

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

JUNE 17, 2014

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday June 17, 2014 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Port Ewen, 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

Highway Superintendent – Mike Cafaldo
Water Superintendent – Don Kiernan

Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk

Supervisor John Coutant called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Public Comment: none

Donald Kiernan – Water/Sewer Superintendent

A. Meter Replacement Program

Water Superintendent Donald Kiernan discussed the meter replacement program. All towns are switching over to radio read meters. Meters are not on state bid and 3 estimates were received. The Water Board approved Badger Meters at the June Meeting. They would like to start the program now by ordering the first 100 meters, software, training and reader which is approximately \$24,000.00. There is \$50,000 in the capital reserve account and will be used for the purchase. Superintendent Kiernan would like to purchase 400 units per year until all meters have been replaced. Handheld readers will capture the data as the vehicle rides through town. Readings will be down loaded when the unit is placed in a dock, back at the office and uploaded to the billing system. It will provide an efficient, accurate read of all meters.

The Water & Sewer department put \$125,000 away years ago for the purchase of property. If they were to spend it on anything else it would require. The Town Board to change the purpose of the funds. Superintendent Kiernan will check to see if the work needs to go out to bid since we already have 3 quotes. There are 1400 meters to change. The A.W.W.A. is trying to get the lead out of everything with the new laws that they have implemented. The emissions from these units are less than what comes from a baby monitor.

B. Storage Tank Replacement

The current tank was painted in 1995 for about \$85,000. The estimate to paint with all of the new regulations is \$850,000. A new glass or concrete tank would be more cost effective. The trend is concrete tanks which are poured right on sight. The engineering study will determine what will be the most cost effective. The simplest solution is to erect the new tank next to the existing tank, get it up and running, and then remove the old tank. A few acres may need to be purchased from the adjacent owner. The old tank will have some scrap value and the new tank will be maintenance free.

C. City of Kingston Waste Water Treatment Plant

Superintendent Don Kiernan wrote to the Mayor of the City of Kingston informing them that the Port Ewen Water/Sewer Board of Commissioners would like to have a liaison appointed to the City of Kingston. The Board of Commissioners will need to be kept up to date on any items that may relate to improvements or otherwise affecting the Wastewater Treatment Plant that will have a direct bearing on the taxpayers in the Port Ewen Sewer District. Water Superintendent Don Kiernan received an email dated May 20, 2014 from the City of Kingston's Comptroller John Tuey, regarding a copy of the Bond Ordinance which was signed May 6, 2014. He was asked to share this with the Supervisor. It was a notification that the city is borrowing 1,904,452 of which 10.42% is our shared responsibility. Mr. Tuey said 90% would be FEMA money however, we know from past history the funding does not always come through.

Back in 2007 we received a bill for a bond for energy improvements which we did not know anything about. The Port Ewen Water and Sewer Dept will need to be kept in the loop in a more timely manner on issues that have an effect on the water/sewer district. It is quite frustrating receiving bills that are unexpected. If we were aware of the improvements, they could be accounted for in the budget.

D. Rondout Hills/Rondout Harbor – water/sewer lines

About every 7 years there is an ongoing feud about the sewage between the Hills and Rondout Harbor. When units 2 -20 of the Hills were built, the sewer was directed to flow down through the Rondout Harbor Sewer lines, down to our pump station. The Harbor people are upset because there are fees associated with the monthly maintenance and would like the Hills owners to pay their share. This is neither a Port Ewen Water and Sewer issue nor a Town matter. There is a homeowners association that represents both the Hills and Harbor and should be addressed through that entity.

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet asked Superintendent Kiernan if all water/sewer issues had been resolved at Tucker Pond. According to Superintendent Kiernan, building one had met all requirements. Building 2 has not been inspected. The Board has been expecting a letter from Peter Graham regarding other issues with Tucker Pond. Mr. Graham has yet to send this letter. The Board is frustrated with his lack of timeliness.

Michael Cafaldo – Truck Purchase

The Town Board members had a discussion relative to the purpose of the purchase of three 2015 Freightliner Trucks from Campbell Freightliner of Orange County, LLC for a total of \$422,588.00 financed through Mercedes- Benz Financial Services USA LLC. All members were in favor of allowing Highway Supervisor Mike Cafaldo and Supervisor John Coutant to review the finance documents. Upon agreement of both parties, the Town Board would authorize Supervisor Coutant to complete and sign the necessary paperwork on behalf of the Town to finance the trucks.

A motion was made at 8:18 pm to enter into Executive Session to discuss an employee issue at the Highway Department by Councilperson Diane McCord and seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer. All were in favor.

A motion was made at 8:22pm to come out of Executive Session by Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet and seconded by Supervisor John Coutant. All were in favor.

Councilperson Diane McCord informed the Board that the Highway Superintendent should have an agreement with the Town according to Section 284 of the Highway Law. Superintendent Cafaldo said if anyone had questions they can be referred to the President of the Association of Highways, Gale Adler. Several questions came up and Superintendent Michael Cafaldo will get clarification from Gale Adler and a contract will be made. Another issue is the Board feels the bookkeeper should be encumbering funds for the Highway budget.

Historical District – Col. Hazard Payne Estate

We have been notified by the State of New York that the Owner of Esopus Farms has petitioned the state to deem the entire area that Colonel Payne owned as a Historical district. All property owners that are in the boundaries of this district have to be notified in writing as to what has been petitioned of the state. We identified all of the owners. There were three owners that were not notified. Reasons for this petition may be; the State historical society will give you money to help keep the historical nature of the property. It will also give you a tax deduction because you are a historical property. It is not a reduction in property tax. The state can now look at the building's exterior/ interior walls and windows and say they must be kept in the framework during that area of time. All of the plans for the new site have been approved for the project by the Planning Board. If the state does not think it is appropriate they will have to come before the Planning Board again to get reapproved or an amendment done on their current application. There is also Town property that could be affected by this redistricting. Black Creek Road Bridge was a hand laid stone bridge at one time, if that was to collapse it would have to redone by hand. Black Creek apartments used to be servant chambers to the Payne's Estate; the chicken coop on the property is slotted to be a spa under current approved plans. The state does not care what the property is being used for currently. If approved, it will require the area to revert back to what once was. Although they have asked for this historical designation, they never told the State what their intent was for the property or showed them plans of what has been approved by our Planning Board.

Supervisor Coutant suggested the Planning Board and Myles put together a packet to send to the State to give them an idea of what has been approved by the Planning Board. Fifty one percent of the property owners have to approve it. Supervisor Coutant and Fred Zimmer, Planning Board member, were able to get the vote postponed by the state until September because several property owners were not properly notified. The property owners have to be made aware of what is being proposed and fully understand what effect this will have on them. Not only now, but in the future when they go to sell their property.

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency is looking for the Town to sign a 10- year Solid Waste Management Agreement. Flow control has been in place, all trash has to go through UCRR. Supervisor Coutant and Curt Dankelman, Town of Esopus Recycling Coordinator, said the town would pay an additional \$23,000 in the first year alone. UCRR also say the containers are not road worthy units. They are looking to replace the containers or rent the containers at our transfer station which Esopus has 7. Cost per ton is going up considerably. We need to analyze what it would cost to buy our own containers and haul our own. Fees are also subject to increase on an annual basis. Legislator Carl Belfiglio will be at the next Town Board meeting to address this issue.

Diane McCord recalled that nobody wanted to sign the original agreement but Supervisor Roger Maybe was forced to do so. Originally Ulster County was going to have its own Landfill but that never happened. Ulster County has a monopoly with flow control. We need to look into other options. Curt Dankelman is doing some research and will make a presentation to the Board at a later time.

Recreation Truck & Trailer Update

Supervisor Coutant gave a brief update on the status of the Recreation truck that had been hit a few weeks back. The truck has been repaired, mower has been delivered and the new trailer will be on the road within the next few days.

NIMS (McCord, Freer)

Wayne Freer will administer a NIMS 700 series training course for Board members. This course is a prerequisite for the course that will be offered here at Town Hall on July 10th by the Town Clerk and Tax Collectors Association. NIMS training is mandatory to be in compliance to receive FEMA money. This course is open to all employees in all departments throughout the county.

Assessor Certification Classes

Jo Anna Mignone, Esopus Assessor has asked for permission from the Board to attend a mandatory certification course in Ithaca, N.Y. July 13th – 18th. A resolution will be made at the next Town Board meeting for this purpose.

Resignations – Environmental Board, Waterfront Advisory Board

We have received two resignations. Karen Grieco and John Miller have resigned from the Environmental Board. Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet, liaison to the Environmental Board, informed the Town Board, that Shari Aber was considering the position as Chair of the Environmental Board. She is very interested to offer workshops on certain environmental subjects two or three times a year. The Environmental Board meeting has been changed to July 10, 7pm and the Board will meet the first Thursday of each month thereafter. They would like to revisit the idea of a community garden at the Ascension church. The quality of the soil and the clearing of the property were discussed, no decisions were made.

Environmental Board Candidate (George Williamson)

George Williamson has submitted an application for a vacant Environmental Board position. The town clerk will contact him and set up an interview for the next workshop.

Sons of the American Revolution – Terpening Family Cemetery

Tim Middlebrook, President of the Columbia – Mid Hudson Valley Chapter, SAR, has written to Supervisor Coutant informing him of a Grave Marking Ceremony. The ceremony, in conjunction with the DAR, is set for Saturday, September 13th at 11am. Members of the Terpening family are traveling in for the event. Accessibility to the area was questioned. Supervisor Coutant will contact Mr. Middlebrook and suggest he come to assess the site prior to the event.

NYS Department of Labor – Fire Department

A letter was sent to Supervisor Coutant from the NYS Division of Safety and Health regarding the compliance with emergency escape systems. Materials have been provided through a web link to assist the municipality to determine whether they need emergency escape equipment. We have volunteer Fire Departments that have all been contacted directly.

Dormitory Authority – added survey information

The Town Board is disgusted with the lack of progress that we have made through the NYS Dormitory Authority regarding the grant for the parking lot on Bowne Street. The Dormitory Authority has asked to have the survey added to the appraisal at 215 Bowne St. for the purchase of the Church property. This was sent along with an explanation of our lot size adjustments. Supervisor Coutant will contact Assemblyman Kevin Cahill to see if he can get some answers to why there has been such a delay. We need an answer one way or the other.

Miscellaneous:

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet said there were several locations that have overgrown grass on Doris Street and Bowne Street, exact street addresses will be obtained and complaints will be submitted to the building department for follow up.

Peter Graham has not followed up with a letter to the Town Board regarding Tucker Pond that was promised 2 weeks ago. The Planning Board may need to find a new attorney.

Councilperson Diane McCord, liaison to the Zoning Board of Appeals, said Joan Boris announced her resignation as the ZBA secretary at tonight's ZBA meeting. The Town Clerk will need to be notified in writing of this resignation and she will look for candidates to fill the vacancies we have.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wayne Freer to enter into Executive Session at 9:45pm to discuss a personnel issue in the Building Department and was seconded by Councilperson Kyle Barnett. All Town Board members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Diane McCord to come out of Executive Session at 9:55pm to and was seconded by Councilperson Wayne Freer. All Town Board members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

A discussion regarding the budget for 2015 was started but there was a difference in opinion on how it should be done. Many members feel money needs to be encumbered from year to year. There needs to be further discussion as to how the 2015 worksheets should be done.

A motion was made by Councilperson Kyle Barnett at 10:05pm to enter into Executive Session to discuss a matter of litigation with Riverview Condominiums and was seconded by Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet. All Town Board members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wayne Freer to come out of Executive Session at 10:06 pm to and was seconded by Councilperson Diane McCord. All Town Board members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 10:10 PM was made by Supervisor John Coutant and seconded by Councilperson Diane McCord. All Town Board members voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk