

Notes from the Town of Hamilton January Meeting (1.12.17)

Mayor Bob McVaugh opened the meeting with a report on the village deer cull, which is proceeding at a lower rate than in the past. The cull has been expanded to the golf course and parts of the Colgate campus.

The January meeting is the Town's annual organizational meeting. Appointments to the Town Office staff as well as boards and committees were made for the upcoming year. Appointments for 2017 include:

- Bookkeeper – Bryn on the Books
- Historian- Jack Loop
- Dog Control Officer – Larry Butts
- Code Enforcement Officer- Donald Forth
- Deputy Town Clerk – Elisa Robertson

2 Year Appointments, commencing January 1, 2017 and expiring December 31, 2018:

- Highway Superintendent – Jason Florenz
- Town Clerk/Collector/Registrar of Vital Statistics/Records Management Officer – Sue Reymers

Planning Board:

- Darrell Griff will serve as Chair

Zoning Board:

- Harmon Hoff will serve as Chair.

Don Haight, Hamilton Town Justice, submitted his annual report. The court revenue is the highest in 7 years due to an increase in traffic tickets. Justice Haight heard 225 cases, 92 more than 2016. In addition, Haight is filling in for Ron Holstein, Earlville's Justice who recently passed on.

The Town Highway Crew has been busy, replacing a guardrail on Hill Road and installing a new guard rail on Bailey Road. There were some truck breakdowns in December and the crew is working to get the vehicles back in action. So far it has been a very busy season, with 47 runs between December 9 and January 11. Superintendent Florenz has submitted 1,222.66 miles of plowing for reimbursement by the county thus far.

Town Clerk Sue Reymers reminds property owners to submit their taxes to the County rather than the Town. Tax bills were sent out late from County and were not posted online until January 1. In the future, contact Clerk Reymers for assistance if you need tax bills before the end of the year.

Vinny Faraone, President of SOMAC, updated us on ambulance service in Hamilton and around the State. Emergency Management Services (EMS) throughout the State are very fragile and many providers have folded. Many municipalities are changing the way they do business, and some have seen an increase in taxes to support EMS providers. SOMAC is doing well, in part due to increased support from the Town and other municipalities who use their services. The total calls are up for 2016 with a total of 637. Volunteers are crucial to SOMAC's viability. Volunteer at— <https://www.somacambulance.org/volunteer-postings.html> Madison County gave Hamilton's draft Comprehensive Plan a positive review, with appreciation to the committee and for the amount of community input involved. Next steps include a review of county recommendations and adoption of the plan by the Town Council.

Peter Darby updated us on the Partnership for Community Development (PCD), which was awarded close to 1 million dollars in grants last year. Some of those grants support initiatives such as the Good Nature Brewing and Kriemhild expansions, which will bring new jobs to Hamilton.

After collecting signatures from community members experiencing poor Internet and phone service the Town is sending an official letter of complaint to Frontier Communications. The Public Service Commission, Attorney General's Office, Assemblyman Magee, and Senator Valesky were all copied as well.

A local law was introduced allowing for the appointment of alternate members for the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Hamilton. The Town Council feels the law is needed as members of the planning board and zoning board have had absences due to recusion and illness. The law would allow the appointment of alternates in case of those absences. There will be a public hearing on the proposed law at the next Town Council meeting.

The Hamilton Town Council meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Village Courthouse in the Village of Hamilton at 6:30 pm. **Our next meeting is February 9.** We invite and encourage you to join us. For more info visit www.townofhamiltonny.org.

submitted by Chris Rossi, Hamilton Town Council