

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
HELD AT THE MANSFIELD TOWN HALL IN EDDYVILLE  
OCTOBER16, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:**

**Robert Keis, Town Supervisor  
Nancy Meeder, Councilwoman  
Larry Johnson, Councilman  
Greg Meyer, Councilman  
Robert Schmidt, Councilman**

**ABSENT:**

**Brad Hurley Highway Superintendent**

**ALSO PRESENT:**

**Joseph King, Avis King, David Welker, Nancy Welker, Jarold Hoffmann, Janice Hoffmann, Donald George, Brian Goldfus John Mayer**

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON 2018 BUDGET**

Supervisor Keis opened the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for the year 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Public notice was published in the Town's Official Newspaper Ellicottville Times.

Supervisor Keis stated this budget stays within the limits of a tax override the rate per thousand is \$5.30 which is \$.20 more than the tax rate for 2017. Supervisor Keis informed those present that there is different zoning in an area where property owners have access to public sewer and water, when evaluating Town Assessor's property cards, assessments, property photos according to the New York State Real Property Tax Service the Town assessment remains at 100 percent, where it has been for many years.

With regard to the Town supporting the Village of Little Valley Pool, Councilman Johnson inquired if Supervisor had any information about how many Town residents signed up to use the pool this year. Councilman Meyer asked what are the benefits to support the Ellicottville and Little Valley Youth Programs. Supervisor Keis replied at this time he has not heard how many Town residents signed-in to use the pool, also both Ellicottville and Little Valley have a ball field available to Town residents.

There was no further discussion or comments. The Public Hearing was closed **ON A MOTION GIVEN BY** Councilman Meyer seconded by Councilwoman Meeder no opposed approved carried.

**TOWN BOARD MEETING BROUGHT TO ORDER**

Supervisor Keis brought the Regular Town Board Meeting to order.

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2017/APPROVED**

For approval of the September Town Board Meeting Minutes **A MOTION WAS GIVEN BY** Councilman Schmidt seconded by Councilwoman Meeder no opposed approved carried to approve the minutes as read by correcting the amount for Town Taxable should read \$120,173,641, Total Exemptions \$4,770,891, Assessed Value for Fire Tax \$121,869,632.00

**TOWN SUPERVISOR'S AND TOWN CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORTS**

After Supervisor Keis presented his financial reports and Town Clerk's financial reports **A MOTION WAS GIVEN BY** Councilman Meyer seconded by Councilwoman Meeder no opposed approved carried to accept the financial reports as presented.

**2018 BUDGET/APPROVED**

With regard to the Town Budget for the Year 2018 there was no further discussion, the Town Board duly voted unanimously to adopt Supervisor Keis Preliminary Budget to be the Town Budget for the Year 2018 on **A MOTION GIVEN BY** Councilman Johnson seconded by Councilman Schmidt.

**CALIFORNIA HILL ROAD**

With regard to continued discussion when Supervisor Keis stated he was contacted by John Mayer to consider abandoning that portion of California Hill Road to the end of his property line near State Land. Supervisor Keis stated obviously there would not be a vote tonight, but he feels a fiduciary responsibility. Supervisor also stated that at a meeting this issue was discussed, it should never have happened until there was accurate information. He said he has been approached by a couple of people who did not know about a meeting.

Privilege of the floor was given to John Mayer. Mr. Mayer began discussion by stating to those present that he should have attended the Town Board Meeting held last month. Mr. Mayer stated that he contacted Supervisor Keis to inspect the road at the bottom of California Hill near State Land (Eddyville end), which was in dangerous condition for drivers traveling, due to the road and shoulders breaking apart, ditches need to be cleaned, and the road graded.

**CALIFORNIA HILL ROAD**

Mr. Mayer stated that he did not contact Supervisor Keis to abandon that portion of road, that is up to the Town Board to make those decisions. He stated that there are rumors going around and he wanted to clarify that he did not ask Supervisor Keis to abandon the road, however Mr. Mayer stated it is a seasonal road but asked for Supervisor Keis and Highway Superintendent Hurley to grade the road as in its current condition it is dangerous.

Supervisor Keis stated that Superintendent Hurley spends \$10,000.00 a year on California Hill Road he puts gravel down and grades the road. Also, if the seasonal road was plowed each year there would be large trucks going up and down the steep hill. Supervisor stated that there are other groups of people that want to save tax dollars and approve the abandonment.

Supervisor Keis stated that he would have to investigate as there are things to be addressed. Supervisor stated that State land is no longer land locked as the State has purchased land that negates for a right of way. The Town does get CHIPS funding for the road, Supervisor will ask Superintendent Hurley for that amount. Also, he will ask Town Attorney about the necessary steps to take toward abandonment.

