

**ESSEX TOWN OFFICES
2313 MAIN STREET, PO BOX 355
ESSEX, NEW YORK 12936**

Ronald E. Jackson, Supervisor

Alicia Kelly, Town Clerk

Town Councilors: Kenneth Hughes, James LaForest, Claire LaPine, Gretel Schueller

September 12, 2019 Regular Town Board Meeting

Supervisor Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. with the salute to the flag.

Roll Call:

Councilor Hughes:	PRESENT
Councilor LaForest:	PRESENT
Councilor LaPine:	PRESENT
Councilor Schueller:	ABSENT
Supervisor Jackson:	PRESENT

Supervisor Jackson gave the public the opportunity to address the Board, 3 minutes maximum each person per meeting. Andy Buchanon spoke about Verizon phone and the promises Verizon has made to fix it, also of the concerns of not being able to call for an emergency. Supervisor Jackson announced that Verizon has responded to the Town and further discussed what Verizon has and hasn't done. Andy announced that he also stopped and talked with the workers from Verizon. Andy asked if there could be some public pressure put upon Verizon to fix the landline phones in Whallonsburg. Supervisor Jackson announced for the system that they have it's only a temporary fix. Supervisor Jackson announced he's opened to suggestions. Carole Slatkins expressed her concerns about the phone service be out so often. Councilor Hughes spoke about an idea from a different area and how it got solved. Suggesting that a meeting set up and have the management from Verizon and the local citizens meet and express their concerns directly to Verizon. Supervisor Jackson discussed with Andy Buchanon about arranging for this meeting. Supervisor Jackson suggested that someone from Albany to also attend the meeting.

Supervisor Jackson announced Broad Band is coming here. Beth Schiller has signed an agreement with Jamie Phillips for antenna and small solar panels and batteries be installed on a ledge on Bouquet mountain. Anyone in Bouquet down 22 through to Whallonsburg and in the surrounding area will be able to get high speed internet. Supervisor Jackson asked about cell phone service

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working with that internet service. Councilor Hughes interrupted and announced that with the enhanced and expanded Broadband certain phones will work from I phone six and up have a booster built in.

Adopt minutes from previous minutes.

July 11,2019, Councilor Hughes pointed out a couple of corrections. Councilor LaPine also pointed out a few corrections. Councilor Hughes made the motion to accept July's minutes with corrections. Councilor LaForest seconded.

Roll Call:

Councilor Hughes: YES
Councilor LaForest: YES
Councilor LaPine: YES
Councilor Schueller: ABSENT
Supervisor Jackson: YES

August 8,2019, Councilor Hughes pointed out a correction. Councilor LaPine also Pointed out a couple corrections. Councilor Hughes moved the motion to accept August minutes with corrections. Councilor LaPine seconded.

Roll Call:

Councilor Hughes: YES
Councilor LaForest: YES
Councilor LaPine: YES
Councilor Schueller: ABSENT
Supervisor Jackson: YES

OLD BUSINESS:

Water Filtration update: Northern Borders did not award us a grant for the water system. Trying for an additional grant.

Change in e-mail system. Councilor Hughes asked if there was anyone else in the county that could help.

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Rabies Clinic August 13, 2019 at the Essex Fire Station had a good turnout. Two new computers, Councilor Hughes announced that the computers are in at his house ready to be installed.

Parking lot, Grant application has been filed.

Library Problem: Supervisor Jackson announced that Bradley French is going to speak with Taylors Rental to rent a lift to use for fixing the slate at the library.

Possible rebuild of the circa 1911 Town Hall Porch. Next week is the Planning Board Meeting. Permits are coming in to build the porch.

Three rounds of union Negotiations: Is getting closer.

Angel Forbes is our new bookkeeper. Donna Haynes is doing the training.

Cathy Persons will be here on the 24th to help with training.

New Business:

Copies of the Supervisor's report, the water and wastewater report, the Code Officers report and the Highway Superintendents report have been given to the Town Board and the Town Clerk to attach to the minutes.

Supervisor Jackson asked to move the motion to accept Cheryl Sprang's resignation as Planning Board Secretary. Councilor LaForest Moved the motion. Councilor Hughes seconded the motion.

These next four are being tabled:

- 1.) Accept Catherine Dewolff resignation as Planning Board Chairman
- 2.) Accept Jim Van Hoven resignation from the ZBA
- 3.) Appoint Catherine DeWolf as Secretary of the Planning Board
- 4.) Appoint James Van Hoven as the new Planning Board Chairman

Hiring a new cleaner for the Town Hall: Three applicants for this job.

Supervisor Jackson discussed two of the applicants. Third applicant Alicia Kelly. Councilor LaPine disagrees with the same person holding two jobs with the town. Supervisor Jackson was continuing to side with the towns policy of hiring local, someone from the Town of Essex. This went into executive session.

