



Designed by Megan Poole  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade, 2005

# TOWN OF TRUXTON

PO Box 121, Truxton, New York 13158  
TEL: (607) 842-6984 FAX: (607) 842-6943

**Town Supervisor**  
Lloyd Sutton, Jr.

**Town Clerk/Collector**  
Kimberly Reakes

**Highway Superintendent**  
Jeffrey Reakes

**Town Councilpersons**  
Nicole Albro-Sprouse  
PJ Dwyer  
Carlton Young

## **February 17, 2016 Meeting Minutes** **Page 1**

### **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER WITH PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The regular monthly meeting of the Truxton Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Lloyd Sutton, Jr. at the Truxton Town Office, Historic Train Depot on February 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Nicki Sprouse, P.J. Dwyer, Carlton Young, Gus Wehbe and Lloyd Sutton, Jr.

Others present: Sandy Hartnett, Fran & Stan Bushaw, Kimberly Curtis-Harris, Korinne L'hommedieu, Molly McCall, Jeanetta Laudermilk, Rich Palmer, Patty Dawson, Suzanne Profitt-Moore, Tom Brown, Tracey Cartland, Jeanette Vogel and Sarah Patterson.

Pledge to the Flag.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 16, 2015 and January 20, 2016**

Motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the December 16, 2015, as corrected, regular monthly meeting made by Nicki Sprouse and seconded by P.J. Dwyer. All in favor. Minutes corrected to reflect the typo on page one from "has" to "as" and to enter the name of "Susan Scott" to replace "the woman" that will be working on the town's website.

Motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the January 6, 2016 Organizational Meeting, as corrected, made by Nicki Sprouse and seconded by P.J. Dwyer. All in favor. Minutes corrected to reflect the removal of "Tom Brown" and the addition of "P.J. Dwyer" as board members present for the meeting.

Motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the January 20, 2016 regular monthly meeting, as corrected, made Gus Wehbe and seconded by P.J. Dwyer. All in favor. Minutes corrected to reflect the entry of "Susan Scott" to replace "the woman" that has started work on the town's website.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: Community members**

Privilege of the Floor:

Rich Palmer introduced himself as a resident of Truxton and residing on Hights Gulf Road. He has two issues to bring to the board's attention. He asked the status of the junk car matter on Hights Gulf. He said the junk remains. Lloyd said that he will call or email Scott Evener to



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have him visit the property. Lloyd said he will contact the Town of Homer to discuss the matter with them as well. This property borders both towns.

Rich said that he is concerned about a dairy farm on the Hights Gulf Road that continually has a large amount of manure and mud in the road. Rich feels that this is a hazard and has called DEC in the past. Rich asked the board if there is a law or anything that the town can do to assist? Nicki Sprouse commented that this is part of living in the country. Rich said that the cows get out and this is a dangerous situation as well. Lloyd said that he will talk with the Highway Superintendent and the Code Enforcement Officer about the matter.

Jeanetta Lauder milk gave an update on the newly acquired school building and the progress being made to turn it into a community center. She said that "work bees" are being held during the day. P.J. asked how a towns person can learn when the work bees are. Jeanetta said that she uses Facebook as a tool and the work days are continuing to be organized as they are all volunteers with varying schedules. Patty Dawson commented that the groups of volunteers are organizing their own work day schedules as well. Jeanetta said that the progress on the cleaning and painting is going well and they hope to have an Open House very soon.

Molly McDermott questioned the recent appointment of Gus Wehbe as councilperson to the Town Board. Molly also questioned that she understands that Gus took his Oath of Office on February 16, 2016 which is over the 30 days in which to take the Oath of Office. The board discussed and Lloyd said that he will ask the Association of Towns about the 30 day question.

Fran Bushaw asked why Gus was appointed by the board when he said that he did not want to run for office in the last election. She noted that Molly McDermott lost the election by four votes and, in her opinion, the voters spoke as to who they wanted in the councilperson seat. Gus said that he does not intend to seek re-election this November. Nicki said that she wanted someone with experience on the board. Nicki said that after two years on the board, she considers herself very new and there are also two new people on the board. She also noted that Gus is a highway engineer and the majority of the budget is on the roads.

Sarah Patterson addressed the board on her pending building permit application. Sarah said that she applied and received her permit but then received a stop work order. Lloyd explained that due to the moratorium in place, the board cannot act on the permit. Lloyd said that this would also fall under the Site Plan Review. Lloyd said that his biggest concern is that she might not be aware of the expenses in converting the building to a daycare center and Lloyd wants to be clear that she is aware of all of the code requirements involved. Lloyd said that he has spoken with the Planning Board Chairman to anticipate a Site Plan Review matter and Lloyd is waiting to hear



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back from Scott Evener. Jeanette Vogel, the owner of the building, said that she just wants the building to be used again.

Korrine L'Hommedieu asked that the town's website be updated to accurately reflect the start time of the Town Board meetings. She said that she would like to see it updated regularly. Korinne suggests alerting residents to the email distribution system again. Lloyd said that this year's budget set aside \$1,200.00 to hire someone to update and maintain the website. Susan Scott was hired and has just started working on updating the site. In the past, Gus Wehbe has been responsible to the information posted on the town's website.

P.J. Dwyer thanked Don McCall and his family for the carillon installed at the St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Molly McDermott, Don's daughter, said the chimes are set to ring on the hour with hymns playing at different times during the day. Molly said her dad is a humble man but wanted to do this for the town. Suzanne Profitt-Moore suggested that the town board do something to publically acknowledge Mr. McCall's gift to everyone in town.

## **TOMPKINS COUNTY MUNICIPAL HEALTH INSURANCE CONSORTIUM: Mr.**

**Don Barber, Executive Director, Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium will present an orientation program and answer any questions about the new program.**

Don Barber explained the history of the Consortium and shared a powerpoint presentation (printed handout) about the Consortium of how it operates, etc. Don suggested that the board members and employees visit the website to find out about benefit plans, etc. Lloyd said that he and Stephanie were recently involved in a conference call regarding the Wellness Program. Lloyd said that he will work to get this information to the employees.

**TRUXTON FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION: Bruce Potter (Fire Chief) will make an informational presentation.**

Bruce Potter gave his annual update of the Truxton Fire Department. He handed out the attached informational sheet and shared details from the information provided. Bruce had Tim McCall dress in the interior turnout gear and showed the audience and board the detection system if a firefighter should be down in a building. Tracey Cartland shared that any purchase made from Amazon.com (through Amazon Smile) a donation can be made directly to the Truxton Fire Department. Bruce said the texting notification system and radio communication system continue to work excellent. Bruce finished by commending the people involved in the department. He said that they are well-trained and work well together. Bruce said that a question that was asked last year was about the fire station building. Bruce said that there has



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been no change. The Department has some money that was left to it by an estate several years ago. They could purchase some land but that direction has not been put together.

Jim Denkenberger commended the department for their fiscal responsibility and service.

Lloyd said that the town has a fair number of structures off the main highway. Lloyd asked Bruce if they present a problem to their department? Bruce said that previously, the District had their lawyer send a letter to people "off the beaten path". The letter, according to Bruce, in short, said that the department will do its best, however, there are conditions that make this difficult. Lloyd said that there have been situations in the past where there has been trouble gaining access. Bruce said that the department did purchase a four-wheel drive pick up truck with a 200 gallon water tank which does help.

Jim Denkenberger said that he has tried unsuccessfully to get a fireman's tax exemption implemented. He will continue to advocate for this.

Bruce said that the blue house number signs are still available and asked that this information get to townspeople. The signs help the department identify houses in emergencies.

## **COUNTY LEGISLATOR UPDATE: Jim Denkenberger**

Jim gave an update on the self-insurance fund and, in his opinion, the inequity of its disbursement. He also noted that now an administrative cost may be included into the process. Jim is pushing for a grant coordinator. This person, at the County level, would apply for and oversee grant administration. This person could also assist towns in the same manner. Jim advised the Board to be aware that the Ash for Trash matter is not a done deal yet. Lloyd said he attended the recent CCTVS meeting and agreed that information that was asked for by the attendees at the meeting to the county representatives was withheld but then Lloyd read about the same details in the newspaper. Jim feels the CCTVS was a set-up. Jim feels that anytime that there has been money that should have gone to the landfill operating account, it was put into the general fund. This is why the landfill shows that it is in the red.

