

**Town Board
Workshop Meeting**

September 16, 2014

A preliminary Town Board Budget and Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday September 16, 2014 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Port Ewen, New York at 7:00 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
Debbie Kain, Bookkeeper
Brian Pickard, CPA**

Supervisor John Coutant called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Preliminary Budget Meeting ended at 8 pm and the workshop meeting proceeded.

For easy reference to budget information, minutes for the continued Preliminary Budget Meeting scheduled for 7 pm this evening are included with the Preliminary Budget Minutes of September 9, 2014 and can be found on pages 5 -7.

Resolution – Propane Bid Water/ Sewer

Resolution for the propane Bid for the Water and Sewer Department will be voted on at the Town Board Meeting on September 18th.

NYMIR Proposed Rate Adjustments – 2015

Supervisor Coutant received a letter from NYMIR stating they will not be raising the rates for the upcoming year. We also hope we will receive a refund check from them as we have in the past.

Ulster County Resource Recovery Budget

Supervisor Coutant said it appeared the RRA received an increase in their fund balance. It went from \$54,000 to \$456,000. Supervisor John Coutant questioned, with that significant increase, is it really necessary to increase the expenses of the Towns in Ulster County? 2015 UCRRRA budget was given to Kurt Dankelman, Recycling Coordinator for review.

Riverview Condominiums

A proposal from Mike Burnholtz to do the appraisal work for Riverview Condominiums was received and looks reasonable. A motion to authorize Supervisor Coutant to sign the agreement will be made at the Town Board meeting on September 18, 2014.

Drainage problem on 213 and Pine Street

Supervisor John Coutant explained several years ago when we had high water issues, residents had brought in pictures of the 213 area and Pine Street and the situation seems to be deteriorating. When the water cannot move fast enough it floods Pine Street and gets into the houses. NYS DOT engineer, Thomas Story, reviewed the location in mid July with Highway Superintendent Mike Cafaldo. After review of the State's record plans, they found that the drainage crossing was constructed as per plan and is currently functioning as designed. They also found that no damage was caused to the cross culvert due to recent flooding. The question was asked about replacing the culvert with a larger pipe. In Mr. Story's response letter he states the Department presently designs for 20 year storms and feels it would be impractical to design for the 100 plus year storms. He also makes note a larger pipe under 213 would allow passage of more water and not address concerns of residents downstream currently being flooded. In response to the flooding issue on Pine Street it was observed that there are a couple of choke points along the stream channel, mainly debris and what appears to be an undersized driveway pipe. A formal drainage analysis would be needed to determine the proper pipe size. The DOT recommends the stream channel be cleared of debris and a drainage analysis be completed to verify the proper driveway pipe size. Superintendent Cafaldo feels it is an off road drainage matter and should be addressed by the Town Board to determine what further action should be taken.

New Paltz School District Bond Proposition – Superintendent Maria Rice presentation – Town Board Meeting

Superintendent Maria Rice would like the opportunity to share a brief presentation regarding the upcoming Bond Proposition for the New Paltz Central School District set for public vote on October 28, 2014. The Board agreed to have them make their presentation. Councilperson Freer said make sure she knows the Town Board Meeting is televised but does not have a large audience in attendance. They would not want her to be disappointed.

Riverview Cemetery

A brief overview of Riverview Cemetery indicated they are operating in the red. Their revenues are nonexistent. No graves are being opened and no graves being sold. They have \$60,000 locked into long term Certificate of Deposits and the State law prohibits them from using those funds for operation costs. They are only allowed to use the interest they receive from the CD's and with the low rates they are being paid; there are not enough funds to pay for the mowing of the cemetery. Supervisor Coutant said the Board may want to consider giving them a \$2,000 - \$3,000 stipend to help. The grass is cut 10-12 times a year at \$440/mowing. Supervisor Coutant said he feels by giving them a little financial assistance it would postpone the cemetery being abandoned at which point the town would be responsible for mowing it. Councilperson Barnett said if we don't subsidize them we will be forced to take the whole thing over and it will cost the town more money. The Riverview Board is writing to the State Association of Cemeteries to see if they can have special dispensation to utilize the funds or invest them differently to allow them to pay for the upkeep of the grounds. SHPO is being contacted to see if there are any grants available. The town currently has the Recreation Department cut the grass a few times a year to help. The Cemetery Law needs to be reviewed. The Cemetery Association needs to clarify how they can liquefy the funds. Further research needs to be done before any decision can be made.

SPCA

Maria Shultis from the SPCA faxed Supervisor Coutant a Proposal for Housing Stray Dogs from Esopus including fees that would be charged. Councilperson McCord received information from Hopenstedt's regarding their fees and policies for boarding dogs. One other location will be contacted to obtain information and will be discussed at a later date. The boarding of Esopus dogs is an alternative if the Board decides to close the Kennel.

Water Chestnut Machine – Paid Off – Orange County Trust Company

The water chestnut machine has been paid in full as of July 17, 2014.

P.A. System – Town Hall

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet liaison to the Planning Board commented at the last Planning Board meeting there were many people speaking and it was difficult for people to hear. The tape recording did not pick up the voices. Fortunately the secretary takes short hand and was able to scribe the minutes accurately. Councilperson Wayne Freer talked to Arace Electronics regarding microphones. Three microphones will be on the table for the Board members and on all the time. One microphone will be on a stanchion and people in the audience will need to go up to that microphone to speak if they have public comment. Four microphones and a patch cord for the Maranzs are needed. Multiple people will need to learn how to set the gain on each microphone. One microphone will have a shut off switch, which will be used for the public. Councilperson Freer will obtain pricing for all microphones including a wireless option.

Executive Session to discuss a Planning Board personnel issue

A motion was made by Councilperson Wayne Freer to enter into Executive Session to discuss a Planning Board personnel issue at 9:25pm. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Diane McCord.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wayne Freer to come out of Executive Session at 9:35pm. The motion was seconded by Supervisor John Coutant.

No Action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 9:36 by Councilperson Kyle Barnett and seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer.

Respectfully Submitted

**Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk**