

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

January 19, 2016

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday January 19, 2016 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Ulster Park, New York at 7:30 PM with the following people in attendance:

Supervisor Diane McCord
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
Councilperson Wayne Freer
Councilperson Les Kalmus
Councilperson Kyle Barnett - absent

Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk

Supervisor Diane McCord opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

FLAG POLE LIGHTING

The current lights that illuminate the flag in front of Town hall need to be replaced. New inserts for the current lights would cost \$1000. Dan Vedder head of Buildings and Grounds suggested a spot light which could attach to the current street light and would cost about \$250. Councilperson Freer asked about the Halo style Commercial Solar light he had suggested at a prior meeting which cost less than \$200. Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet said she would like to read some reviews on the product to see if it held enough power to illuminate the flag for the entire night. Councilperson Wayne Freer will email the solar light information to Holly who will see that Dan receives a copy of the information. This item will be discussed again at another meeting.

RECREATION/MAINTENANCE BUILDING LOCATION

Supervisor McCord once again checked with the Building Inspector, Tim Keefe, who still believes it would be cost prohibitive to build the new maintenance building behind the Town Hall. It would cost too much to bring the water, sewer and electric to the back of the property from 9w.

Councilperson Freer said he is opposed to the building being erected in the front corner of the property. He thinks there is other Town property that the building can be built on.

The size of the Schryver Street property is a question that needs to be determined. The current building is being used by the Port Ewen Water and Sewer Department. Councilperson Freer has visited the site but was unsure where the property lines fell. He believes there is adequate space to accommodate the new structure and the property has water, septic, electric and oil used for heating. Councilperson Freer also suggested using the property at the Transfer Station and there would be room for expansion in the future possibly for the Highway to house equipment at the lower end of Town. Concerns of the Transfer Station being a remote location and more costly to put in water and septic was discussed.

If there is no other solution Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet said they will have to go with the location in front of Town Hall because the building is needed. Supervisor McCord said trees can be planted to buffer the new building and eventually the structure would be covered. The original intent was to place the building on the Town Hall property so it can be funded from the Capital account and proceeds from the sale of the old building would also be used to offset the cost.

TRANSFER STATION

Curt Dankelman has been having trouble with the current company that removes the tires from the Transfer Station. He will be using Bob's Tires of Connecticut as of February 1st. Councilperson Freer will check on how many tires are left at the Transfer Station.

KATHY ROBINSON – HARVEST MOON DANCE – TABLED KATHY DID NOT SHOW

TECH BUILDING SERVICES POSTPONED TO FEBRUARY 16, 2016

TBS was unable to make this meeting and has been rescheduled for February 16, 2016.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Letters have been mailed out to solicit interest in serving on the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Names of several people were discussed at a prior meeting and Supervisor McCord has sent a letter to see if they are interested in serving on the committee. Councilperson Van Vliet said she was surprised the letters went out since Councilperson Barnett said the consultant we choose would give guidance on how many and who should serve on this type of committee. As mentioned before Scenic Hudson has offered their mappers to assist the Town. A meeting of Scenic Hudson, Greenway and local waterfront revitalization committee was suggested to see if there is grant opportunity that would encompass the whole thing. Susan Cahill from the Planning Board in City of Kingston shared a list of the lowest bidders they had for their comprehensive plan which included Fairweather Consulting, River Street, BFJ Planning, Shuster & Turner, Greenplan Inc, Barton & Logudice H2M, and Gilmour Planning.

RFP FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONSULTANT (SCENIC HUDSON & UC PLANNING)

A RFP for will need to be advertised. Supervisor McCord will see if she can get a copy of the RFP from the City of Kingston.

TOWN REZONING FEES – DRAFT RESOLUTION

A copy of the Resolution to implement rezoning fees was given to all Board Members. It will be voted on at the Town Board meeting.

HABER PERMISSIVE REFFERENDUM

The 30 Permissive Referendum has passed for the purchase of the portion of the paper Street (Grove Street). We received the check in the amount of \$250 from Bill & Cindy Haber which has been turned over to the bookkeeper for deposit. The property description needs to be sent to Paul Kellar so a deed can be drawn up.

DICK WILLIAMS LANE / PILOT LETTER – BIRCHEZ

Steven Aaron called Diane to say he still needed to get a few items together and therefore was not going to be able to make the meeting. Another check list of what needs to be done has been given to Mr. Aaron. Mr. Aaron and his new chief of staff, Nicky Woener will work on the list and he hoped he may be able to make the next meeting. Supervisor McCord also gave the Board a copy of the Birchez at Esopus Housing Tax Abatement Agreement which was sent to Mr. Aaron on January 12, 2016

PRESENTATION CHURCH PROPERTY

A request was made to have another copy of contract emailed to the archdiocese for their review.

SOLAR RANDOLPH

There will be a company coming to make a presentation on January 20th at 9am for the Transfer Station Solar project at the transfer Station.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN & BOCES FOR SHELTERING SITE

The Contract between Ulster County Boces and Town of Esopus to use the Town Hall Community Room as a Secondary Sheltering site has been fully executed and proof of insurance has been submitted.

ANNA DEVINE SCHOOL

The application and fee for the proposed renovation of the Anna Devine School has been received by the Planning Board. Supervisor McCord said their plans require a zoning change which takes time. The developers need to know whether the change is possible by May. Supervisor McCord said it is something they must keep on top of.

SEAN MURPHY ESQ - DANGEROUS DOG

Sean Murphy has been hired to deal with a dangerous dog case.

UNION NEGOTIATIONS

Union Negotiations are being held January 29th at 9am at Town Hall. Supervisor McCord and Councilperson Barnett will continue the negotiations. Supervisor McCord said she has reached out to James Roemer and he is willing to assist them in the negotiations.

