

**Town of Freetown
2369 McGraw Marathon Rd
Marathon, NY 13803
October 12th, 2016**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Freetown, NY was held October 12th, 2016 at the Town Hall. Deputy Town Supervisor Randy Hopkins called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

Present:	Town Supervisor:	Thomas VanderPloeg: Absent
	Deputy Town Supervisor	Randy Hopkins
	Councilpersons:	Robert Stewart: Arrived at 7:49pm
		William Contri
		Crystal Clough
		Mary Mackey
	Town Clerk:	Serina Ingrahm
	Highway Superintendent:	Art Hawley

Guests: Gail Heady, Terry Wolff, Michael Bellefleur Sr., Clarence Wright Jr, Ann Homer, Freetown Fred (Elwood Bryan), Mark Suben (District Attorney) and Charles Sudbrink (County Legislator).

Motion 65: Made by Councilperson Crystal Clough and seconded by Councilperson William Contri to accept the minutes of September 14th meeting.

Votes:	Councilpersons:	Mary Mackey: Aye
		Crystal Clough: Aye
		William Contri: Aye
		Robert Stewart: Absent

Passed

There was concern about the Regular Board Meeting that took place on September 14, 2016. Councilperson Clough was concern that the board should have approved who functioned an open meeting. Councilperson Mary Mackey pointed out on page 38 of the 2016 Town Law Manual. If there is not a Deputy Supervisor or the Deputy Supervisor isn't present then the Board may designate one of the board Members to act as temporary Chairperson. Previously renditions stated must or shall .A full week prior to the Board meeting Supervisor Thomas VanderPloeg has sent an e-mail out to the entire Board stated that Councilperson Mary Mackey was going too presided over the Regular Board meeting. No complaints were every mentioned in an e-mail or any other form prior to the meeting.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Mark Suben addressed the Board and the residents of Freetown in a speech of re-election. Mr. Suben focused on the acknowledgement of our Drug, Alcohol and

homicide rate for Cortland County. He stated there has been 11 homicides, and 31 major cases have been taken to trial with a 26 convictions since his time as District Attorney. **Charles Sudbrink** addressed the board and the residents of Freetown about Cortland County financial short falls. He stated he wants a flat budget, no increases: and possible positions being cut. There are about 500 county employees. The Budget Officer is supposed to present the legislator's with a tentative budge on Monday October 17, 2016. He talked about our project's that aren't being completed by the Highway Department because the Highway Department decided not to do them. The Engineer at OCRRA said recycling of glass is becoming too expensive, it's cheaper to make new glass than to recycle glass. It's a \$19.00 charge per ton plus trucking it to Ontario County land fill, approximately (20,000) plus trucking a year. It would cost us \$60.00 a ton at our land fill. Our recyclables are leaving Cortland County without being weighted, we are told by Casella what the tonnage is. If the Resolution passes at the Legislative Meeting, Cortland County will be taking back control of the day to day recycling operations. This will require one full time position needed to sort the recyclables. Councilperson Clough was wondering if glass recycling had to be a revenue source, her understanding of recycling is not to just save money, it's a way of life we have progeny and our families to think about. Charles Sudbrink was asked by Cortland County Attorney to inquire about Freetown's outstanding balance for our Workers' Compensation Insurance, payment was due in June 2016 of \$5,017. The Boards response was it would be paid soon.

HIGHWAY: Superintendent Hawley discussed a (option) "plan B" for the bridge on Pine Hill if our grant wasn't approved, 2 large boxed culverts. Superintendent Hawley is going to acquire more information about his idea. Councilperson Contri ask Superintendent Hawley in the future to stay for the Board meetings to answer questions the Board may have about his vouchers. Superintendent Hawley agreed to stay until it was time to pay the bills. Councilperson Contri reported he had stopped by Kurtz Welding on 10/12/2016 to get a quote for a 14ft box for the dump truck. He was quoted at \$24,000-\$25,000 for a regular box and stainless steel box was \$30,000. Superintendent Hawley got his quote for the 14fter Stainless steel box \$32,000 with auger, it will cost about \$6,000 to transition it from one truck to another. Superintendent Hawley had the brakes replaced on the 2014 Ford 350 Super Duty truck. Councilperson Clough asked about the status on the forks, and was informed that they had been returned to Tracey's. Superintendent Hawley asked if he could check on prices for dump trailer for recycling, the board gave a go ahead.

Motion 66: Made by Councilperson Mary Mackey and seconded by Councilperson Crystal Clough to accept the resignation from Thomas VanderPloeg as Town Supervisor of Freetown effective October 12, 2016.

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

Passed

Motion 67: Made by Councilperson William Contri and seconded by Councilperson Crystal Clough to accept the resignation from Randy Hopkins as Deputy Town Supervisor of Freetown. Effective on October 12, 2016

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

Passed

Motion 68: Made by Councilperson Mary Mackey and seconded by Councilperson William Contri to accept the resignation from Randy Hopkins as a member of the Variance Board of Appeals. Effective October 12, 2016.

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

Passed

Motion 69: Made by Councilperson Mary Mackey and seconded by Councilperson William Contri to appoint Randy Hopkins as Town Supervisor of Freetown. Effective dates are as follows: October 12, 2016 until December 31, 2017.

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

Passed

NEW BUSINESS: Town has received our 2017 contracts from MAVAC Ambulance and our 2017 Fire Contracts from Cincinnatus, Marathon and McGraw. The Town Board has received the tentative budget for 2017, which was prepared by Councilperson Mary Mackey. The Board reviewed it at tonight's meeting and made some adjustments. The legal notice will be posted in the Cortland Standard. The Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday November 9th 2016 at 6:30pm at 2369 McGraw Marathon Rd (Town Hall). Gail Heady (Tax Collector) addressed the board about needing new Software for tax collection .Mrs. Heady had attended a meeting with a Cortland County Tax Collector on the new software being use by Cortland County stating in 2017.The new software is called ATC, its available to all municipalities this year free. 2018 the same software will be at the cost of \$475.00 and \$930.00 for 2019. This software makes things easier online for the town. Mrs. Heady has two more training classes to attend and requested an increases be added to our 2017 budget for the software cost next year. Supervisor Hopkins has contacted Michele Edwards and paid by mail Partners (Freetown's Insurance Company) to date. Supervisor Hopkins informed the board that we owe the IRS \$5,898.74. Pat Isenberg sent a letter

stated he never received a letter from Becky Bailey on the audit. Becky stated that the letter was sent to Thomas VanderPloeg former Town Supervisor and was never forwarded to Pat Isenberg.

OPEN FLOOR: The Town of Freetown is being audited and fined for the years 2013 to 2015 by the IRS for none filing of paperwork from previous Town Supervisor. Mr. Bellefleur has question about property's that aren't being fairly asset, in particular, he's referencing to a camper trailer on Center Rd with permanent additions. Mr. Bellefleur would also like the board to consider passing a law to double the permit prices if people don't get the proper permits prior to starting their projects. Councilperson Clough has volunteered to explore options on what to do with the Amish emissions. The town's web page is also a concern of Mr. Bellefleur, the minutes for August meeting not being posted. Town Clerk informed Mr. Bellefleur that she is learning the process and would do her best to have them up soon. Councilperson Clough is going too contact John Walsh to see if he would do another tutorial. Supervisor Hopkins is going to contact Code Enforcer (Tom Williams) and Becky Bailey (Bookkeeper) to attend our November Board Meeting to answer questions the public may have. Briggs' Appraisal Service is sending out half the town at a time notifying the people of Freetown that there coming around to do there re-valuations (Data Collection). That information than will be sent to the real tax properties at the county level. Fan Butler (Assessor) will use this information to do new assessments. Town will have a grievance day in June 2017, but the new assessments will not be done at that time, so the grievance will be regarding current assessments. Council person Clough has requested a report from Tom Williams (Code Enforcer) to be sent to Fran Butler (Assessor) every month including addresses.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilperson Clough has checked into the senior rate for property taxation and found out we are on even par with the rest of Cortland County. Town clerk is looking into having corrections done to the Freetown's web page that's run by Cortland County. Town Clerk called Drain Brain to inquire about some of the charges on our bill .Drain Brain claims former Town Supervisor Thomas VanderPloeg had a verbal agreement with them stating that an extra cleaning would cost \$195.00. Supervisor Hopkins is going to request a contract with Drain Brain.

Motion 70: Made by Councilperson Mary Mackey and seconded by Councilperson Robert Stewart to accept the tentative budget

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

Passed

Motion 71: Made by Supervisor Hopkins and seconded by Mary Mackey to pay bills

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

Passed

Motion 72: Made by Supervisor Hopkins and seconded by Robert Stewart to pay from General Account.

(A)\$1,626.99
(DA)\$47,837.95

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

Passed

Meeting Adjourned at 10:58 pm.