Mrs. Avis King asked would the Town at least get half of the CHIPS money.

Councilman Schmidt stated that it had been discussed to put a traffic counter on the road. There were no further comments.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING STANDARD WORKDAY NYS AND LOCAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

With regard to the standard work day for elected and appointed officials, who belong to the NYS Retirement System. Supervisor Keis stated that at a Town Board Meeting held April 19, 2012 Board members established that a standard work day to be (6) hour work days.

For the 2017 Standard Work Day Reporting for Elected and Appointed Officials who are members of the NYS Retirement System Supervisor Keis reports that that Town Justice Dale W. Baldwin works a 6 hour day 3.59 days per quarter, Dog Control Officer Mary Dankert works a 6 hour day 7.00 days per quarter, and Assessor Robin Pearl works a 6 hour day 2.1 days per month. A **MOTION WAS GIVEN** by Councilwoman Nancy R Meeder seconded by Councilman Robert Schmidt, Councilman Greg Meyer voted AYE, to pass a Resolution to establish that the elected and appointed officers reporting to the NYS Retirement and Local Retirement Systems is unanimously approved.

**NYS PAID FAMILY LEAVE LAW**

Supervisor Keis informed those present about a NYS Paid Family Leave Law, he stated that municipalities are not required to opt into. Supervisor Keis will look for additional information.

**SCHUPPENHAUER ROAD SPEED LIMIT AND SIGN**

David Welker who resides on the Schuppenhauer Road asked what is involved in getting a speed limit lowered also the road needs a road sign. Supervisor Keis replied that it is difficult to get a speed limit on roads as the Town does not have law enforcement. Supervisor Keis stated he would tell Superintendent Hurley that a sign is needed.

**NYS AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS MUNICIPAL SHELTER**

Supervisor Keis was in receipt of a letter from Ag & Markets Laws and Regulations whereby their inspection of Dog Control Officer Mary Dankert's dog shelter was rated Satisfactory.

**ARMSTRONG NY BROAD BAND PROGRAM**

Supervisor Keis was in receipt of a letter from Armstrong a telecommunications company which has been providing internet for over 20 years. Armstrong was selected as the telecommunications company that will be servicing internet access to areas throughout NYS. The Armstrong NY Broadband Program provides NYS grant funding to support projects that deliver high speed internet service. Supervisor Keis stated he would try and schedule a meeting with Armstrong.

**KRAGER HILL ROAD/HIGHWAY**

Brian Goldfus Town Resident, was present to voice his concerns and inquire if the Board was aware of highway catastrophes. He explained when driving home for lunch traveling on the Krager Hill Road he came upon a fully loaded Town dump truck with its rear tire in the ditch causing a tire to be raised chest high. He saw Town highway employees in the process of

**KRAGER HILL ROAD CONTINUED**

hooking up the loader to the plow truck to use in pulling the truck from the ditch. He noted that one cannot twist a fully loaded truck.

Mr. Goldfus expressed concerns that someone could have been badly injured. He feels that Highway Superintendent should have been there supervising the situation.

Also Mr. Goldfus asked if the Town has a procedure in place for accidents, also does the Town have special incident reporting.

Supervisor Keis stated to Brian Goldfus, he appreciated the information, but it is out of the Board's control.

Supervisor Keis noted that in the process of highway cleaning ditches they didn't have a place nearby to dump ditch cleaning so Supervisor Keis gave highway permission to dump the debris over a bank on his property. Supervisor Keis stated that he had a call from someone inquiring as to why is highway giving special favors by dumping on Supervisor's property. Supervisor Keis said he explained the situation.

**CATTARAUGUS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Supervisor Keis reported that Cattaraugus County has monies available to help in the community. Cattaraugus County Health Department and Rural Revitalization Corp. have partnered together to offer a well and septic system repair program. The Community Development Block Grant program helps low-to-moderate income homeowners repair or replace failing septic systems, private water supplies, and public water services in Cattaraugus County.

**AUDIT FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS/APPROVED**

After Board members audited Supervisor's three checking accounts **A MOTION WAS GIVEN BY** Councilwoman Meeder seconded by Councilman Meyer no opposed approved carried to acknowledge and approve Supervisor's financial records that were in balance as presented.

**AUDIT OF BILLS**

After Board members audited the vouchers submitted for payment **A MOTION WAS GIVEN BY** Councilman Johnson seconded by Councilman Schmidt no opposed approved carried to pay the following.

General fund voucher numbers 200-213 in the amount of \$5,838.84

Highway fund voucher numbers 141-164 in the amount of \$52,428.02

A motion to adjourn was given at 8:35 p.m. on a motion given by Councilman Meyer seconded by Councilman Schmidt.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Jane Horning, Town Clerk