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Our Code Officer asked for his raise a little early, before he completes his training and testing. Supervisor Jackson and the Board discussed this. The Board disagreed.

DEC wants to talk about reducing Phosphorus from our WWTP discharges. DEC wants us to reduce to one ounce of phosphorus per day. Supervisor Jackson disagreed and will be meeting with someone from Albany.

Supervisor Jackson discussed the reasons he disagreed.

Give the Supervisor permission to sign the 2020 agreement with the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board. (APLGB).

Councilor LaForest, moved the motion Councilor LaPine seconded,

Roll Call

Councilor Hughes: YES

Councilor LaForest: YES

Councilor LaPine: YES

Councilor Schueller: ABSENT

Supervisor Jackson: YES

Library request for an additional \$5,000.00 for pointing up in 2020.

Supervisor Jackson discussed that this expense should be shared between the town and library. Diane Lansing discussed this with Supervisor Jackson and the Board.

Letter from the Crater Club about supplying water. Supervisor Jackson discussed what its cost per mile for the line to go to the Crater Club and their system that they are using, also Essex doesn't have the capacity to supply them water.

Discussion on a "bulky" container for the transfer station. It will be two punches per pound for large items but it will be a service to the public.

Roll Call: On bulky container for the transfer station.

Councilor Hughes: YES

Councilor LaForest: YES

Councilor LaPine: YES

Councilor Schueller: ABSENT

Supervisor Jackson: YES

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Permission for Councilor Hughes to attend the October 15th Local Government Conference at Potsdam.

Councilor LaForest: moved the motion. Councilor LaPine: seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Councilor Hughes: ABSTAINED

Councilor LaForest: YES

Councilor LaPine: YES

Councilor Schueller: ABSENT

Supervisor Jackson: YES

Broadband: A short discussion between the Supervisor and the Town Board.

RESOLUTION # 45– 2019

Adopt Capital Asset Management Plan mirroring the County Plan.

Moved By: Councilor Hughes

Seconded By: Councilor LaPine

Councilor Hughes: YES

Councilor LaForest: YES

Councilor LaPine: YES

Councilor Schueller: ABSENT

Supervisor Jackson: YES

Water/Sewer rents review: Supervisor Jackson discussed the few that were listed on the review

Accounting system update (Enhanced). Donna Haynes discussed the program. Discussion to be tabled.

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RESOLUTION # 46– 2019

Rescind our offer of Health Insurance for Angel Forbes.

Moved By: Councilor LaForest Seconded By: Councilor Hughes

Councilor Hughes: YES
Councilor LaForest: YES
Councilor LaPine: YES
Councilor Schueller: ABSENT
Supervisor Jackson: YES

RESOLUTION # 47– 2019

Accept the Record of activities report of 14.84 for Donna Haynes.

Moved By: Councilor LaForest Seconded By: Councilor Hughes

Councilor Hughes: YES
Councilor LaForest: YES
Councilor LaPine: YES
Councilor Schueller: ABSENT
Supervisor Jackson: YES

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RESOLUTION # 48– 2019

Move \$12,637.41 from unexpended General Fund balance to Wright's Inn account to pay down to finish the upstairs renovations.

Moved By: Councilor Hughes

Seconded By: Councilor LaPine

Councilor Hughes: YES
Councilor LaForest: YES
Councilor LaPine: YES
Councilor Schueller: ABSENT
Supervisor Jackson: YES

Abstract of Bills, #9-2018

Councilor Hughes: moved the motion, Councilor LaPine seconded.

Roll Call

Councilor Hughes: YES
Councilor LaForest: YES
Councilor LaPine: YES
Councilor Schueller: ABSENT
Supervisor Jackson: YES

Supervisor's County Report.

- a.) Big debate within State Agencies on what defines a tree: their definition is everything is considered timber.
- b.) Terri Northup appointed Director of Real Property tax services: She was the assistant

Public opportunity to address the board up to three minutes: Diane Lansing spoke and asked about the memorandum. Supervisor Jackson explained why the tabling of the memorandum with the Planning Board. Andy Buchanon asked about the tabling of the Planning Board positions. Supervisor Jackson explained they haven't received the resignations yet.

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Supervisor Jackson explained the process of the Board members of the Planning Board. Sandy Vance spoke about money needed for the library do, to minimum wage increase. Supervisor Jackson recommended she sent him a letter. Councilor Hughes and Councilor LaForest discussed the money for BAS. Tina Gardner spoke about the BBQ grills being reinstalled. Once the water project is finished. Discussion on B&Bs and the impact on the area. Short discussion on the phone situation in Whallonsburg.

Meeting went into executive session.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Yours,

Alicia Kelly,
Town Clerk