

R'VILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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August, 2015

Draft Minutes, Public Hearing Proposed Noise Ordinance, July 7, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Public Hearing on the 7th day of July 2015 at 6:30 in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Mark Overbaugh and sixteen interested citizens.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear public comments on the proposed Noise Ordinance.

Supervisor Lounsbury began by reading the written comments which were submitted as follows:

JANE HERSHEY

To: Town of Rensselaerville Board

RE: Noise Control Law

Due to a previous commitment I am unable to attend the Public Hearing tonight. Thank you for considering my concerns and suggestions listed below.

- On page 2 No. 2: Private Residence and Meeting Halls:
Limiting the hours of 'noise' from a party to '12 midnight and not to resume until after 8 AM'. This allows the neighbors to get a proper 8 hours of quiet for sleep.
- Page 2 No. 3 Construction: Change the hours of unreasonable noise to between 7:00 AM and 9:00 PM. Any construction noise before 7:00 AM is a brutal way to wake up. The way it is currently in the draft does not allow for more than 7 hours of quiet.

Sincerely,
Jane Hershey

FROM A RESIDENT OF THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE

June 29, 2015

To the Town Board of Rensselaerville,

This letter is being written so that it can be read into the record of the meeting of July 7, 2015 regarding the noise ordinance that is being discussed.

I live in one of the hamlets in the Town of Rensselaerville and value the quiet country town feeling. The houses are fairly close together and everyone is friendly but respects their neighbor's privacy for

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the most part.

I believe for people to live together as good neighbors it is always important to be considerate of one another. Just as I would not blare music in the middle of the night or leave the contents of my kitchen on the lawn to ruin my neighbors' views, I think it is only considerate and appropriate to restrict the loud noises of three and four wheelers in the confines of the hamlets. The noise from these machines is very loud and it can go on for hours as the area to ride them in is small! Is it fair to inflict that loud continuous noise on others?

I believe neighbors should be able to enjoy the quiet sounds of nature when they sit in their yards or have a meal with friends. The loud noise of these machines in the hamlets where homes and backyards are right next to each other ruins the quiet and enjoyment of each other's company and the natural country atmosphere that the citizens of this town love. When youths are on these vehicles, people in neighboring areas cannot hear each other talk.

We need to be respectful of our close neighbors and let our residents enjoy their peace and quiet on their properties. Three and four wheelers should only be used in the open country where there are not other citizens so close by.

Should just a few disturb the peace and quiet of many others? I think not! Additionally, the value of the homes nearby is diminished as what prospective buyer would buy a home where there is often loud and unreasonable noise?

From a Resident of the Town of Rensselaerville

LAWRENCE J. STRICKER

Dear Ms. Lounsbury:

I'm sorry I can't attend the meeting of the town board on a noise ordinance. I would like to request that the following statement be read at the meeting:

I don't know whether a noise ordinance is needed. But the draft is problematic. Motor vehicle noise is already covered by the state motor vehicle laws. And here are significant gaps in the coverage of other noise.

The ordinance **ONLY** covers extreme noise—noise a reasonable person would not tolerate, and **ONLY** such noise from two sources—residences and halls, and construction, and then **ONLY** for as little as five hours in the middle of the night.

This means that extreme noise is **PERMITTED** from residences and halls between 6 a.m. and 1 a.m. the next day and from construction between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. Just as important, this extreme noise is permitted from **ALL** other sources, such as businesses and nonprofit properties, 24 hours a day.

The ordinance, as presently drafted, does more harm than good. If Rensselaerville needs an ordinance, a more comprehensive and more fully thought out version is called for, if goals are to be realized.

Regards,
Lawrence J. Stricker

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Supervisor Lounsbury noted that she previously received from Mr. Stricker, a model noise control ordinance from New Jersey if anyone would like to review it.

Supervisor Lounsbury opened the floor for audience comments and called citizens in the order in which they signed in to speak.

STEVEN COOK

Mr. Cook stated his concern that if the law were to be adopted it is not going to stop with just three and four wheelers. If three and four wheelers can be targeted, others things such as cow bells may be next.

Mr. Cook also had a few concerns regarding DEFINITIONS: unreasonable noise: "...volume that a reasonable person of normal sensitivity would not tolerate..." In a day and age where we are taught to tolerate and be sensitive to everything, who is going to determine what is normal, sensitive, and tolerant. If we are trying to determine who is normal and sensitive and how much we can tolerate, we are in a bit of trouble.

Another concern Mr. Cook has is that his family are grave diggers and on occasion they are needed to run generators and jack hammers at ungodly hours in the cemetery. Mr. Cook is concerned that they may not be able to accommodate someone's deceased friend or relative because digging would only be allowed between certain hours due to the noise their equipment makes.

WALTER COOK

Mr. Cook addressed DECLARATION OF POLICY: it states that "...so as to preserve, protect, and promote the health, safety, and welfare..." He stopped there to state that he serves on the Planning Board and they recently issued a permit for a brewery. He feels this is much more serious as alcohol does more damage and takes more lives, but he has never known noise to kill anybody. There was no one at the Public Hearing for the brewery permit and Mr. Cook was the only one that voted against it. He went on to say that he doesn't see where a noise ordinance would have anything to do with public health or safety.

Next, Mr. Cook addressed PROHIBITED ACTS. The noise ordinance doesn't have anything to do with this as law enforcement takes care of it.

EXEMPTIONS, Mr. Cook noted that the "...law shall not apply to farm operations conducted in accordance the Town of Rensselaerville's Right to Farm Law" and inquired whether or not the Town has such a law. Supervisor Lounsbury responded that the Town did adopt the Right to Farm Law. Mr. Cook suggested that signs be put up on all roads entering the township.

Mr. Cook inquired as to how this subject came about. Supervisor Lounsbury responded by saying that numerous people have complained about noise in different areas where they live and how it has affected them.

Mr. Cook stated that he is putting his confidence in the Board to come up with a reasonable noise ordinance.

JEANNETTE RICE

Mrs. Rice stated that she is in favor of a noise ordinance of some kind, and appreciates the effort put forth, but feels that this version needs to be revisited with the exception of the Right to Farm Law. She feels that farmers should be able to do whatever they need to do to farm and this proposed ordinance is clear about that.

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Mrs. Rice and her husband have lived on Pond Hill Road since 1968 near the Rensselaerville Institute which was usually very quiet. Since the Rensselaerville Institute is now the Carey Center for Global Good, she has noticed an increase in parties, particularly weddings. The noise from these parties usually stops around 11:00. The proposed law giving private residences and meeting halls until 1:00 AM, only prolongs the torture time. They appreciate the business and try to be tolerant of it, but 11:00 would be much better.

The noisy parties that go on in the hamlet sometimes until 4:00 in the morning have affected Mrs. Rice's health in the way that she was going through cancer treatments and needed her rest. She feels as the law reads now, 1:00 AM is much too late. She also believes that 6:00 AM is much too early and suggests 8:00 instead.

The duration and intensity of recreational vehicles is of importance. Snowmobiles that simply pass through is certainly tolerable, but when snowmobiles and four wheelers go on hour after hour, it becomes disturbing.

Mrs. Rice would like to see the term 'noise beyond ambient' incorporated into this proposed law. She stated that it makes it easier to identify the noise. Brooklyn has this in their noise law and does not allow 'noise beyond ambient' after 10:00 PM.

DIANA HINCHCLIFF

Ms. Hinchcliff feels that this proposed noise ordinance is quite a dilemma. She understands that law enforcement needs a tool to use when there is a situation of unreasonable noise.

Ms. Hinchcliff suggests some changes for improvements as follows:

Under DEFINITIONS, 'a' and 'b', she feels that both are rather squishy. As the attorney mentioned, it is difficult to define what unreasonable might be; as what may be unreasonable to one may not be unreasonable to another. Perhaps there could be some way to come up with a definition, perhaps by decibel level. Ms. Hinchcliff suggested contacting law enforcement to ask them what they would need to have to determine what an unreasonable level of noise is.

The draft needs to be more precise; there needs to be a better way to determine if there is a violation or not.

PROHIBITED ACTS: Ms. Hinchcliff noted that horn honking through the village has been a problem and would like to see if horn honking could be an addition to Section 4 as a sound violation.

Under Private Residence and Meeting Halls: Ms. Hinchcliff believes that any private resident or meeting hall party that is held outside should end at 10:00 PM. Parties at the Carey Center are asked to move inside at a certain point, but Ms. Hinchcliff feels that there should be a time, specifically 10:00, when parties are either moved inside and/or windows closed. She also feels that a 6:00 AM start time is much too early, 8:00 or even later is more reasonable.

Ms. Hinchcliff understands that contractors like to get an early start, but 5:00 AM is very early for those who live next to a location where there is construction going on. She suggests that between 6:00 and 7:00 would be better. She also believes that a 10:00 PM end time is late and suggests 9:00 or even 8:00.

Ms. Hinchcliff addressed Steven Cook's concern about the cemetery. She thought that this might qualify as a case of public safety or an emergency and may not even be a problem under this law. She thought it may be a good idea to specify that.

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Ms. Hinchcliff noted a typographical error in Section 5 and also recommended that after the word 'synagogue', the phrase 'or other house of worship' be added as there may be other types of buildings that may be considered houses of worship that may not be considered a church building or synagogue.

Lastly, Ms. Hinchcliff feels that under section 9, 'This law shall become effective immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State' is also squishy. State legislation usually states the law shall become effective 30 days (for example) after enactment; meaning after it is voted on, it becomes effective 30 days from that point. As it stands now, people will not know when it is actually filed with the Secretary of State.

