

January 12, 2022

A regular meeting of the Madrid Town Board was called to order at 6:30 PM in the Madrid town office.

Members Present: Tony Cooper, Kevin Finnegan, Garry Wells, Collin Nicol, Bill Barkley-Hwy Supt. And Zoe Hawkins- Town Clerk.

Absent: David Fisher

Also Present: Anna Campbell- Via Zoom, Bob Henninger, Bill Hull, Tina Rookey, Kevin Acres, Eric Backus, Bill Olsen, and Karen Bage, Jacob Morgan, and Drew Harmer.

Public Comment: Kevin Acres gave an update on the county.

Planning Board: Cypress Creek Solar is looking into putting solar in, near Cogswell's Corners.

Assessor: Tax bills are out and the phone is ringing with questions and requesting divided assessments. Exemption renewals are coming in. The Governor has made the renewal requirement optional for seniors with the Senior and Disability & Limited Income Exemptions. If the town board is interested in passing a resolution so that renewals are optional again this year. Kevin Finnegan made a motion, 2nd by Garry wells to pass the resolution. All were in favor.

Whereas, on December 26, 2021, the Governor of New York issued Executive Order 11.1, and

Whereas, this Executive Order allows for the automatic renewal of the real property tax exemptions afforded in subdivisions 7, 7-a and 8 of Section 459-C of the Real Property Tax Law and subdivisions 5, 5-a, 5-b, 5-c and 6 of Section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law if the assessing unit adopts a resolution directing the assessor to grant exemptions pursuant to such section on the 2022 assessment roll to all property owners who received that exemption on the 2021 assessment roll, and

Whereas, this would allow the Low-Income Senior/Disabled property owner to not have to file an exemption application with the Town of Madrid Department of Assessment in order to continue their exemption on the 2022 Assessment Roll, and

Whereas, this law also allows the governing body of the assessing unit to put a local option for when the assessor might require a require a renewal application, now therefore let it be

Resolved, at the recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, allows the Town of Madrid Department of Assessment to automatically grant exemptions for RPTL 459-c and RPTL 467 as were received on the 2021 Assessment Roll onto the 2022 Assessment Roll, and be it further

Resolved, that the Department of Assessment can review the 2022 income for property owner's whose income may have dropped in 2020 to ensure that the largest exemption is granted to the property owner if the income is provided by the federal deadline to submit income taxes with an extension, and be it further

Resolved, that the Department of Assessment can require a renewal application to be filed by taxable status date, in instances where the Department has reason to believe that an owner who qualified for

the exemption on the 2021 Assessment Roll may have since changed their primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner, or died.

MDMS: Anna, and Tony met with Keith Zimmerman to get guidance on financial reporting, grant requirements and future possibilities. MDMS has been notified they have been awarded \$1,000.00 to receive a “re-start” ARTS grant. The concert for January 2022 has been rescheduled for April. MDMS is planning on applying for a Stewarts grant.

Other Public Comment: Eric Backus, Bill Olsen, and Karen Bage from Clarkson came in to do an Active Transportation presentation. They showed plans that could be made for safe and healthy transportation for vehicles, and pedestrians, and discussed what they think could be beneficial to the Town Of Madrid.

Bob Henninger recently purchased a property, he says is not in the water district, but is being charged a water district Tax. The board told him to speak with the Assessor.

The CEO Jeff Gilson has cited the Middlemiss property again.

An update for the waterlines on Caroline street, was given by Bill Barkley. He got an estimate of \$398,212.58 for the project from Tisdale Associates. This price does not reflect Legal, or engineer fees.

Tina Rookey Doesn't feel she should pay her Water bill with how bad her water is on Caroline Street. She says she has no water pressure, and is having issues with her Hot water heater now due to so much Iron Build up. Collin Nicol made a motion, 2nd by Garry wells to pay her current water bill from the last 2 quarters, and her upcoming quarter bill. All were in favor of this. The board told Bill to have a pressure test done, and The board suggested Tina to look into buying a water softener.

The board reviewed the monthly report, Garry Wells made a motion, 2nd by Kevin Finnegan to acknowledge receipt of the monthly report. All were in favor.

The board reviewed the monthly bills General #1-35 for \$13,361.53, Highway #1-17 for \$20,099.12, Water #1-8 for \$1,229.08, Sewer #1-5 for \$2776.76, Lighting#1 for \$1,919.96, and Trust & Agency #1 for \$32,107.26. Kevin Finnegan made a motion, second by Garry Wells to pay the monthly bills. All were in favor.

Communications: NYS Justice Court Fund for October of 2021: Town \$374.00 and State \$366.00.

North Country This Week Solicitation for being the town's official newspaper.

Annual Audit request letter from NYS Unified Court System, for the year of 2021.

Liberty Utilities sent out their emergency personnel list.

NYS division of Building Standards and Codes annual request for municipal activities relation to code enforcement for 2021 to be completed by CEO and sent no later than April 1st.

Highway: Bill is trying to get an estimate on a coverall. He has also done some research on buying a new tractor. The John Deere 5090E he is looking into will be available for delivery mid-February. The tractor with the loader, is \$67,446.82. Collin Nicol made a motion, 2nd by Kevin Finnegan To allow bill to purchase the tractor with out the loader, and with the warranty, for a price of \$61,032.12 All were in favor.

Old Business: The town is awaiting paperwork for the sale of the street lights in town.

The contract for the Potsdam Humane Society has been signed, and sent out.

There will be a need for a public hearing to be scheduled for closing out OCR housing funds grant.

New Business: The town is going to be purchasing 5 new Christmas decorations.

