**MAY 8, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Madrid Town Board was called to order at 6:10 pm in the Town Office.

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

Also present: Kim Bisonette and Marcia LeMay.

The Board went into executive session at 6:10 pm to discuss contract negotiations. The executive session was adjourned at 6:25 pm with no votes taken.

The regular Town Board meeting was called to order at 6:25 pm.

The Board reviewed the monthly report and Tony Cooper made a motion, second by Tim Thisse to acknowledge receipt of the monthly report. All were in favor.

The Board reviewed the monthly bills. Bill #145 for WorkWell Investments in the amount of $84.00 is for pedometers, they returned the check we sent them last month as there was confusion on how much money was due on the invoice from last month. So $84 is the amount currently due on the account. David Fisher made a motion, second by Tony Cooper to authorize payment of the monthly bills. General #131-153 in the amount of $5,560.89 , Highway #87-108 in the amount of $20,067.80, Water #37-45 for $887.33, Sewer #45-51 for $468.94, Light District #5 for $1,205.29 and Trust & Agency #9-10 for $8,091.68. All were in favor.

**Communications:** Received a check from the County Treasurer for the 2nd quarter sales tax in the amount $67,490.29.

Received a check from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services for $531.00 for youth programs.

Received a letter from Will Gray from Norwood requesting the Town consider adopting a resolution to repeal the NYS Safe Act. The board discussed this matter then Tim Thisse made a resolution, second by Tony Cooper to repeal the NYS Safe Act . Roll call vote as follows: Tony Cooper – Aye, Kevin Finnegan – Abstain, Tim Thisse – Aye, David Fisher – Aye and Joseph Finnegan – Aye. The resolution was duly adopted.

**OPPOSING A NUMBER OF PROVISIONS ENACTED UNDER THE NEW YORK SAFE ACT AND THE MANNER IN WHICH IT WAS ENACTED**

WHEREAS, many of the residents of the Town of Madrid have expressed their displeasure not only with the provisions of the NY Safe Act itself, but also the manner and method used to bring it to the floor and vote it into law, and

WHEREAS, using a message of necessity to bring forth and enact a law that has dozens of sections and changes in current laws, but only three of which take effect immediately, negates the argument that the speed with which this bill was brought forward was necessary, and

WHEREAS, the sheer size of the bill, the extent of the many new changes it brings and the very short time that the bill was made available to the New York State Senate and Assembly for review, effectively precluded discussion and debate on the provisions set forth in the bill, preventing the mature development of arguments, both for and against, and

WHEREAS, in an attempt to bring forth meaningful solutions for dealing with or preventing gun violence, this legislation and the majority of its provisions affect law abiding gun owners in negative and unnecessary ways, and they were not given the opportunity to express their views or otherwise comment on the bill, and

WGEREAS, while there are provisions of the bill that have merit, for example; increased penalty for killing emergency responders, NICS checks for private sales of firearms, safe storage provisions, mental health record review, and increased penalties for the illegal use of a weapon; other provisions of the law, which run roughshod over second amendment rights, must be reconsidered and a new law should be introduced in a transparent manner, and it must be given the time necessary to review its provisions, engage in meaningful and constructive debate and allow public review, comment and input relative to the content of the bill, and

WHEREAS, the New York SAFE Act, as passed, will require County Clerks to carry out several provisions of the law but fails to address the responsibility for funding those additional duties, thus inflicting another unfunded mandate on already cash strapped counties,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Madrid Town Board strongly encourages the members of the New York State Legislature to bring forth a bill that addresses the real problems confronted by today’s society and not jeopardize the rights of law abiding citizens, and allow time for public comment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senator Patty Ritchie, Senator Joseph Griffo, Senator Elizabeth O’C Little, Assemblyman Kenneth Blankenbush, Assemblywoman Addie Russell, Assemblyman Marc Butler, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey, and the Board of each County of the State of New York.

The City of Ogdensburg sent a letter requesting the Town pass a resolution to support keeping the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center open.

Kevin Finnegan made a resolution, second by David Fisher to keep the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center open. All were in favor.

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE PSYCHIATRIC CENTER**

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Mental Health is proposing a reduction in the number of inpatient hospital beds, and

WHEREAS, the plan would include designating certain hospitals for closure, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, located in Ogdensburg, New York provides a comprehensive range of residential programs including Children/Youth Services, Adult Services, and a Sex Offender Treatment Program, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center has a distinguished history of providing services to those in need from the North Country and throughout New York State for over 100 years, and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County has a long history of assisting New York State welcoming and caring for those being treated at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center is the only such facility in this part of the State, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center provides high quality care for residents of this region for whom travel and access to other facilities outside of this region would be a hardship, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center employees approximately 500 people, and

WHEREAS, these employees reside in the North Country, make purchases here, and support our local business, thereby contributing to the local economy and making our region a better place to live and raise a family, and

WHEREAS, in the past few years the General Motors plant in Massena, New York closed, putting over 500 people out of work, the Newton Falls Fine Paper Mill closed, leaving 100 people without jobs, the zinc and talc mines in Gouverneur area have greatly reduced their operations, costing over 200 job losses, and numerous cutbacks and layoffs at local hospitals and schools have further strained the North Country economy, placing an unprecedented demand on human, health, and social services in our region, and

WHEREAS, the loss of jobs and payroll at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center would create an economic climate that will contribute even further to the need for the services that would be taken out of this area by the Center’s closure or reduction of services, and

WHEREAS, the current condition of the over 500,000 square feet of vacant and deteriorating buildings that were formerly used by the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center is a clear indication that there is no market or reasonable expectation for the adaptive reuse of any additional buildings currently being used by the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center should they be closed, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Madrid urges our regional elected to oppose any plan that would involve the closure or reduction in services of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, United States Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, United States Congressman Owens, New York Senators Little, Griffo, and Ritchie and New York Assembly Members Duprey, Russell, Butler, and Blankenbush.

Received a letter from Home Service informing the Town that they will be contacting homeowners in the near future to offer emergency service and repair on water, HVAC and plumbing.

Received a schedule from the NYS Department of Transportation informing us that the CHIPS allotment for 2013-2014 will be $123,426.00 which is up $27,076.00 from the previous year.

David Deskins from Benefit Services emailed the Super visor regarding the HDHP costs for 2013-2014.

The Supervisor received several emails from Nick Adams of NYS EFC regarding the final WWTP financing agreement. The Town will be paying $73,840.00 per year for 30 years with the first payment due August 1, 2013 and the final payment on August 1, 2042.

**Bill Barkley:** The Highway crew installed the railings and benches at the park by the bulkheads.

Bill will need to amend his agreement to spend highway funds with the County in the near future.

Bill is still waiting to hear back from Simplex about the heat detector upstairs.

**Old Business:** The Board hasn’t scheduled a meeting yet to review the employee manuals.

**New Business:** David Fisher made a motion, second by Kevin Finnegan to appoint Thomas Lee to the Board of Assessment Review effective May 1, 2013. All were in favor.

Tim Thisse made a motion, second by Tony Cooper to accept the labor agreement with Teamsters Union Local 687 for 2012-2014. Roll call vote as follows: Tony Cooper – Aye, Kevin Finnegan – Aye, Tim Thisse – Aye, David Fisher – Aye and Joe Finnegan – Aye. The motion was duly passed.

The Board discussed the second phase of the dam repairs, they had applied for $75,000.00 grant and it was suggested they lower their request to $50,000.00 as there were quite a few applications this year. The Board agreed that they will try to do the repairs for the $50,000.00 and see if they can come up with additional money if need be.

Tim Thisse and Tammy Hawkins are going to attend a meeting for the Bass Masters Tournament to see if the Park could be utilized for campers.

Kevin Finnegan made a motion, second by Tony Cooper to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2013 Town Board meeting. All were in favor.

The next regular Town Board meeting will be June 12th at 6:30 pm in the Town Office.

Tony Cooper made a motion, second by Tim Thisse to adjourn at 7:17 pm.

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Judy Hargrave, Town Clerk