

## **TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING**

**February 18, 2014**

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday February 18, 2014 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 Kyle Barnett  
Councilperson Diane L. McCord**

**Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk**

**Evan Gallo - Assemblyman Cahill's office**

Supervisor John Coutant called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

**Public Comment:** None

### **Presentation Church – Parking Lot**

Evan Gallo from Assemblyman Cahill's office attended the meeting. Supervisor John Coutant recapped all of the information that was discussed about the parking lot in past meetings so Mr. Gallo was aware of what was going on. Supervisor Coutant was seeking Mr. Gallo's assistance in getting an update from Kevin Cahill's office to see if there is any chance there are funds to be used for the purchase of the parking lot. Evan Gallo will look into this and get back to us.

### **Dog Kennel – Heating Problem – Progress**

On the weekend of 2/15 there was no heat again at the kennel. The oil company went down and found a red stuffed teddy bear in the fan mechanism. How it got there is the question.

### **Volunteer Applications (set up interviews)**

The board will begin interviewing applicants at the next workshop meeting.

### **Resignation – Environmental Board**

Diane Dindruff gave her resignation from the Environmental Board.

### **Assemblyman Cahill Letter**

A letter was sent to Supervisor Coutant from Governor Cuomo asking for input on the key issues that will be impacting our municipality in the 2014 State Legislature Session. The Town Board will review the contents and give comments back. Several questions were posed to Evan Gallo to look into. One question asked was how the Governor's proposal of a real property Freeze allowing a personal income tax credit for homeowners whose school and local government stays within the 2% cap was going to work. Supervisor Coutant also questioned what happens if a town stays within 2% and your school does not. The letter also referenced the town receiving a sum of aid from the State in the amount of \$41,457 which the board questioned. The Route 28 Bridge located over the Esopus Creek that was referenced in the letter is not in our township. However, the Board pointed out the Rondout Creek Bridge project is the mutual project that affects the Town of Esopus and the City of Kingston. Evan Gallo will get back to the Town to clarify these questions.

### **Snow Blower Purchase – Highway Department**

Highway Superintendent Mike Cafaldo purchased a snowblower attachment for the bobcat. The blower will allow him to move snow to other locations and will help keep the roads passable in tight areas such as Connelly.

### **Zoning Board Chairperson**

Kathy Kiernan has accepted the position of Chairperson of the ZBA. A resolution will be made to appoint her at the next Town Board Meeting.

### **Miscellaneous items discussed**

Alison Bickert, town resident and Junior at SUNY Oswego majoring in Zoology sent a letter to the Town Board asking them to consider sponsoring her for an international trip to South Africa. There is no money in the budget for this request but the Individual Board members will consider making a personal donation.

A mistake was made listing \$1,000 for Office Supplies instead of \$10,000. A budget adjustment each month will be required.

Councilperson Kyle Barnett was contacted by members of the Bruderhof regarding the debacle in front of the Planning Board. Councilperson Barnett said he was not present at the meeting and was not sure how it got out of control. He expressed the Bruderhof was not happy about it. Councilperson Barnett called the building Inspector Tim Keefe to review the statute of law pertaining to this matter.

Councilperson Barnett cannot see how it could have been interpreted any other way than to favor the manufacturing which is what the Bruderhof proposed to do on their property. In fact the statute of the law reads almost as if it was written for the Bruderhof, defining what a religious community is. He does not understand how there could be so much confusion. Unfortunately the fiasco that happened at the

Planning Board meeting ended up adding thousands of dollars to their expense in attorney and consulting fees. In conclusion it was determined the Bruderhof was correct in their interpretation of the zoning code. The Bruderhof are good neighbors and want to do things by the book. They also want to pay tax on the manufacturing portion of their property. In addition they would also like to have a reception at the Mount Community for members of the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Town Board. They want everyone to feel comfortable with what they are doing.

Councilperson Wayne Freer was unhappy with the last workshop meeting and does not feel that anyone from a volunteer board should be coming in and dictating to the Town Board what can and can't be done. Councilperson Freer feels the resignation that was offered should have been put on the table and the Board should have voted on it. Supervisor Coutant reviewed the issues with the Planning Board that were discussed in the last workshop meeting. The Town Board would like to have a meeting with the Planning Board to discuss the Planning Board process with them so applicants have more clarification of their expectations.

**Adjournment**

**A Motion to adjourn at 8:45 PM was made by Supervisor John Coutant and seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

Holly A. Netter  
Town Clerk