Collin Nicol made a motion, 2nd by Kevin Finnegan to Re-Appoint Thomas Appleby onto the BAR.

APPOINTMENTS 2022

Kevin Finnegan made a motion, 2nd by Garry Wells TOWN MILEAGE TO BE SET AT .575 PER MILE FOR PERSONAL USE OF VEHICLES FOR TOWN BUSINESS

Garry Wells made a motion, 2nd by Collin Nicol to DESIGNATE THE WDT, and North Country This Week AS OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR 2022

Collin Nicol made a motion, 2nd by Kevin Finnegan to make COMMUNITY BANK, MADRID BRANCH DESIGNATED AS DEPOSITORY FOR TOWN MONEY

Collin Nicol made a motion, 2nd by Garry Wells to have the REGULAR TOWN BOARD MTGS TO BE HELD ON THE 2ND WED OF THE MONTH AT 6:30 P.M.

Garry Wells made a motion 2nd by Collin Nicol to APPOINT SARA DAY-SCHULZ And CARRIE RUTHERFORD AS CO-TOWN HISTORIAN.

Kevin Finnegan made a motion, 2nd by Garry Wells to AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OFFICIALS TO ATTEND ASSOC. OF TOWNS MTG IN NYC APPOINT Tony Cooper as THE DELEGATE & Collin Nicol AS THE ALTERNATE

Garry Wells made a motion, 2nd by Collin Nicol to AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO USE THE SHORT FORM FOR THE SUPERVISOR'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NEWSPAPERS

THE SUPERVISOR APPOINTED HIMSELF BUDGET OFFICER FOR 2022.

Garry Wells made a motion, 2nd by Kevin Finnegan to APPOINT COLLIN LOOMIS TOWN ATTORNEY FOR 2022 WITH A SALARY OF \$4,750.00

Collin Nicol made a motion, 2nd by Kevin Finnegan to APPOINT ZOE HAWKINS REGISTRAR VITAL STATISTICS, KERRI O'BRYAN AS DEPUTY.

SUPERVISOR APPOINTED THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

PLANNING BOARD: Garry Wells and Tony Cooper

INSURANCE: Tony Cooper and Collin Nicol

HIGHWAY: Garry Wells and David Fisher

RECREATION: Collin Nicol and Kevin Finnegan

PERSONNEL: Tony Cooper and David Fisher

WATER & SEWER: Garry Wells and David Fisher

LIBRARY: Collin Nicol and Kevin Finnegan

FIRE & RESCUE: Kevin Finnegan and Collin Nicol

5 YEAR PLANNING: Tony Cooper and David Fisher

Garry Wells made a motion, 2nd by Kevin Finnegan to APPOINT JUDY HARGRAVE AS WATER & SEWER BILLING CLERK @ SALARY \$2480.00, AND TO APPOINT ZOE HAWKINS AS COLLECTOR W/SALARY OF \$2480.00

Kevin Finnegan made a motion 2nd by Garry Wells TO APPOINT KERRI O'BRYAN AS COURT CLERK TO BE PAID A SALARY OF \$12,797.00.

Collin Nicol made a motion 2nd by Kevin Finnegan to APPOINT Jeff Gilson AS CEO, SALARY \$10,286.00

Kevin Finnegan made a motion 2nd by Garry Wells to SET SR CIT. EXEMPTION AT \$20,000 WITH A SLIDING SCALE TO 20%

Kevin Finnegan made a motion, 2nd by Garry Wells TO AUTHORIZE THE HWY SUPT TO EXCHANGE WORK & EQUIP. WITH ANY HWY DEPT WHEN IT IS FEASIBLE FOR BOTH PARTIES & SIGN AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT.

Garry Wells made a motion, 2nd by Collin Nicol to LIMIT THE HWY SUPT TO AN EXPENDITURE OF \$2,999.99 WITHOUT BOARD APPROVAL.

Collin Nicol made a motion 2nd by Kevin Finnegan to AUTHORIZE THE SUPV TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE MADRID RESCUE SQUAD FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR THE YEAR 2022 AT A PRICE OF \$35,000.00

Kevin Finnegan made a motion, 2nd by Garry Wells TO AUTHORIZE THE HWY SUPT TO ATTEND SCHOOLS & CONFERENCES IN THE SPRING & FALL.

AUDIT DAY WILL BE HELD ON: January 27, 2022

Kevin Finnegan made a motion, 2nd by Collin Nicol TO ADOPT THE SALARY SCHEDULE AS SET UP IN BUDGET TO PAY THE TOWN OFFICERS YEARLY SALARIES

AS STATED BELOW:

SUPERVISOR	\$11,000.00
TOWN CLERK	\$23,556.00
TOWN JUSTICE	\$11,263.00
TOWN COUNCIL (EACH)	\$2,750.00
HIGHWAY SUPT.	\$46,308.00
REGISTRAR OF VS	\$1,555.00
HISTORIAN	\$350.00
TOWN ATTORNEY	\$4,750.00
ASSESSOR	\$24,581.00

Zoe Hawkins appointed Judy Hargrave & Kerri O'Bryan As deputy Town Clerk to be paid \$16.00 per hour.

BILL BARKLEY APPOINTED ROB RUTHERFORD AS DEPUTY HIGHWAY SUPT.

ANTHONY COOPER APPOINTED Garry Wells AS DEPUTY SUPERVISOR.

Kevin Finnegan made a motion, 2nd by Collin Nicol to approve the minutes of the December 8th, and 21st 2021 Town meeting minutes. All were in favor.

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, February 9th, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

Kevin Finnegan made a motion to adjourn meeting at 9:24 PM

Zoe Hawkins, Town Clerk