

**Town of Freetown
2369 McGraw Marathon Rd
Marathon, NY 13803
April 13, 2016**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Freetown, NY was held April 13, 2016 at the Town Hall. Supervisor Thomas VanderPloeg called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present	Town Supervisor:	Thomas VanderPloeg
	Councilpersons:	Robert Stewart William Contri Crystal Clough Mary Mackey
	Town Clerk:	Serina Ingrahm
	Highway Superintendent:	Steve Strough
	Town Attorney	Donald Armstrong

Guests: Elwood Bryan, Tim Brown, Randy Hopkins, Art Hawley, Ann Homer, Kate McGinn, Marcus Chilson, Sarah Chilson, Craig Washborne, Cheryl Deuel, Douglas Deuel, John Slocum Gail Heady, Chuck Ingrahm, Jim Weiss, Donald Armstrong, Diane Couch, Michael Belle fleur, Brenda Storey, Shirlene Strough, Jean Weiss, Charles Sudbrink, County Legislator.

Motion 36: Made by Councilperson Mary Mackey and seconded by Councilperson Robert Stewart to approve the March's minutes at the April's 13th board meeting.

Votes:	Councilpersons:	Mary Mackey: Aye Robert Stewart: Aye William Contri: Aye Crystal Clough: Aye
	Supervisor	Thomas VanderPloeg: Abstained

Passed

OLD BUSINESS:

Recycling: Highway Superintendent Steve Strough has gotten a couple of quotes on forks as an attachment to the bucket loader to help with loading of recycle bins. A couple of modifications will need to be done to the forks prior to use. Tracey Equipment has quoted him \$785.00 for the 4000lb and \$975.00 for the 6000lb plus \$200.00 in freight charges. To repair the existing recycling boxes we will need half inch un-treated plywood for roofs, coated with fiber aluminum roof sealer and 4x4's under the bins for easy loading on the truck. Lowes has sheet of un- treated plywood ½ in thick at \$18.00 each. Supervisor Thomas VanderPloeg and Board Members gave Superintendent Steven Strough permission to order the forks for the bucket to be able to continue recycling.

Revaluation: Councilperson Clough is requesting the names of Briggs employees upon receiving this information the board has decided to approve the contract. Briggs will send out post cards notifying residence of the re-evaluation of the town properties.

Motion 37: Made by Supervisor Thomas VanderPloeg and seconded by Councilperson Mary Mackey to approve Briggs Appraisal Service to re-evaluate properties in Freetown.

Votes:	Councilpersons:	Mary Mackey: Aye	
		Robert Stewart: Aye	
		William Contri: Aye	
		Crystal Clough: Aye	
	Supervisor	Thomas VanderPloeg: Aye	
			Passed

HIGHWAY: Superintendent Steven Strough Stated he had received notice that the State of New York is giving Freetown \$17,101.79 and Freetown is receiving \$74,923.20 in chips totaling \$92,026.76 for highway. **PINE HILL BRIDGE:** Charles Sudbrink addressed the board stating that New York State has approved a 400 million dollar grant over the next 4 years, by solicitation only. Superintendent Steve stated that they had put Randy Ensign from Marathon in charge of checking and applying for this grant. Undecided on how the bridge will be repaired at this time. Engineers and contractors will come up with a plan. The maximum amount that can be billed is \$35,000 which is split in half with Marathon. Both Marathon and Freetown have to agree on design and price. **EQUIPMENT:** Highway Superintendent stated there having some kind of air or vacuum problem with the grad all excavator. Highway Superintendent plans to start cleaning ditches when grad all is fixed and replacing 1 pipe on Stone Road and 10 pipes on Miracle Road. Councilpersons Clough and Contri states that some people and school bus drives are having problems with brush and over hanging branches for visibility on roads. At the end of his report, Highway Superintendent Steven Strough gave a written resignation for his position as Highway Superintendent of the Town Freetown effective as of 4/15/2016. Deputy Art Hawley has accepted the position as Highway Superintendent of Freetown.

OPEN FLOOR: Jim Weiss feels that the Town Board was not proactive in helping resolve the employee's differences. Councilperson Mary Mackey made it clear to the public that the board is not responsible for hiring or firing highway employees, the Highway Superintendent has that responsibility. Donald Armstrong also addressed the public indicating certain things that happen with town employee is not public knowledge. Town resident Brenda Storey has a complaint of Tim Brown, highway employee running stop signs. She was advised to call police. Sheryl Deuel is having a problem with the end of her driveway washing away (corner of pine hill and Merihew road). Michael Bellefleur lives on Liberty Road in Freetown states his road hasn't been re-stoned in 22 years. Superintendent Art is going to look into that matter and get back to Mr. Bellefleur. Charles Sudbrink addressed the room on an opinion about the new jail/ public complex. Charles stated they were having a special meeting on April 19th. The public feels that 38 million dollars is too much for a jail. Phase two is the design stage which is not expected to be completed until May of 2017. The property was donated to them for this project, it will take 1-2 years before completion. Councilperson Stewart was concerned that moving the jail/complex so far away from the center of town would cause longer delays in response time for emergencies.

Councilperson Crystal Clough addressed the other fellow board members and the assembly:
1.) There should be a creation of policies of notification of any damage to Town of Freetown's property be reported to the board members within 24 hours. 2.) A written report should show how the incident occurred and a report should be entered in the personal file for all involved. 3.) She also suggested more parking slots be available to town residents as they are there to conduct business at the hall. 4.) There would be a need for more outside lights in the front and behind the town hall. 5.) There should be a written highway procedure to describe entering and exiting into and out of highway garage. Councilperson Mary Mackey pointed out there is spots to park in the rear of the building, also a few more lights outside of the building.

AMNESTY DAY: Cortland County Amnesty Week is May 16-20. The Town Board agreed to participate and schedule Freetown Amnesty Day for May 14th; 8am to 5pm. Postcards will be created and mailed out by Town Clerk Serina Ingrahm and Deputy Town Clerk Gail Heady.

BOARD OF REVIEW: For year of 2016, grievance day, has been changed to June 1st (Wednesday) from 4pm to 8pm.

Motion 38: Made by Supervisor Thomas VanderPloeg and seconded by Councilperson Mary Mackey to move into executive session at 8:17 pm for the purpose of personal discussion related to a specific town employee.

Votes:	Councilpersons:	Mary Mackey: Aye Robert Stewart: Aye William Contri: Aye Crystal Clough: Aye
	Supervisor	Thomas VanderPloeg: Aye
		Passed

Motion 39: Made by Supervisor Thomas VanderPloeg and seconded by Councilperson William Contri return to regular meeting 8:50 pm.

Votes:	Councilpersons:	Mary Mackey: Aye Robert Stewart: Aye William Contri: Aye Crystal Clough: Aye
	Supervisor	Thomas VanderPloeg: Aye
		Passed

Motion 40: Made by Councilperson Crystal Clough and seconded by Councilperson Mary Mackey to Accept the Resignation of Highway Superintendent Steven Strough, effective April 15, 2016

Votes:	Councilpersons:	Mary Mackey: Aye Robert Stewart: Aye
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Supervisor William Contri: Aye
Crystal Clough: Aye
Thomas VanderPloeg: Aye
Passed

Motion 41: Made by Councilperson Mary Mackey and seconded by Councilperson Crystal Clough to accept our Deputy Highway Superintendent Art Hawley as Highway Superintendent to finish out the term or until a special Election is held in November.

Votes: Councilpersons: Mary Mackey: Aye
Robert Stewart: Aye
William Contri: Aye
Crystal Clough: Aye
Supervisor Thomas VanderPloeg: Aye
Passed

Motion 42: Made by Councilperson Robert Stewart and seconded by Councilperson Mary Mackey to pay bills for April 2016. General (A) \$2,265.00 and Highway (DA) \$22,700.59

Votes: Councilpersons: Mary Mackey: Aye
Robert Stewart: Aye
William Contri: Aye
Crystal Clough: Aye
Supervisor Thomas VanderPloeg: Aye
Passed

Motion 43: Made by Supervisor Thomas VanderPloeg and seconded by Councilperson Robert Stewart to adjourn meeting. 9:11pm

Votes: Councilpersons: Mary Mackey: Aye
Robert Stewart: Aye
William Contri: Aye
Crystal Clough: Aye
Supervisor Thomas VanderPloeg: Aye
Passed