

R'VILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 10

December, 2015

Town Board Special Meeting, Minutes, October 13, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 13th day of October 2015 at 7:00 PM 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: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

ABSENT WAS: Councilman Robert Bolte

Also present was one interested citizen.

The purpose of the meeting was to begin the review of the 2016 Tentative Budget.

1. Supervisor Lounsbury wanted to make a correction under the 'General Revenues - County Tax Distribution' line item should read \$152,745.84. This does not include the third and fourth quarters of 2015.

2. The Board went through the Tentative Budget line-by-line. Highlights of changes are listed as follows:

> Justices:

Court Clerks' salaries were raised \$200.00 each.

Computer supplies line item was raised by \$1,656.00 for the purpose of purchasing a computer software program used by almost all Courts across New York State.

>The Assessors requested a raise, but were denied. The Assessor's Clerk line item will be raised by \$300.00 to cover the salary increase to \$15.00/hour. The Assessors requested \$1,000.00 for a laptop. Councilwoman Sedlmeir asked if it needed to be a laptop or if it could be a workstation. Supervisor Lounsbury stated that the Assessors wanted a laptop to be taken out in the field. Discussion ensued over the Assessor's request. As no consensus was able to be reached, discussion will be tabled until the next meeting on October 20th when the Assessor's Chairperson will be invited to attend.

> The Town Clerk requested a raise, but was denied.

Town Clerk Kraker requested that the Deputy receive a raise to \$12.00/hour; this was granted.

> Minor increases and decreases in 'Buildings' were made.

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- > Paramedics increased by \$3,477.
- > Superintendent Bates requested an increase. Councilwoman Cooke, Councilwoman Sedlmeir and Councilman Wood would like to see an increase in Superintendent Bates' salary. Also, Superintendent Bates asked for an increase in his clerk's wages, which was granted.
- > Councilman Wood questioned whether it would be more economical for the mowing of the Parks to be performed by the Town (perhaps by hiring a seasonal employee) or by putting it out for bid as has been done in the past. Supervisor Lounsbury has reviewed this subject in the past, but will update her findings.
- > Supervisor Lounsbury would like to see the Library bumped back up to the \$25,000 they were at several years ago. This would be an increase of \$1,250. Discussion ensued over donations, funding, and other avenues the Library has available to raise money. The Library will be invited to attend the next workshop meeting.
- > Supervisor Lounsbury would like to increase the Refuse & Recycling Coordinator's salary by \$550. Also, of interest was the incorrect classification regarding workers compensation. A "recycling center's" workers compensation is very high, but a "transfer station's" is much lower. Since the Town is a "transfer station", and is now classified correctly, the workers compensation will be much lower going forward.
- > 'Employee Benefits – Medical Insurance' went down by \$9,849 in the General Fund.
- > The Board reviewed the Highway's line items and will invite Superintendent Bates to attend the next workshop meeting.
- > The Ambulance requested an increase of 5,000 which was granted.
- > Workers Compensation increased \$880.00 for each of the three fire departments.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to go into Executive Session at 8:24 PM to discuss personnel and wages; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to return from Executive Session at 8:32 PM; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk



Town Board Special Meeting, Minutes, October 20, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 20th day of October 2015 at 7:00 PM 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: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

ABSENT WAS: Councilman Robert Bolte

Also present were Kim Graff and Connie Kudlack representing the Rensselaerville Library, Assessors Donna Kropp, Richard Tollner, and Kathy Wank, as well as Highway Superintendent Randy Bates.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the review of the 2016 Tentative Budget.

1. Supervisor Lounsbury stated that the Library had gotten \$23,750 last year and she proposed a \$1,250 increase to boost them back up to the \$25,000 they had several years ago.

Kim Graff and Connie Kudlack noted that the money from fundraising was about the same as it was last year and donations were slightly lower. The restitution (which used to be received regularly in the amount of \$138/month), was down to \$40 and that the Library was struggling to get even that much.

The Library received approximately \$21,000 from the school district.

The population of families with young children is increasing. Kim is trying to get more programs going for children. She would like more organizations to utilize the library for meetings, etc. She would like to increase space in and outside of the Library for events, and is always looking for available grant money to help support the programs. Kim has submitted an application for funds to re-do the stone stairway behind the library to allow for a safer exit and to promote programs in back yard.

Kim would like to send out a survey in an effort to gather ideas about what people are looking for and what their needs may be. The library is looking at doing 'Focus Groups' in the spring in an effort to get first-hand information on how people are using the library and what can be done to provide services to the community. The Focus Group would be sponsored by the Upper Hudson Library System.

She has offered the Rensselaerville Fire Department her grant-writing ability and is more than happy to extend the offer to the other Fire Departments as well. The Library has also held community safety programs, for example, the proper use of a fire extinguisher.

Ms. Graff would like to encourage the ambulance to hold safety programs such as CPR training. Connie Kudlack is a certified CPR instructor and would be very pleased to teach a class.

2. Councilwoman Sedlmeir wanted to discuss the situation regarding the Assessor's request for a computer. Assessor Donna Kropp spoke on behalf of the Assessor's Office and clarified that what they were requesting was not necessarily a laptop, but an additional work-station. She explained that when there are two or more people in the office, it is extremely difficult to be productive with only one computer to work from. Having another work-station would make the office much more efficient. Councilman Wood asked if concrete numbers could be provided so that a sound decision could be reached. They will check into how much it will cost for a new computer, an additional RPS program, and how much the annual service fee will be from ITS. Figures will hopefully be ready for Thursday's budget workshop meeting.

Supervisor Lounsbury announced that she has increased the line item for the Assessor's Clerk from

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Town Board Special Meeting, Draft Minutes, October 20, 2015

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\$11,700 to \$12,000 just to provide more of a cushion in case the new Clerk needed to put in more hours.

3. Superintendent Bates reviewed his budget proposals with the Board line by line. Increases were minimal if any.

Superintendent Bates did request an additional \$6,800 for 'Road Material/Sand/Salt'. Supervisor Lounsbury met him half-way and asked if \$3,400 would be do-able. A compromise may be reached by taking \$3,400 from the 'Gas/Oil' line item due to the decrease in fuel costs.

Superintendent Bates does not anticipate any other purchases other than small items, accessories, and/or tools which may be obtained at on-line auction sites.

Under 'Road Machinery', both the 'trucks' line and the 'Misc.' line were reduced by \$5,000 each. 'Equip Repairs & Maint.' was also reduced by \$5,000.

Superintendent Bates reported that there was a surplus of sand/salt from last year due to several factors: the trucks were calibrated; usage was monitored very carefully; and days that it is was so cold, materials were not spread because they would not have been effective anyway.

Superintendent Bates reiterated his thoughts from last year regarding the salaries of the neighboring Town's Highway Superintendents and how they far exceed the salary paid by the Town of Rensselaerville. Superintendent Bates' salary has seen a 0% increase since 2013 and noted that the Town of Rensselaerville Superintendent's salary is 25% less than that of the adjoining Towns with significantly less road mileage and functioning on half the budget the Town of Rensselaerville has. He asked how long the Town can keep these salaries so low and also noted that other departments were going to receive a raise and others like the Town Clerk were not. Superintendent Bates wonders about his successor and how the Town will be able to find a qualified individual at the rate of pay that is being offered. He feels it will not be anyone who can build roads; fix, spec, and purchase equipment; calibrate trucks; and manage the snow and ice program with money savings each year for the salary that is currently being offered. He feels it's a matter of fairness; how long can the Town keep salaries so low, when other salaries go up.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk



Town Board Public Hearing, Tax Cap Override, Minutes, October 22, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Public Hearing on the 22nd day of October 2015 at 6:45 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: Attorney Thomas Fallati, Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke *Arrived at 6:50 PM, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

ABSENT WERE: Councilman Robert Bolte

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear public comments on proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2015 – A Local Law Overriding the Real Property Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2016.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to open the Public Hearing at 6:45 PM; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

Motion carried: Ayes (3) Lounsbury, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)

As no citizens attended the Public Hearing and no written comments were received*, Supervisor Lounsbury entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to close the Public Hearing at 6:57 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk

* Addendum: An email was sent by Diana Hinchcliff at 6:18 PM, but not received by the Board and Supervisor Lounsbury until the morning of October 23, 2015. Ms. Hinchcliff's written comments are as follows:

Dear Members of the Town Board,

I was planning to attend tonight's hearing but will not be able to do so. Therefore, I am submitting this statement for the record.

As I do each year, I ask you, the members of the town board, to consider those residents of our town who cannot afford to pay higher taxes because, for example, they are low income, unemployed or retirees and seniors on a fixed income. As you may have read or heard, Social Security recipients will not receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in 2016 because low inflation has not caused the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index, on which the COLA is based, to rise. However, the cost of medical bills, medications, health insurance, food and other necessities will rise for those people and everyone else.

Therefore, I urge you to keep any increase in the town budget below the tax cap if at all possible.

Sincerely,
Diana Hinchcliff



Town Board Special Meeting, Minutes, October 22, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 22nd day of October 2015 at 7:00 PM 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, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

ABSENT WAS: Councilman Robert Bolte

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the review of the 2016 Tentative Budget.

Supervisor Lounsbury announced that the Public Hearing for the Tax Cap Override had been held, no one was present, and no written comments had been received.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to adopt the Tax Cap Override – Local Law No. 3 of 2015; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

At this time, Attorney Fallati left the budget workshop meeting.

Supervisor Lounsbury went through the Tentative Budget. All changes that were made prior to this meeting were reviewed and approved. The following matters were discussed in more detail:

1. The Assessor's requested a raise. Supervisor Lounsbury was against this due to her efforts in trying to keep the budget in line. She felt that the Town could not give raises across the board in the same year. If the clerks, who are seriously underpaid, are given raises this year, then next year the clerks could stay the same and elected officials could get a raise. She noted that as wages are increased, expense lines also go up.

Addressing the Assessor's computer equipment, Supervisor Lounsbury reported that she contacted I.T.S and it would cost \$875.00 for the workstation (computer); \$250.00 for set-up; Office 2013 program \$209.00; for a total of \$1,334.00. An additional printer would be approximately \$300.00 and there would be a contract fee of \$411.00/year. ORPS would charge \$130.00 annually. This gives a total of \$2,175.00 to set up a new computer.

Councilwoman Sedlmeir would like to accommodate the Assessors so that they can be more efficient. Councilwoman Cooke did not expect the figures to be that high and she was concerned that with more than one person using the ORPS program, it opens the door for error.

Councilwoman Sedlmeir suggested inviting the Assessors into the meeting, being that they are already in the building, to explain in greater detail what they are asking for and why. She is in favor of the additional workstation for the Assessor's office. Councilwoman Cooke and Supervisor Lounsbury agreed that the work has been getting done for years without any additional computers. Councilman Wood stated that he felt it should ride for now.

2. Supervisor Lounsbury addressed the raise which was requested for the Town Clerk. Councilman Wood said he has been thinking about Superintendent Bates' standpoint on raises. Councilman Wood is in favor of giving the Town Clerk and the Highway Superintendent a raise. Councilwoman Cooke, as well as Councilwoman Sedlmeir, agreed that the Highway Superintendent deserves a raise because it has been some time since the Superintendent received a raise. Councilwoman Cooke does not, however, feel the Town Clerk should be raised because the Town Clerk's position had received numerous raises before Clerk Kraker took office. Supervisor Lounsbury stated that former Town Clerk Hallenbeck had received a couple of raises just before she retired. Town Clerk Kraker reported that her research proves, and as her budget request documents, the Town

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Clerk's position has not received a raise since 2011. Councilwoman Cooke insisted that during her 6 years in office, she knows that Town Clerk Hallenbeck received raises during that 6-year tenure. Councilwoman Sedlmeir's feelings are that the Town Clerk should be raised stating that she is here for all meetings in the evening as well as her regular hours during the daytime, in addition to the workload.

It was settled that the Town Clerk would get a \$500 raise.

3. Discussion was had regarding the building repair line. Although Bob Bolte has done much of the work and repairs at Town Hall free of charge, there may come a time when Bob is not available when a repair is needed. The consensus was to leave the line as is and not reduce it despite the fact that not much has been used thus far this year.
4. Supervisor Lounsbury has worked hard on getting the medical supply line down and it will be lowered by another \$100. Also, the housekeeping line item has been eliminated, saving another \$150.
5. With the return of the Canon copier, the photocopier lease line can be lowered by \$1,500.
6. All the Board members agreed that the fuel oil line could be lowered by \$1,000, but the electric would be increased by \$1,000.
7. Councilman Sedlmeir encouraged the Board to give the Highway Superintendent a \$3,000 raise, but a \$2,000 raise was agreed upon.
8. Supervisor Lounsbury checked into what it would cost to have a seasonal employee and/or one of the highway employees mow the grass for the three parks. Councilman Wood questioned why other Towns could perform their own maintenance on their parks and cemeteries and the Town of Rensselaerville cannot.
9. It has been agreed upon that the Library get the additional \$1,250 making a total of \$25,000 which is what they were at several years ago.
10. To accommodate Superintendent Bates' request for additional funding of \$3,400 for road materials, the gas/oil line was lowered by \$3,400.
11. It is the consensus of the Board to lower the 'truck', 'miscellaneous' and 'equipment repairs & maintenance' line items (under Road Machinery) by \$5,000 each.

Another Budget Workshop Meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2015 at 7:00 PM to continue the review the proposed budget.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to set the Public Hearing for the Preliminary Budget for November 5, 2015 at 7:00 PM; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk

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Town Board Special Meeting, Draft Minutes, October 22, 2015

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Editor's Commentary: Regarding Supervisor Lounsbury's comments on page 6, which read as follows: "1. The Assessor's requested a raise. Supervisor Lounsbury was against this due to her efforts in trying to keep the budget in line. She felt that the Town could not give raises across the board in the same year. If the clerks, who are seriously underpaid, are given raises this year, then next year the clerks could stay the same and elected officials could get a raise. She noted that as wages are increased, expense lines also go up."

If this is, in fact, true, how do we explain that the clerks' hourly wages did get a 9% raise (from \$11.00 per hour to \$12.00 per hour) as per Supervisor Lounsbury's explanation, but so did two elected officials (the Town Clerk at 1.5% and the Highway Superintendent at 4.7%). Does this mean that these two elected officials **will not** receive a salary increase next year? Stay tuned.

And can the present \$11.00/hour for the Town's clerks truly be considered "seriously underpaid"?



Town Board Special Meeting, Minutes, October 29, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 29th day of October 2015 at 7:00 PM 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: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were Kim Graff from the Rensselaerville Library and one interested citizen.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the review of the 2016 Tentative Budget.

Supervisor Lounsbury announced that the 2016 budget will be under the tax cap.

The General Fund's overall increase is \$1,242.00. The Highway Fund's overall increase is \$7,265.00. The Special Districts were adjusted as follows: Ambulance District increased by \$6,013.00; each of the three fire departments increased by \$880.00 due to workers compensation increases (total increase of \$2,640.00); Lighting Districts increased by \$150.00; Hydrant District remained the same; Sewer District increased by \$52.00; and the Water District decreased by \$501.00 due to lower interest.

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Town Board Special Meeting, Minutes, October 29, 2015

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The overall appropriations are \$2,482,390.00;
 Less estimated revenues of \$904,303.00;
 Unexpended balance is \$294,600.00, a good portion of which came from the General Fund's unexpended health insurance dollars, and therefore the Amount to be raised by taxes is: \$1,283,487.00.

Supervisor Lounsbury informed Kim Graff that the Library will be receiving the full \$25,000 and Ms. Graff expressed her sincere gratitude.

The Board members were all satisfied with the above figures.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to move the Tentative 2016 Budget to the Preliminary 2016 Budget; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
 Town Clerk



Town of Rensselaerville Seasonal Roads

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville wishes to inform the residents of the Town and the Public that the following roads are Limited Use Highways and will not be maintained from December 1, 2015 through April 1, 2016:

- Gulf Road Extension from Gulf Road to the northerly end of State Lands;
- Kenyon Road from the intersection of Roney Road to CR 359;
- Roney Road from the last residential structure in from Pearson Road to the intersection of Kenyon Road;
- Scutt Road from the southerly end of State Lands to CCC Road; and
- Edwards Hill Road, from 500 feet in from SR 145 to the top of the hill.

Did you know...

...that the Town of Rensselaerville is indeed fortunate to have a Town employee who places a high priority on service to the residents and taxpayers of this town? On three separate occasions during the month of November (November 3, November 11, and November 27), instead of enjoying a paid holiday as did all other Town employees, our recycling coordinator put in the hours necessary to ensure that the transfer station was ready for business on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Thank you, Jon.

Town Board Public Hearing, Draft Minutes, November 5, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Public Hearing on the 5th day of November 2015 at 7:00 in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Deputy Supervisor Cooke and the roll was called with the following results:

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

ABSENT WAS: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury

Also present were three interested citizens and Kim Graff from the Rensselaerville Library.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear public comments on the 2016 Preliminary Budget.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to open the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Cooke, Bolte, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)

Deputy Supervisor Cooke read written comments submitted by Diana Hinchcliff as follows:

I will be out of town of Thursday, November 5 and unable to attend the hearing on the 2016 town budget. I am submitting these comments for the record.

Supervisor Lounsbury and Members of the Town Council,
I have reviewed the 2016 Preliminary Budget line by line and commend you for keeping the total increase under the state tax cap. I realize how difficult it is to make decisions about what to cut and what to increase each year and I appreciate your diligence in creating budgets with reasonable expenditures. As you know well, the tax burden in our town falls almost completely on residential property owners due to the lack of a commercial tax base. And, as our population ages and becomes eligible for enhanced STAR exemptions, tax revenue will be affected. This makes it more difficult to balance revenue and expenditures. Your action to keep the 2016 budget under the tax cap will most definitely help those residents in our town who must live on a fixed or low income as well as others who struggle to pay their bills. Your attention to the critically important task of budgeting is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Diana Hinchcliff

End Letter

Marie Dermody read a letter she had prepared for the Hearing as follows:

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to address the Town Board with regards to the 2016 preliminary budget. I commend this Town Board for drafting a budget with relatively minimal overall increase. Because this is not an easy task, it is an effort that deserves to be recognized.

With this being said, I do have comments and observations to share regarding the 2016 preliminary budget. And I will preface the following comments with the notice that these comments have nothing to do with the persons holding certain positions in Town government; my comments are strictly addressing the positions themselves.

The preliminary budget proposes increases for certain Town personnel. I'm personally okay with 1.45% for the Town Clerk and 1.5% for the recycling coordinator simply because they are reasonable. What I'm not okay with are certain other salary increases that are proposed in this budget:

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Town Board Public Hearing, Draft Minutes, November 5, 2015

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1) 9.0% increase for court clerks

They are the only clerks in Town government that are salaried instead of hourly so we really don't know how many hours they work during the course of a week or a month or a year. However, in the past, the clerks attended court every other Monday and on DA night. And we can deduct all those Mondays that are legal holidays and court is not in session.

It is a little known fact that the Supervisor has sought the assistance of someone from outside Town government (at additional taxpayer expense) to help correct the justice accounts that are so incredibly out of order. Is this what we reward with a 9% salary increase?

2) 9.1% raise for zoning/planning board clerk, deputy town clerk, highway clerk - The Town Board proposes to raise these clerk salaries from \$11 to \$12 per hour. And although the total line amount for these salaries does not change, the fact of the matter is that the pay is increased by this percentage. (The highway clerk line is proposed to increase by 0.5 %.)

3) 4.7% raise for the highway superintendent

In a very recent budget, the highway superintendent offered to lower his clerk's salary in exchange for a modest increase in his salary and that he would take on some of the clerk duties. This request was granted with the result that the Town Supervisor now assumes many of the clerk duties. And for 2016, another proposal is placed before us for a slight increase in the clerk's line and a significant increase in the superintendent's salary line.

In the past, certain Town Board members have cited the fact that employees in the highway department sometimes earn more than the superintendent when you factor in overtime pay. News flash – this is true in many cases of salaried managers who are exempt from overtime, even in the private sector. And a highway superintendent should be well aware of this situation when contemplating a decision to run for public office.

The Town Board contributes to this situation by consistently approving Collective Bargaining Agreements that carry multi-year pay raises along with a benefits package that many can just dream about (e.g. up to \$5,000 & \$10,000 in co-pay reimbursement along with a lower insurance premium); generous vacation leave; and additional "floating holiday" in addition to other questionable paid days off (e.g. Election Day). Until the town Board does a better job of getting this issue under control, you will always have this situation with which to contend.

Yes, the highway department and its superintendent serve this town well. But that is their job, after all. And it is the expectation we should have of all our employees.

4) 0.5% increase in highway clerk line

As mentioned previously, the Town Board proposes an increase from \$11 to \$12/hour to begin with. Now an increase of ½% for the line (from \$4576 to \$4600) is proposed. How can this be justified when, in September, less than \$800 had been spent?

5) 4.3% increase for assessor's clerk

This Town Board advertised for an assessor's clerk at \$12/hour for 15 hours/week. However, you hired someone at \$15/hour for 15 hours per week. When calculated, 15 hours x \$15 x 52 weeks, you get \$11,700. Why is it necessary to "pad" an extra \$300 onto this line?

None of these increases, when viewed individually, seem to amount to very much at all. But when taken together as a group, they become more significant.

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Town Board Public Hearing, Draft Minutes, November 5, 2015

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And yes, there are budget increases in many other places in the budget that could be questioned. But I can only tilt at so many windmills.

It is important to keep in mind that our senior citizens will not be receiving a cost of living adjustment in their social security income for 2016. So any increase in expenditures will have a negative impact on the one segment of our community that can least afford any increase in their tax bills. Will you explain to them why certain people deserve 4-9% wage increases when the seniors are getting 0%? I truly hope the Town Board will seriously consider the comments contained herein and act accordingly.

Respectfully,
Marie Dermody

End Letter

Jeff Pine wished to make a correction to Diana Hinchcliff's letter stating that the Senior Star exemption does not affect the Town taxes.

Kim Graff expressed her sincere gratitude for bringing the Library back up to \$25,000.

Deputy Supervisor Cooke announced that the Board will vote on the budget on November 12, 2015 at the Regular meeting.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to close the Public Hearing at 7:15 PM; 2nd by Councilman Bolte.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Cooke, Bolte, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:15 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Cooke, Bolte, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk





Find The Differences!



Town Board Work Meeting, Draft Minutes, November 10, 2015

The Work Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 10th day of November 2015 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 Highway Superintendent Randy Bates and one interested citizen.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

MINUTES, VOUCHERS, AND BILLS: Minutes to be accepted at the Regular Meeting on November 12, 2015:

October 1 – Special – Presentation of Tentative Budget; October 6 – Work; October 8 – Regular; October 13, 20, 22, and 29 – Special – Budget Workshops; October 22 – Public Hearing – Tax Cap Override

Vouchers and bills will be addressed at the Regular Meeting.

TRANSFERS: Transfers will be addressed at the Regular Meeting on November 12, 2015.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisor Lounsbury announced that there will be a Veteran's Service Officer at Town Hall on Wednesday, November 18th from 12:30 to 3:00 PM to assist Veterans who may have questions or who may need assistance with Veteran's benefits.

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 November 12, 2015.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Supervisor Lounsbury stated the Environment Assessment Form regarding the proposed new Zoning Law is complete and thanked John Mormile and the attorneys who worked together to prepare the form. Supervisor Lounsbury asked the Board to review the form as Attorney Fallati would like the Board's approval on Thursday. A complete package can then be sent to the Albany County Planning Board for their review and, if approved by them, a final Public Hearing can be scheduled perhaps as early as January.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Town Clerk Kraker will submit the list of unpaid water and unpaid sewer bills for the Board's approval at the Regular Meeting.
2. Supervisor Lounsbury received an email regarding the Albany Hilltown's website. It costs around \$400/year to keep the website up and running. A request was made that the four hilltowns of Berne, Knox, Westerlo, and Rensselaerville contribute \$100 each to support the website. Funds for this website were previously supported by donations, but most recently by an individual who has since moved from the area. Supervisor Lounsbury asked the Board to consider this so a decision can be made on Thursday.
3. The Blue Cross/Blue Shield Medicare rates have gone down from \$467 to \$408 per retiree per month. This will save the Town a total of \$708 per year, per retiree. (The rate for out-of-area retirees has also gone down from \$515 to \$444; a savings of \$852/year/retiree.) However, the out-of-pocket maximum for the retirees has gone from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Supervisor Lounsbury has

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spoken to Erin Nevins who indicated that some other towns have offered their seniors a reimbursement for a portion of the increase. Supervisor Lounsbury reminded the Board that the seniors are already reimbursed for their Medicare which amounts to over \$1,200 per person and doesn't know how much longer the Town can keep reimbursing when everyone's premiums, co-pays, and out-of-pocket expenses are going up as well. The Board is in agreement with Supervisor Lounsbury.

4. Central Hudson will be replacing all 'Rate-A' lights which fail, with an LED equivalent fixture. Supervisor Lounsbury will need authorization on Thursday to sign and return the form to Central Hudson giving them permission to go forward with the changes.
5. Supervisor Lounsbury opened and read the four sealed bids which were received for the new dump truck. Bids were received from Crossroads Ford, DePaula Chevrolet, Metro Ford, and Mangino. Superintendent Bates will review the bids and announce the winner on Thursday.
6. The 2016 Preliminary Budget can hopefully be moved into the Adopted Budget stage at the Regular Meeting on Thursday.
7. Supervisor Lounsbury reminded everyone of the Public Hearing on the 4-way stop sign to be held on Thursday at 6:30 PM. Attorney Fallati will be bringing the Resolution for approval.
8. Supervisor Lounsbury thanked Bob Bolte for fixing the door in the meeting room so that there would no longer be a draft coming through the bottom. Councilman Bolte also displayed the flags in honor of Veteran's Day.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk



Town Board Meeting, Draft Minutes, November 12, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville was held on the 12th day of November 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, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

ABSENT WAS: Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir

Also present were Highway Superintendent Randy Bates, Assessor Donna Kropp, Recycling Coordinator Jon Whitbeck, Investigator Tracy Mance from the Albany County Sheriff's Department, John Mormile, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and six interested citizens.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Marie Dermody read a letter she had prepared for the meeting as follows:

1. It is the Town Board's intention to adopt the budget this evening as presented in its preliminary stage. At Tuesday's work meeting, Supervisor Lounsbury stated that she wasn't in favor of any changes and that she had cut as much as she could. In fact, this isn't true. This budget contains, in part, thousands of dollars in raises coming in at 4.7-9%. This is unconscionable, when seniors will be enjoying a 0% raise in their Social Security benefits for 2016. And, by the way, I do not oppose those raises that are coming in at 1.4/1.5%, because they are reasonable. The Town Board has made valiant efforts to keep the increases within the prescribed tax cap, however, raises in the amount of 4.7/4.9% are unreasonable. This budget does not represent your constituents in that you did not allow public input during your workshop meetings, at least for the meeting that I attended. And to date you have chosen not to publicly discuss or consider public comments in your decision to adopt the budget. At the November 5th Public Hearing on the budget, Councilwoman Sedlmeir stated that if it were important to them, people would show up and be heard. Really, why should they? It is simply wasted effort, since their opinion doesn't matter anyway. This Town Board continues to act in a vacuum adhering only to their own agendas with little regard for representing the people who elected them in the first place. No meaningful Town Board discussion ever takes place in the public forum. This is a systemic problem that needs to be addressed. I implore this Town Board to make a concerted effort to change this current state of affairs. The residents of this town deserve transparent representative government; not elected officials, who, according to popular perception, turn a deaf ear to the public, or who make many decisions behind closed doors and just rubber stamp them at public meetings.
2. It wasn't all that long ago that I sat in this room while the Town Board discussed insurance renewal for our active employees who wound up with excellent benefits including up to \$5,000/\$10,000 in co-pay reimbursements. At this meeting when the retirees insurance was briefly discussed, I distinctly recall asking this Town Board not to throw the retirees under the bus; and you assured me that you would never do that. Fast forward to now; as per the discussion at Tuesday's work meeting, you are set to renew the retiree's insurance coverage tonight. The premiums are lower, but out-of-pocket expenses will rise from \$3,000 to \$5,000. At the work meeting, Supervisor Lounsbury stated that we can't afford to keep reimbursing for co-pays; we are going to get ourselves in trouble. And Councilman Wood said we have to start cutting somewhere. You all know that I am very vocal when it comes to spending taxpayer money, but you also know that I'm all about fairness. Did you have a meeting with the retirees to let them know about these changes? You did for the active employees. Did you offer them an option of staying with Blue Shield or exploring other plans? You did for the active employees. And, Valerie, you spoke with a retiree who was happy with the plan because of the doctors that were included. Speaking to one person is not

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representative of the entire group. Whereas, you reimburse significantly for co-pays for our relatively young, gainfully employed people, retirees most of who are on fixed income, will just have to suck it up with regards to a \$2,000 increase in their out-of-pocket expenses. Where was this Town Board's fiscal conscience or restraint when you granted the \$5,000/\$10,000 in co-pay reimbursement back in September? This is wrong, very wrong. Our retirees deserve better treatment than this. And I am, in no way, personally affected by this Town Board decision, nor have I been elected to be a spokesperson. But throwing retirees under the bus should not be an option that is even considered.

End Letter

Taylor Cooke agrees that the Town should make every effort to continue in the same manner as they have been in the past regarding the retirees.

Supervisor Lounsbury stated that the health insurance will be discussed later in the meeting.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2015 Special Meeting – Presentation of Tentative Budget; 2nd by Supervisor Lounsbury.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2015 Work Meeting; 2nd by Councilman Bolte.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2015 regular Meeting; 2nd by Councilman Bolte.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2015 Budget Workshop Meeting; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

Motion carried: Ayes (3) Lounsbury, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0); Abstains (1) Bolte

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2015 Budget Workshop Meeting; 2nd by Supervisor Lounsbury.

Motion carried: Ayes (3) Lounsbury, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0); Abstains (1) Bolte

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2015 Budget Workshop Meeting; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke.

Motion carried: Ayes (3) Lounsbury, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0); Abstains (1) Bolte

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2015 Budget Workshop Meeting; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2015 Public Hearing – Tax Cap Override; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

Motion carried: Ayes (3) Lounsbury, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0); Abstains (1) Bolte

TRANSFERS

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to approve the following transfers:

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From 'Specialty Equipment' A7140RNE 22080 to 'Misc. Contractual' A7140RNE 44999 in the amount of \$244.50 to cover port-a-johns and pizza; and
From 'Specialty Equipment' A7140RNE 22080 to 'Electric' A7140RNE 44101 in the amount of \$205.00; to cover electricity bills for the year

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cooke.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

ABSTRACTS/VOUCHERS: General Fund - \$49,919.86; Highway Fund - \$42,534.87; Lighting District - \$1,404.83; Sewer Fund - \$157.50; Water Fund - \$234.56; T & A Fund - \$789.01. Total - \$95,040.63

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to pay all signed vouchers and bills; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS**SUPERVISOR**

1. Supervisor Lounsbury read a letter she had prepared for the meeting as follows:

The town board held the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget on November 5th. I was unable to attend that meeting as I was not feeling well but I have reviewed the written comments that were submitted. There are a couple of comments that were submitted in a letter read and prepared by Marie Dermody that I found to be inaccurate.

1. The first such comment is regarding the Justice Department. The statement reads, "It is a little known fact that the Supervisor has sought the assistance of someone from outside Town government (at additional taxpayer expense) to help correct the justice accounts that are so incredibly out of order. Is this what we reward with a 9% salary increase?"

I would like the record to show that I, as Supervisor, have not sought the outside assistance of anyone, nor have I spent any money, to help correct the justice accounts. To my knowledge the justice accounts are in order and have been in order. I spoke with each Town Justice and they are not aware of any problems with the accounts in their department. The accounts are reviewed each year by at least one, if not two board members, and since I have been supervisor, they have been found to be in order. One could say that the court clerks are doing a satisfactory job and the justice accounts are fine.

The Town board has budgeted money to obtain and maintain the "SEI Courtroom Program". This is a program used by courts state-wide, including every court that borders our jurisdiction - Westerlo, Berne, Broome, and Durham. The Town of Rensselaerville is one of about ten towns that do not use this program. This purchase will only enhance our Justice Department. Perhaps, this is the information that has been misunderstood because there are no records "incredibly out of order".

2. The comment reading: "In a very recent budget, the highway superintendent offered to lower his clerk's salary in exchange for a modest increase in his salary and that he would take on some of the clerk duties. This request was granted with the result that the Town Supervisor now assumes many of the clerk duties. And for 2016, another proposal is placed before us

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for a slight increase in the clerk's line and a significant increase in the superintendent's salary line".

Since I have held the position of Supervisor, February 2012, the Highway superintendent has not offered to lower his clerk's salary in exchange for a modest increase in his salary and has not offered to assume many of the clerk duties. I, as Town Supervisor, have not assumed many of the Highway Superintendent's clerk's duties. If this offer was made and accepted it was prior to February, 2012 and I would have no knowledge or control over it.

3. The last matter I would like to address is regarding the assessor's clerk. The line item for the assessor's clerk does have an extra \$300 and this was done so that if the "new" clerk needed some extra time to complete some of the work or if she needed to attend some training classes there would be money available. This is not "padding" the budget but planning for a "new clerk".

The Town Board always welcomes public comments but I feel that when statements are made that are misleading, clarification must be made.

End Letter

Supervisor Lounsbury also wanted to thank Councilman Bolte for repairing the door in the meeting room so that there would no longer be a draft coming through at the bottom of the door and Jon Whitbeck for taking care of the outside of the door.

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

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

ATTORNEY

1. Attorney Fallati announced that the Public Hearing regarding proposed Local Law No.4 of 2015 – Erecting Additional Traffic Control Devices at the Intersection of Sayre Road and Gerard Road, was held just prior to the Regular Meeting of the Town Board. Attorney Fallati read the Resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1660(a)(1), a town Board has the authority to enact local laws that order the erection of stop signs on town highways; and

WHEREAS, the four way intersection of Sayre Road and Gerard Road (the "Intersection") is currently controlled by two stop signs; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that the erection of additional stop signs at the Intersection is necessary for public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to erect additional stop signs at the Intersection; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") §617.5(c)(16), the installation of traffic control devices on existing roads is a Type II action under SEQRA and is thus exempt from further review under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board conducted a public hearing on November 12, 2015 on the proposed Local Law;

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Town Board Meeting, Draft Minutes, November 12, 2015

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the duly convened Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York, ordains and enacts the attached Local Law No. 4 of 2015, which is incorporated herein.

By motion made by Valerie Lounsbury, and seconded by Gerald Wood, the foregoing resolution was adopted by a majority of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville on the 12th day of November, 2015 as follows:

Supervisor Lounsbury	Yes
Councilwoman Cooke	Yes
Councilman Bolte	Yes
Councilwoman Sedlmeir	Absent
Councilman Wood	Yes

Town of Rensselaerville
Local Law No. 4 of 2015

A Local Law Erecting Additional Traffic Control Devices at the
Intersection of Sayre Road and Gerard Road

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent and Authority

Pursuant to New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1660, a Town Board may enact reasonable ordinances, orders, rules and regulations with respect to traffic as local conditions may require, including but not limited to, the erection of stop signs. The Town Board has determined that additional traffic control devices at the intersection of Sayre Road and Gerard Road are necessary to ensure public health and safety.

Section 2. Erection of Two Stop Signs

The Town Highway Superintendent shall erect two additional stop signs at the intersection of Sayre Road and Gerard Road in the Town of Rensselaerville, thus transforming the intersection from a two-way stop to a four-way stop.

Section 3. This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State and erection of the additional traffic devices.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the Attorneys report; 2nd by Supervisor Lounsbury.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

1. Highway Superintendent Bates reported that the Highway Department has been actively preparing for winter. They have been ordering supplies and also taking advantage of pre-season specials. He noted that the salt shed is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
2. The Highway has also been busy working on patching and drainage.
3. Superintendent Bates traveled to Watertown to do a 'final build-out' of the new Western Star truck which is tentatively scheduled to be delivered around the first week of December.

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A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to accept the Highway Superintendent's report; 2nd by Councilman Wood.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

Supervisor Lounsbury read the list of Seasonal Roads as follows:

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville wishes to inform the residents of the Town and the Public that the following roads are Limited Use Highways and will not be maintained from December 1, 2015 through April 1, 2016:

Gulf Road Extension from Gulf Road to the northerly end of State Lands;

Kenyon Road from the intersection of Roney Road to CR 359;

Roney road from last residential structure in from Pearson Road to the intersection of Kenyon Road;

Scutt Road from the southerly end of State Lands to CCC Road; and

Edwards Hill Road from 500 feet in from SR 145 to the top of the hill.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept the list of Seasonal Roads and authorize Clerk Kraker to place a Legal Notice in the Altamont Enterprise noticing the Seasonal Roads; 2nd by Councilman Bolte.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

TOWN CLERK: Town Clerk Kraker reported for the month of October as follows: Town Clerk Department – Total Collected \$2,147.55. Paid to the Supervisor - \$887.32 - the breakdown is as follows: Clerk Fees - \$192.52; Recycling- \$93.00; Dog Licenses - \$119.00; Building Permits - \$352.80; Zoning - \$130.00. Total - \$887.32

Fees paid to NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets for the 'Animal Population Control Program' aka 'dog surcharge': \$17.00; Electronic sweep from the Town Clerk's checking account for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation - Sporting Licenses: \$1,220.73; and Fees paid to NYS Department of Health for Marriage Licenses: \$22.50. Water Rents for the month totaled \$1,330.03 which includes \$23.45 in penalties, and Sewer Rents totaled \$996.82 which includes \$19.55 in penalties.

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

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/BUILDING INSPECTOR

1. Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh reported for the month of October, 2 Accessory Building Permits, 2 New Home Construction Permits, and 1 Woodstove Permit.
2. Officer Overbaugh reported that he had completed his training for the year and that he had also been busy with several title searches.
3. Regarding the dilapidated buildings in Potter Hollow, Officer Overbaugh reported that the one building which contained the asbestos had been taken down.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cooke to accept the Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector's report; 2nd by Supervisor Lounsbury.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

ASSESSORS

1. Assessor Kropp announced that their new clerk, Debbie, was working out very well.

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2. The Assessors have begun the new 2016 tax roll.
3. The exemption renewal reminders will be sent out near the end of December.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the Assessor's report; 2nd by Councilman Wood.
Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE: No Report

REFUSE/RECYCLING: 1. Recycling Coordinator Whitbeck reported the following for the month of October:

E-Waste (bill has not yet been received); Rensselaer Iron & Steel: 6.85 tons; Tires: 34; City of Albany Landfill: 63.29 tons; Sierra Fibers: Comingled 4.51 tons and O.C.C. 5.51 tons; Oil: 43 gallons

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

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

CURRENT EVENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS

Attorney Fallati reported that John Mormile has worked with the attorneys preparing the Environmental Assessment Form and thanked him for his hard work and the many hours he spent preparing a draft. Essentially the finding was that there will not be any significant impacts on the areas that are reviewed by SEQRA. The new proposed Zoning Law, although it has some substantive changes, is predominantly a reorganization of the existing code. The actual changes are limited in scope and the assessment is that they do not pose any substantial impact.

The Town Board previously designated itself Lead Agency and notices were prepared and sent out to all interested and involved agencies. The 30-days has passed for anyone to object and as the Town has received no objections, a Resolution has been prepared by which the Town Board would accept and adopt the EAF designating the Town as Lead Agency and noting the finding of a Negative Declaration (meaning that there is no significant impact on any areas). Following adoption of the Resolution, the determination would then be submitted to the Department of Environmental Conservation.

If the Resolution is adopted, the next step would be to submit it to the Albany County Planning Board. The last step in the process would be to schedule a final Public Hearing.

John Mormile wished to thank attorney Tom Fallati and attorney Devlyn Tedesco for their assistance preparing with the EAF.

Attorney Fallati read the Resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE
TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE
TOWN BOARD

WHEREAS, the town of Rensselaerville Town Board (the "Board") desires to revise its Zoning Law (the 'Project'); and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") 6NY-CRR Part 617, and determined that the Project is subject to SEQRA; and

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WHEREAS, by resolution on September 10, 2015, the Town Board determined this Project to be a Type 1 Action, declared its intent to be a Lead Agency for the purposes of Coordinated Review of the Project, and

WHEREAS, on or about October 8, 2015, the Town circulated a Notice of Intent and an Environmental Assessment Form to all Involved and Interested Agencies; and

WHEREAS, no agency objected within the statutory period to the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville acting as Lead Agency in connection with the Project, and therefore the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville became Lead Agency by default; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Rensselaerville Town Board, as Lead Agency, has conducted a SEQRA review of the Project and reviewed the full Environmental Assessment Form, and has enlisted the assistance of John Mormile in the preparation of such Form; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Rensselaerville Town Board has had the opportunity to review the Full Environmental Assessment Form ("EAF") attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the duly convened Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville, Albany County, New York, that pursuant to Part 617 of the SEQRA Regulations, the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville hereby confirms that it is Lead Agency for the SEQRA Review of this Project; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby adopts the EAF, attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to Part 617 of SEQRA and based upon the Town Board's review of Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the Full EAF, the Lead Agency hereby determines that the Project will have no environmental impact and thus is an Unlisted Action; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville hereby adopts a determination of Negative Significance under SEQRA (attached hereto as Exhibit "B"), determining that the proposed Project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and directs the Town Clerk of the Town of Rensselaerville to take all necessary steps to publish this determination.

By motion made by Marion Cooke and seconded by Gerald Wood, the foregoing resolution was adopted by a majority of the members of the Town of Rensselaerville Town Board on the 12th day of November 2015 as follows:

Supervisor Lounsbury	Yes
Councilwoman Cooke	Yes
Councilman Bolte	Yes
Councilwoman Sedlmeir	Absent
Councilman Wood	Yes

END RESOLUTION

Attorney Fallati continued with the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE
TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE

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TOWN BOARD

WHEREAS, the Town of Rensselaerville has determined that its zoning law should be amended to better reflect the Town's needs and vision for future growth; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has prepared a proposed revised zoning law to reflect these changes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to General Municipal Law §239-m, the Town Board must refer the amended zoning law to the Albany County Planning Board for review and approval; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville desires to comply with the law.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the duly convened Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville that pursuant to §239-m of the General Municipal Law, the Town Clerk is empowered and directed to submit the proposed revised zoning law and all necessary documentation to the Albany County Planning Board for its review of the proposed revised amended zoning law.

By motion made by Valerie Lounsbury and seconded by Robert Bolte, the foregoing resolution was adopted by a majority of the members of the Town of Rensselaerville Town Board on the 12th day of November 2015 as follows:

Supervisor Lounsbury	Yes
Councilwoman Cooke	Yes
Councilman Bolte	Yes
Councilwoman Sedlmeir	Absent
Councilman Wood	Yes

END RESOLUTION

NEW BUSINESS

1. Superintendent Bates reviewed the bids which were submitted for the new dump truck noting that Crossroads Ford and Metro Ford's bids met the required specifications. DePaula Chevrolet's and Mangino's bid did not include the locking front hubs or the desired gear ratio. Superintendent Bates had made several attempts to contact someone at Metro Ford for clarification of their bid, but to no avail. Superintendent Bates recommended the bid be awarded to Crossroads Ford for \$36,337.00.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to accept Crossroads' bid as specified by Superintendent Bates; 2nd by Councilman Bolte.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

2. Supervisor Lounsbury needed authorization to sign and return the Order from Central Hudson which offers municipalities the option to lease high efficiency LED street lights. The resolution authorizes Central Hudson to replace all 'Rate-A' street lights which fail, with an LED equivalent fixture.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte authorizing Supervisor Lounsbury to sign and return the order; 2nd by Councilman Wood. Motion carried:

Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

3. Town Clerk Kraker submitted a verified statement of all the unpaid water and unpaid sewer rents

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existing on the books as of November 1, 2015.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to accept the unpaid water and unpaid sewer rents; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

4. The Albany County Hilltown's website is seeking \$100 from each of the four hilltowns of Berne, Knox, Westerlo, and Rensselaerville for the upkeep of the website. The website is quite informative; however, it is the Board's consensus not to contribute.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to decline the \$100 contribution to the website; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

5. Supervisor Lounsbury presented the Board with the new figures on Medicare premiums for the retirees. The Blue Cross/Blue Shield Medicare rates have gone down from \$467 to \$408 per retiree per month, saving the Town a total of \$708 per year, per retiree. (The rate for out-of-area retirees has also gone down from \$515 to \$444; a savings of \$852/year/retiree.) However, the out-of-pocket maximum for the retirees has gone from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Supervisor Lounsbury reminded everyone that each retiree (and their spouse) is reimbursed for their total annual Part B Medicare premiums, which amounts to \$1,258 per year (2015) per retiree plus \$1,258 per spouse, if applicable. Spouses of deceased retirees also receive this reimbursement. Supervisor Lounsbury has researched many policies and believes that this is a very good plan and noted that the out-of-pocket expenses are still lower than most other plans.

An extensive discussion ensued over the decrease in the Town's premium vs. the increase in the retiree's co-pays. A decision was reached to reimburse an additional \$500.00 in out-of-pocket co-pays. Each retiree would still be responsible for the first \$3,000 in out-of-pocket co-pays. Co-pay expenses above \$3,000 up to a maximum of \$3,500 would be reimbursed by the Town providing that receipts (Explanation of Benefits) for all co-pays (including the first \$3,000) are submitted. The caveat being that this only applies for the calendar year January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to renew the policy with Blue Cross/Blue Shield as specified above; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

6. Supervisor Lounsbury announced that she was comfortable with the Preliminary Budget; the Public Hearing was held and comments that were made have been taken into consideration.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to adopt the 2016 Preliminary Budget; 2nd by Councilman Bolte.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

- Investigator Tracy Mance announced that the Sheriff's Department is taking over the "Choices 301" program. The program provides educational programs for teenagers on topics such as drugs, alcohol, and social media.
- Marie Dermody stated that she expects to be corrected when she is in error. She intends to do further research to clarify and verify what she stated and if it is an error, she will retract her

(Continued on page 26)

Town Board Meeting, Draft Minutes, November 12, 2015

(Continued from page 25)

statements.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Cooke.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk



Editors' Commentary: It is the intention of the editors of this newsletter to clarify and/or correct any misstatements of fact when they are brought to our attention. With this in mind, the following needs to be said regarding Supervisor Lounsbury's comments that appear on pages 17-18 of this newsletter as part of her monthly report.

Item #1: The comments previously published in the *R'ville Community Newsletter* regarding the condition of the justice accounts were, in fact, an overstatement of the actual situation. The supervisor did seek advice from an outside source regarding data input into the Town's municipal software, but there was no indication of an unsatisfactory condition of these accounts. We apologize for reporting something that, at this moment, has no basis in fact.

Item #2: There is no discussion memorialized in the 2013 minutes of the budget workshop meetings held by the Town Board indicating exactly how a salary increase for the Highway Superintendent came to be. Suffice it to say that, as a result of these workshops and the discussions/negotiations that took place, the Highway Superintendent's salary increased in the 2014 budget and his clerk's salary decreased.

Item #3: The assessor's clerk is being paid \$15/hour (although the position was advertised at \$12/hour) for a 15-hour week. When calculating 15 hours x \$15 x 52 weeks, you get \$11,700 - the exact number in the tentative budget. However, when you consider that there are holidays and vacations and sick time, there are already many hours to use as a "cushion" in case extra time is needed for training or extra hours or whatever else. This is why the extra \$300 appearing in the preliminary budget was considered "padding" by the editors of this newsletter.



In My Opinion

Editor's Note: The following message, written by Willard J. Osterhout, was posted on Facebook on November 18 regarding the website albanyhilltowns.com. Many comments were contributed to this original post. Check them out.

"Yesterday was a very disappointing day for me!!! Many of you I am sure are aware of and visit the AlbanyHilltowns.com web site. The cost to keep this site up on the internet is about \$400.00 per year. In recent years this cost was met by donations. This year the group decided to seek a more permanent source of funding and we reached out to the four Hilltowns to see if they would be willing to share the cost. The immediate response from Berne, Knox and Westerlo was absolutely, but unfortunately I learned yesterday that the Rensselaerville Town Board voted not to support this project. I am certainly aware of the fact that they have a very active Historical Society and perhaps they felt it wasn't necessary to put their history up on the internet, unfortunately that limits the availability of all that information. I spent many hours there scanning and photographing much of their collection with the help of many Historical Society members so it could be put up on the site and made available to the entire internet community. In the past we have had a guest book on the site and we could see just how many people visited it and told us what a valuable research tool this was. I find it so hard to believe that for the minimal sum of \$100.00 the Rensselaerville Town Board would jeopardize the removal of the History of their town and all its various Hamlets from the Albany Hilltowns web site. So I would implore all Hilltown residents and particularly those living in the Town of Rensselaerville who feel that this should not be allowed to happen to voice their concerns to the Rensselaerville Town Supervisor and Town Board members and perhaps they will reconsider their actions in this matter. Thank You"



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, 518.817.8720

Fees: Wed Pilates—\$7.00
All Others—\$12.00
10 Classes—\$100.00

CAREY INSTITUTE
FOR GLOBAL GOOD



Join the festivities
throughout the
village on Saturday,
December 5th!

Library Greenery Sale
(9am - 2pm)

Lunch at
The Palmer House
(11am - 1 pm)

Hilltown Artists Holiday
Exhibition at the
Guggenheim Pavilion,
Carey Institute
(11am - 3 pm)

Firehouse Kids
Christmas Party w/ Santa
(3:30 pm, Santa at 5 pm)

Lighting of Christmas
Tree in the Village
(5:30pm)

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!

HILLTOWN ARTISTS HOLIDAY EXHIBITION

10 Hilltown artists will have,
for the month of December,
several pieces of their
original art on display and
available for the holidays:
paintings, photography,
sculptures, and more!

RECEPTION

Saturday, December 5, 2015
at the Guggenheim Gallery
from 11 AM to 3PM

BEER! ~~Community Eggnog Party~~

You are invited to
Helderberg Brewery's pre-opening
beer tasting and eggnog party on
Saturday, December 5, 2015
from 2PM to 4PM at
the Huyck House. Free!

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**Last Collection Hours:** Mon-Fri 5:00pm; Sat 12:00pm**Lobby Hours:** Mon-Sat 12:01am - 11:59pm**Last Collection Hours:** Mon-Fri 4:15pm Sat 11:15am**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**Last Collection Hours:** Mon-Fri 4:15pm; Sat 11:30am**Lobby Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm; Sat 8:00am - 11:30am**Last Collection Hours:** Mon-Fri 4:15pm Sat 11:15am**RVFD News****Upcoming Events:**

- Saturday, December 5th – Children’s Holiday Party at the Rensselaerville Fire House. Party begins at 3:30 with crafts, snacks and music. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at 5:00 pm followed by a hayride with Santa to light the village tree!

Holiday Safety Tips:

- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness and water fresh trees daily.
- Place trees away from heaters, fireplaces and candles and keep pathways to exits clear.
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from curtains, furniture or holiday decorations.
- Keep matches and lighters out of sight and reach of children.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan with 2 ways out and identify outside meeting place.
- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Encourage smokers to do so outside and drink responsibly.
- Be a good neighbor and check on your elderly neighbors.
- **Are your house numbers easily visible? Do your children know how to dial 9-1-1?**

The members of the Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank you for your continued support. A special thank you goes out to our fellow firefighters, police enforcement and military personnel that are serving and away from their family. From all of us, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Saturday
December 5, 2015
GREENERY SALE

Rensselaerville Library

9am-2pm

Trees (local from Medusa)

Wreaths

Vendors

Local Business Information

Cookie Sale

Used Book Sale

Cookie Decorating for Kids

Palmer House Café

Open for Lunch (11-1pm)

Rensselaerville Library

1459 County Route 351

Rensselaerville, NY 12147

797-3949

www.RensselaervilleLibrary.org



Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department

Children's Holiday Party

starts @ 3:30, Santa @ 5 & Tree Lighting @ 5:30

Library News



Library Staff

Director - Kimberly Graff
director@rensselaervillelibrary.org

Assistant - Katie Caprio
library@rensselaervillelibrary.org

Pages

Madeline Ouellette
Emileigh Tanner
Leah Waldron

Library Board of Trustees

President

Dale Dorner
Connie Kudlack

Vice President

Mark Lewis

Secretary

Paul Kelly

Treasurer

Scott Kunkler

Trustees

Janet Acker
Mary Carney
Sharon Costello
JR Delia
John Gordon
Deb Kropp

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

Upcoming Library Events

The Annual Greenery Sale at the Library. Saturday, December 5, 9-2pm. Wreaths, trees, and local vendors. Fresh cut trees from Medusa. Homemade cookie sale. Cookie decorating for kids. Used book sale. Please contact the Library if you are interested in being a vendor. Vendors may also go to this link and fill out the form <http://goo.gl/forms/U5ORh4e1vH>

Poetry Tuesday evenings at 7pm on December 8 and 22. Come share your work, receive feedback and spend time working on your own project. The Poetry group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month downstairs in the Library. For questions please contact Tom Corrado at tjc123@midtel.net

Thursday, December 10th join the writing group at 7pm to share your work and receive feedback or just spend a few hours working on your own project. The group meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month downstairs in the Library.

Saturday, December 12th at 11am learn more about essential oils with Karen Chenel and doTERRA. Essential oil use has spiked in popularity as many people have made the choice to use natural products. Essential oils have become common in household products, treating everything from: anxiety, allergies, digestive ailments, and chronic pain. Their multiple uses have added to their popularity, potentially benefiting users physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. All participants will make a headache blend to take with them. Program is free but please register so we can plan accordingly with supplies.

The Library Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14 at 7pm. Please note that due to the holiday this is a change to the regular third Monday schedule. All Board meetings are held at the Library and are open to the public.

The Library Coloring Book Club for adults will meet on Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 pm. Coloring is a great way to relax and give our creativity a boost. Coloring books designed especially for adults have more intricate designs and patterns. Coloring pages, colored pencils, markers and crayons will be available or bring your own.

The Library will be closed on Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th for the Christmas holiday and on Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1st for the New Year. We will open with regular hours on Saturday, December 26th and Saturday, January 2nd.

Reptile Adventure, Wednesday, December 30th at 3pm. Reptile Adventure is an educational organization that brings live animals into libraries. This program is Free thanks to funds raised at the Lemonade Stand during the 2014 Cycling Festival. The Library will open early for this program.

Did you miss out on the IndieGoGo Haiku Project campaign? Well the

(Continued on page 32)

Library News

(Continued from page 31)

shipment of bandannas (\$20) and dish towels (\$30) has arrived at the Library. Those of you who ordered items they will be on their way to you shortly. Great idea for holiday gifts and you are supporting the Library 100% with every purchase.

The Board of Trustees of the Rensselaerville Library is updating the long-range plan that will guide future development of the Library. In order for the plan to reflect your ideas and interests, we ask that you take a few minutes to complete the survey. Follow this link to complete the survey online <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RensselaervilleLibrary> This survey is also being mailed to the residents of the Town of Rensselaerville. Please complete your survey online or return the print version at one of the drop boxes located at the Library, Town Hall or Hilltown Café. We will collect responses until December 31, 2015.

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.

Home-School families are meeting at the Library on Tuesday, December 1 at 11am in the Library's downstairs Arts & Crafts Room.

Are you shopping on Amazon this holiday season? Consider supporting the Library through Amazon's Smile Program. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and select the charity you would like to support. The Amazon Smile Foundation donates 0.5% of the eligible purchase price. Thank you to all who have already selected the Library.

*Library Hours: Closed Sunday and Monday
Tuesday & Wednesday: 10am – Noon & 4– 9pm
Thursday & Friday: 4– 9pm
Saturday: 9– 1pm*



Library News

Middleburgh Library

Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Drop-In Story Time	10:45am
Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Mahjong Mania	1:00 pm
Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Insight Meditation	5:15pm
Dec 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Chair Yoga (CR)	9:00 am
Dec 2, 9, 16	Discovery Wednesday	11:00am
Dec 2, 9, 16	Wednesday Matinee	1:00pm
Dec 2, 16, 30	Kundalini Yoga	5:00 pm
Dec 3, 10, 17	Beginning Tai Chi	10:00-11:00
Dec 3, 10, 17	Advanced Tai Chi	11:00-12:00
Dec 3, 10, 17	Knitting Circle	7:00 pm
Dec 4	Dinner & a Movie: Inside Out	5:30 pm
Dec 5	Holiday Craft Bonanza for Kids	1:00pm
Dec 11	Miracle on Main Street	5:30 pm
Dec 14	Board of Trustees Meeting	6:30 pm
Dec 15	When Voices Meet	7:00 pm
Dec 18	Not-So-Quiet Concert	7:00pm

For information about any of the events listed above, please click on the link below. It will take you to the Middleburgh Library events calendar where you will find descriptions of these events.

<http://engagedpatrons.org/EventsCalendar.cfm?SiteID=8616&thisMonth=12&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
Thursday 10:00 - 4:00 & 6:30 - 8:30
Friday & Sunday - closed
Saturday 9:00 - 2:00*



Greenville Library

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Dec 1, 8, 15, 23, 30 | Toddler Time w/Devon Balta
(For infants, toddlers, preschoolers) | 11:00-11:45am |
| Dec 2, 9, 16 23, 30 | Greenville Quilters
Meet in small community room . All welcome.
No experience necessary, will teach. | 1:00-3:00pm |
| Dec 4, 11, 18 | Toddler Time Two w/Devon Balta
(For infants, toddlers, preschoolers) | 10:00-10:45am |
| Dec 10 | Greene County Camera Club
(Basement level)
Competition night that includes beginners and
advanced members.
Please join us and see how it works. | 6:45pm |

Contact Information: Greenville Public Library
11177 Route 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



Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

If you have any questions, please call: (518) 447-7323.

Emergency HEAP can often help people who are confronted with heat-related emergencies, such as a lack of fuel, a utility shut-off, or inoperable/unsafe heating equipment.

If you are eligible for HEAP, we encourage you to apply.

We have information on this page about income eligibility limits, where to apply, and how to download a printable application: <http://www.albanycounty.com/Government/Departments/DepartmentofSocialServices/ProgramsandServices/HEAP.aspx>

For additional information, you contact us the Albany County HEAP Hotline at (518) 447-7323 or by email at energy@albanycounty.com

Application for HEAP can be made electronically at www.mybenefits.ny.gov

Hilltown Home-School Families

A group of Rensselaerville Home-School parents (and one grandparent) met last week to discuss ways in which the library could be utilized for Home-School families. The group decided to take advantage of the beautiful facilities that the Rensselaerville Library offers in order to provide their home-school children with an opportunity to socialize/play/learn, and to provide themselves with an opportunity to share experiences, expertise, and resources. Since this is a new venture, the group welcomes new members and all input and ideas.

The group will meet every Tuesday from 11-12:30 in the library's downstairs arts & crafts room. At each meeting, parents are asked to come prepared to lead a fun "activity station" for the children. Among the ideas for "stations" that came up at the first meeting were: Olympics of the Mind: Building A Spaghetti Bridge; an art or craft experience; a poetry/creative writing experience; a music experience; a board game; a hike; playground time; etc. The group also discussed bringing in retired teachers to teach "specialty classes," such as Conversational Spanish or yoga, if there is sufficient interest. We also plan to talk to the Huyck Preserve about some outdoor-related educational opportunities for home-school children.

If you'd like to join us, just show up Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 11:00 a.m. with your home-school children an/or call Kim, the library director at 797-3949. Rensselaerville Library is located at 1459 County Route 351, Rensselaerville, NY 12147. www.RensselaervilleLibrary.org



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 Town Hall at 239-4225 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

On The Calendar

Dec 1		Seniors' Holiday Dinner Contact Bill Moore for more information.	Quarry Steakhouse
Dec 5	9am-3pm	Christmas Rummage Sale	Medusa Church
Dec 5	9am-2pm	Library Greenery Sale See flyer on page 30 of this newsletter	
Dec 5	2pm-4pm	Children's Christmas Party	Medusa Firehouse
Dec 5	3:30pm	Children's Holiday Party Crafts, snacks and music.	Rensselaerville Fire House
	5:00 pm	Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive. Followed by a hayride with Santa to light the village tree!	
Dec 6	11:00am	Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services All are Welcome!	
Dec 8	7:00pm	Town Board Work Meeting	Town Hall
Dec 10	7:00pm	Town Board Regular Monthly Meeting	Town Hall
Dec 13	11:00am	Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services All are Welcome!	
Dec 19	7am-11am	Medusa Fire Department Breakfast Free will offering	Medusa Firehouse
Dec 19	8am-12noon	Christmas Rummage Sale	Medusa Church
Dec 20	11:00am	Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services All are Welcome!	
Dec 21	11:48pm	Winter officially begins! According to <i>The Old Farmer's Almanac</i>	
Dec 27	11:00am	Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday Services All are Welcome!	

Please note that copies of the Town Newsletter are in box in front of Medusa Fire House.



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 McCormick	clerk1@rensselaerville.com lmccormick@rensselaerville.com
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



***Rensselaerville Democratic Social Club & Greenville Democrats
Holiday Dinner***

Maple Inn on the Lake ~141 Warner's Lake Road ~ Berne, NY



All are welcome to join us!

Menu

Hors d'oeuvres

~~~

***Buffet: Sausage & Peppers,***

***Swedish Meatballs***

***Tortellini***

***Chicken Parmigiana***

***Salad & Rolls***

~~~

Dessert

Coffee, Tea, Soda

**** Cash Bar throughout the evening ****

In order to assist with food planning, kindly acknowledge your intention to attend to:

Jeff Pine: 239-4335; jpine@townofnewscotland.com or jpine02071955@gmail.com

Kathy Hallenbeck: 797-3174; kfhallenbeck@gmail.com

REMEMBER: The More the Merrier!!!



The Back Page

Contributors:

Kimberly Graff
William Moore
Susan M. Story
Kristina Tanner

Editors:

Nancy Class
Marie Dermody
Georgette Koenig



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.



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