

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

March 3, 2014

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Monday, March 3, 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 Van Vliet
Councilperson Wayne Freer
Councilperson Kyle Barnett
Councilperson Diane L. McCord

Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk

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

Public Comment: None

Letter to NYS Appealing decision on Union Center from James O'Connor

Supervisor John Coutant received a letter at his home address from James O'Conner dated February 24, 2014. The Anderson Center for Autism purchased a new site located at 283 Union Center Road. This topic has been subject of several past Town Board meetings. Supervisor Coutant reviewed the content of the letter with the Town Board. Mr. O'Conner sent a letter to the Acting Commissioner of New York State Office of Mental Health. In his letter he addressed his concerns and believes the site is in violation of the saturation provision of the Padavan Law. He also questions the blatant disregard to the community and municipality concerns that were expressed to the Anderson Center. Mr. O'Conner raises the question of oversaturation and he feels the Bruderhof Community should have been used in the saturation calculation. He writes to the NYS department of Mental Health and outlines the factors about group living. In a prior discussion with Paul Keller, the Town's attorney had determined the Bruderhof was a form of group living. However, it is not primarily comprised of disabled individuals. Mr. O'Conner sent a carbon copy of this letter to Supervisor Coutant, Councilperson Kyle Barnett, Ronald Rizzo, Governor Cuomo and the Executive Director of the Anderson Center for Autism - Neil J. Pollack.

Roof Collapse from snow on 113 East Main Street

An Order to Remedy Violation has been sent to Robert Levreault for the property located in Port Ewen at 113 East Main Street by Code Enforcement Officer, Timothy Keefe. A Public Hearing will need to be scheduled for April.

Zoning Board of Appeals candidate – Leslie Kalmus

Leslie Kalmus has withdrawn his application for the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Parking Lot Purchase Update

All paperwork has been sent to the New York State Dormitory Authority and Supervisor Coutant hopes to have a commitment from them in writing by the next Work Shop meeting. The Presentation Church has given a deadline of March 18, 2014 to the Town Board for a final decision on the purchase of the property located on Bowne Street. The Dormitory Authority is well aware of the deadline and said they will be able to comply with the request. They asked Supervisor Coutant to have a contract drawn. He made it clear to them he would not spend the taxpayers money to have a contract made until he has a written commitment of the grant approval from the Dormitory Authority.

Dog Kennel

Supervisor Coutant updated the board on regulations that have recently surfaced regarding the requirements needed to build a new kennel according to the New York State Ag and Markets division. Temperatures of 55 Degrees – 85 degrees must be maintained in the kennel to comply with current regulations. Supervisor Coutant will look at ventilation options and see how this can be obtained. Collie Brewer installs waste oil heaters and radiant heat. John will follow up with him to see what types of alternatives are available.

Executive Session Interviews for Volunteer Boards

A motion was made at 8:02 by Councilperson Wayne Freer to enter into executive session to interview Daniel Michaud and Brett Geherke for vacant seats on the Volunteer Boards. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Diane McCord.

A motion was made at 8:29 by Councilperson Wayne Freer to come out of executive session. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Diane McCord.

A motion was made by Supervisor John Coutant to appoint Daniel Michaud to the Town of Esopus Planning Board. The motion was seconded by Wayne Freer. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Town Clerk, Holly Netter was asked to call to inform Mr. Michaud of his appointment to the Planning Board.

Marshall & Sterling Insurance

During the union negotiations with the Highway department and Water/Sewer department there were questions posed in regard to a dental program and fees associated with it. Supervisor Coutant said when the Town inquired about the dental plan to the people who currently deal with our health care coverage and Ulster Insurance they could not give them an answer. Eric Davids from Marshall & Sterling did an exceptional job in analyzing people and costs and gave the town a sense of direction. Supervisor Coutant thanked Mr. Davids for a job well done. The ability of Marshall & Sterling's people exceeded the Supervisor's expectations. The communications between Ulster Savings Bank Insurance Program and the Town have not been handled in a timely and satisfactory manner. The Town of Eopus has been extremely happy with NYMIR which covers approximately 800 towns in the State of New York. Marshall & Sterling is now the vendor of service for NYMIR. Supervisor Coutant would like the Board to consider switching from Ulster Savings Bank as a vendor to Marshall & Sterling. He feels their service and communications are far superior to what Ulster Savings Bank has provided. Even though a premium has already been paid to Ulster Insurance, Marshall & Sterling is willing to take the account with no commission paid to them for the Property & Casualty side. They will give full service, offer safety training that has never been offered by Ulster Insurance. Mr. Davids added that Marshall & Sterling is an employee owned company which has grown through service. Companies with 2 – 49 people are community rated and will have the same pricing regardless. To make them a broker of choice they focus on providing excellent customer service 24/7 to set them apart from their competition; not the broker who just shows up at the time of renewal. He explained if the same plan design is chosen it will have the same pricing. Whether you utilize all the services of the particular brokerage firm you are still paying the brokerage commission. They will build the Town an internet portal which will give the employees access to their personal benefit information and gives the employees privacy to deal with issues. They handle complete cobra administration. Enrollment meetings will be offered for the employees and follow up sessions to answer questions will be scheduled. The employees will deal with Marshall & Sterling directly and not the bookkeeper. A Kingston office has now been open in the Kingston Plaza. Meeting with the employees will be held to

better inform the employees of how to get the most out of their health plan. A HR 360 portal is also provided. It gives an opportunity to ask questions and tells how to deal with a certain situation based on the current laws and regulations. Council Members agreed to the switch in Brokers. The Broker of Record Documents will be signed at the Town Board Meeting on March 20, 2014.

Miscellaneous items discussed

Tim Keefe submitted a letter requesting a change to the local law. It has recently been brought to Tim's attention that the local fee's for renovations and repairs could exceed the fee for new construction given the same square footage. This happened with the Gomes/Pappas permit # 13-161. They paid a fee of \$2,533 for a renovation project on a home of 2324 square feet. The fee, if built new, would have been only \$1,163, a difference of \$1,370. The NYS Uniform code specifically states that no fee for an alteration or renovation shall exceed the cost if built new. Therefore, Tim is proposing the Town Board pass a resolution to refund the Gomes/Pappas permit in the amount of \$1,370 prior to the local law being changed. Tim is working on providing us with the proper verbiage needed to change the local law. Until the law is changed the fees that are currently in place need to be charged.

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet mentioned Lorrie Morse was contemplating resigning from the Assessment Board of review. Bill Fitzgerald is interested in filling the position. An interview will be scheduled with him.

Councilperson Wayne Freer emailed the Multi Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates to Council members and will provide Supervisor Coutant with a hard copy. Councilperson Freer is able to complete a portion of the plan but Tim Keefe, our building inspector, will be asked to help supply the information about building trends. Councilperson Wayne Freer will also email a copy to Tim.

Adjournment

A Motion to adjourn at 9:10 PM was made by Councilperson Kyle Barnett and seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer. All Town Board Members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk