

## TOWN OF PHILADELPHIA

### APRIL 9, 2014 BOARD MEETING

Present: Supervisor: Cheryl Horton, Clerk: Cheryl Reed, Highway Superintendent: Mike Freeman, Council Members: Sandra Carpenter, Robert Watson Sr., Schuyler Weaver, Ronald Spicer, Assessor: John Kiechle, Bookkeeper: Gary Mack, Guests: Terry McKeever, Elmer Hoover, Susan Hoover and Watertown Times Reporter: Gordon Block.

Minutes were read prior to the meeting. Ron noted an error on page one paragraph 2. The word in was not spelled correctly. Ron made a motion to accept the minutes with this correction. Sky seconded this motion, all were in favor. Motion carried.

#### **Financial Report:**

Gary Mack read the Monthly Financial Report aloud. General Vouchers #98 to #128 totaled \$17,838.49. Highway Vouchers #65 to #83 totaled \$33,571.15. Board Members signed the Monthly Financial Report as their approval of said report.

#### **Clerk Report:**

1. March 21<sup>st</sup> had 2014 Tax Collection Meeting with County Treasurer, Dorena Kimball. The total collection for the Town of Philadelphia corresponded exactly with that of the County Treasurer.
2. Clerk Reed reported that she had received her 5<sup>th</sup> acknowledgement from the NYS Association of Tax Receivers and Collectors.
3. Attended the Local Government Conference at Jefferson Community College on March 27. Sessions were very instructive.
4. DEC Sales are beginning to increase due to the nicer weather.

#### **Highway Superintendent's Report:**

1. Spring Clean-up is scheduled to begin May 5<sup>th</sup>. Collection fee will remain the same @ \$35.00.
2. Residents wishing to dispose of trees and brush before this date may drop these items off behind the Town Office Building, next to the Salt Barn or by the road in front of their property.

3. Town will take all trees and brush to a designated area on County Route 30, where the county will put it through a Wood Chipper.
4. The 1986 Van purchased in 2010 at \$300.00 from Fort Drum Surplus was sold at an internet auction for \$3,000.00.
5. Would like to attend a sale on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. There is a Dump Truck that will be on sale there for up to \$30,000.00. Board Members will consider this and further discussion is scheduled for May's Town Board Meeting.
6. CHIPS funding for the Town of Philadelphia will be increased due to such a harsh winter requiring high overtime pay to highway employees. Philadelphia is due to receive a total amount of \$53,405.16.

At this time Sky wished to voice his concern to Mike regarding a non-town employee running the Packing Machine at the Recycling Center. Mike said he was unaware of this but will be speaking to employees concerning this matter. Sky said that he had also observed a truck come to the recycling center, drop off a full load and leave the premises without paying. Mike will ask employees to be more observant.

Bob wished to speak to Mike concerning a resident who does pay Town Taxes and wishes for the Highway Dept. to provide stone for her driveway. This issue will be addressed immediately.

Supervisor Horton provided her draft resolution concerning the Roof-top-Highway to all board members and read it aloud. **(SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION)**

**Privilege of the floor:**

Terry McKeever accepted privilege of the floor and wished to speak about a culvert that is located on properties owned by Drakes and McKeever. This culvert is plugged and needs attention as soon as possible. Mike said that he will take care of this situation.

Terry also addressed a culvert on the Honeywell property. This culvert was also backed up. Mike will also take care of this issue.

Also Terry discussed the Speed Zone Signs on Irish Avenue.

Before entering these properties Highway Superintendent, Freeman will need an easement from each individual owner before work can begin.

Elmer Hoover suggested that the Highway Department should not only clean these culverts but should also maintain them.

A schedule of Planning and Zoning Fees was given to all Board Members prior to the meeting. There were no decisions at this time. The issue was tabled to allow more review time.

**Buildings:**

Contractor Mike Delles will be asked for a quote on repairing the old garage roof.

**Assessor Report:**

1. Tug Hill Conference was very informative.
2. 2% Tax Cap Freeze for two years was discussed. NYS has lowered that to 1.46% for 2015 Budgets.

At this time Supervisor Horton spoke to Assessor John Kiechle regarding the Veterans' Exemptions for Patrick Loveland. John was given paperwork that Patrick had given to Supervisor Horton. Supervisor Horton told John that she had spoken to Roxanne Burns from Jefferson County Real Property and if John had any questions regarding this paperwork and its follow up to speak to Roxanne. Supervisor Horton asked John to take care of this matter.

**Correspondence In:**

Supervisor Horton shared a letter she had received from the Clayton Improvement League. The league provides safe, affordable housing and related services to low to moderate income households.

At 6:68 P.M. Sandra made a motion to adjourn. Ron seconded this motion, all were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cheryl Reed ~ Town Clerk*

## TOWN OF PHILADELPHIA

April 9, 2014

The following resolution was offered by Council Person, Sandra Carpenter and seconded by Council Person, Schuyler Weaver who moved its adoption.

### RESOLUTION: 2014-29

WHEREAS the taxpayers of the Town of Philadelphia are dependent on the businesses that are located on the NYS Route 11 now in existence for their contribution to the tax base here, and

WHEREAS the business owners rely on traffic patterns that bring north-south commuters and travelers into their establishments for the goods and services offered within, and

WHEREAS these local businesses need to flourish to remain in existence and able to contribute their portion of revenue for services provided to the taxpayers by the exercise of local government, and

WHEREAS multiple communities along the proposed route of a roof-top highway face the same concerns as does Philadelphia, and

WHEREAS an inventory of state, county and local roads and bridges reveals a growing multi-billion dollar shortfall of funding for their rebuilding or repair, and

WHEREAS these needs are critical and should be addressed in depth before they are set aside to further deteriorate in favor of a proposed multi-billion dollar investment of a roof-top highway, and

WHEREAS the Governor and New York State legislators are encouraging support for raising revenues to build a rooftop highway from south to north and bypass this community and others in the development of such a highway,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Philadelphia Town Board calls upon the Governor, the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly to address the needs of the deteriorating infrastructure first and foremost.

The Philadelphia Town Board also wishes to express our firm opposition to the building of a rooftop highway through this area and the consequential detriment of our community and others, our businesses and our tax-base.

This resolution was adopted via the following roll vote:

Supervisor Horton: aye

Council Persons:

Sandra Carpenter: aye

Robert Watson Sr.: aye

Schuyler Weaver: aye

Ronald Spicer: aye

I hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted by the Philadelphia Town Board on April 9, 2014.

{ SEAL }

Town Clerk: Cheryl Reed

Date April 9, 2014