MARIE DERMODY

Mrs. Dermody also leans toward wondering if this law is something that is really needed. If the instances are so occasional, she feels that there should be some other way to resolve neighbor problems instead of putting another law on the books. On one hand she understands the desire to protect the people being affected by the noise, but on the other hand, the people who are making the noise are paying taxes and have a right to enjoy their property. She described it as being caught between the devil and the deep blue sea.

Mrs. Dermody went on to recommend that the two paragraphs in Section 2 be reversed. She feels that the philosophy and rationale should be first and then intent to act, second.

Under DEFINITIONS, Mrs. Dermody finds this section very subjective. Who is going to decide what is unnecessary or unreasonable and how is it going to be measured? There needs to be some concrete way to determine what is unnecessary and/or unreasonable. Mrs. Dermody reminded everyone that the Attorney for the Town has said that these laws are very difficult to enforce and it opens the Town up for litigation for denying people their rights. She doesn't know if the Town can afford that.

Under PROHIBITED ACTS, Mrs. Dermody feels that according to the way the proposed law is written, it sounds like private residences and meeting halls would be allowed to make all the unreasonable noise they wanted to outside the hours of 1:00 AM and 6:00 AM.

Under CONSTRUCTION, she feels that this Town is begging for business and is now going to step on toes and tell people when they can and cannot conduct their business. She understands when people are next to construction sites and that is another dilemma that needs to be addressed, but can the Town afford to lose any more businesses?

Under EXEMPTIONS, why should the Town be exempt? (See editor's notes at end of minutes)

Under ENFORCEMENT, Mrs. Dermody inquired whether or not the Town has received a commitment from law enforcement agencies that they will actually enforce the law, and if a law will not be enforced why should the Town have a law? She cannot see calling Officer Overbaugh out in the middle of the night either. Also on a second offense, a summons will be issued to appear before the Town Judge; will the Judges be seeking input, will they have a hand in designing or creating this law? There are no parameters to these penalties.

Mrs. Dermody did some research on the Town of New Scotland's Noise Ordinance (which the Town of Rensselaerville's ordinance is fashioned after) and noted that New Scotland is much larger than the Town of Rensselaerville and has only had one instance where their ordinance has come into play. This one instance cost the Town of New Scotland thousands of dollars in litigation.

In conclusion, Mrs. Dermody's opinion is that she is not sure that this law is needed. But, if it is, she

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strongly suggests that the Town Board go back to the drawing board, start from scratch and take into account all suggestions and concerns that have been presented so that the Town has a law that will work.

TIM GUNN

Mr. Gunn is in support of the noise ordinance. He feels that a lot of people live in this area because they enjoy the quiet and peaceful existence, and excessive noise damages that. He stated that he doesn't think it could harm someone's health but admits that it may be a possibility. He also feels that excessive noise could affect property values. He has not been bothered by regular noise - it is part of everyday life. What has made him support this law is the dirt track that has been built across the valley. It is the intensity and duration of the noise that drives himself, his wife, and he believes others, simply batty. He would be happy with the stipulation set forth in the new law that off-road vehicles would be bound by the same limitations that on-road vehicles are in terms of noise and, as he understands the law to read, these bikes, even on private property, must have mufflers.

Mr. Gunn understands and appreciates some of the concerns that have been presented, but simply because it is difficult does not mean that something positive should not be enacted.

ERNEST KUEHL

Mr. Kuehl understands the philosophy that the law may crepe (sic) bigger and bigger. He noted the lack of specificity and lack of congruency with the State law. He also noted some interesting regulations stated in the Snowmobile book such as a working muffler shall not exceed 73 decibels; only snowmobiles that operate on public land are required to be registered. One cannot operate a snowmobile within 100 feet of a dwelling between midnight and 6 AM at speeds greater than needed to maintain forward motion. These rules apply to ATVs also. He feels that if the State thinks midnight is a good cut-off, the Town should go with that also. Unfortunately the requirement for ATVs is to have a muffler that is in good operating condition and meets Federal standards. Furthermore, as he has read on the laws on ATVs and snowmobiles, there are State restrictions, but the local municipality may increase the restrictions. In addition there are no restrictions on private lands - ATVs and snowmobiles do not have to be registered or insured. The law also states that a person in charge of an ATV is allowed to have an off-road competition as long as the State is notified 30 days in advance. If it is held on private property, the notification is waived. Also on private property, these vehicles are exempt from the muffler, light, and tire requirements.

Under Section 4, Mr. Kuehl suggested that the term motor vehicle covers ATVs and snowmobiles and the wording should be more specific, as some people do not realize that these machines fall into that classification. He also suggests specifying the noise level for the muffler at 100 feet.

Supervisor Lounsbury opened the floor to those who had not signed in, but still wished to speak.

K.B. COOKE

Mr. Cooke understands all the comments that have been made, but noted that these vehicles cannot be driven on the roads or wherever you want. He remembers in years past that riders were considerate of the properties of others and always asked permission to either ride on or pass through. No law was needed. He doesn't believe that anyone - not the Town, not the County - can stop someone from riding on their own property. Most of the rules for these vehicles are already in effect. He feels that a law would not be enforceable and that a lot of these problems can be solved by

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simply being neighborly.

BARRY KUHAR

Mr. Kuhar noted that when he was on the Town Board in the 90's, the Board entertained the possibility of a noise ordinance at that time as well, but the more it was discussed, the more the Board realized that this is a rural community bringing in suburb rules that cannot be enforced. He agrees with Mrs. Dermody that this could cost the Town a lot of money if the 'i's aren't dotted and the 't's aren't crossed. Mr. Kuhar cautions that before the Town jumps into anything, to think twice.

AMANDA RONCONI

Ms. Ronconi is quite squeamish about a law limiting noise. She feels it would be difficult to do and to enforce. She noted the dirt bike situation echoing across the valley. The bike track is on private property, so she believes the mufflers would not be regulated under law. It is a dirt bike track and the noise is constant usually on Sundays between noon and 6 PM - it stays in one place and echos (sic) across the valley. If a law regulating noise were to be established, and a decibel meter were to be used, she is quite sure it would register high. She also understands the difficulty in regulating people's noise.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to close the Public Hearing at 7:21 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk

Editor's notes: These minutes omitted part of Marie Dermody's comment regarding the Town being excluded from following the proposed noise ordinance. She mentioned that Councilwoman Cooke has already expressed her concerns about the Town's exclusion. Marie Dermody also stated that, in this case, "what's good for the goose is good for the gander." It is unknown why these comments were not part of the draft minutes for this public hearing.



Draft Minutes, Town Board Work Meeting, July 7, 2015

The Work Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 7th day of July 2015 at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting commenced immediately following the Public Hearing at 7:21 PM. Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury convened the meeting and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were six interested citizens.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

MINUTES, VOUCHERS, AND BILLS: Minutes to be accepted at the Regular Meeting on July 9, 2015: June 9, 2015 – Work; June 11, 2015 - Regular

Vouchers and bills will be addressed at the Regular Meeting.

TRANSFERS: Transfers, if any, will be addressed at the Regular Meeting on July 9, 2015.

REPORTS: Regular monthly reports from the Supervisor, Attorney, Highway Department, Town Clerk, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Assessors, Water/Sewer Committee, and Recycling Coordinator will be given at the Regular Meeting on July 9, 2015.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Superintendent Bates wished to address a few things before the Regular Meeting.

1. The roller the Town owns may have a substantial engine problem. Superintendent Bates has contacted neighboring Towns to see if it is possible to borrow one. That may be possible, but unlikely because they are in the heart of their construction season as well. Superintendent Bates has also done research on the cost of renting a roller. Neither Finke nor Carver has a roller available. A. Montano Co. has one for \$2,800/month and Abele has one for \$2,700/month or \$900/week. Superintendent Bates may, based on the outcome of Finke's diagnosis of the Town's roller, need authorization to rent one.

2. The Olmo Road Qualified Abandonment requires the landowner to adhere to certain stipulations; one is to allow easy access through the gate. The gate has been chained up and cannot be opened without the use of tools. Signs indicating 'private property – no trespassing' have been hung; also a violation of the agreement between the Town and the property owner. As a Qualified Abandonment, Olmo Road remains a right-of-way and the public has a right to use it. It has been said that the property owner has communicated that if the road is used, vehicles cannot legally turn around. However, the Town Highway Department created an established turn-around for the specific reason to allow vehicles to turn around safely. Superintendent Bates has contacted the attorney for the Town to inquire about re-opening Olmo Road based on the landowner's disregard of the conditions of the Qualified Abandonment. The landowner was the initiator with regard to the Qualified Abandonment and the Town was very explicit regarding its intentions and the law. Attorney Fallati will be at the Regular Meeting to address this matter in greater detail.

Supervisor Lounsbury questioned what improvements would need to be made in order to maintain Olmo Road if it were to be re-opened. Superintendent Bates explained that maintenance would be minimal. He further explained that C.H.I.P.s funding is based on mileage; re-claiming Olmo Road

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would give the Town an extra ½ mile which would be the equivalent of approximately an extra \$1,000 in C.H.I.P.s funding. This would help balance out any additional expenses that may be incurred for maintenance.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Supervisor Lounsbury read the report which Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Mark Overbaugh prepared regarding the unsafe buildings on County Route 354 in Potter Hollow.

Officer Overbaugh performed an investigation of the barns in question and has determined that both barns are in such condition as to be deemed unsafe and therefore should be demolished and removed. Both barns have loose metal roofing that is in danger of being blown off by the wind. In addition, neither would be considered repairable. Another concern is what Officer Overbaugh believes to be asbestos siding on the one barn. If this is the case, State and Federal guidelines must be adhered to. Based on Local Law No. 2 of 1996 of the Town of Rensselaerville, entitled Unsafe and Burned Out Buildings, it is concluded that both buildings are a threat to the health and safety of the citizens of Rensselaerville.

Officer Overbaugh noted that the County will not reimburse the municipality for the costs associated with a demolition without prior approval. This will only be an issue if the landowner does not comply and the Town is forced to proceed with the demolition. It is the consensus that Officer Overbaugh begin with contacting the landowner. This matter will be addressed in greater detail on Thursday at the Regular Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The proposed Zoning maps are complete. The map was the one piece that was hampering the scheduling of a Public Hearing. A date for the Public Hearing will be determined at the Regular Meeting.

2. In regard to donating a gift card to Richard Tollner in appreciation of his service as Master of Ceremonies and D.J. at the Town-Wide Picnic for the past two years, Diana Hinchcliff, a member of the Ethics Committee, prepared a letter addressing potential ethics issues. Ms. Hinchcliff cautioned that even if Town funds were not going to be used, there may still be a potential ethics issue in the sense that it would be a government body (the picnic committee) at a government function (the picnic), giving a gift to a government official. She advised that in order to avoid any appearance of impropriety, the Town Board take a formal vote on the giving of the gift card.

Supervisor Lounsbury made it clear that the money for the gift card came from the Veteran's Clark White Post 50/50 raffle; not from Town funds. A motion can be made at the Regular Meeting stating that the gift card would be purchased from the proceeds of the 50/50 raffle.

Marie Dermody stated that there are many volunteers who have served for years on committees doing Town business and that is the whole nature of volunteerism. She cautioned that this may be opening up a can of worms down the road.

CANON COPIER

3. Although not on the Agenda, a decision must be made regarding the Canon copier. The lease is due to expire at the end of August. Supervisor Lounsbury will gather the necessary information needed to reach an informed decision whether to keep it or send it back.

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Draft Minutes, Town Board Work Meeting July 7, 2015

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TOWN BOARD COMMENTS

1. Councilman Bolte announced that he has a letter he would like read into the minutes of the Regular Meeting.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;
Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk



**RETIREMENT LIQUIDATION SALE!
ALL INVENTORY MUST GO!**

**INSTALLATION
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Draft Minutes, Town Board Meeting, July 9, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 9th day of July 2015 at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Attorney Thomas Fallati, Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates, Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Mark Overbaugh, Assessor Richard Tollner, Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Doug Story, and Recycling Coordinator Jon Whitbeck. Also present were five interested citizens.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

JEANNETTE RICE inquired into the gift card for Richard Tollner. She stated that she thought it was inappropriate to give a select person taxpayer dollars and that many people volunteer. Supervisor Lounsbury explained that the gift card would not come from taxpayer dollars, but rather from the Veteran's Clark White Post 50/50 raffle. (See Editor's Note at end of these minutes)

Marie Dermody stated that there are people who have served on committees for years and have donated many, many hours and to single out one person is not only setting a dangerous precedent, but is sending a not very nice message to everyone else.

Councilwoman Cooke stated that they have a lot of money invested in their equipment.

MARIE DERMODY also wanted to comment on the June 30, 2015 Special Meeting and requested that the following letter be entered into the minutes of this meeting:

July 9, 2015

I respectfully request that this letter be entered in its entirety into the official minutes of the Town Board meeting.

To Town Board members and Rensselaerville residents,

I believe that Councilman Bolte is probably upset, annoyed, angry, embarrassed, any or all of the above, because his statement at the June 30, 2015 special town board (meeting) calling factual documentation "junk" was quoted in the July 2015 issue of the R'ville Community Newsletter. The only logical reasons for these emotions are 1) that he said it, and 2) that it was publicized. The comment specifically refers to a document detailing over \$400,000 in highway equipment and machinery purchases since January 2012. Perhaps if Councilman Bolte had chosen his words more carefully, this would not be an issue now.

Councilman Bolte is very good at introducing "red herrings" into his arguments, statements that are intended to divert attention from the real problem or matter at hand. At this meeting, he was quick to counter that Superintendent Bates has saved this town a great deal of money since taking office. That may or may not be true. However, this is not germane to the original issue, that the Town Board has authorized over \$400,000 in highway equipment and machinery purchases since January 2012.

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Councilman Bolte also attempted to tell me what a terrible supervisor I was, another red herring. He is certainly entitled to his opinion, but that's all it is, his opinion. Councilman Bolte can spew as many derogatory and defamatory remarks that he wants. But none of these remarks are germane to the original issue, that the Town Board has authorized over \$400,000 in highway equipment and machinery purchases since January 2012.

Councilman Bolte may say that the presentation of such documentation was out of order since the intended purpose of the meeting was to authorize the purchase of another piece of equipment for the highway department. This was the absolute opportune time to remind the Town Board that the Town Board has authorized over \$400,000 in highway equipment and machinery purchase since January 2012.

Nothing I said at the meeting or reported in the newsletter article was critical of the highway superintendent, his crew, or the job they do for this town. It was simply to remind the Town Board of their fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers of the Town of Rensselaerville. I have the audio tape of this meeting to prove the veracity of everything I've said in this message. I am more than willing to share it with anyone who cares to listen to it. I am not ashamed nor embarrassed with how I conducted myself at this meeting. I wonder if Councilman Bolte can say the same.

Sincerely,
Marie Dermody

End Letter

REBECCA PLATEL, on behalf of the Carey Center for Global Good, made a presentation explaining NYSEERDA's (New York State Energy Research Development Agency's) program called Cleaner Greener Communities. She explained that the basic premise of the program is to support regional and local sustainability initiatives. There was money made available a few years ago for various regions across New York State to develop different sustainability plans. The Capital Region was successful in getting some of that money. There is now a sustainability plan in place and there is money available from NYSEERDA to implement the plan or projects that are aligned with it.

The Carey Institute is developing a program that may be eligible for some of the available funding. In short, it would be something like an institute or leadership program to help people who are interested in supporting sustainability initiatives in their own community to come to the Center for training and to learn more about it. The application for this funding is due on July 31, 2015 and requires a letter of support from the Town. The letter would indicate that the municipality acknowledges that the Center is taking on this project and applying for funding, and that the municipality is in general support of the initiative. There is no financial commitment.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to submit a letter of support to the Carey Center for the NYSEERDA project; 2nd by Councilman Wood. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

MINUTES: A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to approve the minutes of the following meetings: June 9, 2015 – Work; June 11, 2015 - Regular

The motion was seconded by Councilman Wood. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

TRANSFERS: None

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ABSTRACTS/VOUCHERS: General Fund - \$25,891.74; Highway Fund - \$26,849.99; Lighting District - \$623.75; Sewer Fund - \$121.32; Water Fund - \$145.97; T & A Fund - \$5,417.94; Total - \$59,050.71

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to pay all signed vouchers and bills; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

CORRESPONDENCE: The only correspondence Supervisor Lounsbury received were the written comments regarding the proposed Noise Ordinance which were read at the Public Hearing.

REPORTS

SUPERVISOR

1. Supervisor Lounsbury received a letter from Pat Parker, one of the Town's volunteer drivers for the Senior Car who suggested that a letter be distributed to all those who will be using the car. Mrs. Parker's letter reads as follows:

Medical Appointments
Use of Town of Rensselaerville Car

This service depends on donations. This is not tax-subsidized. The drivers for this service are your friends and neighbors. They volunteer their time to help you when you have no other means of getting to your appointments.

If you require any assistance getting in and out of the car or other physical limitations, you **MUST** bring someone with you. Your driver's only responsibility is to get you safely to your appointment. You are responsible for any bridge tolls and parking lot fees.

If you are in a wheelchair, the Town bus will be used to take you to the doctor.

When you make an appointment through Ann Vogel (797-3376), please provide the following:

Date & Time of Appointment
Doctor's Name, Address, & Phone Number

If you cancel or change appointment, let Ann know as soon as possible.

End Letter

Supervisor Lounsbury noted that there have been some instances where people have not notified Ann about schedule changes and/or have not been willing to pay bridge tolls or parking fees. Supervisor Lounsbury asked for and received the Board's permission to distribute the letter.

2. Supervisor Lounsbury announced that the budget process has begun. She will be sending out the departmental requests within the next couple of weeks.

3. The Public Hearing on the proposed Noise Ordinance was held this past Tuesday. Supervisor Lounsbury thought it went very well and that a lot of good suggestions were presented. She believes that this proposed ordinance will be taken back to the drawing board.

4. Supervisor Lounsbury announced that she received the Tentative 2014 AUD. This should be ready to file with the State Comptroller's Office in a few days.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the Supervisor's report; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

ATTORNEY

1. Attorney Fallati stated that the items he would be reporting on were listed later on the agenda; he will address them at that time.
2. He will take into account the many comments and suggestions made at the Public Hearing regarding the proposed noise ordinance.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

1. Before Superintendent Bates gave his report, he wanted to address the 'Audience Comments' that were made during the Special Meeting on June 30, 2015. Out of the \$400,000 figure that is out there regarding equipment that has been purchased, \$190,000 has not been spent yet because the Town does not have the truck yet. Superintendent Bates stated, as he has many times in the past, that his greatest worry is snow and ice control. It is a safety issue; it is a matter of life and death if a fire truck or ambulance cannot get to someone. Superintendent Bates views the Town's trucks as having the same status as fire trucks and ambulances; if the Town's trucks can't get through, the fire truck or ambulance cannot get through either. He believes the money is well spent. The average age of the Town's plow trucks is 20.8 years. He is grateful for the 2012 truck and particularly grateful for the new truck that is on its way.

Supervisor Lounsbury noted that the fact that the Board approved the purchases, they are in full agreement. She also noted that in the past, the Town and County have had to assist with ambulance calls in bad weather. On behalf of the Board, Supervisor Lounsbury stated that they are grateful that the Highway Department will have safe equipment for the men to be out on the roads with.

2. The Highway Department has completed three miles of moto-paving through the various weather delays; paving was scheduled to begin the third week of May, but were not able to start until the third week of June.

3. The Highway Department continues its mowing, patching, and ditching.

4. Superintendent Bates thanked the Board again for the Oshkosh truck from Catskill.

5. The contractor that was hired to place the pavement typically uses their own roller at a cost of \$960/day. Using the Town's own paver, Superintendent Bates was able to save approximately \$4,000. Subsequently, the Town's roller developed an engine issue. Finke Equipment is performing diagnostic testing on it and will report their findings. This is the heart of the paving season and Superintendent Bates planned to place 2,000 ton of hot mixed asphalt with the Town's own paver during late July and early August. He has reached out to neighboring Towns in hopes of borrowing a paver, but they are all in the heart of their paving season as well. Superintendent Bates has done research on the cost of renting a roller. Neither Finke nor Carver has a roller available. A. Montano Co. has one for \$2,800/month and Abele has one for \$2,700/month or \$900/week. He is asking for authorization to rent a roller from Abele if it becomes necessary, for a maximum of three weeks.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to authorize Superintendent Bates to rent a roller from Abele at \$900/week for a maximum of three weeks on the condition that if the Town's roller is repaired before the three weeks is up, the rental would be returned. The motion was 2nd by Councilman Bolte. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

6. In regards to the Public Hearing on the proposed noise ordinance and the Right to Farm Law, Su-

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perintendent Bates discovered nine 'Right to Farm' signs in the shop. They were purchased by Jim Glorioso some years ago. It is the consensus of the Board to place the signs on as many roads that enter the Town as the number of signs allow. He will contact the Department of Transportation and Albany County to obtain permission to place the signs on their right of way.

7. Several years ago a landowner on Olmo Road approached Superintendent Bates expressing his desire for an abandonment of the road. Subsequently, following a bit of research and finding the legal implications of doing so, a Qualified Abandonment was granted. Under a Qualified Abandonment, the Town never gives up the right of way, nor does the Public give up their right to use it. There are stipulations that the landowner(s) that border the road must abide by such as; it shall continue to be subject to use as a public highway; it may not be impaired or obstructed; no person shall be required to repair it; persons owning or occupying lands on both sides may erect a fence across the highway at each end of the area owned or occupied providing such fence has a gate which shall remain unlocked at all times and supplied with a latch keeper. A gate was installed, but a chain was wrapped around and secured with a locking bolt. It was unable to be opened without the use of substantial tools. Prior to that there were issues which the Attorney for the Town had corresponded with the landowner's attorney advising him of these stipulations. Soon after Superintendent Bates removed the lock, it was reinstalled. It is clear that the landowner is not complying with the law. Additionally, signs have been posted along the road which Superintendent Bates believes were placed there to intimidate anyone who may wish to proceed. The signs are also placed on the Town's right of way.

Attorney Fallati has looked into §205(2) of the Highway Law and stated that it allows the Highway Superintendent to provide an application to the Town Board to rescind the Qualified Abandonment.

If the Qualified Abandonment were rescinded, Olmo Road would then become a Town road once again. Superintendent Bates walked the road and found it to be in good condition. Also, C.H.I.P.s funding is based on mileage; re-claiming Olmo Road would give the Town an extra ½ mile which would be the equivalent of approximately an extra \$1,000 in C.H.I.P.s funding. This would help balance out any additional expenses that may be incurred for maintenance.

Marie Dermody inquired as to what the benefit is to the landowner to agree to a Qualified Abandonment. Superintendent Bates explained that it goes back to the early 1900's and it was largely for agricultural purposes so that a farmer could close a road, install a gate, and use the area for a pasture. Mrs. Dermody also questioned whether there were any tax implications and Superintendent Bates stated that there were none, and neither is there any guarantee of privacy.

Mary Jane Schroeder stated that she purchased the remaining 29 acres that surrounds her house and continues on to Thunder Hill. Her deed states that she has the right to access her land via Olmo Road and now it is being locked against her.

A discussion arose regarding the history of Olmo Road. Superintendent Bates is uncertain of the history of Olmo Road, but what is on the Town's inventory is that Olmo Road is ¾ miles long and the first ¼ goes into a residence and the Town maintains that portion year-round. The remaining .5 miles is a seasonal road and ends at a field which was once the site of the original Olmo homestead. From that point on it is Thunder Hill.

Superintendent Bates requested that the Board pass a resolution authorizing the Town Supervisor to re-open the road. If, in fact, the Town decided to go forward with the resolution, Superintendent Bates thought it prudent to set a date to give the landowner adequate notification of the action.

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Superintendent Bates sent Supervisor Lounsbury a letter summarizing what had been discussed. Supervisor Lounsbury turned to Attorney Fallati for guidance in how to proceed. Attorney Fallati said the law requires Superintendent Bates to submit a written application which has been done. A resolution can be passed accepting the application and authorizing Attorney Fallati to contact counsel for the property owner to advise them of the application and the Town's intention to act on it at the next meeting. This would give the landowner an opportunity to respond.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to accept Superintendent Bates' application to rescind the Qualified Abandonment of Olmo Road and request the landowner and his attorney be notified to see if a resolution can be reached. Depending on the outcome, this can be discussed at the next meeting. The motion was 2nd by Councilman Bolte.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to accept the Highway Superintendent's report, 2nd by Councilman Bolte.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

TOWN CLERK: Town Clerk Kraker reported for the month of June as follows: Town Clerk Department – Total Collected \$1,166.98. Paid to the Supervisor - \$930.66 - the breakdown is as follows: Clerk Fees - \$ 77.68; Recycling \$140.50; Dog Licenses - \$223.00; Building Permits - \$414.48; Zoning - \$25.00; Planning - \$50.00; Total - \$930.66

Fees paid to NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets for the 'Animal Population Control Program' aka 'dog surcharge': \$46.00; Electronic sweep from the Town Clerk's checking account for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation - Sporting licenses: \$122.82; Fees paid to the State Health Department for Marriage Licenses - \$67.50. Water Rents for the month totaled \$818.39 which includes \$9.84 in penalties, and Sewer Rents totaled \$820.91 which includes \$6.52 in penalties.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to accept the Town Clerk's report; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/BUILDING INSPECTOR *

1. Recently a homeowner had work done without obtaining a permit. Now the contractor wants more money and the work that was already done needs to be redone. Officer Overbaugh stated that this is a perfect example of why permits are issued; they are issued to protect homeowners against contractors.

2. Officer Overbaugh reported one New Home Permit, one Home Replacement Permit, two Solar Panel Permits, and one RV Permit for the month of June.

3. He recently received a complaint from a resident on County Route 6 of a mobile home and an RV that was brought in on the same property; the RV is almost in the road. The owner contacted Officer Overbaugh regarding the mobile home. Officer Overbaugh responded by telling him that because it is old (1976) it will not meet any codes now in effect, and in addition, the owner had not gone through any of the process of obtaining a permit. The owner has been ordered to remove the mobile home.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to accept the Code Enforcement Officer/Building In-

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spector's report; 2nd by Councilman Wood. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

* The Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector's report was given later in the meeting.

ASSESSORS

1. Assessor Tollner reported that the Final Roll is complete.

2. The Assessor's Office encourages all senior citizens and veterans to ask questions regarding their exemptions. They are still seeking agricultural exemptions for farmers and encourage citizens to help each other in keeping exemptions current.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the Assessor's written report; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE

1. Water/Sewer Treatment Officer Story reported that for the month of June 456,500 gallons of water was filtered (an average of 15,217 gallons/day). Officer Story attributes these much lower numbers to a leak that was detected and remedied.

2. At the bottom of the hill 216,000 gallons of sewage was pumped (an average of 7,200 gallons/day).

3. Officer Story reported that he will be contacting the Rural Water technician to set a date in late July or early August to perform a smoke test. This hopefully will help determine who is tied into the system and therefore locate where the additional water is entering the system.

4. The filter is running well. Officer Story is monitoring the system on an hourly basis so as to determine how much water is being used and at what time of day it is being used.

5. Officer Story is pleased to announce that the tank has maintained a good level. The amount of water filtered is roughly equivalent to the amount of water being consumed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to accept the Water/Sewer Treatment Officer's report; 2nd by Supervisor Lounsbury. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

REFUSE/RECYCLING

1. Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck reported the following for the month of June: Rensselaer Iron & Steel: 7.19 tons; Tires: 34; City of Albany Landfill: 72.44 tons; Sierra Fibers: Comingled 5.08 tons and O.C.C. 6.25 tons; Oil: 66 gallons

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the Recycling Coordinator's report; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

CURRENT EVENTS

1. The Trinity Episcopal Church in Rensselaerville will be celebrating their 200th Anniversary on October 24, 2015. It is the oldest building in the Dioceses. They are looking for anyone who may have photographs of the church, its architecture, the interior, and photographs of how the church affected

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families who attended, such as weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. A collection of the photographs will be placed on a CD. Please contact Bill Rice for more information.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh read the letter he wrote following through on the unsafe buildings on County Route 354 in Potter Hollow as follows:

TO: The Town of Rensselaerville Town Board

RE: Unsafe Building Complaint

Barns at 180.-2-19.10

Dear Supervisor Lounsbury and Board;

After my investigation of these barns, both are in such condition to be deemed unsafe and collapse what already has not collapsed. Neither would be considered repairable, so both should be demolished and removed.

Two safety concerns are the metal roofing being blown off the red barn and flying in whatever direction the wind is.

The second concern is that I believe the white barn has asbestos siding which will have to be dealt according to State and Federal guidelines.

In conclusion, both barns are a threat to the health and safety of our citizens and need to be demolished and cleaned up. These are addressed by Local Law No. 2 of 1996 of the Town of Rensselaerville, entitled Unsafe and Burned Out Buildings.

Thank you,

Mark Overbaugh

Code Enforcement Officer

End Letter

Officer Overbaugh suggested that the Board authorize him to write a letter to the owner.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to authorize Mark Overbaugh as Code Enforcement Officer to notify the property owner of the two unsafe barns on County Route 354 in Potter Hollow of what the concerns are and to see if the situation can be resolved. The Town requests that a response be made by July 31, 2015. The motion was 2nd by Councilman Bolte. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

Officer Overbaugh will report to Supervisor Lounsbury by the end of the month.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The proposed Zoning maps are complete and now include the Crystal Lake zone. A copy of the proposed Zoning Law will be placed in the Library and copies will be available at Town Hall for \$5.00. A copy will also be available to view at Town Hall. Due to its size, it may or may not be able to be placed on the Town's website as well.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to schedule the Public Hearing on the Proposed Zoning Law for August 18, 2015 at 7:00 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

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2. Supervisor Lounsbury reiterated that the gift card for Richard Tollner was not being purchased with taxpayers dollars. The co-chairs of the Ethics Committee would be more comfortable if the Town made a motion to approve the purchase of the gift card. The members of the Picnic Committee thought it would be a good idea to show their appreciation for Mr. Tollner's service as Master of Ceremonies and D.J. at the Town-Wide Picnic for the past two years.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to authorize the purchase of a gift card for Richard Tollner; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

3. Deputy Town Clerk, Kathy Wank has done some research on the use of the Canon copier. It has been used very little in the past year and the lease is due to expire at the end of August. The Town pays \$128.00/month for the lease. Mrs. Wank also researched the use of the Xerox copier. The Town is allowed 20,000 copies per month based on the monthly rental fee. The Town does not come remotely close to the 20,000 copies, so it would be in the best interest of the Town to return the Canon copier and save the \$128.00/month. There will, however, be a charge of \$350.00 to return it. The Town may elect to hire its own service to return it. Councilman Wood offered to return it if it was locale and Richard Tollner offered assistance. Supervisor Lounsbury needed a motion to either keep or return the copier.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to return the Canon copier; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke. *Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

TOWN BOARD COMMENTS

Councilman Bolte has a letter he would like read into the minutes of this meeting:

I request this letter be included in the minutes of the July 9th Rensselaerville Town Board Meeting.

We as a Town Board – elected by the people – have been criticized by Marie Dermody over the spending of \$219,731.00 over the past approximate 4 years. I would like to explain the use of this money.

The purchase of 2 Oshkosh trucks for \$8,196.00 in 2012. Only \$2,000.00 of tax payer money was used. The rest was done by donation.

The paver was purchased for \$4,730.00. It has been used for 3 years. The town used to rent a paver for \$4,300.00 per month. Even if used for only 2 months per year for 4 years it would come to \$34,400.00 – a savings of approximately \$29,700.00 in 4 years to buy one.

The roller was purchased to roll down patches and pot holes – for \$1,200.00. It has shown its value in road repair instead of using truck wheels to roll down patches. It provides a better repair.

The Gradall was purchased for \$7,260.00 and it was in running condition. There were no oil leaks and has been on the job since it was purchased. Again, the town rented one for over \$3,000.00 per month. We also had spent well over \$15,000.00 to fix our excavator and it still can't travel over the road. A new one would have cost between \$150,000.00 to \$200,000.00.

When we purchase equipment, it is not for 1 year. We expect these trucks and equipment to last many years. The Oshkosh trucks have now run 3 years as well as the paver, and roller with no problems.

I personally want to thank our Highway Superintendent for working with the Town Board and doing a great job of maintaining the equipment and building roads to last.

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I also commend our Highway Crew for repairing, servicing, and maintaining our equipment – so that it lasts and saves us tax dollars. We are not a rich town that can afford new equipment that is used for a few months of the year.

The new truck and equipment for \$165,220.51 was to replace a truck that was always broken down and would have cost many tax dollars to fix. That leaves only \$54,511.29 over 4 years for all the rest of equipment bought – at a cost of approximately \$14,000.00 per year.

I am proud to be a member of this Town Board. We are all working together.

Bob Bolte
Town Councilman

End Letter

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

1. Richard Tollner, a professional disc-jockey as well, commented on the noise ordinance. He described other towns where he has worked where there was always an implied decibel level. He further explained that 'acceptable' noise levels are different where buildings are close together than where buildings are much further apart. He suggests that if the Town is to have a law that has teeth, there needs to be an established decibel level.

Mr. Tollner's feelings are that there is not enough noise, often enough to be a problem and solutions start with being neighborly.

2. Marie Dermody wanted to thank Councilman Bolte for his comments and wished the discourse at the last meeting had been on a more conversational level. She also wanted to clarify that what she stated regarding the highway purchases, is that the money was authorized, not spent.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker,
Town Clerk

Editor's Note: Jeannette Rice's comments on page 11 of the July 9, 2015 Town Board minutes are incomplete. Once she discovered that taxpayer money was not being used to purchase the gift card for the volunteer, she stated that, if that is true, she was okay with the situation. It is unclear as to why Mrs. Rice's comment was not recorded in its entirety.



Did you know

... the Open Meetings Law (OML) §105. states the following:

Upon a majority vote of its total membership, taken in an open meeting pursuant to a motion identifying the general area or areas of the subject or subjects to be considered, a public body may conduct an executive session for the below enumerated purposes only, provided, however, that no action by formal vote shall be taken to appropriate public moneys:

- a. matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed;
- b. any matter which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer;
- c. information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed;
- d. discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation;
- e. collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law;
- f. the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation;
- g. the preparation, grading or administration of examinations; and
- h. the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof.

At the Special Town Board meeting held on Sunday, July 19, 2015, the Town Board's stated purpose of the meeting was " to conduct an Executive Session regarding the status of an employee." They ignored the reminder that this was not an enumerated reason for entering into Executive Session but did so anyway. Nor did they alter the language of the motion to make it more compliant with the law.

When can we expect this Town Board to adhere to the letter of the law?

Clerk 1 to the Supervisor

The Town of Rensselaerville is seeking an individual for the position of Clerk 1 to the Supervisor. This position requires good computer skills, experience with accounting software, Word and Excel. The position requires 20 hours per week. For further information please contact Victoria Kraker, Town Clerk at 797-3798 or 239-4225. All interested applicants should have their resume in by August 3, 2015.

Move Breathe Relax

YOGA: Tue. & Thu. 9-10:15 am
 PILATES: Wed. 5:45-6:15 pm & Sat. 9-10 am

Classes Open to All at Conkling Hall in Rensselaerville

Sarah Nelson Weiss, CYT
 savitrisarah@gmail.com, 518-239-6825

Fees: Wed Pilates—\$7.00
 All Others—\$12.00

From Deterioration to Rebirth

By Janet Haseley, Research Chair, Rensselaerville Historical Society

"From Deterioration to Rebirth" will be the program at the annual meeting of the Rensselaerville Historical Society Saturday, September 26, 2015.

The meeting will be at the Medusa firehouse and will consist of a business meeting at 5 p.m., a pot-luck supper at 6 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m. All are welcome; visitors do not have to be members of the Historical Society to attend any part of the meeting.

The program will be many of John Eldridge's vast collection of photos documenting the step by step progress over the last three years of before, during and after restoration of the Daniel Conkling House on Albany Hill Road by brothers Stewart and Roy Myers. The Myerses are descended from the original owner of the house and this year were honored by an award from the Preservation Society of New York State. The Daniel Conkling House has also been listed this year on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. It was originally built in 1806, one of the earliest houses built in the Town of Rensselaerville.

Before the Myerses bought it, the Daniel Conkling House had been neglected and vandalized for over 20 years. John Eldridge's photos show what it looked like when John's grandmother owned it in the early 1900s and it was a magnificent structure then. His photos also show the progress "From Deterioration to Rebirth" as the Myerses removed many dumpsters of trash and repaired broken stair railings and broken windows and replaced damaged walls and restored areas to what they looked like in the past life of the house. Modernization of heating and plumbing systems and updating of the kitchen area make the interior of the house more suitable for today's needs but the exterior is restored to the appearance it enjoyed in the early and mid-1900s. The Myerses are now restoring various outbuildings on the property also.



Did you know

... the dictionary defines "volunteer" as " a person who performs a service willingly and without pay." But our Town Board apparently chooses to ignore this commonly accepted definition. At the July Town Board meeting, they passed a motion to present a \$50 gift card to a person who volunteered his services at the Town-wide Picnic in June, a service of perhaps 5-6 hours over the course of the last two years. The Town Board members insist that taxpayer dollars were not used to purchase this gift; the money came from proceeds from a raffle held by a non-profit group. Where the money came from is not the issue. We question the wisdom of such an action. Why would we "pay" for the services of a volunteer? What about all the volunteers who have served many, many hours (far more than 5-6 hours in total) on boards and committees doing the Town's work? Why set such a precedent in the first place? And this volunteer is already receiving Town income as an elected official. To us, a sincere "thank you for your service" should suffice.

Editorial Comment

By Marie Dermody

Allow me to preface this editorial with the acknowledgement that the Town Supervisor has the right to select the clerk of her choice. And this commentary is not intended to be a personal attack on the person hired. That notwithstanding, there are what I consider significant issues with the process that needs to be publicized.

At the Special Town Board meeting held on July 28, the Town Board approved a motion to hire an interim Clerk 1 due to the resignation of Sarah Hunt. The motion made by the Supervisor was simply to appoint this individual to the position of interim Clerk 1. After the motion was made, seconded, and approved, this editor asked what the pay rate was. The Supervisor stated that it was \$19.90 per hour (the same rate of pay received by the resigning, experienced bookkeeper). There was absolutely no discussion on the part of the Town Board members regarding this matter. So, how is it that the trainee receives the same rate of pay as the trainer? How is it that there was no mention of a probationary period? Oh, that's right. This person isn't an employee; she's a subcontractor. The resigning Clerk 1 has a 4-year college degree in accounting and 5 years of experience in municipal accounting; the interim Clerk 1 does not. So why the same rate of pay? Whatever happened to "compensation commensurate with experience"?

Lest anyone say that the Town Board never reduces the hourly rate of pay when a replacement is appointed, a look at the facts says differently. If memory serves me correctly, when the present clerk to the assessors was appointed, the hourly rate of pay given the previous clerk was reduced for the position due to lack of experience of the new appointee. How is the interim Clerk 1 situation any different from the assessor clerk situation?

Why did the Town Board not make this appointment retroactive to July 20, 2015, the day she started training? Without this information in the motion, her first day of employment would be July 28. No mention was made in the motion regarding the maximum hours per week that this person would work. Without this information in the motion, the sky's the limit.

When asked when the Town Board members learned that this person would be appointed at this meeting, Councilwoman Cooke replied that they only found out at this meeting. Really? Do they consider us that stupid? And, if this is the truth, why wasn't there one word of discussion on any of the issues that were brought to their attention? As a matter of fact, at least two of the Town Board members knew at least some of the details of this appointment several days prior to the meeting. Why is telling the truth so difficult for this Town Board?

This editor was admonished for speaking out since this was a special meeting for the sole purpose of appointing the interim Clerk 1. However, they aren't even able to abide by their own Rules of Order, which can be found in the May 2012 Town newsletter, page 20: "Public participation at all regular and special Town Board meetings will be opened to commentary as items are being discussed, to allow the public to have input before the Town Board takes action." And please note that this is not the first time this editor has been told that there were no audience comments, but only after being recognized and allowed to speak. If they don't like your message, they attempt to silence you.

This Town Board continues to lose credibility. The very people elected to represent their constituents continue to pursue their own personal agendas. Far too much Town business seems to continue to be conducted in secrecy. So much for an open and transparent government! So much for honesty and truth in government! Don't we deserve better?

What follows is a "Tale of the Tape" organizing the information given in the Editorial Comment.

TALE OF THE TAPE	
Outgoing Clerk 1	Replacement Clerk 1
4-year college degree in accounting	None*
5 years experience in municipal accounting	None*
Hourly employee on payroll	Subcontractor paid by voucher
Maximum hours per week: 20	Maximum hours per week: unknown
Time verified by time clock	Time verified by: unknown
Rate of pay: \$19.90 per hour	Rate of pay: \$19.90 per hour

*Information on these items were requested but never acknowledge or received by us



POST OFFICE INFORMATION

<http://www.usps.com>



MEDUSA POST OFFICE: Phone 518-239-4826

(19 COUNTY ROUTE 351 MEDUSA, NY 12120)

Retail Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am - 12:00pm; Sat 7:30am - 11:15am

Last Collection Hours: Mon-Fri 4:15pm; Sat 11:15am

Lobby Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm; Sat 8:00am - 11:30am



PRESTON HOLLOW POST OFFICE: Phone 518-239-6111

(2930 ROUTE 145 PRESTON HOLLOW, NY 12469)

Retail Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am - 10:30am; 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Sat 9:00am - 12:00pm



RENSELAERVILLE POST OFFICE: Phone 518-797-3231

(26 COUNTY ROUTE 353 RENSELAERVILLE, NY 12147)

Retail Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am - 12:00pm

Sat 8:00am - 11:00am

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is on the rise, as reported in the news recently. The best way to handle this disease is to not get it in the first place.

You can decrease your risk of getting Lyme disease with some simple precautions:

1. Wear long pants and long sleeves. ...
2. Use insect repellents. ...
3. Do your best to tick-proof your yard. ...
4. Check yourself, your children and your pets for ticks. ...
5. Don't assume you're immune. ...
6. Remove a tick as soon as possible with tweezers.

Coloring Fun ... for kids of all ages!



R E N N S E L A E R V I L L E L I B R A R Y

Tuesday, August 4, 2015
6:30 PM

Why Wills Have Become Obsolete: The many Advantages of Using Trusts to Plan your Estate

Attorney Allison Rich will explain Estate planning documents including Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy/Living Will, Pour Over Will, revocable living trusts and irrevocable Medicaid Asset Protect Trusts. The following information will be covered:

- Save time and money in settling the estate
- Avoid legal guardianship if they become disabled
- Avoid having their personal and financial matters made public
- Reduce the chance of a "will contest"
- Keep control in the family and out of the court system
- Long-term care insurance – get it while the getting is good
- The Medicaid Asset Protection Trust (MAPT) to protect your assets from nursing home costs.

Ettinger Law Elder Law Estate Planning
125 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12205

Tel: 800-500-2525 ext. 117

www.trustlaw.com

Rensselaerville Library
1459 County Route 351
Rensselaerville, NY 12147
(518) 797-3949

www.RensselaervilleLibrary.org

Library News



Library Staff

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director@rensselaervillelibrary.org

Assistant - Katie Caprio
library@rensselaervillelibrary.org

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Emileigh Tanner
Leah Waldron

Library Board of Trustees

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The Rensselaerville Library works to preserve a comfortable historical gathering place that is open, free and inviting to all of the residents of the 5 hamlets and environs. We strive to awaken and promote a life-long love of reading and learning by fostering personal connections and providing access to a stimulating variety of texts, technology and programming.

The Rensselaerville Library is a 501c3 non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Upcoming Library Events

Tuesday, August 4 @ 6:30pm ESTATE PLANNING - Attorney Allison Rich from Ettinger Law Firm will speak on Why Wills Have Become Obsolete: The Many Advantages of Using Trusts to Plan Your Estate.

Poetry Tuesday evenings at 7pm on August 11 and 25. Come share your work. Questions please contact Tom Corrado at tjc123@midtel.net

Friday, August 15th Festival of Writers Presents A SONGWRITER SHOWCASE – New England based folk singer and songwriter Ian Fitzgerald. Meet Ian at 6pm and stay for the show at 7pm at the Palmer House Café, tickets are \$10. Ian will be staying in Rensselaerville to provide a workshop on Sunday, August 16th from 10-Noon, cost is \$20 and there is a minimum of five participants for the workshop to go. <http://www.ianfitzgerald.com/>

Library Board of Trustees Meeting, Monday, August 17th at 7pm. Open to the public. The annual meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 21 at 7pm with a regular meeting to follow.

Every Wednesday in August drop in and see what CRAFT PROJECT you can make and take.

Want to go fishing but don't have a pole? Use your Library card to borrow one for a week. Hooks and Bobbers provided. Anyone over 16 needs a fishing license. The program is made possible with assistance from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

BedTime Math's SUMMER OF NUMBERS, just add a star to the constellation each day you complete a Bedtime Math problem. Sign up online at www.bedtimemath.org to receive your daily math problem and don't forget to pick up your chart and stars in the Library. Once you are done bring your chart to the Library for a prize.

The Library has a Museum Pass to the Clark. The pass is good for one adult admission to the Clark. Check it out with your Library card.

Fine Amnesty: Do you have overdue Rensselaerville Library books, audiobooks, movies, magazines? Starting August 25th through September 5th is Fine Amnesty. So dig through the closets, book bags and drawers, search the bookcases and family car, and recover those Library items. Fine Amnesty does not apply to damaged or lost items.

Saturday, September 5th Annual Lawn Party fundraiser, 4-7pm at the Palmer House Café Courtyard, under the tent. Tickets are \$20 available in advance or at the door. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Please check the Library calendar for schedule changes and additions.

Rensselaerville Library

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Library News

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1459 County Route 351
Rensselaerville, NY 12147
(518) 797-3949 www.RensselaervilleLibrary.org

Hours: Sunday, Monday Closed
Tuesday, Wednesday 10am - 12pm; 4pm - 9pm
Thursday, Friday 4pm - 9pm
Saturday 9am - 1pm

Middleburgh Library

- Aug 3 2:00pm** ****Unmask! Graphic Novel Book Club** - Get your geek on with fellow comic book fans and we explore new and different "super hero" graphic novels. These are not your grandma's super heroes....! This program is part of our **Unmask!** Summer Reading Program and is appropriate for kids going into grade 6 & up. Registration is required. (Meets Mondays at 2:00 pm)
- Aug 3 6-7:30pm** ***Every Hero Has a Story: WMHT Presents "Duck on a Bike"!** Join PBS educator Barbara Lukas in this fun farm filled family program about David Shannon's picture book Duck on a Bike. We'll read, watch a short film and make a duck bill hat to wear home. Besides having a quacking good time, every family will leave with a book of their own! Appropriate for preschoolers and their caregivers. Registration is required.
- Aug 4 10:45am** ***Every Hero Has a story: Drop-In Storytime** - Get ready to move in this interactive storytime especially for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. We'll read books, sing songs, recite fingerplays, dance and watch a short movie based on a weekly theme. No registration required.
- Aug 4 2:00pm** ***Every Hero Has a Story: Robot Heroes!** - Did you love Big Hero 6? Learn about the real inflatable helper robots that inspired Baymax and make your own Inflatable Robot Muscle to take home. Registration is required. For children going into grades 2-5.
- Aug 5 11:00am** ***Every Hero Has a Story: Super Hero Spiders!** Learn about the amazing super powers of our friend the spider in this hands on program which will be facilitated by educators from the Scoita/Glenville Traveling Museum. Appropriate for kids from Pre-school - grade 1.
- Aug 5 1-3pm** **Just a Minute: Teen Drop-In Maker Space (Tech Room)** Maker spaces are all the rage! Drop into the Tech Room and see what creative activities await you. No registration required. Stay for a minute or stay for an hour - it doesn't matter as long as you have fun creating!
- Aug 5 1:00pm** ***Family Film: Big Hero 6 (PG)** - The special bond that develops between plus-sized inflatable robot Baymax, and prodigy Hiro Hamada, who team up with a group of friends to form a band of high-tech heroes. Appropriate for all ages accompanied by their parent or caregiver. No registration required.
- Aug 6 1:00pm** **Every Hero Has a Story: Mother/Daughter American Girl Tea Party**— Step back in time as we explore the world of American Girl Samantha Parkington! Bring your dolls (It does NOT have to be an American Girl Doll) and your Mom to the library

(Continued on page 30)

Library News

(Continued from page 29)

where we'll talk about what it was like to be a girl in 1904. You'll make a Victorian craft and a calling card to bring to the Best House where we'll have our tea party. Girls and Moms will meet "Mrs. Best," enjoy lemonade and cookies and have a personal tour of the house. Each girl will go home with a goodie bag! Registration is required. For kids going into grades 2-6.

- Aug 6 7:00pm Knitting Circle** - These friendly ladies (men are welcome, but we haven't seen any yet!) knit and crochet, embroider and quilt, and more. You can learn a new skill here or share your own special talents with others - or just craft in the company of friends. Drop in anytime! No registration required. (Meets every Thursday at 7 pm)
- Aug 10 2:00pm Unmask! Graphic Novel Book Club**
- Aug 10 6:30pm Board of Trustees Meeting** - Meetings are open to the public and all are invited to attend.
- Aug 11 10:45am *Every Hero Has a story: Drop-In Storytime**
- Aug 11 1:00pm Mahjong (Tech Room) (Every Tuesday at 1:00)**
- Aug 11 4-6:00pm **Unmask! Your Creative Side: Digital Photography** - In this hands on workshop, students will learn a little bit more about their digital cameras and how to compose an appealing picture. If the weather is good we will take a walk down to the creek to take some photos! Appropriate for kids going into grades 6 & up. Digital cameras are required. This program will take place at Shelly Wood Photography Studio on Main Street. Registration is required.
- Aug 12 1:00pm *Every Hero Has a Story: Superhero Scavenger Hunt!** - Use your super powers of deduction to find the clues and solve the puzzle! Appropriate for kids going into grades 2-5. Registration is required.
- Aug 12 5:00-6:15pm Kundalini Yoga** - Kundalini Yoga involves repetitive movements with the breath, building strength, toning the nerves, and clearing the adrenal glands. Wear comfortable clothing and bring two blankets or a mat and blanket. A \$5 donation is requested. Please use the back entrance when entering the building. No registration is required. (Also meets Aug 26)
- Aug 12 7:00pm The Not so Quiet Concert Series: Magpie** - With a career that has spanned more than forty years, Magpie has traveled the globe, bringing its unique sound and breathtaking versatility to audiences everywhere. From traditional songs to vintage blues, swing and country to folk classics to contemporary and stirring original compositions, they cover a lot of musical ground. With their powerful voices and harmonies and their excellent instrumental arrangements on guitars, mandolin, harmonica, dulcimer, and concertina, their sound is much bigger than just two people. Award-winning recording artists, songwriters, musical historians, and social activists, Terry and Greg always promise a presentation that is highly entertaining as well as provocative and deeply moving. Tickets are available at the door. A \$10.00 donation is suggested.
- Aug 13 1-2:00pm *Every Hero Has a Story: Engineering Mission!** - Design and build a shock absorbing system that will protect two marshmallow "astronauts" when they land. Test, evaluate, and redesign. This program is adapted from NASA's Design Squad. Offered by the MiSci Museum and is appropriate for kids going into grades 3-5. Registration is required.

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Library News

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(Repeated at 2:00pm for kids going into grades 6-8.)

Aug 13 7:00pm Knitting Circle

Aug 14 5:30pm **Unmask! Dinner & a Movie Teen Edition: Insurgent (PG-13) - Join us for a fun night of pizza and a movie! The library will provide the food and drinks and you bring a dessert to share. Synopsis: Beatrice Prior must confront her inner demons and continue her fight against a powerful alliance which threatens to tear her society apart with the help from others on her side. Appropriate for kids going into grade 6 & up. Registration is required.

Aug 17 2:00pm Unmask! Graphic Novel Book Club

Aug 17 6:00pm Every Hero Has a Story: Family Book Discussion & Potluck - Animals can be heroes too! We'll ask families to read *The Bravest Dog Ever: The True Story of Balto* and then join us for a potluck (please bring one kid friendly offering) dinner and a discussion of the book. We'll end the night with a craft and something for you to take home! Appropriate for kids going into grades 1-3. Registration is required.

Aug 18 10:45am Every Hero Has a Story: Winnie the Pooh Party! - Join us for a special end of Summer Reading Winnie the Pooh Party! We'll have snacks, craft stations, games and more... Appropriate for Preschoolers and their care givers. No registration required.

Aug 18 1:00pm Mahjong (Tech Room) (Every Tuesday at 1:00)

Aug 19 2:00pm *Every Hero Has a Story: Airborne Jugglers - The Airborne Jugglers have been delighting audiences for over 20 years. Their high energy show combines juggling and music, with audience participation, lots of silliness and tons of fun. You'll erupt into riotous laughter as audience members are plucked from the crowd and become the stars of the show. Astounding team juggling will amaze your eyes as upbeat music fills your ears while an array of objects fills the air. Following the show everyone will be invited to take part in a juggling workshop. Appropriate for all ages. No registration required.

Aug 20 7:00pm Knitting Circle

Aug 24 2:00pm Unmask! Graphic Novel Book Club

Aug 25 1:00pm Mahjong (Tech Room) (Every Tuesday at 1:00)

Aug 27 7:00pm Knitting Circle

Aug 31 2:00pm Unmask! Graphic Novel Book Club

* This program is part of our **Every Hero Has a Story** Summer Reading Program.

** This program is part of our **Unmask!** Summer Reading Program.

The events calendar for the Middleburgh Library can be found at:
<http://engagedpatrons.org/EventsCalendar.cfm?SiteID=8616&thisMonth=7&thisYear=2015>

Contact information: 323 Main Street, PO Box 670, Middleburgh, NY 12122
 (518) 827-5142 www.middleburghlibrary.info

Hours: Monday 1:30 - 8:30
 Tuesday 10:00 - 5:00 & 6:30 - 8:30
 Wednesday 10:00 - 4:00

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Library News

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Thursday 10:00 - 4:00 & 6:30 - 8:30
 Friday & Sunday - closed
 Saturday 9:00 - 2:00

Greenville Library

PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS AT GREENVILLE LIBRARY - August 2015 (Registration Required) - 966-8205

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Pilates Mat All Welcome/Under 13 Accompanied by Parent	Aug. 8, 15, 29 9:00 – 10:00	Instructor – Cheryl Sheridan
Teen Book Club Write-Up Ages 11 - 18	Aug. 11, Sept. 1 9:00 - 11:00	Instructor – Melissa Gergen
Ceramic Workshop Young Adults (13) - Adults	Aug. 13, & 14 (Glazing) 1:00 – 3:30	Instructor - Lois Binetsky
Classes held @ Air Conditioned Studio		
Watercolor Class Students Gr.6 - Adults	Aug. 3 - 7 1:00 – 3:30	Instructor - Susan Story
Climbing Wall All Ages (No Registration)	Aug. 3 5:00 – 6:30	Climb Time Inc. – Jim Tyrrell
Basic Jewelry Making Grades 6 - 12	Aug. 4, 5 4:30 – 6:00	Instructor – Hope Konecny
Basic Jewelry Making Adults	Aug. 4, 5 6:00 – 7:30	Instructor – Hope Konecny
Counted Cross- Stitch Young Adults (13) – Adults	Aug. 6 6:30 – 8:00	Instructor – Carolyn Travers

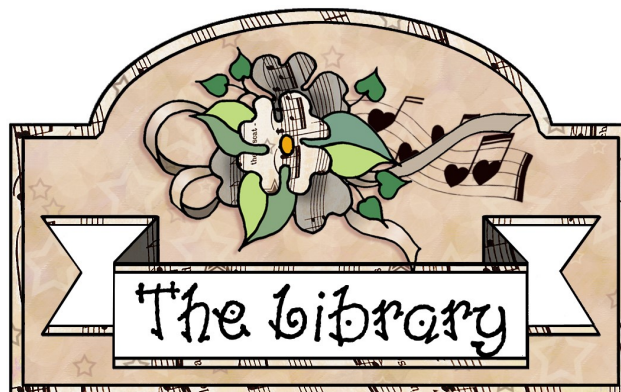
Library News

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Historical Program: Main Street Greenville – Part II All Ages (No Registration)	Aug. 10 7:30	Presenter –Don Teator, Town Historian
Draw & Paint Flowers With Me Ages 7 – Adults	Aug. 11 6:00 – 8:00	Instructor – Alice Tunison
Build a Rustic Square Planter Ages 16 & Up	Aug. 12 5:30 – 7:30	Instructor – Genn Hagan
Build a Birdhouse for Your Feathered Friends Ages 9 – Adults	Aug. 17 12:30 – 2:30	Instructor - Bill Madrian
Create An Autumn Wreath Young Adults (13) – Adults	Aug. 18 6:30 – 8:00	Instructor – Carolyn Travers
Creative Writing Class Young Adults (13) - Adults	Sept. 15 – 19 10:00-12:00	Instructor - Ronni Miller
Watercolor Class Young Adults (13) - Adults	Oct. 26 – 29 7:00 – 9:30	Instructor - Stanley Maltzman

Contact Information: Greenville Public Library
11177 Rte 32
PO Box 8
Greenville, NY 12083
Phone: 518-966-8205
Email: greenvillelibrary@outlook.com

Hours:
Monday & Wednesday: 9:00am - 5:00pm
Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00am - 6:00pm
Friday: 12:00pm - 5:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Sunday: Closed



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Senior Citizens Info

The Town offers car service Mon-Fri by appointment only. Contact Town Hall at 239-4225 or 797-3798 for doctor appointments. The Senior bus also goes shopping on Thursday either to Cobleskill or Catskill. Call Ruth & Tom Snyder (239-4376) the day before about riding the bus if you are interested.

The Town of Rensselaerville Senior Citizens meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Medusa Fire House at noon. Anyone 55 years of age and older can join. **Dues are \$8.00 a year due in June.** We collect \$1.00 a month at the meeting for coffee, milk, etc. Please bring a covered dish to share. We eat promptly at noon and the meeting commences afterward. We have a picnic in August; in November, we have a Thanksgiving dinner at a local restaurant; and in December we have a Christmas dinner also. We have bus trips in the summer and fall. For further information, call Tom Snyder, President, at 239-4376.

Please note that we are in desperate need of drivers for the bus and the car. Please call Ann Vogel at 797-3376 if you're interested in volunteering as a driver for our senior citizens.

Additional Important Phone Numbers:

- Department of Aging 447-7179
- HEAP: 447-2551



Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program

The information below was received in an email from State Senator George A. Amedore of the 46th Senate District:

"Fresh fruits and vegetables are crucial to maintaining a healthy lifestyle, but can be difficult for seniors on fixed incomes to afford.

That's why, as part of this year's State Budget, we included funding to expand the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, a program that provides \$20 coupons to low-income seniors to be redeemed at local farmers markets. Eligible seniors can earn up to \$1,800 a month to be eligible, or \$2,426 per couple.

Not only does this program make it more affordable for seniors on fixed incomes to have access to fresh fruits and vegetables, it also helps support our local farmers who are such an integral part of the economy, particularly in our rural Upstate communities.

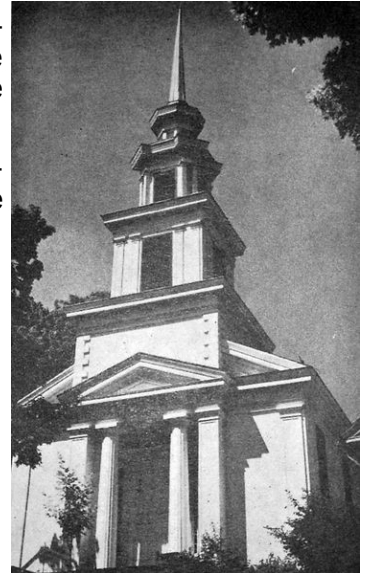
Coupons are available through your local County Office of the Aging and can be redeemed starting July 1st. For more information, please call the Albany County Office of the Aging at 518-447-7177.

A full list of farmers markets in each County that will accept the coupons is available at: <http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AP/CommunityFarmersMarkets.asp>"

2015 Summer Services at Rensselaerville Presbyterian Church

The Rensselaerville Presbyterian Church announces its schedule of summer services every Sunday from July 5 until September 6. Services are held at 11:00 a.m. in the church located on Main Street (County Route 351) in Rensselaerville. Everyone is welcome.

Each year, guest preachers from different faith traditions are invited to deliver sermons on a common theme. The 2015 theme is "A Place At The Table".



- August 2** **"Whose Table And How Many Chairs?"**
Rabbi Norman Mendel, Rabbi Emeritus
Congregation Beth David, San Luis Obispo, CA
- August 9** **"Banquet Manners"**
Rev. Richard E. Spalding, Chaplain, Williams College,
Williamstown, MA
Communion Service
- August 16** **"The Tiger Under The Table"**
Rev. Eric Jackson, Pastor
Smith Memorial Congregational Church, Hillsborough, NH
- August 23** **"Ice Chipping: Everybody Wants A Place"**
Rev. Donna Schaper, Senior Minister
Judson Memorial Church, New York, NY
- August 30** **"Trying To Sell Popsicles"**
Rev. Donna Elia, Moderator, Albany Presbytery, Albany, NY
Communion Service
- September 6** **"Displaced"**
Barbara G. Wheeler, Former President,
Auburn Theological Seminary, New York, NY

The tradition of summer-only services at the Presbyterian Church in Rensselaerville goes back more than 100 years. For a short period in the second half of the 19th century, the village was a lively industrial town as the first site of the Huyck Woolen Mills. When founder and Presbyterian Church member F. C. Huyck Sr. moved his mill to Albany, he did not sever ties with the village or the church. But as jobs left with the mill so did many of the village residents, leaving the church without enough members to maintain a year-round pastor. However, the Huyck family returned each year to vacation and provided for a pastor during their stay. It was F. C. Huyck Sr.'s granddaughter, Katharine Huyck Elmore, who in the middle of the 20th century expanded the vision of the summer services to other faith traditions and invited ministers, rabbis, priests and nuns to fill the pulpit.

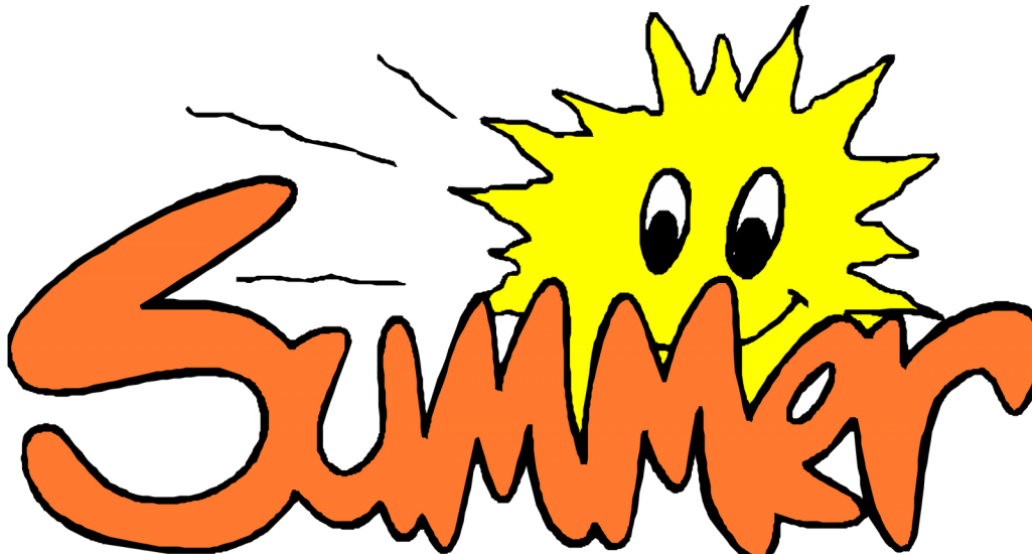
The Rensselaerville Presbyterian Church is a nationally recognized example of Greek Revival architecture dating from the 1840s and is listed on both the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

More information about the church may be found on its website: www.rvillepres.org.

On The Calendar

Please sign up and pay TODAY for Seniors Picnic on August 11 at Westerlo Park.

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Aug 6 | 7:30pm | Planning Board Public Hearing
The Planning Board of the Town of Rensselaerville will hold a Public Hearing on the Albany County Sheriff's Communications Tower. | Town Hall |
| Aug 8 | 8am-4pm | Medusa Town-Wide Garage Sales
Rummage Sale, Food, Maps available at the Medusa Church Hall. The Medusa Museum will also be open. See Bill Moore if you want to have a sale. | |
| Aug 11 | 12 noon | Rensselaerville Seniors Picnic | Westerlo Town Park. |
| Aug 11 | 7:00pm | Town Board Work Meeting | Town Hall |
| Aug 13 | 7:00pm | Town Board Regular Monthly Meeting | Town Hall |
| Aug 18 | 7:00pm | Town Board Public Hearing
The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Zoning Law | Town Hall |
| Sept 13 | | Democratic Social Club Annual Picnic
More info to follow! | Bayard Elsbree Park
Preston Hollow |
| Sept 25 | | Westchester Theatre Trip – Lunch & Show –“Show Boat”
Cost is \$62 (members) -- \$67 (non-members)
Must pay by August 25th. | |
| Nov 19 | | The Beeches Dinner Theatre - More info to follow! | |



Contact Information for Elected Officials & Department Heads

Position	Name	Email Address
Town Supervisor	Valerie Lounsbury	vlounsbury@rensselaerville.com townsupervisor@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilwoman	Marion Cooke	mcooke@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilman	Robert Bolte	rbolte@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilwoman	Margaret Sedlmeir	msedlmeir@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilman	Gerald Wood	gwood@rensselaerville.com
Town Justices	Gregory Bischoff Ronald Bates	
Supervisor's Clerk	Linda McCormack	
Town Clerk	Victoria Kraker	townclerk@rensselaerville.com
Highway Superintendent	Randy Bates	rbates@rensselaerville.com
Assessors	Donna Kropp Richard Tollner Kathryn Wank	assessors@rensselaerville.com
Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer	Mark Overbaugh	codeenforcement@rensselaerville.com
Planning Board	Richard Amedure	
Zoning Board of Appeals	John Mormile	
Board of Ethics		ethicsboard@rensselaerville.com
Dog Control Officer	Cheryl Baitsholts	Phone: 797-5201
Town Hall		Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798 Fax: 239-6339



The Back Page

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Editors:

Nancy Class
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From the Editors:

As always, we ask that you make a copy or two of this newsletter to share with friends and neighbors who may not have Internet access. Our readership continues to grow, but we invite others to sign on by sending their email address to rvillenewsletter@gmail.com. We look forward to getting your feedback.

Remember to notify the R'ville Community Newsletter if you change your email address in order to continue to receive your monthly issues!



To unsubscribe: Send an email to rvillenewsletter@gmail.com with the word "Unsubscribe" on the subject line. We'd be sorry to see you go, but we will honor your wishes immediately.



A community newsletter **BY** the community **FOR** the community