

December 11, 2014
Town of Afton
County of Chenango

Present at the regular meeting were Supervisor J. Lawrence, R Tallmadge, C Warren, J Baciuska, Highway Superintendent L Shultis, ACO A Cross.

Visitors: W Colley, B Heller, A Leggett, A Steinberg, M Bernhard, W Colley.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm with the salute to the flag.

Bills were audited and ordered paid as follows:

General Funds Claims # 212 - 228 Totaling \$6357.94 as listed on General Funds Abstract # 12 dated December 11, 2014, and

Highway Funds Claims #169 - 192 totaling \$230080.10 as listed on Highway Funds Abstract #12 dated December 11, 2014.

Motion to pay General Fund Abstract #12 dated December 11, 2014 in the amount of \$6357.94 and Highway Funds Abstract #12 dated December 11, 2014 in the amount of \$230080.10 made by B Tallmadge seconded by J Baciuska. Approved

Motion to Accept minutes of November 13, 2014 regular board meeting made by B Tallmadge Seconded by C Warren Approved

Motion to accept the Special Meeting minutes of November 20, 2014 made by R Tallmadge seconded by J Baciuska Approved

Recognition of Visitors: B Heller spoke on open meetings law and IVCI building purchase as did A Steinberg. A Leggett spoke on IVCI Building and Parking concerns.

Communications

- 1) NYSDOT notice of "negative Declaration" on Rt 235 bridgework presented.
- 2) Letter of appreciation and termination of D & D Trophies in Afton read.
- 3) NYMIR recognition of Highway Department attendance at snow and ice seminar.
- 4) Board wishes to make public letters for grant received from Senator Libous as well as all correspondence from Board. Original Copies may be obtained at Clerks office during regular Hours. The letters are as follows:

Letter from Thomas W Libous is as follows

Hon. John Lawrence, Supervisor
161 Lewis Lane
Afton, NY 13730

Dear John:

Over the past few years, I've heard from many mayors and town supervisors in need of funds for important capital projects in their cities, towns and villages. I've been around my District and I've seen that some help with funding could go a long way.

But there hasn't been much to go around lately.

The good news is that I've recently been able to secure some State Capital funds for certain city, town and village projects through the State and Municipal Facilities Capital Program (SAM).

I'm proud of the projects I've been able to help out with in the past, like flood-related improvements in Kirkwood or much-needed upgrades to Waverly's Village Hall.

If your city, town or village has a capital project that could be helped by \$50,000 - \$100,000 please visit www.libousgrant.com and submit a SAM application by **September 12, 2014**.

Please pay close attention to the enclosed eligibility guidelines. And feel free to submit joint applications for a shared service or a project for one of your special districts.

Priority will be given to projects with funding secured and that can move forward soon.

Please direct any questions on the grant to SAMcap@senatorlibous.com.

We'll be reviewing applications and notifying grantees by September 26th.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Libous
State Senator

On August 28, 2014 John Lawrence, Supervisor replied (original copies also available):

Hon. Thomas Libous
172 State Street Room 413
State Capital Building
Albany, NY 12247

August 28, 2014

Dear Senator Libous:

I'm contacting you seeking any financial assistance that may be available to help in the combining of two of our town's functions. Our Town Court Room, presently located in the same

building as the Village Highway garage, thereby sharing the same diesel fumes, and the Town Hall presently located at 169 Main St., a building structurally sound for one built in 1869, but wholly inadequate as defined by the ADA requirements.

The court is our most pressing concern. The one room that houses the court bench, clerk's desk, filing cabinets, 2 tables one for the Prosecution and one for the Defense lawyers and a few chairs is only 10' x 30'. A bathroom (4'X4') is used to the private lawyer/client conference room. A narrow hallway 3 feet wide serves as both the entrance to the court and a holding room for the defendants, plaintiffs, lawyers, County lockups along with their escorts and any occupying family members.

