

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Stamford was held on July 14, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town of Stamford Municipal Building with the following present:

Supervisor-John Kosier  
Councilperson- Roderick Hillis  
Councilperson-Daniel Deysenroth  
Councilperson- David Post  
Councilperson-Brent Trimbell  
Hwy. Supt. Jonathan Ballard

Also present: Jackie Lamport, Liz Page, Donald VanEtten, Heather Clark, Patty Callagy, Ryan Hejnal, Joshua Mason, Ken Gopel, Laddie McKenzie, Kenneth Muthig, Donna Muthig and Aaron Kaufman.

The board meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Donald VanEtten, President and Director of Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation Inc. was present along with board members Heather Clark, Patty Callagy and Ryan Hejnal to discuss with the town board the possibility of forming a paid ambulance service in the Town of Stamford and Town of Harpersfield. The Foundation will meet with the Town of Harpersfield later on tonight to see if they are interested. The Foundation through a grant application process is willing to help with \$900,000. towards creating the paid agency in addition to a verbal commitment to help fund it for the second and third year through a normal grant process. Mr. VanEtten has discussed this with the O'Connor Foundation and they are well receptive to this project and need a grant application to proceed. Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to apply. He has also met with Senator Oberacker and he is in support of the project. Approximate budget expenditures were distributed. Start up costs would be approximately \$320,463.68, This proposal would be a town municipal service. This was discussed at length and there will be more meetings to try to get the paid ambulance service formed.

Mr. Van Etten read the following statement:

## EMS Project May-June 2021

-Thank everyone for coming and taking the time out of your busy schedules.

-I've asked for you to be here today to address the Major ongoing EMS Problem that's plaguing our area and state....nation.

-For many years, the Stamford Fire Department and EMS provided quality EMS transports to local hospitals. However, with the community hospital closure, jobs not allowing employees to leave, people traveling further for employment, the significant increase in call volume, major decrease in the number of volunteer members, and the amount of time a single transport takes (Approximately 3-4 hours)....it had finally taken its toll on the Stamford Ambulance, and the Stamford Rural Fire Commissioners made the difficult decision to do away with the ambulances and become a First Response agency. This change allowed Stamford to respond to Medical Emergencies as a First Responder agency increasing EMS response from a 20-30% response rate; to 80-90% response percentage! Getting First Responders out the door and to the patients was extremely important in making that initial contact and getting patient care started and stabilizing them. However....It does not get these patients to the Hospitals.

-Most surrounding agencies are struggling as well. This is not only a Stamford issue, but an issue affecting most volunteer agencies in our county and state. All volunteer organizations rely heavily on Mutual Aid from other agencies. When Mutual Aid was not available from the Volunteer Agencies, they looked to the paid agencies. For years that agency was Cooperstown Medical Transport. CMT was not always available either, as they were spread thin covering multiple surrounding counties. Since the sale of CMT to AMR-American Medical Response took place, EMS response from this nationwide agency has become even worse!! AMR provides on average 3-6 crews daily, with 1 ALS crew dedicated to Bassett Hospital, the rest attempt at covering 6 counties: Delaware, Schoharie, Otsego, Chenango, Herkimer, and Montgomery Counties. This agency has a MASSIVE turnover rate; they seem to struggle with gaining and retaining employees. AMR is not the answer for our communities!!!

- I think that we can agree that the lack of EMS is a major problem for our communities, and should be one of the top priorities that we focus on. With NYS not recognizing EMS as an "Essential Service" also means that there is no state aid available to the towns to cover any of these costs... My Board and I understand that no one wants to raise taxes, but something needs to be done. The Foundation Board wants to help address and tackle this massive problem.

-This conversation we are having today has stemmed from a conversation held at a dinner the night before the Foundation's Annual Meeting in May. The Conversation was with a local resident who lives in Hobart, and has a great concern that if he or his family needed an ambulance, would there be one available to him or his family? This resident is aware that Hobart has 2 ambulances, however he also knows that they like most other agencies, they are struggling crewing up. Then he discussed that Stamford is answering many of their EMS calls, however they cannot transport and are at the mercy of other volunteer agencies or AMR to respond.

-The next day, at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, the Foundation Board of Directors discussed that Stamford still had a large portion of left over funds that had not been allocated to any grants. Additionally, it was discussed that Stamford also had a significant balance of unused funds for the Stamford area dating back several years. For those that don't know, the 3 towns that the Foundation represents are; Stamford, Winchendon Mass, and Worcester NY. Stamford and Winchendon receive equal amounts of the bulk of the funding and Worcester receives a percentage of what is allocated.

-With the Board being aware of the substantial funds available, and then recalling the conversation about the major EMS problem we currently have.... My Board of Directors has tasked me with approaching (You) the Town Supervisors, with the hopes that we may possibly be able to work together at addressing this major problem in our communities. EMS Services needs to be the TOP PRIORITY for our communities and residents. Yes, road infrastructure, trucks and equipment are all important; however resident's lives and safety should supersede all of these needs!!

-Health Care was a major priority of the Robinson's and Anna, and it still a significant priority of our Board. We fund grants to each of the Hospitals which our communities use. We fund the EMS agencies and Fire Departments...

-However, the biggest concern of my Board, and the Community residents is the lack of EMS in Stamford, Harpersfield, Hobart and the other surrounding communities!!

-This is why I have invited you here today, in the hopes that we can all work together in forming a full time 24/7 agency that would provide EMS for both the Towns of Stamford and Harpersfield (which includes both Villages). It was originally thought, to include more towns.... Jefferson, Gilboa, and Kortright...

However, we thought let's start smaller and then expand from there if needed.

Another thing... Schoharie County is now providing a county wide Ambulance program. They will have an Ambulance staged in Blenheim that would benefit anyone calling 911 in the Town of Jefferson and Gilboa. However the County EMS Ambulance will not crossover into Delaware County!! Also, the Town of Kortright has a large portion covered by Bloomville EMS who have an excellent response in their district.

-It is the hope of the Foundation that I would initiate this conversation and make the pledge of a substantial gift towards the creation of this agency to offset tax dollars. Going forward if the Towns were to agree to starting up this agency... the Board of Directors would give a verbal commitment on a set Dollar amount that we would fund for years Two and year Three. After year three, we would fund through our regular grant process taking into consideration any request coming to us. No one wants to raise taxes, and with no State aid to help our small rural communities, it's a difficult conversation to be had. However, I am hoping we can all work together towards a solution and fix this major problem in our communities.

-The Foundation has granted Millions of dollars in grants over the last 37 years. We have helped with our schools, churches, food pantry's, Towns to acquire trucks and equipment, but I think that EMS is something we are really lacking and needs to be addressed and needs to be made the top priority. The Foundation wants to make this priority a reality!!

-I understand that you will need to discuss any decision to be made with your Town Boards and present this to the tax payers. There will be hurdles that will need to be crossed to reach our goal, however I think we can all agree this is a worthwhile venture for the good of our communities.

-Thank you

-Introduce Ryan and discuss his information and budgets he has worked on putting together.

A MOTION was made by Daniel Deysenroth and seconded by Brent Trimbell to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. ALL AYE votes cast, MOTION carried.

A MOTION was made by Daniel Deysenroth and seconded by Brent Trimbell to approve the Supervisor's monthly report. ALL AYE votes cast, MOTION carried.

A MOTION was made by David Post and seconded by Roderick Hillis to approve General bills abstract no. 7, dated July 14, 2021, 2021, Fund A – claim nos.: 95 – 111, Fund B – claim no. 12 – 15, and Fund SL – claim no. 10 in the amount of \$4,677.84. ALL AYE votes cast, MOTION carried

A MOTION was made by Daniel Deysenroth and seconded by Brent Trimbell to approve Highway bills abstract no. 7, dated July 14, 2021, claim nos.: Fund DA – claim nos. 49 – 60 and Fund DB – claim nos. 20 – 24 in the amount of \$109,322.87. ALL AYE votes cast, MOTION carried.

A MOTION was made by David Post and seconded by Daniel Deysenroth to approve South Kortright Sewer District bills abstract no. 7, dated July 14, 2021, 2021, claim nos. 29 – 36 in the amount of \$9,556.17. ALL AYE votes cast, MOTION carried.

Hwy. Supt. Jonathan Ballard gave the following highway report:

- Finished resurfacing Rich Rd., Madison Hill Rd., Narrow Notch Rd., Town Office parking lot and Gunhouse Hill Rd. All roads look very good.
- The flail mower head has been rebuilt. A new flail head is \$15,375.
- We got the grindings from the South Kortright Central School parking lot and will put them on Bucking Rd. when ready.
- A lot of culvert pipes need to be changed and cleaned out after the July 11<sup>th</sup> heavy rain, mainly on Town Brook Rd., Foot Hollow Rd., Martin Rd., Decker Rd., Mattice Rd., Reservoir Rd., Madison Hill Rd. and Clove Rd.
- The grader broke down, so I rented a rubber tire excavator to repair the roads and culverts.
- Checked with Eklund's for a price on a 3-pt. hitch flail mower - \$12,000.

Discussed was what truck to order. The price on the Mac truck chassis is \$128,712. and for the Western Star chassis \$133,500.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-2021 was introduced by Brent Trimbell and seconded by Daniel Deysenroth:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that we authorize Hwy. Supt. Jonathan Ballard to order a 2023 Mac truck Granite 64 FR in the amount of \$128,712. The Robinson-



Town of Stamford	Supervisor's Report					Jun-21	
	General Townwide	General Part-Town	Highway Townwide	Highway Part-Town	SK Light	SK Walls	Sewer Dist.
Beginning Balance:	\$ 353,456.53	\$ 66,478.79	\$ 245,131.56	\$ 302,247.37	\$ 2,343.28	\$ 2,437.24	\$ 54,416.85
<b>REVENUES</b>							
Interest Earned	\$ 26.56	\$ 0.45	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.76			\$ 0.32
Dog Fees	\$ 33.00						
Permits		\$ 1,200.00					
Town Clerk Fees	\$ 69.02						
Charter Communications	\$ 426.32						
February Interest MMIDA	\$ 1.25						
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
Abstracts	\$ 2,119.79	\$ 2,403.38	\$ 6,967.26	\$ 12,535.34			\$ 528.53
Health Insurance	\$ 1,823.11		\$ 6,540.64				
Payroll & Fringe	\$ 14,429.67	\$ 852.66		\$ 15,371.63			
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	\$ 335,640.11	\$ 64,423.20	\$ 231,643.66	\$ 274,371.16	\$ 2,343.28	\$ 2,437.24	\$ 53,888.64

BALANCES AS OF JUNE 30, 2021

	<u>BUDGET INCOME</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
GENERAL T/W	\$ 338,371.00	\$ 318,313.92	\$ 148,627.84	\$ 169,686.08
GENERAL O/V	\$ 43,809.00	\$ 43,057.34	\$ 20,893.45	\$ 22,163.89
HIGHWAY T/W	\$ 344,433.00	\$ 348,532.84	\$ 139,000.72	\$ 209,532.12
HIGHWAY O/V	\$ 353,019.00	\$ 252,596.17	\$ 150,215.37	\$ 102,380.80
GENERAL CHECKING , ACCOUNT		\$ 312,929.42		
HIGHWAY CHECKING ACCOUNT		\$ 601,717.81		
SOUTH KORTRIGHT SEWER ACCT		\$ 37,975.40		
GOOD NEIGHBOR ACCOUNT		\$ 17,745.03		

Broadhurst Foundation grant awarded to the town in the amount of \$100,000. will go toward the cost. The approximate delivery date is June 2022.

The foregoing RESOLUTION WAS DULY PUT TO A VOTE WHICH resulted as follows:

AYES: John Kosier-Roderick Hillis-David Post  
Daniel Deysenroth-Brent Trimbell

NOES: None

Said RESOLUTION was thereupon declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-2021 was introduced by Daniel Deysenroth and seconded by Brent Trimbell:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that we accept the audit of the Stamford Tax Collector, Diane Grant. The review found no discrepancies in the 2021 Tax Collector's records.

The foregoing RESOLUTION WAS DULY PUT TO A VOTE WHICH resulted as follows:

AYES: John Kosier -Roderick Hillis-David Post  
Daniel Deysenroth-Brent Trimbell

NOES: None

Said RESOLUTION was thereupon declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-2021 was introduced by Roderick Hillis and seconded by Daniel Deysenroth:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that we move to accept the following agreement with The Humane Society of Central Delaware County, Inc.:

This agreement, made this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June 2021 between the Town of Stamford (the "Town") in Delaware County, NY, and The Humane Society of Central Delaware County, Inc. (d/b/a Heart of the Catskills Humane Society) ("HCHS"), in Delhi, NY;

WHEREAS, the Town occasionally has stray or lost dogs that are picked up by its employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the consideration hereinafter recited, the parties agree as follows:

1. The Town assumes all responsibility for the handling and turning over of any dog to HCHS and agrees to hold harmless and defend HCHS from any and all claims in connection with the picking up and turning over of said animals, and euthanizing of any such animal turned over to HCHS by the Town.

2. In the case where the Town has a holding facility for the handling of stray dogs, the Town will hold such animals for five days before turning over such animals to HCHS on the sixth day.
3. The Town agrees to pay HCHS a fee of forty dollars (\$40.00) for each dog turned over to HCHS by the Town, its agents or employees.
4. If the Town is not a township in Delaware County, the Town shall also pay an annual contract fee of \$250.00 to HCHS, due upon signing of this agreement.
5. For court ordered holds, or for any animal brought to HCHS in connection with allegations of animal cruelty, the Town will be charged a boarding fee of \$10. per day for each animal (dog) for the period of time of the hold or, in the case of an animal cruelty case, the period of time before the prosecuting authority notifies HCHS in writing that it does not require the animal to be held in connection with its prosecution, payable by the Town upon receipt of billing from HCHS.
6. HCHS assumes all responsibility for collecting fees from any person who redeems any animal that has been turned over to HCHS by the Town. HCHS assumes all responsibility for collecting impoundment fees from any person who redeems an animal that has been turned over to HCHS by the Town. HCHS will keep all impoundment fees as part of HCHS's \$40.00 fee (as set forth in paragraph 3 above) and will bill the remainder of that fee to the Town, which fee shall be payable upon receipt of billing from HCHS.
7. The Town shall deliver the animals to HCHS by the Dog Control Officer of the Town, or a duly designated agent or employee of the Town. The Dog Control Officer shall keep a record of all such animals left with HCHS.
8. The Town understands that fees of HCHS are subject to change. HCHS will notify the Town thirty (30) days before any change is to take effect.
9. HCHS agrees to bill the Town for stray animals brought to the shelter by the Dog Control Officer.
10. HCHS agrees to accept, upon payment of the fees mentioned above, any animal brought to it by the Town and to take good care of each such animal as is HCHS's usual practice.
11. Following the expiration of the redemption period as outlined in Article 7 of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law ("Article 7"), Section 117 (4) & (6), ownership of seized dogs will be transferred to HCHS pursuant to Article 7, Section 117 (7) for the purpose of placing them in adoptive homes, transferring them to the State University of New York, foster care or another approved shelter, or for any other lawful purpose as provided in Article 7, Section 117 (7-a).
12. This agreement may be cancelled upon review of same by the governing body of either party. Each party agrees to give other party thirty (30) days' written notice of cancellation.

The foregoing RESOLUTION WAS DULY PUT TO A VOTE WHICH resulted as follows:

AYES: John Kosier – Roderick Hillis – Daniel Deysenroth  
David Post – Brent Trimbell

NOES: None

Said RESOLUTION was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Discussed was the sample Cannabis Local Law Opting out of Adult Use Cannabis Retail Dispensaries and On-Site Consumption Sites. This was tabled until next month. Supv. John Kosier will contact Delaware County Sheriff Craig DuMond and invite him to our next meeting to discuss his opposition to Adult Use Cannabis Retail Sales in the county.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-2021 was introduced by David Post and seconded by Brent Trimbell:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that we move into Executive Session due to a personnel issue at 7:58 PM.

The foregoing RESOLUTION WAS DULY PUT TO A VOTE WHICH resulted as follows:

AYES: John Kosier – Roderick Hillis – Daniel Deysenroth  
David Post – Brent Trimbell

NOES: None

Said RESOLUTION was thereupon declared duly adopted

RESOLUTION NO. 21-2021 was introduced by David Post and seconded by Brent Trimbell:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that we move out of Executive Session at 8:05 PM with no action taken.

The foregoing RESOLUTION WAS DULY PUT TO A VOTE WHICH resulted as follows:

AYES: John Kosier – Roderick Hillis – Daniel Deysenroth  
David Post – Brent Trimbell

NOES: None

Said RESOLUTION was thereupon declared duly adopted

A MOTION was made by John Kosier and seconded by Daniel Deysenroth adjourn this meeting at 8:05 P.M. The next regular meeting will be held on Aug. 11, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Municipal Building, 101 Maple Ave., Hobart, New York.

WE, the undersigned members of the Town Board of the Town of Stamford,  
Delaware County, New York, do hereby certify that we have examined the minutes of the  
previous meeting and found them to be correct and accurate as recorded.

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Councilperson \_\_\_\_\_

Councilperson \_\_\_\_\_

Councilperson \_\_\_\_\_

Councilperson \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk