

TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
October 18, 2016

A regularly scheduled Town Board Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Ulster Park, New York at 7:00 PM with the following people in attendance:

Supervisor Diane McCord
Councilperson Wayne Freer
Councilperson Les Kalmus
Councilperson Kyle Barnett - Absent
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet

Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk

Brian Pickard, CPA
Debbie Kain, Bookkeeper

Supervisor Diane McCord opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

COUNCILPERSON KYLE BARNETT – RESIGNATION

Supervisor McCord announced with sadness she had received a copy of a resignation letter from Councilperson Kyle Barnett. His resignation will be effective October 31, 2016. Councilperson Barnett has been a great asset to the Town and will be deeply missed by all.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Board continued to discuss the budget. Supervisor McCord said she did not feel comfortable with the way the raises were calculated after the last budget workshop. Councilperson Kalmus suggested we divide the current non union Town employees into 3 tiers based on current hourly wage. The original intent was to try to bring up the wages of the individuals who are being paid less and make an attempt to close the salary gap for this year. Elected officials will receive a 2% increase across the board. There is not enough time this year to have an outside company look at the job description and titles of the employees and determine how the salaries compare to other towns of our size. Job Titles need to stay the same for Civil Service purposes. A review of all titles and salaries will be conducted in 2017. The Board gave guidelines to the bookkeeper and CPA to see what they are able to come up with.

REQUEST FOR ZONING CHANGE – NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL

The Board discussed the request for changing zoning in an area that is currently Neighborhood Commercial to General Commercial. The Board has reservations about the request and asked Supervisor McCord to contact Myles Putman, Consultant to the Town for his input.

ALTERNATE TO THE PLANNING BOARD

Months ago the suggestion of having an Alternate Planning Board member as other Towns have was presented. Supervisor McCord asked the Board if they would like to pursue making the change by Local Law. The Board was in agreement. Local Towns will be contacted for copies of their Local Law to be used as a guideline to draft the new local law for Esopus.

RECREATION BUILDING

Not discussed. Information not available.

DISCUSS MARSHALL & STERLING CONTRACT – removed from agenda

MISCELANEOUS

Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet, liaison to the Water/Sewer Board reported there was a concern regarding the lack of response Don Kiernan, Water Superintendent was getting from the owner of the property the Water/Sewer department is looking to obtain for the new replacement tank. During the past Water/Sewer Board meeting, Chairman, Doug DeKoskie, expressed his concern of obtaining temporary access to the property to do testing to ensure the land is suitable for the tank. It has been determined the owner of record is deceased and there are two heirs. Members of the Board were in agreement to have Supervisor McCord write a letter to both heirs of the property so the Water/Sewer Superintendent can move ahead.

Supervisor McCord brought the Board up to date on several outstanding issues that have been discussed in previous meetings. Supervisor McCord said a suggestion has been made for signage at Freer Park to ask people not to feed the geese. More geese are attracted to the area and they are becoming brazen and nasty to patrons of the park.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON FREER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:55 PM AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON VAN VLIET. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectively submitted,

Holly A. Netter, RMC
Town Clerk