There is a building facility available to us that would accommodate both the Town Hall, Town Court, the Assessor's office and the Historian's office with very little modifications. We have employed the services of ML Architecture PLLC to design the space needed. By combining all the town functions, currently located in 2 separate buildings, we expect to bring our facilities into at least the 20th century but to reduce the overall expense and therefore reducing our tax burden.

To assist in the court modification we applied and have received 2 JCAP grants totaling \$40,000. We have purchased pews and bathroom fixtures from a vacated church.

I would welcome you and you staff for a visit to show you first hand our situation and the plans we have made to improve both the image of a town and court system we are all proud of.

The Afton Town Court, The Afton Town Board and all the residents of Afton sincerely thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Lawrence
Supervisor, Town of Afton

Application of grant reads as follows:

We the Town of Afton are looking for any financial assistance that would be available to us to help in combining two of our Town's functions, the Town Hall and the Town Court.

Our Town Court is located in the Village Highway Department garage, thereby sharing the same diesel fumes at that Highway Department. Our Town Hall presently located at 169 Main St. in Afton, built in 1869 is in sad need of repairs and does not meet the ADA requirements.

The Town Court as we stated is in the Village Highway Department garage and is comprised of one room. That room houses the court bench, clerk's desk, filing cabinets, 2 tables one for the Prosecution and one for the Defense lawyers and a few chairs and is only 10' x 30'. A bathroom (4' x 4') is used for the private lawyer/client conference room. Because of a lack of seating in the courtroom they must use a narrow hallway 3' wide to serve as both the entrance to the court and a holding room for the defendants, plaintiffs, lawyers, County lockups along with their

escorts and any occupying family members. Hearings that involve juveniles create a more difficult challenge since privacy concerns are almost non-existent. The overall confined space creates an environment where hostility could result in a serious confrontation placing the judge and court clerk in jeopardy.

The present court does not conform to any ADA requirements for either employees or the public accessibility.

Courts by nature require a tremendous storage capacity for files. There is no space for these files and many of them are stored off location and are not adequately protected or easily accessible.

Our Town Hall, although a very historic building, does not meet the needs of today. It too does not meet the ADA requirements. There is a handicap wooden ramp at the back of the building and it does not meet ADA requirements but we are restricted in correcting it since the Town does not own property beyond that ramp, therefore eliminating our ability to expand. If our present Town Clerk were to become handicapped or a future Town Clerk, or Court Judge or Court Clerk, since the town and court records are stored in the upstairs above the Town Hall, that person would not be able to access any of the archival records. There is only access by means of an outside wooden staircase to these records. This wooden staircase also would be very vulnerable to fire if the house next door were to burn since there is only a driveway distance between them. There has been repeated mold problems in the Town Clerk's office. Files and paperwork are very damp and mold quite often can be seen on the furniture, walls and cabinets in the Town Clerks office and the Supervisor's office. The capacity of persons for the building at one time is 35. There are times when under certain conditions we expect more than 35 people, this includes Board Members Supervisor, and appointed officials, we have been forced to find other means to hold our board meetings. The electric outlets in the Town Hall are not equipped to handle all the equipment that is required today. When the Town Clerk tries to clean with a vacuum she must turn off all computers and related equipment. The Town Assessor also uses this office and has computers etc, that must be connected to the electric supply. Last year the fumes in the building were so bad from the furnace that we had to have a new chimney since the lining of the old chimney had collapsed inside

There is a building facility available to us that would accommodate both the Town Hall, Town Court, the Assessor's office and the Historian's office, something we have not been able to provide up to now, with very little modifications. The building is being offered to us for \$265,000. Plus two properties we own.

We have employed the services of ML Architecture PLLC to design the space needed. By combining all the Town functions, currently located in 2 separate buildings, we expect to bring our facilities into at least the 21st century and therefore reducing the tax burden. The estimate to modify the building is \$75000.

To assist in the court modification, we applied and have received two JCAP grants totaling \$40,000. We have purchased pews and bathroom fixtures for the court from a vacated church and are currently paying for the architect from these grants. We also have a building reserve of \$200,000 from which we could draw some funds. However, we should not want to deplete this fund in its entirety since it has taken many years to build.

