A regular meeting of the Ontario Town Board was called to order by Supervisor John Smith at 7:00 p.m. in the Ontario Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Smith, Council members: Jason Ruffell, Frank Robusto, Joseph Catalano, Richard Leszyk, Superintendent of Highways Marilee Stollery, Justice Paul Sucher, Parks & Recreation Director William Riddell and Town Clerk Debra DeMinck.

20 residents and visitors were present at portions of the meeting.

Mr. Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Revisions to the Agenda** - A motion was made by Mr. Ruffell, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve the agenda as presented. 5 Ayes 0 Nays MOTION CARRIED

**Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting(s)** – A motion was made by Mr. Ruffell, seconded by Mr. Leszyk, to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2017 meeting as presented. 5 Ayes 0 Nays MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Leszyk, seconded by Mr. Robusto, to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2017 meeting as presented. 4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Abstention (Ruffell) MOTION CARRIED

**Correspondence** – None

**New Business** – A motion was made by Mr. Leszyk, seconded by Mr. Ruffell, to adopt the following proclamation:

**RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF ONTARIO**

WHEREAS, Reginald P. Higgins II, began his employment with the Ontario Justice Court as a Justice on January 1, 1985, and

WHEREAS, Reginald P. Higgins II, after 33 years of dedicated service to the Town of Ontario and its residents, the longest sitting Town Justice in the history of the town, has elected to retire on December 31, 2017, and

WHEREAS, Reginald P. Higgins II, has attended and successfully completed annual training classes issued by the New York State Magistrates Association, and

WHEREAS, Reginald P. Higgins II, has been a member of the Wayne County Magistrates Association, and

WHEREAS, Reginald P. Higgins II, has been a member of the New York State Magistrates Association, and

WHEREAS, Reginald P. Higgins II, has been a member of the National Judges Association,

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of Reginald P. Higgins II’s contribution and service to the Town of Ontario, the County of Wayne, and the State of New York, BE IT, THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Ontario Town Board commends him for his service and dedication, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this RESOLUTION be entered into the minutes of the December 26, 2017 Ontario Town Board Meeting and that a certified copy of this resolution be presented to Justice Higgins. 5 Ayes 0 Nays RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Supervisor Smith read the following Press Release.

The Town of Ontario has been engaged in a long and detailed investigation into water management practices. Actual water losses were first noticed in 2014 and were not successfully stemmed until 2015. The Town was assisted in this investigation by our own employees, a private consulting firm, New York State Comptroller’s Office, New York State Police and the Wayne county District Attorney’s Office.

A criminal matter related to this investigation is still pending. The Comptroller’s Report of findings has yet to be released. Our internal analysis of revenue loss as a result of billing practices is nearing completion. Initial results show that a single large water user was significantly overbilled by nearly $500,000 during a period of time. The user is aware of the situation and is working with the Town of Ontario towards resolution. Some
residential customers did experience billing anomalies but were otherwise largely unaffected. Further comment at this time may un-necessarily jeopardize the orderly conclusion of this collective effort to stabilizing water billing standards and practices.

At no time was water quality ever in question thanks to the professional diligence of our licensed plant operators. Ontario Water Utilities is now fully compliant and on tract to implement management best practices.

Going forward, I am confident that the Ontario Town Board will be fully transparent with all details of this situation at an appropriate time in the near future. John Smith, Ontario Town Supervisor

A motion was made by Mr. Leszyk, seconded by Mr. Ruffell, to approve the four (4) day vacation carry over request from Paul Liess, Business Manager, as requested in a memo dated December 22, 2017. 5 Ayes 0 Nays MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Ruffell, seconded by Mr. Robusto, to approve the five (5) day vacation carry over request from William Riddell, Parks and Recreation Director, as requested in memo 42-2017. 5 Ayes 0 Nays MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Ruffell, to authorize the purchase of two computers for the Parks and Recreation Department’s Community Center for an amount not to exceed $2,000 from budget code A7150.4 as requested by William Riddell, Parks and Recreation Director, in memo 41-2017. 5 Ayes 0 Nays MOTION CARRIED

Appointments/Resignations – A motion was made by Mr. Robusto, seconded by Mr. Ruffell, to add Tyler Viele to the Parks and Recreation payroll as recreational with a start date of November 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018 at $9.70 per hour with no benefits as requested by William Riddell, Parks and Recreation Director in memo 36-2017. This will be from budget codes A7310.1 and A7150.1. 5 Ayes 0 Nays MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Robusto, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to table the motion to approve the hiring of Valerie Smith as a full time Account Clerk for Watershed effective January 1, 2018 as a full time member of the Ontario Clerical Unit with all salary increases and benefits per the Town of Ontario Clerical Unit contract. This is provisional and would be a lateral move with no loss of time and is requested by the Superintendent of Highways, Marilee Stollery, in memo 17-25. Roll Call Vote: Catalano-Aye, Ruffell- Nay, Smith-Nay, Robusto-Aye, Leszyk-Nay 2-3 MOTION FAILED

Board members had a brief discussion regarding this position. A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Ruffell, to approve the hiring of Valerie Smith as a full time Account Clerk for Watershed effective January 1, 2018 as a full time member of the Ontario Clerical Unit with all salary increases and benefits per the Town of Ontario Clerical Unit contract. This is provisional and would be a lateral move with no loss of time and is requested by the Superintendent of Highway, Marilee Stollery, in memo 17-25. Roll Call Vote: Catalano-Nay, Ruffell-Aye, Smith-Aye, Robusto-Nay, Leszyk-Aye 3-2 MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Mr. Robusto, seconded by Mr. Catalano, to approve a temporary pay increase for Tracy Galusha and JoAnn Amico as these two employees will be filling in at the Business Office for both Payroll and Accounts Payable needs. Tracy Galusha’s pay would go from $15.38 per hour to $17.38 per hour effective January 1, 2018 through training and until the office is staffed appropriately. JoAnn Amico’s pay would go from the 2018 proposed rate of $14.46 per hour to $15.50 per hour for filling in at the Business Office. After a brief discussion by board members, no action was taken at this time.
Board reports – Mr. Catalano gave an update on the County Planning Board meeting. He also thanked Mr. Smith for his support as a member of the Wayne County Planning Board and as a member of the town’s collective bargaining team.

Mr. Ruffell stated it was his last meeting after 12 years. It has been a good experience and he has enjoyed it.

Mr. Robusto wished Mr. Ruffell and Mr. Smith good luck in their future endeavors.

Mr. Leszyk thanked Mr. Smith for his help and stated as a town we are in a much better place.

Approval of Claims – The abstract of claims for December 26, 2017 including vouchers #3124 through #3270 (3175, 3226 and 3227 used by the Business Office) with a grand total of $77,348.52 and to authorize the Supervisor to issue payments for same was approved by three signatures from Supervisor Smith, Mr. Ruffell and Mr. Leszyk.

Adjourn – A motion was made by Mr. Robusto, seconded by Mr. Leszyk, to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. 5 Ayes 0 Nays MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Debra DeMinck
Ontario Town Clerk

The above minutes will become official upon approval of the town board.