Lloyd said that the self-insurance fund was also discussed at the CCTVS meeting. Lloyd has invited Comp Alliance to the next town board meeting so the board members can hear a different perspective as well as to get the county's attention. Lloyd said that the town cannot continue to pay an unfair share. Nicki commended Lloyd for inviting Comp Alliance as she feels we need to think outside of the box. Jim asked Lloyd if he is aware of the buyout cost should the town decide to go private.



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## **TOWN BOARD RULES AND PROCEDURES:** Review simple rules and procedures

Lloyd said that he will get examples from other municipalities to the board members by the next board meeting. Matter tabled.

## **REMAINING APPOINTMENTS**

**APPOINTMENTS BY TOWN BOARD**  
Recreation/Youth Committee

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Michelle Denkenberger**  
**Jon Morrison**  
**Stephanie Potter**  
**Carmine Sonnacchio**  
**Tom Brown**  
**Tracey Cartland**  
**Tristan Hartnett**  
**P.J. Dwyer**

Motion to appoint the above persons to the Recreation/Youth Committee for the year 2016 made by Carlton Young and seconded by Nicki Sprouse. All in favor.

P.J. asked Jeanetta what the availability of the school building is for men's basketball. Jeanetta said that once the insurance is in place, they are ready to go. Patty Dawson commented that this would fall under the town's recreation program for insurance purposes but the alumni group would have a suggested fee structure as a way to offset the cost of operating the building. The group is hopeful that, in the future, the building can sustain itself and fees for use would not be charged.

## **Youth Bureau Grant Application:**

Lloyd said that the grant is due soon and the group continues to diligently work on its submission.



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## **Annual Accounting:**

(On or before January 20, each town board must meet for the purpose of annual accounting by each officer or employee who has received or disbursed any funds.)

Stephanie Potter presented the 2015 town's general and highway ledgers for review by the board. Motion made by accept the 2015 town's general and highway ledgers as submitted made by Nicki Sprouse and P.J. Dwyer. All in favor.

## **Examine Justice Court Dockets**

(On or before January 20, town board must meet for the purpose of examining the civil and criminal dockets of each town justice and ensure that the fines and fees that have been collected by each justice have been turned over to the proper officials as required by law.)

Kim Reakes presented the Town Clerk's book and Town Court books. However, Lloyd said that due to the length of the meeting tonight, asked if those books could be reviewed in March. The board agreed.

## **Miscellaneous:**

Jeff not present Lloyd said he and Jeff had conversation earlier today and Jeff said that he had two items:

The items were listed with Auctions International and, according to Jeff, are getting higher bids this time. (Slide-in sander, two grader buckets and two plow blades). Lloyd said that the plow blades were previously declared surplus but the slider-in sander and two buckets need to be declared surplus. Motion to declare the slide-in sander and two excavation buckets as surplus made by Nicki Sprouse and seconded by P.J. Dwyer. All in favor.

Motion to authorize the Highway Superintendent to authorize the sale of the items at auction (should, in his opinion, they bring a fair price) made by P.J. Dwyer and seconded by Nicki Sprouse. All in favor.

Lloyd said that Jeff also wanted to bring to the board's attention that they will see in the monthly bills an extensive bill for the repairs to the Transfer Station truck which Jeff said were needed in order to pass inspection.



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Motion to approve the General bills (abstract #2) made by Nicki Sprouse and seconded by Carlton Young. All in favor.

Motion to approve the Highway bills (abstract #2) made by P.J. Dwyer and seconded by Nicki Sprouse. All in favor.

Supervisor's Report:

Not available.

Motion to Adjourn made by Nicki Sprouse and seconded by P.J. Dwyer. All in favor.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:21 p.m.