

Town Board Minutes  
November 10, 2020

Town Board Minutes November 10, 2020 The monthly meeting of the Torrey Town Board was held on November 10, 2020 in the Town Highway Garage at 56 Geneva Street, Dresden, New York was called to order by Supervisor Flynn at 7:30PM.

Present: Supervisor Patrick Flynn Councilmen: Colby Petersen, Peter Martini, Lawrence Martin, Grant Downs

Others present: Dave Granzin, John Ghidiu, George Dowse, Linda Downs, George Thompson, Robert Miller, Richard Harper Legislator, Abi Buddington, Michael Black, Ken Campbell, Peter Gamba, Dwight James- Code, Highway- Tim Chambers, Dale Irwin-Greenidge Kevin McAuliff, Warren Zimmerman, William Hall

Mr. Flynn led the pledge of allegiance.

**Abstract of Vouchers** Mr. Flynn presented the abstracts for audit. Motion by Mr. Martini, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Petersen, that the bills on the General A & B Accounts in the amount of \$ 9,996.66 be paid, carried.

Motion by Mr. Martini 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Martin, that the bills on the Highway DA & DB Accounts in the amount of \$ 7,884.47 be paid, carried.

Motion by Mr. Petersen 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Martini, that the final installment for fire protection 2020 in the amount \$32,900. be paid, carried.

Motion by Mr. Flynn 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Martini to approve the October minutes carried by all.

Motion by Mr. Martini authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Yates County Animal Control Contract, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Petersen, carried by all.

Mr. Petersen updated the board on the DiOrio property annexation request. Both assessors of Torrey and Milo are in agreement with annexing the DiOrios portion of property in Milo into their home property in Torrey. There will be a public hearing on this.

Mr. Flynn offered the following **Fund Balance Policy** resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Torrey wishes to be proactive in its fiscal responsibilities, and

**WHEREAS**, the State Comptroller recommend that government agencies adopt a Fund Balance Policy and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board believes that a Fund Balance Policy is in the best interest of the Town of Torrey

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

1. When preparing the yearly budget, 4% of Appropriations for the General A, General B, Highway DA, Highway DB Funds will be calculated for unexpended balances.
2. Fund Balance amount shall be equal to January & February expenses of each fund from the previous budget year.
3. Emergency Budget shortfalls
4. Large Capital expense

Mr. Downs made a motion to adopt fund balance policy 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Petersen, carried by all.

Mr. Petersen made the motion 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Martini to authorize the Supervisor to sign the MOU with SWIO for 2021, motion carried with Mr. Downs abstaining.

Dwight James gave the Code report.

Mr. Downs inquired if there was any change with the Torrey gas station.

Mr. James said he has spoke with Dan Long Yates Co. Planner who stated NYS DEC is looking into the tank site.

Dave Granzin explained the rationale to the penalty on unpermitted project. Code would use a sliding scale for permits after the project is underway.

Motion by Mr. Downs 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Martini to set a sliding scale for penalty for unpermitted use carried by all.

Tim Chambers gave the highway report. Repairing and replacing driveway culverts, repair catch basin on Perry Point.

Chips money to be released December 21. Tried out a 2018 mowing tractor \$ 65,000. Does not fit the towns needs so it went back. New septic tank job at public beach is almost complete.

Correspondence- Committee for Preservation of Finger Lakes has requested a 3-month moratorium on the decision for Greenidge Data Center. This letter stated their concern of impact from Greenidge operations on Seneca Lake, Keuka Outlet, and environment. The Planning Board is reviewing application of the Greenidge Data Center and was a DEC 30 day comment period on the SEQRA study which will be addressed at the Planning Board November 16<sup>th</sup>. No action taken on Moratorium.

Abi Buddington support the 3-month moratorium as the Planning Board can seek more information from DEC studies.

Mike Black of Starkey stated he is an avid fisherman in this lake for many years and has witnessed a decline in the fishery. Salt plants industries and Greenidge have added to deterioration of fishing. The impact on tourism and business if the lake fails will be huge. He charged the Town Board to be stewards of the lake and protect it.

Dale Irwin-Greenidge, stated there is a trend in the decreasing fish size since 2000.

John Ghidui inquired how all the SEQRA comments will be responded to.

Dwight James Code Officer has sent comments to Town Attorney for a process to respond to them.

Ken Campbell- Arrowhead Beach stated Greenidge was given permits to supply grid electricity, how can they run the data center on that permit.

Kevin McAuliff- Greenidge Attorney stated in September a letter was sent to DEC asking for suspension, modification or revocation of all permits for Greenidge.

October 22 DEC responded back to Mary Anne Kowalski that Greenidge was in full compliance with their permits.

Mr. Irwin stated that these complaints to the DEC and state officials has been ongoing and there has been rulings handed down that all permits are lawful.

Mrs. Buddington appeals to the Town Board that it instructs the Planning Board to take a pause to reconsider and to take a hard stand on protecting the lake. She is a resident with concern for her community, environment who would like to partner with Town. She could network, research and seek more education on Data Center noise.

Mr. Ghidui stated it was a brilliant idea bit coin mining, kudos and urges Greenidge to be good neighbors.

Mr. Irwin stated Greenidges willingness to work with neighbors addressing any issues. He has extended invitation for a walk through of the plant to Mr. Gamba who has opposed Greenidge operation, but to date no interest.

Mr. Chambers worked at Greenidge for many years and has knowledge of the intake pipe and its operation. The pipe has to be backwashed several times a day and if there was fishkill it would show up here. He also is an avid fisherman.

Town received a letter from the Village of Dresden regarding no increase in Town budget to fire contract. The Town Board has asked the fire department for a budget breakdown to no avail. No fire official came to budget public hearing although Colleen Riviello Village Clerk appeared on her own behalf to answer any questions she could. The Board thanked her for her attendance. The Village asked for \$114,400 but revised budget request came in at \$ 101,633.19 after the Town adopted the 2021 budget.

The letter from the Village states they will not provide fire protection for the Town of Torrey if the full amount of \$ 101,633.19 is not approved.

Village Mayor William Hall spoke on the letter. He stated it is self explanatory. They have 21 active firemen and 9 interior firefighters. Route 14 is major corridor of the fire calls; many EMS calls for MVAs.

Mandatory expenses are up with no budget reserves.

Fund raisers, foreign fire tax and community donations have helped defray cost.

Mr. Irwin stated Greenidge will donate money for rescue equipment.

Mr. Downs stated the Town has tightened up the 2021 budget, can the fire budget be adjusted.

Warren Zimmerman stated if Town contracts with other fire departments for coverage, the homeowner's insurance will go up.

Discussion as to what the breakdown of budget, village percentage and town percentage, what are the mandates, manpower, training.

Mr. Petersen & Mr. Martini will meet with the fire department for a discussion on the fire budget, date TBD.

John Ghidui would like to know how 400+ comments will be replied to. He suggests breaking letters down by categories: noise, fish, climate control.

Mr. Downs stated he can put comment letter response in the newsletter.

Water District 1, easements slowly coming in.

Perry Point WD - Dave Granzin would like to meet with the Village using the Benton water contract draft to model one for Perry Point. He urges the Town to negotiate with Village to get the water project moving.

Brief discussion on EDU charges to water line not owned by Village.

Brief discussion as to water line near state bridge.

Motion by Mr. Flynn 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Petersen to adjourn at 9:05 carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Betty M Daggett*

Torrey Town Clerk