

**TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2013**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Port Ewen, New York at 7:30 PM with the following persons in attendance:

**Supervisor John Coutant
Councilperson Gloria VanVliet
Councilperson Wayne Freer
Councilperson Donna McAuley
Councilperson Kyle Barnett**

Recording Administrator: Diane L. McCord, Town Clerk

Supervisor John Coutant called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Public Comment: None

1. Rules of Order – 2013 Annual Meeting – Association of Towns

Each Town Board Member was given a packet of information from the Association of Towns. The Annual Association of Towns' Meeting will be held in New York City on February 20th. A delegate is requested from each town. The Board members agreed this was a great expense. Last year Randolph Horner attended the meeting on the town's behalf but at his own expense.

2. License Renewal for Antivirus Software

Kevin Rentfrow, our computer person, gave us bids for license renewal for our anti-virus programs for our computers. The following information was given:

Kaspersky Business Space Security - \$1,500 for three years
Bitdender Small Business Pack - \$900 for three years
Secure Anywhere Business – Endpoint Protection - \$1,340.96 for three years
Avast Endpoint Protection - \$1,007.84 for three years
VIPRE - \$\$427.72 for three years.

Kevin recommended VIPRE and the Town Board agreed.

3. Department of State – Competitive Grants through Local Government

Secretary of State Cesar A. Perales wrote to local governments in regard to grants available through the Local Government Efficiency Program. Assistance can be given to:

Consolidate and reorganize local government structures, functionally consolidate services between local governments, revise city or county charters to include functional consolidation, implement shared or cooperative services between local governments and regionalize the delivery of services.

Implement the internal reorganization of service delivery for local governments that have had an operating deficit in each of the last three years or that have been unable to limit growth in the property tax levy to fewer than two-percent in each of the last three years.

The consolidation of our kennel with other municipalities was one consideration.

4. Scenic Hudson Winter Fun Day – January 21, 2013

The town received a communication from Scenic Hudson Senior Land Project Manager Matt Shipkey regarding an activity at Esopus Meadows Preserve on January 21, 2013. There will be a Winter Fun Day at Esopus Meadows Point Preserve where children can enjoy winter fun activities from 10 AM until 1 PM. There will be guided snowshoe treks, tips on building snow shelters, and ice skating as well as other outdoor play for the whole family.

5. John & Antonia Remsen – 123 East Main St. – Tree Removal

Mrs. Remsen stopped in the office on January 14, 2013. She wanted the Board to know that they have not forgotten about getting back to the Board but her father passed away suddenly and they have been dealing with this. The Remsen's have no intentions of doing anything further with their property. She wanted to know if the Town Board would like this in writing. She also stated she was under the impression that the Town Board might be willing to split the amount for the removal of the tree which was \$875.00. She requested that someone get back to them and let them know what the Town Board decided.

The Town Board discussed the matter and they are willing to pay half of the \$875.00 for the removal of the tree. We are interested in selling the paper street adjacent to the Remsen property. Supervisor Coutant will write to the Remsen's about paying half of the tree costs and to ask if they are interested in the paper street. Naturally, this would be advertised and the bidding process extended to everyone.

6. 2013 Transfer Station Stickers (still not in)

In August and September we began asking to have the 2013 stickers made up so they would be available in December and January of 2013. Councilperson Gloria VanVliet thought there are too many problems with having Kurt Dankelmann order the stickers. Next year we will order the stickers and bill Dankelmann so that we have the stickers on time.

7. Dog Kennel

The Supervisor was surprised at the discussion on the dog kennel at the last Town Board Meeting. He wondered if we should rescind our signed dog contract with the Town of Lloyd? If the kennel is closed what will we do with Esopus dogs? The Supervisor would like to visit competitive kennels that are not under the guidelines of NYS Agriculture and Markets.

We have no dogs at our kennel at present. Other dog kennels are full. Where are the dogs going? Deputy Clerk Holly Netter said Esopus dogs are returned to their owners within two to ten days but the average stay is three days.

Councilperson Kyle Barnett asked what is the cost of running our dog kennel? Our Dog Control Officer wrote a memo stating the dog kennels are slow in the winter. She stated there is no place to board the dogs and other municipalities are in the same position. In the Town of Marlboro they pay \$22 a day to board the dog. The SPCA will take only adoptable dogs after they are kept for a seven day period.

It was decided to ask our Dog Control Officer to poll other municipalities and find out how many dogs they have and the cost to board their dogs. The Clerk will call our DCO.

8. Solar Energy Contract Review

The recent contract received from Promenade Capital Corporation was reviewed by Attorney Paul Kellar and he had many concerns. The Town Board had not received a copy of our Attorney's letter. We will ask Randolph Horner to email the letter to the Town Board for their review.

9. Diane Dindruff – Environmental Board

Diane Dindruff had questions concerning the Environmental Board's budget.

10. Resolution – NYSDOT Stripping Change – Left Turn East Main Street

A resolution will be made at the January 17th Town Board Meeting to Investigate a left turn lane on Broadway to East Main Street due to traffic backups. When the road was designed by New York State Dept. of Transportation, we did not have the new bank nor the improved Stewarts'.

Councilperson Gloria VanVliet spoke about a problem with the driveway entrance to Gilpatric-VanVliet Funeral Home. NYSDOT will allow Harry VanVliet to fix the driveway entrance.

11. NYSDOT Intersection Warning Sign – Route 9W/ Mount Academy

A letter was received from Mark D. Morano, Civil Engineer I NYSDOT stating:

“A formal investigation on the section of Route US 9W adjacent to the Mount Academy has been completed. Passing zones are provided at locations where conditions allow motorist to pass in a reasonable manner. We found that the existing roadway geometrics and physical conditions on, and adjacent to, this section of Route US 9W are appropriate and reasonable for motorists to pass.”

The NYSDOT also stated “We do find that it is beneficial to install an intersection warning sign with a supplemental SCHOOL panel on both Route US 9W approaches to the Mount Academy driveway. These will serve to emphasize the location of the school entrance/exit to motorists.”

Supervisor Coutant will call Mr. Morano to ask him if the signs flashing signs can be moved from Cabrini to the Mount? It was suggested that it may be too expensive to do the electrical wiring on the Flashing School Zone Warning Device..

12. Miscellaneous Items Discussed

- a. There are two applications for Court Bailiff and we have some vacancies to fill. We will interview the applicants at the next Workshop Meeting.
- b. Councilperson Kyle Barnett spoke to the lawyer representing the people who own the house next to the parking lot at Ross Park. We have been trying to get a lot line adjustment so that we can purchase the parking lot from Presentation Church, however, there were complications with the ownership. This problem should be resolved within the next week or two. Councilperson Barnett will follow up.

13. Executive Session - Community of Churches PILOT

A Motion to enter into Executive Session was made at 8:45 PM by Councilperson Kyle Barnett and seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

A Motion to adjourn from Executive Session was made at 9:02 PM by Councilperson Wayne Freer and seconded by Councilperson Gloria VanVliet. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

14. Adjournment

A Motion to adjourn at 9:07 PM was made by Supervisor John Coutant and seconded by Councilperson Kyle Barnett. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

**Diane L. McCord
Town Clerk, CMC, RMC**