

The first regular meeting of the Kingsbury Town Board was conducted on March 5, 2018 at the Kingsbury Town Hall at 6 Michigan Street, Hudson Falls.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dana Hogan, Supervisor
Richard Doyle, Councilman
Henry Freebern, Councilman
William Haessly, Councilman
Dan Washburn, Councilman

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeffrey Meyer, Town Attorney
Michael Keenan, Town Justice
Michael Graham, Superintendent of Highways
Todd Humiston, Dog Control Officer
Hank LaFountain, Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman
William Whipple, Zoning Board of Appeals

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Supervisor Hogan and opened for the order of business with the Flag Salute led by Councilman Haessly.

The minutes of the February 20, 2018 Town Board Meeting were accepted as submitted by the Town Clerk on a **motion** by Councilman Doyle seconded by Councilman Freebern and carried by a vote of 5 ayes.

Supervisor Hogan received a letter from The Solomon Northup Legacy requesting the Town participate in a multi-Partner City initiative to recognize the 165th anniversary year of Solomon's release from slavery. Supervisor Hogan will contact Melissa Howell, the founder and descendant of the Solomon Northup Legacy, to see if a sample resolution is available for the Town to consider. Supervisor Hogan commented there are local connections to Solomon Northup that Justice Keenan would like to share with the Board. For about ten (10) years Justice Keenan spent time with the former Town Historian, Paul Loding, on Wednesday's after Court. Mr. Loding told the story of Solomon Northup to Justice Keenan. Justice Keenan explained H.B. Northup was a lawyer in Sandy Hill; his father owned Solomon Northup's father who was a slave that he had freed before Solomon was born. Solomon was kidnapped and sold as a slave in Louisiana. H. B Northup went to Louisiana to free Solomon with proof that he had been born a free man. Justice Keenan is certain H.B. Northup's law office still stands in Hudson Falls and will research the location.

A **motion** by Councilman Freebern seconded by Councilman Doyle and carried by a vote of 5 ayes to accept the reports of certain officer for the month of February as follows:

Dog Control Officer: Complaints/Calls 40; Seizures 4; Unlicensed Dogs 3; Summons Issued 0;
Mileage 448 with 70 charged to Fort Edward & 98 charged to Fort Ann
Town Clerk: Paid to EnCon \$14.17; Paid to Supervisor \$1,440.00; Paid to NYS Dept. of
Health \$22.50; Paid to the Village of Hudson Falls \$254.00; Paid to Ag & Markets for Population Control
\$166.00
Town Justice; Fees Collected in December: \$18,463.50
Fees Collected in January: \$15,157.00

TOWN CLERK REPORT:

Linda Nicholson of Morgan Drive wanted the Board to know what a great job Dog Control Officer, Todd Humiston is doing. Humiston has handled a complaint of a barking dog in her neighborhood.

<http://www.kingsburyny.gov>

Town Clerk received a call from Dean Road resident with concern of letters received by some Dean Road residents from the DEC in regard to the testing of their wells for PFOA. The resident did not receive a letter but would like more information. Supervisor Hogan will provide contact information for the DEC for any resident who expresses concern.

Town Clerk reported it is time to mail delinquent letters to taxpayers for the 2018 County/Town Tax Collection. Each year the County asks if the Town would like to be reimbursed for the postage on these letters. Supervisor Hogan commented most of the Towns in Washington County do not wish to be reimbursed; the Board does not wish to be reimbursed.

TOWN JUSTICE REPORT:

Justice Keenan reported the Court Clerk Office was back to full staff; Court Clerk Laura Barody has returned to the office after recovering from her recent surgery. Sherry Ostrander is a good fit as Deputy Court Clerk and will be properly trained with the return of the Court Clerk.

Justice Keenan would echo Ms. Nicholson's assessment of Dog Control Officer Todd Humiston, he is very even keeled; has a good way of dealing with people and does a very good job. Justice Keenan commented we are one of the few towns that handles dangerous dog cases in a timely manner. Humiston commented Attorney Stockwell plays a big part in that also. Justice Keenan commented Attorney Stockwell is brought in only when they need her and she has a way of resolving matters. Many times it is not necessary for an attorney to be here on a weekly basis because Todd is able to handle things on his own; which results in no additional attorney fees for the Town.

DOG CONTROL OFFICER REPORT:

Todd Humiston is preparing for the Dog Safety Presentation Program for this year. Humiston is asking for approval to transfer some of his funds to purchase water bottles for a take-away for the students after the presentation to re-iterate what the students have learned. Humiston stated there has been a dramatic decrease in dog bites in all the areas he works in. Humiston has taught the students to "Make like a tree"; stand still if you are approached by a dog. Humiston stated the water bottle he has selected will have the "Make like a tree" logo, is EPA approved and made in America. Humiston has tested the water bottle with his family for the last year. A **motion** by Councilman Freebern seconded by Councilman Washburn and carried by a vote of 5 ayes to approve the purchase of the water bottles for the Dog Safety Program conducted by Dog Control Officer, Todd Humiston.

Supervisor Hogan received some data from Washington County Public Health which indicate dog bites in our area are down 20%.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Michael Graham reported the stainless steel dump box had been ordered and should be received by June or July, which will allow them to install the new box before next winter. The box ordered last year arrived late and has been installed recently during a break in the weather.

Supervisor Hogan and Graham will attend Advocacy Day in Albany on Wednesday.

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

On February 23rd Bob Henke and Supervisor Hogan received a call from Bob Stegman of the DEC giving them a heads up about a letter being sent to some residents on Dean Road in regard to the testing of their wells for PFOA. A well on Dean Road is has shown evidence of a higher than acceptable PFOA level. It is not necessary for the Town to take action as it is an active DEC investigation. Mr. Stegman provided contact information for residents who are concerned and have questions.

Supervisor Hogan provided information to the Board about a DEC EV Charging Station Grant which is available to municipalities. The Board will review the information and Attorney Meyer will research the

recent installation of a charging station in Lake George. The discussion will continue at the next Board Meeting on March 19, 2018.

Supervisor Hogan announced there will be a public informational meeting on March 22, 2018 at Village Hall in regard to the expansion of the Champlain Canalway Trail.

A **motion** by Councilman Freebern seconded by Councilman Haessly and carried by a vote of 4 ayes to enter into executive session at 7:25 pm to discuss possible litigation; Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman Hank LaFountain and Zoning Board of Appeals member William Whipple were invited to attend the session. Supervisor Hogan recused himself.

A **motion** by Councilman Washburn seconded by Councilman Freebern and carried by a vote of 4 ayes to exit the executive session at 8:24 pm.

There being no further business before the Board a **motion** by Councilman Freebern seconded by Councilman Doyle and carried by a vote of 4 ayes to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Bardin, Town Clerk