

The regular meeting of the DeRuyter Town Board was held at 7:30PM on the above date in the Genevieve D. Staley Civic Center.

Present were Supervisor Degear, Clerk Wightman, Highway Superintendent Cook, Councilman Barnes, Councilman Coon, Councilman Hathaway and Councilman Jones. Also present was J. Yankowski.

Motion by Councilmen Barnes and Jones to accept the minutes with a spelling correction in "present were". Councilman *Hathaway's* name was misspelled. All in favor and carried.

Town Clerk's Report:

- The written monthly report, including tax collection report was submitted.
- Anita Ingalls who is apparently connected with the Madison County Historical Society (although she did not indicate that she was acting on their behalf) emailed Clerk Wightman saying that the information on the "Cemeteries" page of the Town's website was "taken verbatim from the Guide to Madison County Cemeteries" and that if we wanted to use the material, we must include a credit line in a prominent position at the top of the page. Clerk Wightman responded to Ms. Ingalls' email stating that the information on the webpage is simply pictures and driving directions to cemeteries in DeRuyter given to the Clerk by Dave & Joan Ball in 2008.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Minor breakdowns
- Sand supply should be enough to get through the rest of the season
- Can still get salt but what we have should be enough
- 284 Agreement signed but will need to be revised at a later date.
- There are condensation issues at the Town Garage. Possible remedies will be explored.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

- Written monthly report submitted.
- 2013 Annual Financial Report Summary reviewed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Notification from Madison County Department of Highways that our Resolution #45 and Form TE9a requesting a speed study be conducted on East Lake Road has been sent to the Regional Traffic Engineer for NYS DOT.

OLD BUSINESS:

- CCAP grant update – budget figures reviewed.
- FEMA update.
- Hazardous Mitigation Plan – updated with new data (officers names, phone numbers, current census data, etc.)
- Washed sand bid opening. Only one bid was received. T.H. Kinsella submitted a bid of \$7.25 per ton FOB origin and \$11.25 per ton FOB destination. Motion by Councilmen Barnes and Jones to accept the bid. All in favor and carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- New York Rising Communities Program: projects include repairs/reconstruction on Carey, Tallet and South Hill Roads, and a generator at DeRuyter Central School.
- Civic Center repairs – The cement heaved causing the door to drag. Eventually the door had to be cut off in order to use the entrance. The heaving also caused the roof over the entrance to pull away from the building. The Board directed Supervisor Degear to proceed with getting proposals for repairs.
- Replacement of the box on the Freightliner was discussed. The Highway Townwide unreserved funds are higher than allowed by our Fund Balance Policy. Possible uses for these funds were discussed.
- The Town/Village Clean-Up days will be May 16th and May 17th.
- A new meeting room table has been purchased and since we have no use for the old meeting room table, motion by Councilmen Barnes and Jones to declare said meeting room table surplus. All in favor and carried.
- Discussion of Governor Cuomo’s property tax freeze. Motion by Councilmen Coon and Hathaway to adopt

#46 RESOLVED:

Whereas, the Governor and State Legislature have prioritized property tax relief as necessary to help improve New York’s economic competitiveness, especially in struggling upstate areas where the high property tax burden has contributed to a loss of economic opportunity, industrial and business decline, and flat or negative population growth over the last two decades; and

Whereas, the Governor has proposed a two-year property tax freeze that includes a state-financed rebate for any increase in property taxes in municipalities that stay within the tax cap over the next two years, while also pursuing shared services or consolidation of functions with other local governments in the second year; and

Whereas, in order to qualify, the final local efficiency plan must result in an aggregated cost savings of 1 percent of the signatories’ tax levies in 2017; 2 percent in 2018 and 3 percent in 2019 of the aggregated 2014 levies; the failure to fully implement the efficiency plan can result in the loss of some or all state aid; and

Whereas, New York relies upon local governments to educate our children, protect the environment, manage roads and bridges, provide clean drinking water and recreation facilities, put out fires, respond to emergencies, care for the sick, low income and elderly, provide law and order, and foster economic growth; and

Whereas, the proposed language does not appear to recognize current shared service arrangements between local governments and school districts or those that cross county lines, such as the case in the DeRuyter area where the towns in multiple counties, village, and school district offer joint recreation facilities and programs, share tax collection services, and work cooperatively in all areas possible, and

Whereas, sustainable property tax relief can be realized through a state and local government partnership that incorporates fundamental reform of state mandates that result in high property taxes.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Town of DeRuyter finds no quantifiable evidence that the property tax freeze would result in significant, long-lasting property tax relief, while a state takeover of its own mandated services, such as Medicaid, would provide a permanent reduction in real property taxes; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Town of DeRuyter encourages the state legislature to reject the governor’s tax freeze proposal and instead work together with local governments fundamentally reforming the state mandates causing high property taxes.

The roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Supervisor Degear	Aye
Councilman Coon	Aye
Councilman Barnes	Aye
Councilman Hathaway	Aye
Councilman Jones	Aye

The Clerk declared the foregoing duly carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Gazebo project update – Supervisor Degear met with Community Foundation on 3/13. Expecting a mid-June approval.
- Oneida Indian Nation settlement has been officially approved. Madison County should receive \$11,000,000 in early April and will receive \$3,500,000 annually going forward.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- J. Yankowski – ways to draw people to DeRuyter.

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

- Motion by Councilmen Coon and Hathaway to pay the bills as audited:

Abstract #1003	\$22,616.91
Abstract #1004	\$32,359.36

All in favor and carried.

- ✓ Motion by Councilmen Barnes and Jones to accept the Supervisor’s statement. All in favor and carried.
- ✓ Motion by Councilmen Coon and Jones to adjourn. All in favor and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Wightman
 Town Clerk