

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

November 17, 2015

Paul Stoelting, President, called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other council members present were Bill Musser and Larry Siegel. Town Attorney Vern Landis, Town Manager Henry DeJulia, and Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline were also present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Paul asked for Public Comment on agenda items; there were no comments.

The minutes of the October meeting were introduced. Larry moved to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2015 meeting; Bill seconded. Three voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #1299 through #1430 were presented for payment. Larry moved to approve the claims; Bill seconded. Three voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline swore in the new Town Marshal, James Layne.

Ordinance 2015-07, the salary ordinance for 2016, was introduced. Larry made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-07; Bill seconded. Three voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Chris Cotton, of Northern Lakes Insurance, spoke to the council about the 2016 health insurance renewal. He noted the town budgeted for a 10% increase; the actual increase was 7.75%. The increase is lower than what has been seen in the marketplace. He did shop with other carriers, but could not compare other plans "apples to apples" with our plan. One other insurance company provided a quote that would not increase our costs, however, that plan had higher out of pockets and a different provider network. He strongly recommends we stay with PHP. He added the customer service through PHP is great, and PHP puts money back into the community. Options were discussed. Bill made a motion to accept the renewal quote from Physicians Health Plan and allow Julie to sign the renewal; Larry seconded. Three voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia presented a couple of purchase requests he would like to make from the Oakwood Improvements appropriation in his budget. He would like to purchase a plow from W.A. Jones for \$7,185.00; this plow would be used to plow the streets in Oakwood and smaller residential areas. The plow would be delivered in 35 days. Larry moved to approve the purchase; Bill seconded. Three voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The second request was to purchase three hydrants and three valves from Utility Supply for \$7,915.50. Oakwood hydrants are older; Henry would like to keep them on hand to possibly install in the spring. Larry moved to approve the purchase of the three hydrants for \$7,915.50 from Utility Supply to be delivered in 45 days. Bill seconded. Three voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry announced the bridge on CR 29 will be built.

POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne reported there were 395 calls for service in October; there were 7 accidents and 6 criminal arrests. For local ordinance violations, Captain Kline and Building Inspector Hal Hansborough have found 70 violations so far. Follow up letters will be sent and contact with the owners will be made.

Jim presented the 2016 Interlocal Agreement with Kosciusko County for Terminal Services Data for \$5,000.00. Larry made a motion to approve the agreement; Bill seconded. Three voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried; council members signed the agreement.

Jim asked if there were any ADA complaints; there were none.

Henry asked the council to consider making the sidewalk around the town hall smaller.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Johnson gave an update on park activities. The Indoor Yard Sale was held on the first Saturday in November; 30 people rented booths for the event. The Haunted Thrill was well attended; 90 people went through it on the last day. The Lakeland Youth Center and Syracuse Park Department also held a carnival for the "little guys" on October 30.

For upcoming events; Holiday Magic is this Saturday at Crosson Mill Park from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for December 5 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Park Department is also doing their annual letters to Santa.

Chad also reported all but 20 snowflakes are up. Larry asked Chad to contact him about the comprehensive plan; Larry has input. Larry would also like the town ordinance regarding the discharge of firearms posted.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Robin Merchant reported the Wastewater Plant Improvement Project is still moving slowly. A meeting is scheduled with the engineer and the contractor next Tuesday. He also reported the sludge press broke down; we now have to haul sludge at a cost of \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00 per week. Rob is looking into alternatives. This will take away funds from the project; other upgrades will have to wait. We also learned we have to remove the excavation soil as part of the contract at our cost.

For the Water Department, 60 more meters have been changed since the last update. The Street Department put up 106 flags for Veterans Day; they were taken down early due to high winds.

Rob presented a purchase request for a walk behind concrete saw. He described the uses for the saw; he expects it to last 10 to 15 years. Sharing equipment with other communities was discussed. Rob obtained three quotes; the lowest quote was \$7,331.15, plus up to \$385.00 shipping, from

Contractor's Direct; delivery is in 30 days. Larry moved to approve the purchase; Bill seconded. Three voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob discussed adding an extension to the existing pole barn we use for storage. The quote for an 18X60X11 foot extension was \$7,230.00. The quote includes repairing the existing pole barn. Larry suggested we look into additional and long term needs. Rob advised it would be built starting in January. There is a lot stored in the old water building that needs to be taken down. Larry said we could consider a larger add on. The council tabled action for one month.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline asked the council members if they would like to hold a year end meeting; we will have two new officials who will need to be sworn in. Council members asked if they could be sworn in at the regular December meeting; Town Attorney Vern Landis advised they could. The council decided new officials will be sworn in at the December 15 meeting; no year end meeting will be held.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Bill Musser advised the Fire Territory purchased the fitness equipment they wanted through the operations budget.

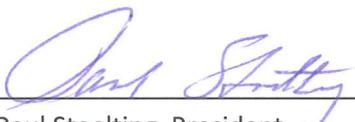
NEW BUSINESS

None.

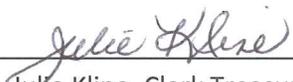
Larry moved to adjourn; Bill seconded. Three voted for the motion; none against.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

ATTEST:



Paul Stoelting, President



Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer