

The Regular meeting of the Town of Rockland was held on January 21, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall, Main Street, Livingston Manor, New York with the following members:

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR ROBERT EGGLETON  
 COUNCILPERSON GLEN CARLSON  
 COUNCILPERSON PETE DEVANTIER  
 COUNCILPERSON JOANN RYDER  
 COUNCILPERSON EDWIN EDWARDS

OTHERS PRESENT: Judy Newman, Town Clerk, Theodore Hartling, Highway Superintendent, and several members of the public:

Supervisor Eggleton called the meeting to order with the pledge to the flag.

Presentation from Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Energy. A “frequently asked questions” hand out was presented to the Board. Also, they presented draft letters and resolutions of support for Sullivan County Community Choice Aggregation. This issue will be reviewed and addressed at the next meeting.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion of Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Edwards and carried, the minutes of January 7, 2016 were approved as presented.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

- Trout Town Winter Festival - January 30<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5 PM
- Rotary Ice Carnival - Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>
- NY Planning Federation annual conference scheduled for Saratoga Springs

#### OLD BUSINESS

Update on projects:

**Highway Barn** the garage doors have been installed. The heating system is complete and the contractor has the painting done.

**Livingston Manor Sewage Treatment Plant** - a progress meeting was held this morning. The footings are poured and the forms for the walls are up, they are preparing to pour concrete next week.

**Solar Project** on our property in the Town of Liberty: This past week our information was presented to the Liberty Zoning Board, since they had no legal counsel there to represent them, no action was taken. Our application for the variance will be addressed on February 2<sup>nd</sup> by the Town of Liberty Zoning and Planning Boards. Supervisor Eggleton advised that we are on track to break ground on said project in the spring.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A grant was received from Senator John Bonacic’s Office for equipment use. Ted will finish up the paper work for said grant and will proceed to use funds for the purchase of a new large plow truck. The amount of the grant is \$50,000.

**Supervisors Monthly report** was presented. Motion by Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Devantier, to accept the Supervisor’s monthly report. 5 AYES - Carried

#### RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE REFORM OF NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING

Copy is attached to the minutes.

**Resolution to update the Town’s Comprehensive Plan** in conjunction with updating zoning was tabled until the next meeting.

**Water/Sewer Log** was presented.

REGULAR MEETING, TOWN OF ROCKLAND, JANUARY 21, 2016

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Ted Hartling, Highway Superintendent reported on the two hour parking signs that were placed along Stewart Avenue was completed by the County. He advised that they seem to be working.

There was discussion on term limits on the zoning and planning boards.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

On a motion of Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Edwards, the following resolution was ADOPTED - VOTE - AYES 5, NAYS 0 - RESOLVED - to approve the bills on the abstract #2 in the following amounts:

Barn Highway Project	3 to 5	\$ 63,896.47
General Fund	8 to 32	\$123,648.58
Highway	13 to 34	129,730.02
Liv. Manor Sewer	5 to 15	11,761.92
Roscoe Rockland Water	5 to 12	10,983.30
Liv Manor Water	7 to 14	16,002.30
Roscoe Sewer	7 to 19	11,292.67
Roscoe Rockland Light	1 to 2	1,390.83
Roscoe Sewer EFC	1	12,000.00
Hazel Park Light	1 to 2	64.55
Liv. Manor Light	1 to 2	2,381.73

PUBLIC COMMENT - Sheila Shultz, a Livingston Manor resident inquired about emergency warming stations with the current forecast of inclement weather.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion of Mr. Devantier, seconded by Ms. Ryder and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD  
OF THE TOWN OF Rockland TO  
REQUEST THE REFORM OF  
NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING

Councilman\Councilwoman Edwards presented the following resolution which was seconded by Councilman\Councilwoman Devantier.

**WHEREAS**, New York State is one of only twelve states that continue to fund public schools through property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the greatest financial hurdle faced by homeowners in the State is the onerous burden of school taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, that burden has forced innumerable New Yorkers, including many of those transitioning to retirement on a fixed income, to sell their properties and move from the State; and

**WHEREAS**, most states fund public schools through sales taxes and state income taxes (both corporate and personal) and other possible avenues of funding include mortgage taxes and excess profits taxes, all of which should be considered as more equitable and less burdensome alternatives to the school property tax method in New York; and

**WHEREAS**, even the City of New York no longer funds its public schools through property taxes and, recognizing this as a matter of equity as well as hardship, and in order to avoid a "subsidy" by the residents of one region of another, the residents of the City of New York should either be afforded a credit or excluded from any funding alternative so that fair legislation can be enacted without opposition on that score; and

**WHEREAS**, responsibility for the education of our youth should be more fairly and equitably distributed and not placed on the backs of our property owners; and

**WHEREAS**, the two percent tax cap law enacted by New York State is proof that the Governor, Senate and Assembly are aware of this crisis, but it is only a band aid approach to a worsening problem; and

**WHEREAS**, a more permanent solution must be found for the sake of the survival of our State.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Rockland in its capacity as the governing body of the Town hereby requests that Governor Andrew Cuomo, members of the New York State Senate and members of the New York State

Assembly urgently address this crisis and enact reforms to school district funding in New York State that implement an equitable alternative funding system to the property tax; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we respectfully request that our New York State representatives, the Hon. John Bonacic, Senator for the 42<sup>th</sup> Senate District and the Hon. Aileen Gunther, Assemblyman for the 100<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, advocate for the reforms hereby put forth and we thank them for their diligence in this matter; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute a letter substantially in the form annexed hereto on behalf of the Town Board addressed to the Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor requesting said reforms and to deliver such letter and certified copies of this Resolution to the Governor, Senator Bonacic and Assemblyman Gunther and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the foregoing resolutions shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows:

Joann Ryder voting Aye

Pete Devantier voting Aye

Edwards Edwards voting Aye

Glen Carlson voting Aye

Robert Eggleton voting Aye

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.