



Town Board Special Meeting
October 25, 2011

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Ballston was held Tuesday evening, October 25, 2011 at the Town Hall on Charlton Road. Members present were Supervisor Patricia Southworth, Councilwoman Mary Beth Hynes, Councilman Jeremy Knight, and Councilman Timothy Szczepaniak. Also present were Town Attorney Murry Brower and Town Clerk Muriel Swatling. Absent was Councilwoman Kimberly Ireland.

Supervisor Southworth called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made by Jeremy Knight and seconded by Timothy Szczepaniak that General Fund bills #426 through #446 totaling \$20,961.77; Highway Fund bills #419 through #456 totaling \$88,494.24; Water District bills #90 through #102 totaling \$15,190.20; Park District No. 1 bills #25 and #26 totaling \$2,035.62; and Gravel Pit bills #24 and #25 totaling \$2,700.71 be paid. Roll Call: Ayes – all; Noes – none. Carried.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation by Philip Klein of the Adirondack Trust Insurance regarding the Town's Health Care Insurance. Mr. Klein explained the changes to the Town's present policy that will take effect next year. He also stated that the percentage of increase was 2.24%.

Councilwoman Hynes asked why the increase was so low this year. Mr. Klein explained that the clients that have the same insurance plan are put in a pool. If there is money left in the pool to roll over for the next year, the rates are not as high. Also, the insurance companies are monitoring the plans more closely.

The Water Department Clerk has been having trouble with her computer. It has been recommended that it be replaced.

11-159: A motion was made Timothy Szczepaniak and seconded by Jeremy Knight to approve the expenditure for a computer for the Water Department at a cost of \$250.00. Roll Call: Ayes – all; Noes – none. Carried.

Howland Adams spoke regarding the Hubbell House which has just been demolished. He stated it should not have been taken down as he feels it was an historic building. Who gave permission to demolish the building?

Supervisor Southworth responded that the land was privately owned. The owner was not willing to refurbish the building. No other group came forward to try to purchase the parcel so the house could be preserved.

Mr. Adams said the Town Board should pass a resolution to require a referendum for houses prior to 1850.

Attorney Brower said that the Town would have to establish a Historic Preservation District. At that point in time, the Town would have the ability to examine the property and determine its status.

Mr. Adams said when you go back that far, you should do more research. He also said that possibly, the Hubbell House could have been the fourth oldest house still standing in the Town of Ballston.

Mr. Adams said that a mistake had been made when Route 67 was built. The road was built in a straight line with a grade crossing at the railroad. They wanted to eliminate the grade crossing so felt that could be done by constructing a bridge under the railroad tracks over the Mourningkill Creek. There were no cars back at the time this was done. By making this change, it resulted in a curve on Rt. 67 where Brookline Road intersects. This curve has been



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the site on many accidents. The road is steeply banked on this curve; if it is slippery, the cars and tractor trailers slide on the ice.

Mr. Adams also stated that he has heard that there might possibly be a roundabout at the intersection of Route 67 and Brookline Road. He said we do not need another roundabout. He feels the Town should do away with the truck traffic on Brookline Road. He said that a new road should be built between Exit 12 and Route 50 by going behind Curtis Lumber. Route 67 is such that it cannot be widened by the underpass.

Mr. Adams heard that apartments are proposed at the intersection of Route 67 and Brookline Road on the parcel that housed the Hubbell House. He said the intersection is dangerous at the present time and doesn't need any more traffic.

Supervisor Southworth thanked Mr. Adams for his comments.

Geoffrey Brooks thanked the Supervisor for following up on his Timber Creek project with C. T. Male. He said the water and sewer are OK to go. The storm water issues should be addressed and completed by Thursday. Mr. Brooks would like to be on next week's agenda.

Richard Doyle who is a member of the Sewer Commission said he agrees with Mr. Brooks regarding the sewer district. He said he should have a letter from C. T. Male on Friday.

Supervisor Southworth said if all the issues are taken care of and have approval by next week's Town Board meeting, it may be added to the agenda.

Attorney Brower stated he received a letter from the Court concerning the Schidzick estate and he has a conference with the Court on November 11, 2011. Since November 11th is a holiday, Mr. Brower feels the court date will be on November 10, 2011.

A motion was made by Mary Beth Hynes and seconded by Jeremy Knight to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Muriel K. Swatling

Town Clerk