**MARCH 9, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Madrid Town Board was called to order at 6:30 pm in the Town Office.

Members present: Tony Cooper, Garry Wells, Kevin Finnegan, Tim Thisse, David Fisher, Bill Barkley – Highway Supt and Judy Hargrave – Town Clerk.

Also present: Betty Rookey, Marcia LeMay and Kevin Acres.

**Public Comment:** Betty Rookey asked if anything was being done about John Robla’s falling down garage, she had come before the board last fall and so far nothing has been resolved. Tony will call Jeff and see what the status is on this subject.

Kevin Acres talked to the board about the County’s resolution opposing the proposal by Governor Cuomo to incrementally increasing New York State minimum wage to $15 an hour. Kevin wondered if the Town Board would consider passing a similar resolution.

Kevin Finnegan made a resolution, second by Tim Thisse to:

Resolution opposing the proposal by Governor Cuomo to incrementally increase New York State minimum wage to $15 an hour.

At a regular Madrid Town Board meeting held on March 9, 2016 the Town Board passed the following resolution:

Whereas, the current minimum wage in New York State for all employees is $9.00 per hour, and

Whereas, Governor Cuomo used his authority to direct the state labor commissioner to convene a three-person panel to study the wages for fast food workers and the panel voted unanimously to increase the wages for this sector, and

Whereas, based on this information, Governor Cuomo used an executive order to incrementally increase fast food workers’ pay $15 an hour, completely bypassing the Legislature, and

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2015, through use of another executive order, Governor Cuomo announced that he would unilaterally raise the minimum wage for all state workers (impacting approx.. 10,000 workers) to $15 per hour; and on January 4, 2016 he did the same for SUNY employees (impacting approx.. 28,000 workers), and

WHEREAS, in his budget address on January 13, 2016, Governor Andrew Cuomo proposed to raise the minimum wage for all New York workers to $15 an hour through an incremental plan,

WHEREAS, the federal minimum wage is currently $7.25 an hour, and

WHEREAS, by the administration’s own projections, once fully implemented in 2021, this proposal would result in a $15.7 billion annual, recurring increase in employer’s labor costs, and

WHEREAS, increasing pay could be passed on to consumers in the form of increased price of goods, and

WHEREAS, according to the Empire Center, hiking the minimum wage to $15 an hour in New York, a 67% increase, when fully phased in, would cause a loss of as many as 200,000 jobs, and

WHEREAS, the budget proposal included a wage hike without a corresponding funding increase for nonprofit health providers, and

WHEREAS, providers, including nursing homes, will be forced to close if the higher wage passes and the State does not help fund the increased costs for providers, and

WHEREAS, the Healthcare Association of New York State, a trade group whose members include hospitals and nursing homes, estimated that raising the wage to $15 an hour will cost the health industry $2.9 billion in higher annual direct and indirect costs, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Area Resource Center (NYSARC), Inc. President Laura Kennedy noted, “Pushing for an across the board minimum wage increase without offering any funding for developmental disability providers that are Medicaid reliant will amount to the largest unfunded mandate in the history of these programs, and

WHEREAS, Farm Credit East, an agriculture lender, estimated that passage of this proposal would increase farm labor costs in New York anywhere from $387 million to $622 million, and

WHEREAS, passage of this legislation will force businesses, particularly small businesses to lay off workers, reduce hours or raise process to cover their higher labor costs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of Madrid opposes the proposal by Governor Cuomo to incrementally increase New York State minimum wage to $15 an hour, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this petition shall be forwarded by mail or email to the following New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator Joseph A. Griffo, Senator Patty Ritchie, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Senator Betty Little, Assemblyman Marc Butler, Assemblywoman Addie Russell and Assemblywoman Janet Duprey.

All members were in favor.

The board reviewed the monthly report. Tim Thisse made a motion, second by Kevin Finnegan to acknowledge receipt of the monthly report. All were in favor.

The board reviewed the monthly bills. Tim Thisse made a motion, second by Kevin Finnegan to pay the monthly bills. General #60-83 for $18,763.00, Highway #40-57 for $18,578.66, Water #12-18 for $1,224.71, Sewer #13-20 for $2,476.65, Light #3 for $1,785.72 and Trust & Agency #5-6 for $7,638.30. All were in favor.

**Communications:** The annual certification for the WWTP was satisfactory.

The Town’s share for the January court fees was $902.00

The Town’s net liability for St. Lawrence County Workers’ Compensation is $42,398.87.

Kevin Finnegan made a motion, second by Tim Thisse to set the second notice fee for property taxes at $2.00 per parcel this year. All were in favor.

Marcia LeMay gave the Town the warranty deed for the property located at 14 Spring Street.

The Supervisor received a check for $1,115.09 for February interest on property taxes.

**Bill Barkley:** The outsider readers for the water department can no longer be purchased.

Bill reported that the 2 way radios are not working well and he wondered about installing an antenna on the water tower for them.

Bill estimated it would cost about $12,000 to repair truck 93 and the Town only paid $2700.00 for it so it is not worth repairing/ Bill stated that the County will have some trucks coming up for bid. Tim Thisse made a motion, second by David Fisher to consolidate and liquefy the town inventory. All were in favor.

**Old Business:** Kevin Finnegan made a motion, second by Garry Wells to appoint Bruce Durant to the Planning Board. All were in favor.

The Town Board is still looking for a BAR member and a ZBA member.

Tony watched the necessary webinar for the CDBG that was required.

The Board reviewed the financial records for the Town Clerk, Water & Sewer District, Tax Collector and the Justice for the year 2015. They reviewed bank statements, reports and all records associated with these accounts. All records have been found to be in order.

**New Business:** The board discussed a possible grant for replacing the water tower.

Anna Campbell is interesting in starting a summer music series and would like to set up a meeting to discuss this. Garry, Tim and Bill will set up a meeting with Anna.

Kevin Finnegan made a motion, second by Tim Thisse to approve the minutes of the February 10th meeting. All were in favor.

The next Town Board meeting will be on April 13, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

Kevin Finnegan made a motion, second by Tim Thisse to adjourn at 7:48 pm.

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Judy Hargrave, Town Clerk