

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

April 14, 2015

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday April 14, 2015 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Ulster Park, New York at 7:30 PM with the following people in attendance:

**Supervisor John Coutant
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
Councilperson Wayne Freer
Councilperson Diane L. McCord
Councilperson Kyle Barnett**

Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

UC PUBLIC WORKS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KIM MILLIAN – GAS CARDS

Kim Millian gave a presentation on how the gas card program works for Ulster County. This is a New York State program which the county has adopted. The recent gas leak at the Highway Garage prompted this meeting to explore options for the ability to fill up Town vehicles, without replacing the tank at the highway garage. The County still has their diesel tanks but did away with the gasoline tanks several years ago. Kim explained the cards are able to be used in any gas stations and a report is given at the end of each month showing a detailed transaction of who purchased gas and monitors the mileage and usage of the vehicles. The Board thanked her for her time.

Highway Superintendent Mike Cafaldo needs to purchase a new chipper. He would like to purchase a used chipper from the County Auction. The asking price is \$7,500. Kim Millian was asked if she could find out if the county would be willing to give the town a better price.

Councilperson Wayne Freer said County, State and Fire Departments have all been getting away from having the storage tanks on their property. Supervisor Coutant thinks the cards are a more expensive option and does not like the inconsistency in prices between the various stations. Highway Superintendent Mike Cafaldo said he was ok with switching over to the gas cards but he would like to be able to keep the 1000 gallon diesel tank. A suggestion was made

by Supervisor Coutant to have a second diesel tank located at the transfer station which would allow the highway trucks to access fuel on the southern end of town during snow storms.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER TO START THE PROCESS OF GETTING THE GAS CARDS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER TO NO LONGER HAVE BULK GASOLINE TANKS AT ANY TOWN FACILITY AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET. THE MOTION WAS PASSED 4-1.

Supervisor John Coutant	NO
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet	AYE
Councilperson Wayne Freer	AYE
Councilperson Diane L. McCord	AYE
Councilperson Kyle Barnett	AYE

Supervisor Coutant voted against the motion. He would have liked to have a 1000 gas tank at the highway department in addition to the cards.

Update Highway Garage

Councilperson Kyle Barnett gave an update of the status of the Highway Garage spill. There was a meeting earlier that day at the Highway Garage. Moments before the meeting started NYMIR called and said there was no coverage for the spill. Councilperson Barnett followed up with NYMIR to clarify the cause of the leak was due to the frost and asked them to revisit the decision made by adjuster Dave Luchin. American Petroleum will send a letter and pictures to NYMIR. There is a limit of \$50,000 for a pollution spill. Councilperson Barnett reviewed our insurance policy and after speaking to Marshall and Sterling, there is a potential for an additional claim under the Excess Catastrophic liability policy. The only way we would be able to get more is if there is a 3rd party claim, which may be the State because of the ground water. There needs to be further review and a follow up will be made. American Petroleum gave a few verbal estimates for the removal of the contaminated soil; \$58.08/ton approximately \$29,040 to dispose in New Windsor, \$63.25/ton \$31,625 for Fort Edward. It is estimated there is approximately 500 tons of soil that has been affected. American Petroleum has asked for a payment, their first bill was for \$19,276.10 per Supervisor Coutant. The Board agreed they would forward a voucher to American Petroleum and approve it for payment at Thursday's Town Board meeting. Depending on the total cost, the Town will have to bond for the money to pay.

SERVER ORDERED

The new server for the building was ordered and will arrive by April 22, 2015.

Waterfront Advisory Board (Amy Cahill)

A resolution will be made at the Town Board meeting to appoint Amy Cahill to the Waterfront Advisory Board. The term will expire 12/31/2015.

BID OPENING – TRANSFER STATION

Dankelmann and Associates was the only bid received for the RFP which was due April 14, 2015 at 11 am. The bid was \$15,000 more than what they are currently being paid. The UCRRA will be raising their tipping and hauling fees July 1, 2015. Councilperson McCord feels with all of the rising costs we should consider getting out of the transfer station business. Councilperson Barnett said he doesn't feel shutting down automatically is the right choice either. We may need to phase it out over time. It is agreed we cannot afford to keep losing \$57,000 a year. In order to continue to offer this service, the fees will need to be raised to cover the expenses. It may become cost prohibitive for the people to use it and it may phase itself out. The Town reserves the right to reject the bid. Councilperson Freer asked if we were able to negotiate with the bidder, because we cannot afford paying what we are paying now, let alone \$15,000 more. Councilperson Van Vliet wanted to rebid and was against negotiating with Dankelmann. Councilperson Diane McCord asked Bookkeeper Debbie Kane what the cost of 2 part time people for 3 days would be. The answer was approximately \$50,000. Supervisor Coutant said the original problem was we did not have enough revenue to offset the cost. He said Dankelmann was unaware we were running at such a loss. Supervisor Coutant feels raising the fees would take care of the deficiency. Councilperson Diane McCord said, she feels Dankelman has not been properly running the facility for years. Four hundred towns' people use the transfer station out of nine thousand. The rest of the towns' people pay for the removal of their garbage. She does not feel it is right that the majority of the taxpayers have to subsidize the transfer station. Councilperson Barnett recalled the Town facing a similar situation with the Kennel. We tried to make it work over the years but eventually it had to be shut down. Councilperson Barnett feels we can raise the fees to minimize the loss. Councilperson VanVliet asked where we are going to get the funds to pay for the additional \$15,000.00. The answer was in raising the fees and monitoring Dankelmann much more closely to ensure everything is being done according to the RFP. Councilperson Barnett wants to know what options the Board wants to consider. Freer wants a renegotiation with Dankelmann and raise fees to try to move forward.

A special meeting will be held to review the fees charged to use the Transfer Station. Councilperson McCord reported the DEC was at the location to view the roll offs and there was water in the roll offs because the pads have settled over the years. Diane fears UCRRA will not continue to allow us to use their roll offs due to this issue. The roll offs will need to be brought up higher but in the mean time ditches have been dug to allow the water to drain out of the

containers. The overall tidiness of the Transfer Station is unacceptable and it will need to be corrected by Dankelmann. Expectations will need to be met or payment will not be made.

SENATOR GEORGE AMEDORE- REQUEST

Supervisor Coutant received a letter from Senator Amedore advising the Town of Esopus will receive \$20,234.84 in additional (CHIPS) funds in extreme weather recovery funding. This funding is crucial to help address the additional issues caused by the extreme weather we faced this past winter.

MISC:

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet, Liaison to the Planning Board, reported there has been a recent transfer of ownership from Port Ewen Housing to the House of David, a Not for Profit entity. The parcel is 14 acres and many people refer to it as “40 bumps”. It will be removed from the tax roll as of 2015.

Planning Board Liaison Gloria Van Vliet, discussed the Condo Offering Plan that was being presented to the State by Tucker pond. Supervisor John Coutant will ask Roxanne Pecora, Planning Board Chairperson, to have Peter Graham review the documents.

Gloria Van Vliet, Environmental Board Liaison gave an update of the Community Garden which will be located at The Birchez. The existing garden will be expanded and the Boy Scouts are going to help.

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet asked the members of the board if they knew anything about Cabrini Home being used as transitional housing for immigrant children.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 9:58 PM WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KYLE BARNETT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON DIANE MCCORD. ALL TOWN BOARD MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

**Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk**