

TOWN OF PHILADELPHIA

AUGUST 14, 2013 – BOARD MEETING

Present: Supervisor: Cheryl Horton, Town Clerk: Cheryl Reed, Hwy. Supt.: Mike Freeman, Council Members: Sandra Carpenter, Bob Watson Sr., Sky Weaver, Assessor: John Kiechle, Bookkeeper: Gary Mack, and Guest: Judge: Jessie Scheer.

Absent: Board Member: Ron Spicer.

At 5:30 P.M. Supervisor Horton called the meeting to order, followed by prayer and pledge.

Minutes were read prior to the meeting. Sky made a move to accept the minutes as written, Sandra seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Gary Mack read the Monthly Financial Report aloud. General Vouchers # 242 to # 280 totaled \$29,388.87. Highway Vouchers # 138 to # 154 totaled \$13,565.84. Board Members signed the Monthly Financial Report as their approval of said report.

Clerk Report:

1. Sportsman License and Deer Management Permits (DMP) sales began Aug. 12. No price increase at this time.

Highway Report:

1. Will be black topping at IRCS Aug.19.
2. August 24, 2013 the Carwell Company will be coming to spray dump trucks 1688 and 1689. The application of this spray will help control rust and corrosion. The cost is \$160.00 per truck.
3. Currently working in the Town of Leray, repairing slopes in road.
4. Mike will be going to Highway Superintendent's Conference in Lake Placid on Aug. 17th to 19th.
5. Renewal of the Shared Services Agreement with IRCS is due in December 2013.

Planning Board Meeting Report:

1. Board discussed Signing: lighted, size, placement, etc.

Grant Report:

Supervisor received a request from NYS to revise contract. Supervisor Horton has submitted this revision.

Mobile Mapping/Cartograph

1. Work still in progress.

Assessor Report:

1. New computer transition with new program.

Website:

1. Close to launching.

At this time Judge Jessie Scheer was given privilege of the floor. Judge Scheer asked for the Town Board's approval of submitting a grant the New York State Justice Court Assistance Program. Court Clerk, Helen Tyler will prepare grant. **(Please see attached resolution)**

Supervisor Horton shared portions of a letter with the Town Board that she received from James Koch, District Business Manager representing the Indian River School District regarding the Town of Philadelphia's Equalization Rate.

1. Mr. Koch's letter was to the NYS Tax Department, Office of Counsel, supporting the efforts of the Town of Philadelphia to have their tentative equalization rate of 93.23% raised back to the full value of 100%.
2. The actions of the assessor in increasing the assessment on the Philadelphia Housing Associates Property was short sighted and in violation of the spirit, if not the letter, of the stipulated tax certiorari settlement.
3. The Town of Philadelphia is located in its entirety within the boundaries of the Indian River Central School District. The district has portions of seven (7) other taxing jurisdictions within its borders. This dramatic change in the equalization rate has significant impact not only on Philadelphia but also on the seven other jurisdictions as the school district prepares to apportion its tax levy over these eight (8) towns.
4. With the potential for an equalization rate change IRCS generated a new apportionment of the tax levy based on the tentative equalization rate for Philadelphia. This shifted \$25,640.00 in tax levy into the Town of Philadelphia from the seven (7) other taxing jurisdictions within the district. That caused tax rates to decline in those seven (7) towns while increasing them in Philadelphia. (Estimated \$0.290558 per thousand of assessed value).
5. The Indian River Central School District must publish a tax warrant by the end of August to begin collecting taxes in September.

6. If the equalization rate remains where it is at 93 .23%, the residents of Philadelphia will pay higher school taxes due to the actions of its assessors on the valuation of one large parcel of property.
7. If the Town's appeal of this equalization rate is ultimately sustained after the warrant is issued, the District will have no practical way to correct the apportionment. Once taxpayers pay their bill in good faith there will be confusion over the receipt of a second adjusted bill, especially one increasing the taxes in seven (7) towns and decreasing them in the eighth (Philadelphia).

After Supervisor Horton read this aloud, there were no comments by the Philadelphia Town Board Members.

Supervisor Horton distributed:

1. Information regarding preparation of the 2014 Budget. Costly increases in the New York State and Local Retirement System and operating expense cost increase in the Indian River Ambulance Service were discussed.
2. The Surplus Property Resolution – Land Swap. This resolution was discussed. No decisions were made at this time.
3. The Tax Cap Override Law Resolution of 2012. This resolution needs to be passed for the 2014 Budget. Discussion was held on this topic, no decisions were made at this time.

At 7:00 P.M. Sandra made a motion to adjourn, Bob seconded this motion. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Reed ~ Town Clerk

The following resolution was offered by Bob and seconded by Sky who moved its adoption.

RESOLUTION: 2013-44

WHEREAS: Town Court Justices, Cole Q. Jenne and Jessie M. Scheer would like to apply for a New York State Justice Court Assistance Program (NYS JCAP) grant for improvements and supplies for the court and

WHEREAS: This grant is a free grant from New York State using money that has been set aside from funds collected by the Town and Village Courts and

WHEREAS: This will cost the Town of Philadelphia no money,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Philadelphia Town Board does approve and support the Philadelphia Town Court to file for the NYS JCAP Grant.

This resolution was adopted via the following roll vote:

Supervisor Horton:	aye
Board Members:	
Sandra Carpenter	aye
Bob Watson	aye
Sky Weaver	aye
Ron Spicer	absent

I hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted by the Philadelphia Town Board on August 14, 2013

Cheryl Reed ~ Town Clerk