You are welcome to visit to show you first hand our situation and the plans we have made to improve both the operation and image of a town and court system that we can all be proud of.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of the Afton Town Court, the Afton Town Board and all the residents of Afton.

September 7, 2014 we received the acknowledgement of the application by Senator Libous' office.

On October 1, 2014 senator Thomas W Libous responded (original copies available)

October 1, 2014

Dear John and Joyce:

To help our cities, towns and villages keep you taxes under the Property Tax Cap, a few months back I secured funding from the State and Municipalities Capital Program to use for important local upgrades and maintenance.

Then I asked each municipality in my District to submit its ideas.

Town Supervisor John Lawrence submitted a strong proposal for the Town of Afton.

So I've awarded \$100,000 to the Town of Afton to Consolidate the Town Hall and the Town Court.

Combining the Town Hall and Town Court into a handicapped accessible building with better energy efficiency and higher occupant capacity will allow the Town to better serve its residents and save you money in the long run.

I'm glad to be able to help the Town of Afton by supporting this important upgrade.

And I can't wait to get out and see some of these new, finished projects in Afton and elsewhere!

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Thomas W Libous
State Senator

Committee Reports

1) Assessor no report

- 2) Financial Reports distributed.
- 3) Justice reports 2 distributed.
- 4) Code enforcement no report. R Metzger has agreed to stay on at the Town of Afton as a Sanitation office and will help out with building permits at a Salary of \$1500 per year
Motion to approve made by R Tallmadge and seconded by J Baciuska Approved
Motion to allow the Town Supervisor J Lawrence sign the agreement with Chenango County to administer the Flood Plain Mitigation plan made by J Baciuska seconded by C Warren Approved
- 5) Highway reports that new truck has arrived and is working fine. Have not received bids for pickup as requested as state bids are not available at this time. Resolution to encumber \$35000.00 from Highway Equipment fund account DA5130.2 for purchase of a truck.
Motion made by R Tallmadge seconded by C Warren. Approved
- 6) DCO report distributed. DCO will be addressing meeting for Environmental Health by Chenango County on December 18, 2014.
- 7) Building Committee nothing further to discuss.
- 8) Animal Response Team report distributed

Old Business

- 1) Results of meeting with B Mirabito of Leatherstocking Corp discussed.
- 2) No truck bids available at this time.
- 3) Permissive Referendum, on Resolution #1-10/14 authorizing sale of Town property to Afton Central School initiated on October 9th, 2014, has terminated with no petition against the sale. Motion to accept this referendum by J Baciuska and seconded by R Tallmadge Approved

New Business

- 1) Budget Corrections
- 2) Transfer \$344.00 from A1410.4 to A1410.12
- 3) Transfer \$3954.35 from 1620.41 to A 4560.4
- 4) Transfer \$1240.56 from A9030.8, \$1431.02 from A9060.8 and \$993.42 from A8510.4 to A9010.8 Retirement.
- 5) Motion to approve budget corrections by R Tallmadge seconded by C Warren Approved
- 6) Motion to declare void Outstanding Check # 4552 dated 11/15/2010 in the Amount of \$150.00 to NYSOTSOH Made by J Baciuska seconded by R Tallmadge approved
- 7) Motion to declare void outstanding #5092 dated 06/17/2013 to Afton Teen Center Initiative in the amount of \$250.00, after discussion with School Superintendent B Briggs made by J Baciuska seconded by R Tallmadge approved
- 8) Motion to declare void a check # 5198 dated 12/16/2013, to Sentry Alarm in the Amount of \$1.95 made by J Baciuska seconded by C Warren. approved

Recognition of Visitors:

Motion to adjourn at 8:18 pm by R Tallmadge seconded by J Baciuska. Approved.

Respectfully Submitted by

Rosemarie A Klatz

Afton Town Clerk