating that it will increase prices by at least 6% for residential and 11% for industrial rate-payers; and

WHEREAS, the NCZ will hurt many small to medium-sized industries, including the dairy industry for whom electrical power makes up a large percentage of its costs; and

WHEREAS, the NCZ will cause disproportionate harm to low- and fixed income rate-payers, particularly in light of the Public Service Commission's report that the percentage of customers in the Central Hudson service area whose electricity has been shut off for not paying their bills has risen from 1.89% to 5.99% in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the NCZ will unfairly burden rate-payers in upstate counties, whose "peak" energy needs are much lower than those in Westchester and New York City; and  
WHEREAS, the express purpose of the NCZ is to create new "peaking" capacity, which favors increased use of fossil fuel-based generation; and

WHEREAS, increasing fossil fuel generation contradicts and in no way addresses New York State's Renewable Portfolio Standard goal of at least 30% renewable electricity by 2015; and

WHEREAS, the FERC has failed to adequately consider these proposed transmission upgrades, which make the NCZ unnecessary;

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the Town of Denning calls upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to postpone indefinitely its order issued August 13, 2013, which conflicts with State efforts currently underway to address the same problem of transmission constraints; and further calls on N.Y. Governor Cuomo, U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, and U.S. Representative Gibson to intervene on our behalf to halt the creation of the NCZ; and that copies of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Cuomo, the FERC, the PSC,

Central Hudson-Fortis, Federal and State Elected Representatives, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the Public Utility Law Project of NY (PULP), and the Business Council of the State of New York.

Motion to adopt and approve by Councilman Kevin Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Gregory Vurckio.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Mike Dean	AYE
Councilman Paul Schoonmaker	ABSENT
Councilman Kevin Smith	AYE
Councilman Greg Vurckio	AYE
Supervisor David Brooks	AYE

Motion carried following a unanimous roll call vote, with 1 absentee.

Resolution No. 31 of 2014

WHEREAS New York State Highway Law § 141 authorizes transfer between Highway Accounts, and

WHEREAS the CWC sent \$1,747.89 to the Town for Storm Water Maintenance in 2010. and

WHEREAS the Town is required by the CWC to have funds in the amount of \$1,747.89 in a Storm Water Maintenance Highway Savings Account, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Denning Town Board

HEREBY authorizes the Town Supervisor to open a Storm Water Maintenance Highway Savings Account and to transfer the funds from DA 5130.4 Machinery Contractual into Said Savings Account.

Motion to adopt and approve by Councilman Mike Dean, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Gregory Vurckio.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Mike Dean	AYE
Councilman Paul Schoonmaker	ABSENT
Councilman Kevin Smith	AYE
Councilman Greg Vurckio	AYE
Supervisor David Brooks	AYE

Motion carried following a unanimous roll call vote with 1 absentee.

Supervisor Comments:

- ❖ Informs Board of a telephone call from CFD Commissioner Jerry Huncosky in regards to the Town plowing the fire dept.
- ❖ He remarks he told him he was not in favor but would bring it up and asks the Town Board for a decision.
- ❖ Highway Superintendent Van Sadlers informs the Board that fill up stations are in the Town of Neversink, Sullivan County.
- ❖ Discussion follows: the problems when the Town previously plowed, liability and other difficulties, they are there own taxing entity.
- ❖ The Town Board unanimously declines.
- ❖ Supervisor Brooks informs the Town Board he will be submitting a fiscal transfer resolution in regards to CHIPS once the amount has been decided by the NYS budget.
- ❖ The TWC contract has been sent to and received by TWC.
- ❖ The Auditor has completed the Annual Report it has been filed and is available for inspection in the Town Clerk's Office.

Councilman Comments:

- Councilman Gregory Vurckio informs the Board he has been checking the equipment website every Monday when it is updated but has not found anything yet.
- Councilman Mike Dean inquires as to the statue of SEQR.
- Supervisor Brooks informs the Board that Carl Landon had a minor stroke and is now getting back on his feet; he has the completed map and working on the accuracy of the map.
- Councilman Kevin Smith informs the Board that NIMS 400 may be required, he will check with Lt. CJ Polacco.

Public comments: None

Supervisor Brooks asks for any further business, there is none.

Motion to adjourn at 7: 58 by Councilman Mike Dean, 2nd by Councilman Gregory Vurckio, All in favor. Motion carried following a unanimous roll call vote with 1 absentee.

Respectfully Submitted by Joy Monforte, Town Clerk March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 11th, 2014 at the Denning Town Hall.

## Town of Denning – Town Business Meeting

Held on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Denning Town Hall.

Called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Supervisor Brooks.

Minute book signed prior to the opening of the meeting.

The Town Clerk presented to the Board a copy of the agenda the Supervisor submitted the Budget vs. Actual thru February 2014.

Present: Supervisor Brooks

Councilmen: Mike Dean, Kevin Smith and Gregory Vurckio.

ABSENT: Councilman Paul Schoonmaker, illness.

Also present: Highway Superintendent Dan Van Saders

Pre-Paid Highway Vouchers presented Superintendent Van Saders by (see Warrant # 3PP, voucher #6-8)

Motion to approve and pay pre-paid highway fund vouchers by Councilman Kevin Smith, 2nd by Councilman Gregory Vurckio, All in favor. Motion carried by a unanimous 4 to 0 Roll Call vote and 1 absentee.

The warrant is in the amount of \$

Highway Vouchers presented (see Warrant # 3, voucher #32-57)

- Supervisor David Brooks asks Highway Superintendent about the cost of the drug and alcohol testing, brief discussion follows. He, Superintendent Van Saders will see if he can find a cheaper alternative.

Motion to approve and pay highway fund vouchers by Councilman Mike Dean, 2nd by Councilman Gregory Vurckio, All in favor. Motion carried by a unanimous 4 to 0 Roll Call vote and 1 absentee.

The warrant is in the amount of \$

Pre-Paid General Vouchers presented by Supervisor Brooks

(see Warrant #3PP, voucher#9-16)

Motion to approve and pay pre-paid general fund vouchers by Councilman Mike Dean, 2nd by Kevin Smith, All in favor. Motion carried by a unanimous 4 to 0 Roll Call vote and 1 absentee.

The warrant is in the amount of \$

General Vouchers presented (see Warrant #3, voucher#46-62)

- Supervisor Brooks opens a discussion on the CDPHP and MVP bill. He asks the Town Board what they want to do in regards to former Supervisor Bruning and his wife on the MVP policy. He remarks that he was not informed of this situation. He explains the credit on the CDPHP bill; commenting that the agent had thought Mr. Bruning had retired from the Town and was therefore eligible, he explained to her that that was not the case. Mr. Bruning has apparently given a check to the Bookkeeper, which he was not aware of either.
- Discussion follows on: COBRA, payment of and direct payment.
- Supervisor Brooks tells the Town Board that he spoke with the agent and specifically told her he did want to cause any problems for them with the insurance but did not think the Town should be in the middle.
- Councilman Mike Dean agrees; he will speak with him regarding the matter of direct payment.
- The Mike Pries Insurance voucher is submitted for payment and Supervisor Brooks' calls for questions or comments on the policy. All agreed the cost of the policy and was policy itself were very good.

- Motion to approve and accept the Mike Pries Insurance Policy for the year 2014 at a cost of \$15,277.55 by Councilman Mike Dean, 2nd by Kevin Smith, All in favor. Motion carried by a unanimous 4 to 0 Roll Call vote and 1 absentee.

Motion to approve and pay general fund vouchers by Councilman Greg Vurckio, 2nd by Mike Dean, All in favor. Motion carried by a unanimous 4 to 0 Roll Call vote and 1 absentee.

The warrant is in the amount of \$

Supervisor Brooks informs the Town Board:

- The FEMA check for the Hurricane Irene, Peekamoose Road balance is expected by the end of the week or beginning of next.
- The Clair Road payment had been stalled due to paper work issues, which have now been resolved, that payment is being processed.
- He has spoken with Senator Bonacic's office in regards to the highway barn grant and the approval for that should be in a couple of weeks.
- Requested highway crewman D. Dymond to clean up the crew lunchroom.
- Spoke with Congressman's Chris Gibson office; Ann Müller about broadband for the whole Town. He has been informed there are service categories, he explained to her we are not under served we are not served. He, Supervisor Brooks, explained the terrain, roadway into another county to get to the other side of Town, 3 valleys and lack of service. He has been told there is a new Connect NY grant in June and funds in the Farm Bill later this year to increase broadband access. He has spoken with the Town of Neversink to get them on broad to help bring service to Sundown.
- Councilman Mike Dean inquires if Supervisor Brooks reached the logger in last weeks letter. Supervisor Brooks responds he has called 4 times and finally left a message, he has not heard back.

Supervisor Brooks calls for any further comments or remarks.

Motion to adjourn at 8:11 by Councilman Kevin Smith, 2nd by Councilman Mike Dean, All in favor. Motion carried 4 to 0 votes and 1 absentee.

Respectfully Submitted by Joy Monforte, Town Clerk 3-12-2014

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 1st, 2014 at the Sundown Church Hall.