

## **Town of Hamden Town Board Meeting of March 1, 2023**

Superintendent Lenci reported that his OSHA violations are being taken care of in a timely manner. He has sent the Roller for repairs to Tracey Road Equipment and cost of repair should be in the \$20,000 range. Scott has decided not to run for another term as Highway Superintendent.

The Hamden Wastewater reports an average daily inflow of 12,367 gallons and a monthly inflow of 346,285 gallons.

The board audited the justice, town clerk and supervisors' books on February 13<sup>th</sup> and all department books were in order.

The proposed Local Law on sidewalk maintenance was discussed and a copy of the town board proposal will be sent to our town attorney for their blessing.

A 10% tax exemption for ambulance and firefighters was discussed and the board decided to table it until we understand what the fire departments are willing work with in the resolution.

Transient rental regulations were discussed. This is for air B&B's and short-term rentals. Safety inspections were of major concern. It will be revisited with more information.

The sale of the Wayne Bank is complete and the funds received will be put into a short-term CD and added to from time to time as we receive the monthly mortgage payments.

The Hamden General Store has applied to the liquor authority for a permit to serve beer, wine and cider for on premise consumption.

Trucking of stone products are going to be advertised for bids for next month's board meeting date.

The board approved the replacement of the Martinez septic system in the hamlet of DeLancey. It is estimated it will be in the \$20,000 range.

Thirteen septic systems in DeLancey will be pumped out in 2023. (Shephard, Imperi, Kirk, Flannery, Nichols, Schriver, Schneck, Troost, Ordmandy, Wilson, Lees, Bodo, and Hutson).

The septic and water committee will get together to discuss the proposed water line to the old German Butcher building. The estimated cost will be \$21,000. The building is being sold.

FEMA is looking to close out our 2018 highway claims. The only one yet pending is the Coles Clove projects and only guard rails are yet to be done.

The Town is looking for a part time clerk to help our assessor, with aspirations of training to be the town assessor.

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Marshfield

## **Proposed Agenda for our April 5, 2023 Town Board Meeting**

1. Wastewater report
2. Comprehensive Plan update
3. Garage repairs update
4. Local Law for sidewalk maintenance in hamlet of Hamden
5. Tax exemption discussion on volunteer firefighter and ambulance persons
6. Transient Rental regulations
7. Opening of trucking bids for stone products.
8. Moving forward with water line replacement in hamlet of Hamden
9. Need for part time assessor clerk (trainee)
- 10.CWC cost of inspections of septic systems in DeLancey
- 11.Other business to come before the board

## **Delaware County Board of Supervisors Meeting of March 8, 2023**

The board appointed Doug Elston as Director of Community Mental Health Services.

Many road materials were bid out and the bids were awarded. Rental of equipment, Hot Mix, Gravel, sand, Concrete, steel pilings, gabions, pipe, sign posts, lubricating oils, LP gas, Bridge bearing materials, and deck membranes were awarded to the lowest bidder.

A temporary landfill rain cover for cell 6 was awarded to Chenango Contracting out of Johnson City.

Modifications to the Ag District 6 were approved in the Towns of Hamden, Hancock and Colchester.

The board approved a resolution adopting the prevailing federal standard mileage rate and as it changes in the future.

The board approved a resolution eliminating the 1% sales tax on gasoline over \$2.00 per gallon. This was patterned after the Jefferson County resolution after my investigation.

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Marshfield

## **Delaware County Board of Supervisors Meeting of March 22, 2023**

A resolution was adopted to transfer \$60,000 from our contingency account to a grant related account for the IRT (Innovative Readiness Training) project in Walton on July 10-21. This upfront money from the county will be reimbursed from the Appalachian Regional Commission, O'Connor Foundation, and the Southern Tier Community Foundation.

An authorization for awards was accepted in Public Works for Stone and Gravel Products for Flood Buyout Projects in Sidney. The low bid award went to E&R Pope's Excavating from Mount Upton.

A resolution calling on the Governor to reconsider part N of the Article VII Revenue Bills in the Executive Budget. The following is my presentation to the Board of Supervisors. Wayne

### **Resolution 68**

As a bit of background information, the Clean Path Transmission line is running from Delhi to Colchester for several miles through the Town of Hamden. This is a DC underground line, following the existing overhead transmission line and part of the 178-mile trek to NYC. This is only one upgrade of three transmission lines in the Town of Hamden, the other two being 115,000 AC lines owned by NYSEG, one coming in from the north and one coming in from the west. All of these lines are coming in and out of the Hamden Hill Substation in the Town of Delhi, for this lower carbon power to be sent to NYC. Of course, the Clean Path line will not be adding to our tax base and for the time being the other two NYSEG lines will be adding to our tax base. Based on this resolution for lower assessments on renewables, I'm waiting for the real property tax law to be changed, giving those transmission lines feeding Hamden Hill to qualify for tax exemptions because they are adding to the renewable portfolio!

I chuckled when I read that DEC, NYSERDA and the Climate Change Council didn't acknowledge the white paper written to them in April of 22' by Delaware County. The Hamden Town Council also wrote a white paper to those same agencies in June of 22' and we too weren't given any recognition of them receiving the documents! More specifically the Hamden Board document specified that we distinctly opposed the mandate approach to require all homes to install electric heating regardless of cost. I personally have a heat pump in my house, it worked fine this winter, but I am here to tell you it will be cost prohibitive for most people in Delaware County. This air heat pump system with current rebates is 3-4 times

more costly than a conventional fossil fired heating system. Additionally, the Hamden white paper stated that we did not support the mandated approach for force consumers to purchase electric cars. I can't imagine what our local distribution utilities are going to do with all this added electric loads from heat pumps and electric cars. Retiring from the distribution utility side, I can tell you once a utility exceeds their purchased power allotment in their current portfolio, they have to go out on the market to shop for more expensive sources of power to supply this now forced load on their systems. This extra source of power will be many times higher than their negotiated current allotments. What happens then, it gets passed to the consumer, our county residents and businesses. The Hamden paper also opposed any suggestions of mileage surcharges, increased registration fees, added taxes on gas, propane, home heating fuel, or a tax on solid waste. I personally wonder how, in a large power outage, how do we charge our cars to get to work, to the stores, and yes to the hospitals! To me not a lot of thought was given to the entire scope of the ramifications.

Indian Point Nuclear Plant on Long Island was closed down in 2021' and it fed 25% of the power to the NYC area. Now we have to bring massive electric transmission lines to that same area to make up the difference with their renewable energy portfolio. What happens when the wind doesn't blow and the sun don't shine? Our utilities are held responsible to still supply power of some sort to their consumers. It is not saving our local utilities, because they still have to plan on alternative energy sources. From the New York System Operators, 1/3 of the power used in the state comes from upstate of which is 90% carbon emissions free, while the downstate and their 2/3 of the usage is 90% fossil dependent. So, the City is dependent on us supplying them fossil free energy because of the State's poor decisions on mandates that we should not have. I said it before and I will say it again, if the State wants us to convert to electric heating and hot water heating and transportation to name a few, let them put their money where their mouths are! To this date today, they are not doing that. They want to build these huge transmission lines in Delaware County, then let them supply us with part of a community investment fund. Let them pay a fee in lieu of a property tax, let them pay us for converting our home heating systems, let them pay us for driving electric cars. But most of all leave our oil furnaces, our gas-powered vehicles alone and

without added surcharges. We need to support our County in filing for a party status in the Article VII Proceeding brought by the Power Authority and the Clean Path Transmission Line. To me this provision attacks home rule! It makes it impossible to even question or challenge anything. This is also opposed by the New York Association of Counties as it removes the right of municipalities to assess taxes for large scale solar, wind and battery storage projects. We must oppose this Part N of the Article VII Executive Revenue Bill as contained in the Governor's Budget proposal.

Wayne M.

A resolution was adopted approving the tentative agreement with the CSEA, Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO for the years of 2023,24,25,26, and 27.

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Marshfield