

**Town of Freetown
2369 McGraw Marathon Rd
Marathon, NY 13803
February 8, 2017**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Freetown, NY was held February 8, 2017 at the Town Hall. Town Supervisor Randy Hopkins called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.

Present:	Town Supervisor	Randy Hopkins
	Councilpersons:	Robert Stewart
		William Contri
		Crystal Clough
		Mary Mackey
	Town Clerk:	Serina Ingrahm
	Highway Superintendent:	Art Hawley -absent

Guests: Gail Heady, Ann Homer, John Leyburn, Tim Brown, Clarence Wright Jr., Gaetano Spizzirri, Christina Spizzirri, Grayson Spizzirri.

Motion 29: Made by Councilperson William Contri and seconded by Councilperson Mary Mackey to accept the minutes of January 2017 meeting.

Votes:	Councilpersons:	Mary Mackey: Aye
		Crystal Clough: Nay
		William Contri: Aye
		Robert Stewart: Aye
	Supervisor:	Randy Hopkins: Aye

Passed

OLD BUSINESS: Town Supervisor Hopkins has received a letter from the Town Attorney Donald Armstrong advising the prior Supervisor Lisa Mitchell of the Towns IRS fines and penalties due to a lack of filing W-2 forms from 2012 through 2015. Board Members agreed to have the letter sent to the prior Supervisor Lisa Mitchell. Town Supervisor has sent out all the paperwork for the appeals. Supervisor Hopkins called Pat Isenberg from the IRS and asked for an update and was informed it was up the Pat Isenberg's Supervisor. Supervisor Hopkins will contact Mr. Isenberg to acquire a name of the person handling the case. Town is hoping to receive some and or all of the civil penalties back. Supervisor Hopkins has received a proposal from Phelps Sun Gas Inc. offering us propane at \$1.39 per gallon locked in for the year, diesel fuel is at \$2.03 a gallon now and it's based on a daily average. That's a cost saving of \$.46 cents per gallon on propane. The board has agreed to allow Town Supervisor Hopkins to sign the contract to allow Phelps Sun Gas to be our new delivery service as long as the towns locked in price is a \$1.39 per gallon for the year. **Brigg's Appraisal:** Briggs appraisal has reached out to Supervisor Hopkins and informed him, he has 10 vacant properties to check on in the spring and two requested walk-throughs to do a completion of the evaluation. Councilperson Mackey has been working on updating the Website for Freetown. Councilperson Clough had asked what was

needed from code enforcement on his report .Town Assessor only needs a house number or tax number on Town Code Officers monthly reports other information wasn't necessary. John Leyburn (formal Town Supervisor) has been helping Supervisor Hopkins with learning Grant Procedures.

Employee Handbook- Supervisor Hopkins and Councilperson Clough has worked on re-writing the Town's Handbook. Town Councilpersons will review and express their changes to the employee handbook by the next board meeting or e-mail changes to Supervisor Hopkins. COMP TIME will continue for the Highway employees, max hours banked is 40 hours per year. Comp time must be approved only by the immediate Supervisor at his discretion. Town Highway employees will also get six sick days per-year, there will be no carry overs of comp or sick time to the following year, and vacation time can be carried over up to 80 hours to the following year. Any time that is left at the end of the year of comp or sick time will be paid out in the first payroll of the following year. The Board has decided that any full-time (40 hours) employee and their family have the opinion to purchase health Insurance through the Town of Freetown. Councilperson Mackey and Clough would like the holiday pay in the handbook changed so it states two times their regular pay.

Motion 30: Made by Councilperson Mary Mackey and seconded by Councilperson Contri to switch our Propane provider from E&V to Phelps Sun Oil.

Votes:	Councilpersons:	Mary Mackey: Aye Crystal Clough: Nay William Contri: Aye Robert Stewart: Aye
	Supervisor:	Randy Hopkins: Aye

Passed

NEW BUSINESS: Tax Collector Gail Heady has brought in a warrant valued at \$280,809.59 to be deposited for the town. Gail has stated she uses twice as much paper and ink with the new tax system. Gaetano Spizzirri a Freetown resident came to the Town Board meeting to turn in a complaint and pictures about the road conditions on January 8 2017 approximately 7:35 am on Ferber Rd. Mr. Spizzirri had put his dump truck in the ditch due to the icy road conditions. Mr. Spizzirri feels that it was the town's negligence that contributed to his accident and is seeking reimbursement at the rate of \$324.00 for tow truck and \$466.00 for damages to his chrome plated bumper. Mr. Spizzirri has stated he talked to Superintendent Hawley and the Superintendent agreed it was his fault he didn't realized the roads were in that condition. Another Town resident had sent in a letter complaining of the land mines (Pot holes) on Hoxie Gorge Rd and Merihew Rd, she reported repairs to their vehicles. Bruce Hatch has stated he would be interested in the maintenance position for Freetown upon his retirement of Suburban Propane in August 2017. Supervisor Hopkins is going to keep an eye out for used cubicles for our meeting room.

HIGHWAY: Superintendent Hawley sent a written letter with Supervisor Hopkins to present to the board of what was done in January. Superintendent Hawley's letter stated they had done routine plowing and sanding. Roadside trees trimmed on Deneve Rd and Miracle Rd. Charlie's 2004 dump truck had broken a chain on the spreader, a new one was ordered, received and installed. The one ton 2014 plow truck also has a broken chain on the spreader, that one also was repaired. Superintendent Hawley is still asking for an extra truck or a new one. Councilperson Mackey suggested that Superintendent Hawley could compromise looking for a back-up truck for emergency around \$12,000. Superintendent Hawley was reminded to complete the 284 done, which is a plan for future road work in 2017. Superintendent Hawley also need to complete his accurate inventory sheet of equipment, this is to be forwarded to Partners Insurance. Superintendent is also requested a closed session discussion with the Town board. Councilperson Contri wants to request that Superintendent Hawley to be here on the first Wednesday of every month for the Board Meetings, so he can be accountable for his position as a Town Highway Superintendent.

Motion 31: Made by Supervisor Hopkins and seconded by Councilperson Stewart to pay bills.

Votes:	Councilpersons:	Mary Mackey: Aye Crystal Clough: Aye William Contri: Aye Robert Stewart: Aye
	Supervisor:	Randy Hopkin: Aye

Passed

Motion 32: Made by Supervisor Randy Hopkins and seconded by Councilperson Crystal Clough to pay out of following accounts.

(A) General \$3,601.73

(DA) highway \$10,559.26

Votes:	Councilpersons:	Mary Mackey: Aye Crystal Clough: Aye William Contri: Aye Robert Stewart: Aye
	Supervisor:	Randy Hopkins: Aye

Passed

Meeting Adjourned at 9:06pm

Acknowledged by Town Clerk,
Serina Ingrahm