

STATE OF NEW YORK
ONONDAGA COUNTY
TOWN OF CICERO

SS:

The Cicero Town Board held their regular meeting on Wednesday, January 08, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cicero Town Hall, 8236 Brewerton Road, Cicero, NY 13039.

Present: Jessica Zambrano, Supervisor
Tim Burtis, Deputy Supervisor
C. Vernon Conway, Councilor
Mark Venesky, Councilor
Mike Becallo, Councilor

Others Present: Tracy Cosilmon, Town Clerk
Christopher Woznica, Highway
Jim Meyers, Police Investigator
Neil Germain, Germain & Germain, Town Attorney
Bruce W. Letts, C & S Companies, Town Engineer

Supervisor Zambrano indicated where the fire exits were in the event of an emergency and requested that all electronic devices, such as cell phones, be silenced. She asked the audience to take care not to be disruptive during the course of the meeting because they have had a few complaints about people being disturbed.

The meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor Conway requested a moment of silence be observed to honor our military.

APPROVAL OF TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Deputy Supervisor Burtis moved the adoption of a resolution to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2013 Regular Town Board Meeting, and the minutes of the December 20, 2013 Special Town Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano.

Ayes- 3 and Noes – 0. Motion carried. Councilor Venesky and Councilor Becallo abstained (their terms began on January 01, 2014).

APPROVAL OF 2014 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Deputy Supervisor Burtis moved the adoption of a resolution to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2014 Organizational Meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilor Venesky.

Ayes- 5 and Noes – 0. *Motion carried.*

BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

Supervisor Zambrano stated that there were no budget modifications.

APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH AFFORDABLE BENEFITS CONCEPTS, INC., FOR THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATIVE (TPA) SERVICES FOR THOSE TOWN EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE BENEFIT OFFERING HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN COVERAGE AND AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

Deputy Supervisor Burtis moved the adoption of a resolution to approve the agreement with Affordable Benefits Concepts, Inc., for Third Party Administrative (TPA) Services for those Town employees and their families that participate in the benefit offering health insurance plan coverage and authorize Supervisor to execute the agreement based on the review and approval of the Town attorney. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano.

Neil Germain stated it was a necessary agreement that the Town needs to have in place to comply with their contractual obligations to the Town employees. Robert Germain has reviewed the agreement and has found it acceptable.

Supervisor Zambrano explained that the change for this year is that the agreement will carry an administrative fee. Last year the vendor provided the service at no charge, but now there will be a small administrative fee of \$3.95 per enrollee and there are about 60 enrollees.

Ayes- 4 and Noes – 0. Motion carried. Councilor Becallo abstained.

ABOLISH THE TWO PART-TIME DEPUTY CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER POSITIONS, TITLE #42410, AND POSITION #004 AND POSITION #005, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014

Councilor Conway moved the adoption of a resolution to abolish the two part-time Deputy Code Enforcement Officer positions, Title #42410, and position #004 and position #005, effective January 1, 2014. Motion was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Burtis.

Ayes - 5 and Noes- 0. *Motion carried.*

Supervisor Zambrano explained that at one of the December meetings they did take an action to dispense with those positions but, the Office of Personnel Services at Onondaga County contacted and notified us that in order for the lay-offs to be effective, particularly for one individual, we had to actually abolish the position. That is why they are taking this motion tonight. There are still a couple of positions that are available so that they will be able to add staffing in the future if it becomes necessary.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PURCHASE APPROVALS

Two (2) Tires for Truck #9

Councilor Conway moved the adoption of a resolution to approve the following Highway purchase:

- A. \$1,750.00 to Commercial Truck Tire for two(2) tires for Truck #9

Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano.

Ayes - 5 and Noes- 0. *Motion carried.*

8,000 Tons of Rock Salt

Councilor Conway moved the adoption of a resolution to approve the following Highway purchase:

- B. \$302,480.00 to Cargill Inc. for 8,000 tons of Rock Salt/Award #22730

Motion was seconded by Supervisor Zambrano.

Ayes - 4 and Noes- 1. Motion Carried. Councilor Becallo voting no.

Chris Woznica explained that just because they were approving \$302,480.00 tonight doesn't mean that the highway department was going to spend that this week; they will probably spend somewhere around \$200k to \$150k to fill the barn and from there they will just keep adding around \$2000 at a time. Normally, that money will carry into the fall of next year. He wants the public to know that they are not going to go out and spend \$302k tomorrow morning on salt.

Supervisor Zambrano asked Chris Woznica if he wanted to speak in regards to the salt usage so far, this season.

Chris Woznica explained that since the 1st of November, December and January the Town trucks have traveled 20,756 miles, putting down an average of 5,463.5 tons of salt. They've used a lot of salt, but they've driven almost 21,000 miles since November, salting and plowing roads.

Supervisor Zambrano said we do have 130 miles of Town road and asked how many miles of County roads are added to that.

Chris Woznica replied about 18 miles of County roads.

Supervisor Zambrano believes that the negotiated amount for County reimbursement is about \$6700 per mile; so they are making a little revenue from that. She asked Chris if the County dictates what type of salt usage or what type of road clearing was used or was it up to the discretion of the town.

Chris Woznica said it was up to the Town.

Supervisor Zambrano solicited any questions from the board.

Deputy Supervisor Burtis asked Chris how much salt was in the barn right now.

Chris Woznica replied that he had enough for about 15 trips. There's probably less than 2000 ton of salt out there.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PURCHASE APPROVALS*Six (6) Custom Integrity Light Bars*

Councilor Venesky moved the adoption of a resolution to approve the following purchase approval for the Police department:

- A. \$15,831.00 to CNY Emergency Vehicles for the purchase and installation of six (6) Custom Integrity light bars

Motion was seconded by Councilor Conway.

Ayes - 5 and Noes- 0. *Motion carried.*

Councilor Zambrano stated that these were budgeted items.

APPOINT SHARON MAY TO THE PLANNING BOARD AD-HOC POSITION

Supervisor Zambrano moved the adoption of a resolution to appoint Sharon May to the Planning Board Ad-Hoc position effective immediately through December 31, 2014. Motion was seconded by Councilor Conway.

Ayes - 5 and Noes- 0. *Motion carried.*

APPOINT RITA WICKS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AD-HOC POSITION

Supervisor Zambrano moved the adoption of a resolution to appoint Rita Wicks to the Zoning Board of Appeals Ad-Hoc position effective immediately through December 31, 2014. Motion was seconded by Councilor Conway.

Ayes - 5 and Noes- 0. *Motion carried.*

SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP SESSION FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15th

Employee Compensation and Overtime

Supervisor Zambrano stated that there have been issues regarding employee compensation and overtime that have come up., therefore, she wanted to schedule a workshop session which would be advertised and open to the public.

Supervisor Zambrano moved the adoption of a resolution to schedule a workshop session for Wednesday, January 15th, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at the Cicero Town Hall, 8236 Brewerton Rd., Cicero, NY to discuss employee compensation and overtime matters. Motion was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Burtis.

Ayes - 5 and Noes- 0. *Motion carried.*

PUBLIC INPUT

Deborah Gardner welcomed the new Supervisor and Councilors. She had read in the paper about innovative ways to de-ice the roads; these included using cheese waste products and beet juice (which is also a waste product), and she wondered if it is possible for the Town to investigate some of these alternatives..Not only might they be cheaper, but more importantly to some people they are much more environmentally friendly and they are also, according to the article, better on the trucks and vehicles.

Supervisor Zambrano advised that they are planning, after this winter season, a session will be held with all interested parties to analyze salt usage and to see if there are any alternatives for how to de-ice the roads.

Chris Woznica said the use of the beet juice, cheese curd or molasses – those properties do not have the ice melting capability; that is added in conjunction with salt for the salt to adhere to the road or activate the salt. Wet salt activates and melts the ice quicker. Using these products is not going to take the place of salt because you still have to use the same amount of salt (all that does is make a bond to the salt so that it sticks to the road better, so it doesn't bounce off and it activates the salt). So, they are going to look into it. They have used it in the past and they found that there was not much difference in it, but they are going to examine it again with the help of the Town Board. He wanted to clarify that it's not going to take the place of salt because beet juice will *not* melt ice.

Supervisor Zambrano said they were looking forward to a wide-ranging discussion about potential alternatives. They are looking at alternatives to see if there are more cost

effective measures. If it turns out that there is an alternative measure that costs more, than why use it? They are all about trying to save money and taxpayer dollars.

Councilor Venesky said he accepted the responsibility as liaison to the Highway Department. He has spoken to Chris Woznica and they have had some productive discussions, such as spreading how much salt goes down per road mile. They are also looking at concepts called Total Cost. What is the Total Cost? Sometimes, you may find that a particular product that we might put down on the road is a little bit more expensive and initially one would say “Well, that’s because it is more expensive- probably not the way to go.” However, when you factor in corrosion factors, and wear and tear on the equipment, one product is opposed to using another product and they take the total cost into consideration, there may be alternatives and Chris and his management team is committed, along with the rest of the board, to take a good look at that after the snow melting season.

Supervisor Zambrano said that Councilor Conway is the other liaison to the Highway Department and he has also had some discussions about salt usage and has been going out to visit situations.

Jim Corl congratulated the two (2) new board members and the Supervisor. He is very confident that 2014 will be a great year for Cicero and everybody will do an excellent job. He is the County Legislator for the 3rd District and looks forward to a working relationship with the Town and all the officials. The County has already had their Organizational Meeting and he has been appointed to a few of their committees such as: The Public Health Committee, The Environmental Committee and Economic Development, which Kathy Rapp is Chair for. He is also the Vice-Chair of the Health Committee. He is looking forward to those assignments provided by Chairman McMahan.

Supervisor Zambrano thanked County Legislator, Jim Corl.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Zambrano moved the adoption of a resolution to adjourn the Town Board Meeting.

Motion was seconded by Deputy Supervisor Burtis.

Ayes - 5 and Noes- 0. *Motion carried.*

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Tracy M. Cosilmon
Town Clerk