

Unadilla Town Board Meeting

Date: February 14, 2023

6:30 PM Audit of Bills

7:00 PM Open Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order

Supervisor George DeNys called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

George DeNys, Supervisor
Terry Yoder, Town Clerk
Rodney Renwick, Superintendent
Ronald Reed, Councilman
Donald Cole, Councilman
Jessica Grow, Councilwoman
Allen Anderson, Councilman
Beth Westfall, Attorney
Kirk McLaughlin, Observer
Jeff Barber, Observer
Steve Higbie, Observer
S. Lee Bossler, Observer
Jake Cotten, Village Mayor

January 10th Minutes

Councilman Ronald Reed made the motion to accept the January 10th meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allen Anderson and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

General Total	\$ 40,727.77
Highway Outside Village	\$ 64,024.44
Highway Town wide	\$ 49,032.61
Riverside Sewer District	\$ 81.00
Riverside Lighting	\$ 287.95
Rockdale Lighting	\$ 50.87
Wells Bridge Lighting	\$ 321.89
Riverside Fire Protection	\$ 29,016.00
Rockdale/Mt. Upton Fire Protection	\$ 17,776.43
Unadilla Fire Protection	\$ 50,000.00
Wells Bridge Fire District	\$ 46,080.00

Councilwoman Jessica Grow made the motion to accept and pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Reed and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

Committee Reports

Highway

Highway Superintendent's Report

Snow and ice plowed or salted 40 times this year

Tree work is ongoing, cutting down approximately 20-30 large ash trees

About 32 road signs have been stolen or damaged. Working with troopers to deal with perpetrators.

The new mowing tractor has been delivered.

Otsego County is working on a county-wide shared service agreement.

Rodney would like to sell off on Auctions International a bunch of "stuff" that has been laying around for years. If it does not sell, then he will scrap it.

Councilman Don Cole made a motion to allow Rodney to auction off these excess items. The motion was seconded by Supervisor George DeNys and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

Advocacy Day will be held in Albany on March 8th.

The crew will be attending the Cornell local roads training.

Rodney will be meeting with Village Mayor Cotten to discuss some sealing and paving projects.

Rodney wants to hold a scrap metal day for the village and town. A date of March 31st was set.

The Town of Westford submitted an offer of \$5,000 for the 1990 Gradall.

Finance

No questions regarding the financial report for January.

Building

Fyr-Fyter responded to an alarm that was going off in the Town Hall. The technician felt that it was due to a cell tower that went down. He reset the alarm.

Steve Higbie Construction installed the two new doors leading down both hallways. Councilman Donald Cole was pleased with the results.

Supervisor George DeNys made the motion to approve the committee reports. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Reed and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

Monthly Reports

Town Clerk's monthly report was submitted with a check totaling \$304.00.

Supervisor's monthly report was submitted.

Dog Control Officer's monthly report was submitted.

Assessor's Report was submitted.

Supervisor George DeNys made the motion to accept the monthly reports. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allen Anderson and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

Old Business

Public Hearing for Tax Break for Firefighters and Ambulance Personnel

Supervisor George DeNys made the motion to open the Public Hearing for a 10% tax break for volunteer firefighters and ambulance personnel. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Reed and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

After much discussion stating the pros and cons by the Board and citizens of the Town, it was decided to pass the local law to offer the 10% tax incentive to our local firemen and ambulance personnel.

Councilwoman Jessica Grow made the motion to pass a local law to offer a real property tax exemption of 10% to qualified firemen and ambulance workers. The motion was seconded by Councilman Don Cole and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

Supervisor George DeNys made the motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Don Cole and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

Town of Unadilla Local Law No. 1 of 2023

Enacting a Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers

Pursuant to Section 466-a of the New York Real Property Tax Law.

Section 1.

The Town Board of the Town of Unadilla hereby adopts this local law, entitled “Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption,” enacted pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a, to read as follows:

Section 2. Grant of Exemption.

An exemption of Ten (10%) percent of assessed value of property owned by an enrolled member as set forth below, or such enrolled member and their spouse, is hereby granted from taxation with respect to the real property taxes of the Town of Unadilla, as long as eligibility requirements are met.

Section 3. Eligibility Requirements.

Such exemption shall be granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service provided that:

- A. The property is owned by the volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker;
- B. The property is the primary residence of the volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker;
- C. The property is used exclusively for residential purposes;

- D. The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker resides in the Town of Unadilla and the Town of Unadilla is served by such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service;
- E. The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker is certified by the authority having jurisdiction as an enrolled member of such an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance services; and
- F. The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker meets the minimum service requirement established by the Town of Unadilla, which is hereby established as Two (2) years.

Section 4. Application.

A volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker must annually, on or before the applicable taxable status date, file an application for such property tax exemption with the assessor responsible for preparing the assessment roll for the Town of Unadilla, on a form as prescribed by the New York State Commissioner of Taxation and Finance. The Town of Unadilla must maintain written guidelines, available upon request, as to the requirements of an enrolled volunteer member relating to this exemption.

Section 5. Certification.

The Town Board must annually file with the assessor, prior to the applicable taxable status date, a list of the active volunteer members who are certified to meet the minimum service requirement. Such list must provide as of the applicable taxable status date, the number of years of service served by each such enrolled member and such enrolled member's address of residence.

Section 6. No diminution of benefits.

An applicant who is receiving any benefit pursuant to Article 4 of the Real Property Tax Law as of the effective date of this article shall not have any of the benefits diminished because of this article.

Section 7. Grant of lifetime exemption.

Any eligible enrolled member who accrues more than Twenty (20) years of active volunteer service (as certified by the authority having jurisdiction) shall be granted the Ten (10%) percent exemption as authorized by this article for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the Town of Unadilla.

Section 9. Un-remarried spouse of enrolled member killed in the line of duty.

The un-remarried surviving spouse of a deceased enrolled member, as certified by the authority having jurisdiction, is qualified to continue to receive an exemption, as long as the deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least Twenty (20) years and the deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption at the time of his or her death.

Section 10.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part of this Local Law is declared by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to said clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of his Local Law.

Section 11.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State in accordance with Municipal Home Rule Law Section 27.

Review Standards of Conduct for Officers and Employees

Attorney Beth Westfall is working on a revised Standard of Conduct for Officers and Employees as ours hasn't been updated in quite a while. She will have a revision for the Board to review at our next meeting.

Open Gradall Bids

One bid was submitted from Yacano Enterprises of Norwich, NY
Their bid for a used 2012 Gradall XL3100 4x4-3100 Serial # 3120000259 with one 60" Ditch Bucket was \$91,580.00.

Councilwoman Jessica Grow made the motion to award the bid to Yacano Enterprises for the 2012 Gradall. The motion was seconded by Councilman Don Cole and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

ARPA Fund Quotes**Town Car**

Four quotes were obtained for a new Town Car from Toyota using ARPA money.

2023 Corolla Hybrid at \$26,356.00

2023 Corolla Cross at \$30,686.00

2023 Rav4 @ \$32,930.00

2023 Highlander Hybrid @ \$45,043.00

Councilman Ronald Reed suggested the Corolla Hybrid due to usage and gas mileage.

Supervisor George DeNys made the motion to go out for bid for a 2023 Corolla Hybrid. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allen Anderson and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

Loader

The trade-in for a new loader was tabled until next board meeting.

Window/pull out drawer

The purchase of the window and pull-out drawer was tabled until next board meeting.

Picnic Tables & Cigarette container for Town Hall

A quote from Kirby Built for 2 picnic tables and cigarette butt container was submitted for consideration. Total purchase price was \$2,282.72.

Councilman Ronald Reed made the motion to purchase the tables and container in the amount of \$2,282.72. The motion was seconded by Supervisor George DeNys and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

Mayor Jack Cotten asked the Board to consider helping out with the cost of new Christmas snowflakes for the village Main Street. He says the cost to replace the old ones that are in bad shape will run around \$35,000.

The ARPA Committee will discuss the snowflakes at their next meeting.

New Business

Appoint Nick Feudi on Board of Review

Supervisor George DeNys made the motion to appoint Nick Feudi to the Board of Review. The motion was seconded by Councilman Don Cole and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

Privilege of the Floor

Kirk McLaughlin said he would be willing to stand in on the BOR for one more year if necessary.

Adjournment

With no further discussion, Supervisor George DeNys made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Reed and unanimously carried. Roll Call; 5 Ayes, 0 Noes.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry L Yoder, Town Clerk
Time of Adjournment: 8:07 PM