

**TOWN OF COVERT
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2011**

Regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Covert was held Monday, October 10, 2011 at 7:00 pm at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York.

Roll Call:	Supervisor Michael Reynolds	Present
	Councilman Gary Hunt	Present
	Councilman Stephen Selover	Present
	Councilwoman Valerie Bassett	Present
	Councilman Duane Waid	Present

Others Present: Town Clerk, Colleen Freese
Highway Superintendent, Jeffrey Mac Cheyne, Reporter Aneta Glover,
Attorney John Sipos, Charles Bosman, Wilfred Millard, Jeffrey Vann, Donald Kenyon, Harold & Judy Kugelmass, Tammy Reynolds.

Call to Order:

Supervisor Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

Bassett moved, seconded by Hunt, that the September 12, 2011, minutes be approved with corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Petitioners to the Board:

Judy Kugelamass addressed the board about her concerns about hydraulic fracturing and how it can contaminate the water supply and the land. "What is the board's position on hydraulic fracturing?"

Supervisor Reynolds stated "I went to a presentation by William Kappel on hydraulic fracturing and it was very informative on the pros as cons of hydraulic fracturing."

Councilwoman Bassett stated "I don't think people are aware of what is really involved in hydraulic fracturing. People need to be educated on hydraulic fracturing before any decisions are made."

Kugelamass stated one of the issues for the town to consider is to be prepared for accidents that can happen with hydraulic fracturing and have a plan on how to handle situations. What happens if there is a contamination of the water? New York City is not going to allow hydraulic fracturing because they are concerned with the water being contaminated. We need to be concerned and protect our water supply.

Supervisor Reynolds stated there is potential for money to be made but there are many things that need to be looked at and considered before a decision can be made on hydraulic fracturing.

Chuck Bosman addresses the board about house signs and shared that the cost would be about \$15,000.00 to buy material and have volunteers help make signs for the homes in the Town of Covert.

Bosman stated that the planning board made a recommendation that all new home owners be required to purchase and display their house number sign in compliance with the Town of Covert's requirements. This will keep house numbers current and make it more convenient for 911.

Town Attorney:

Attorney Sipos stated he has some concerns with Village of Trumansburg proposal about ambulance districts and the territory they will serve. "I have tried to reach their lawyers to discuss this but he has been out of the office. I would like to talk with him before the Town Board makes a decision on the contract."

Attorney Sipos stated there has to be a special ambulance district formed for the village of Trumansburg as well as for South Seneca Ambulance Service if the Town opts to have an ambulance service.

Councilwoman Bassett asked attorney Sipos, "So legally, we as a town need to have an ambulance district?"

Attorney Sipos reply, "yes."

Attorney Sipos stated "I don't know how they are going to handle the money for the contracts. They can't be doing double dipping; it's against the law."

Councilwoman Bassett stated that what is collected for the Trumansburg Ambulance will go into a special account and the balance left over at the end of year will go toward the cost of the following year's ambulance contract.

Councilman Hunt asked Attorney Sipos, "So you are standing with the statement that collecting a bill for co-pays is illegal?"

Attorney Sipos replied, "It's illegal to bill for co-pays."

There was a lengthy discussion on how the ambulance services are going to handle co-pay and how money will be returned to the towns or how it will be credited to the following year's ambulance contract. The main concern with ambulance contracts are that the money will be handled in compliance with the laws and that the ambulance services provide the town with monthly income and expenditure reports.

Councilman Hunt shared that after last month's meeting and hearing concerns about ambulance services, "I don't feel we can get out of the ambulance service."

Supervisor Reynolds:

Supervisor Reynolds reported he was forming the Right to Farm committee which oversees complaints and protects farmer's rights. The committee members are Carol Doolittle, Wilfred Millard, and Steve Messer as the alternative. One more member is needed and Allen Buddle will be asked if he would be willing to serve on the committee.

There was discussion on house number signs and changing the Land Ordinance as recommended by the Planning Board to include that house number signs are the responsibility of new home owners. Chuck Bosman offered to provide the information to Town Clerk Freese, so a resolution could be drafted for the Town Boards to review at the next board meeting.

Bassett moved, seconded by Selover, THAT WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Covert has reviewed and made changes to the 2012 Tentative Budget for the Town of Covert, The Five Town Coordinated Assessment Program, The Trumansburg and Interlaken Fire Protection Contract and the South Seneca Ambulance. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is duly authorized to file said Preliminary Budget for public inspection. Said Budget shall be filed at the Town

Clerk's Office at 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York. A Public Hearing for the Town of Covert's 2012 Preliminary Budget will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town of Covert Municipal Building, 8469 South Main Street, Interlaken, New York. Motion carried unanimously.

Bassett moved, seconded by Selover, that Highway Fund Vouchers # 120-133, in the amount of \$30,272.22 and General Fund Vouchers #168-177, in the amount of \$16,517.38 be approved for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

Highway Superintendent, Jeffrey MacCheyne, filed his September, 2011 written report with Board Members.

Code Enforcement Office, John Poludniak, filed his September, 2011 written report with the Board Members.

Supervisor Reynolds filed his revenue and expenditure report for September, 2011.

Town Clerk Freese filed her September, 2011 report with the Supervisor. A total of \$368.53 was remitted.

On the motion of Hunt, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Supervisor, Michael Reynolds

Town Clerk, Colleen R. Freese