CODE REVISIONS - MYLES PUTMAN

Myles is still working on the zoning revisions and local laws that need to be changed. Councilperson Freer asked if Supervisor McCord would check on the progress he has made rezoning the 9w corridor. Councilperson Van Vliet said she is not sure whether that request had been put on the back burner.

ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS

Supervisor McCord said she would like to attend the Association of Towns meeting with Deputy Supervisor Kathy Quick for one day. Councilperson Van Vliet has attended in the past and she felt more than one day was needed. Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet suggested staying Monday & Tuesday. Topic will be discussed further at another meeting.

RESIGNATION - KEVIN BRYANT, SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

Kevin Bryant has tendered his resignation letter. He has accepted a new position for the City of Kingston and is unable to continue as Special Prosecutor for the Town of Esopus. He has arranged for coverage in the Court allowing the Board time to find a replacement. In his letter he recommended three attorneys whom he thought would serve the Town well. Town Clerk will advertise the vacancy in the Daily Freeman and will send correspondence to the Ulster County Bar Association. Resumes will be directed to Holly Netter, Town Clerk and interviews will be set up for the second workshop of February.

RESIGNATION LARRY VAN VLIET - WATER SEWER BOARD

Larry Van Vliet has submitted a resignation letter to the Water Board. The Town Clerk will run an ad seeking volunteers for the Environmental Board, Assessment Board of Reviews and Water Sewer Boards in the Daily Freeman.

RESIGNATION MICHAEL MINOR – PLANNING BOARD

Michael Minor has resigned from the Planning Board. Robert Brakman had been interviewed previously for a prior vacancy to the Planning Board. At that time there was only one vacancy available. Mr. Brakman is still interested in joining the Planning Board and has already attended some of their meetings. All Board members were aware of Mr. Brakman’s qualifications and thought he would be an asset the Board. A resolution to appoint Mr. Brakman to the Planning Board will be presented at the January Town Board Meeting.

TOWN JEEP – UNSAFE CONDITION

The Town Jeep used for running to the post office and bank is beyond repair. The Jeep will have to go up for auction with a reserve equal to the salvage value.

PERSONAL VEHICLE USE FOR OFFICE ERRANDS

Board members asked why we can’t use the other Town jeep for running to the bank and other town use. Councilperson Freer said maybe we have to look at what errands are being run and see if they can be cut back. He asked why the payroll has to be delivered to the credit unions on a weekly basis verses processing them Direct Deposit. The Bookkeeper will be asked if we can send that check electronically to those banks and why we are not able to offer direct deposit through Green County. Supervisor McCord will ask the Building Department if it is possible to use the jeep and work out a schedule. The Assessors also utilize the Town Jeep.

ZBA MARYANNE STACCIO – UNION CENTER RD.

The Staccio family has a case before the ZBA. The property is on Ulster Ave and has a lot of land locked property. Myles told Supervisor McCord there is a new rule regarding the open development area in New York State which gives the person the ability to develop a land locked parcel with the access on an easement. It is unclear what Myles’ position is on this matter. Fred Zimmer, Planning Board member said it opens the Town up for liability of maintaining the road should a neighbor not make the path passable. If Mrs. Staccio does not get the variance she may ask the Town Board for assistance. Councilperson Freer recalls in the courts a few years ago; if the State and Town enacts this rule, neighbors would not have any other choice but to give an easement. Fred said a lot of our land locked properties are set deep. The properties have rock, swamp, and grade topography to deal with and would be a pandora’s box. The Board will leave it open for discussion and hope Councilperson Barnett may be knowledgeable in this area.

CLOUGH HARBOUR & ASSOCIATES AGREEMENT

The contract has been received and signed according to the organization meeting on January 1, 2016.

RENEWAL MARSHALL & STERLING CONTRACT 2016

The contract has also been received and signed according to the Organization Meeting on January 1, 2016.

NIMIR

NYMIR has recommended the Municipality contemplate passing a resolution to ban weapons in the workplace. Supervisor McCord asked how the Board felt about people carrying guns on Town Property without the recommended training. Councilperson Freer said he did not have a problem with police or peace officers, the more the better. If they take the training they would be entitled. There are many different levels of restrictions. The Board needed time to review the information. February 1st the topic will be revisited. No restrictions can be placed without a resolution. A review of our cyber security will also be conducted to make sure everything is up to par.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING REFORM OF NYS PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING- TABLED UNTIL 2/1/16

The question was asked where the Resolution originated. It was a pending item from Councilperson Barnett who was absent from this meeting. The Board will review and talk about it at the next workshop on February 1, 2016.

RFP FOR TRANSFER STATION

Councilperson Van Vliet reminded everyone the RFP for operation of the Transfer Station was due February 1, 2016 at 11:00 am. Holly Netter, Town Clerk, advertised the ad 3 times in the Times Union, Times Harold Records, Poughkeepsie Journal and Daily Freeman. The information regarding the RFP was also placed on our website for easy access.

A discussion continued regarding the need for the Town to have a credit card. Once again we ran into an issue where the Town does not have a credit card and someone needed to use their personal account to make a purchase. This matter had been previously discussed and it was agreed a card is needed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON FREER TO DIRECT THE PROPER PEOPLE TO CONTACT THE BANK TO OBTAIN PAPERWORK TO GET A CREDIT CARD ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

SPINNENWEBER VS TOWN OF ESOPUS – EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR MCCORD AT 8:50PM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE LITIGATION TAX CERTIORARI –SPINNEWEBER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER AT 9:05 PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON LES KALMUS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER TO HIRE MIKE BURNHOLTZ TO RESEARCH AND PREPARE THE FIGURES FOR THE TAX CERTIORARI. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON VAN VLIET. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR DIANE MCCORD AT 9:06. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON LES KALMUS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

**Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk**