

Stillwater Town Board
Agenda Meeting & Public Hearings
(Solicitation & 2009 Budget)
November 7, 2008 7:00 PM
Stillwater Town Hall

Present: Councilman Ken Petronis
Councilwoman Lisa Bruno
Councilwoman Virginia Whitman
Supervisor Shawn Connelly

Also present: Sue Cunningham, Town Clerk
Mark Minick, Supt of Highways
James Trainor, Attorney for the Town
Joe Lanaro, Engineer for the Town

Absent: Councilman Artie Baker

7: 00 PM Public Hearing *(Solicitation- Amending Local Law 6-1 of 1932)*
Purpose: *To receive public input on amending Local Law 6-1 of 1932 in regard to solicitation.*

Supervisor Connelly called the public hearing to order.

Sue Cunningham, Town Clerk verified for the record public notification for the public hearing was published on Oct. 22, 2008 and posted on the bulletin outside.

Public Input

There was no public input on amending Local Law 6-1 of 1932 in regard to solicitation.

Motion by Councilwoman Whitman and seconded by Councilman Petronis to adjourn the public hearing with everyone having the opportunity to speak. **Motion carried.**

Supervisor Connelly called the regular meeting to order and led everyone into the Pledge to the Flag.

Sue Cunningham, Town Clerk took the roll call.

Communications: None

Reports *(Town Board & Dept. Heads)*

Supervisor Connelly

HEAP: Home Emergency Assistance Program is now open. All 3 components of HEAP are now open the Regular HEAP, emergency HEAP and the furnace repair and replacement component. I have left copies of the application and contact numbers at the door and if more are needed please contact my office tomorrow and we will get that information to you or someone you know that may need this program.

Stillwater Steppers: This is an indoor walking program sponsored by Prevention Research Center and will be held at the Stillwater Central School starting Wednesday November 12th at 6pm in the High School. This program will run all winter and move outside when weather permits in the spring.

Pagers: I am also happy to announce that the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors will be funding 72 pagers for the Arvin Hart fire Company as well as 30 for the Newland Woods fire company in the village so there will be no cost to the volunteers of either fire department when the county changes to the new system next year. The 102 pagers are all for active volunteers and if a pager is lost or broken it will be the responsibility of that volunteer or company to purchase a replacement.

Councilwoman Whitman inquired on the status with the Verizon contract.

Attorney Trainor gave a brief update and stated he should have something on this for the next meeting.

Councilman Petronis

Councilman Petronis had nothing to report at this time but requested executive session for personnel.

Councilwoman Whitman

Town Hall: Councilman Whitman reported that the downstairs door was found unlocked one day last week.

Water: Councilwoman Whitman commented on the water contracts in regard to the billing. She stated that the Town is billed quarterly and we only bill twice a year which can cause cash flow problems.

Personnel Policy: Councilwoman Whitman reported that the personnel policy has been completed with the help of Mike Caulfield and Terry Simmons. A copy was sent to the Saratoga County Personnel Dept. and was approved by that Dept.

2009 Budget: Councilwoman Whitman commented on the budget, tax rates, and stated that she would like to meet again to see if they can cut the numbers even more.

7:15 Public Hearing (2009 Budget)

Purpose: To receive public comment on the 2009 Budget

Supervisor Connelly called the public hearing to order.

Public Input

A. Mackey commented on the budget in regard to the Building Dept. He asked that the Town Board not be short-sided with the additional growth & inspections, zoning issues and safety of the residents. He stated that he believes the positions of the Planning & Zoning Board should be volunteer positions, a way of giving back to the community.

M. Caulfield questioned the Town debt, water issues, new trucks and stated that the Town Board should put a freeze on the Budget. He inquired as to what the short or long term plan of the Board was. He suggested that the Town Board get the Community more involved and tap the resources that are out there.

M. DelaRosa questioned that cost of the GEIS and whether the cost was covered by SEDC or if AMD would cover the cost.

S. Carabis representing the Mechanicville Library requested that the Town continue supporting the Mechanicville Library. He thanked them for their past support.

K. Patenaude spoke on behalf of the Stillwater Rescue Squad. He stated that they requested \$113,000, their request is bottom line and never padded, and the rescue squad is an essential part of the community. He requested that the Town Board reconsider the numbers in the preliminary budget and provide the rescue squad with their original proposed numbers.

R. Rathbun spoke on behalf of the rescue squad and requested that the Town Board reconsider their request and not cut an essential service provided to the Town. He went over the cost of replacing the rigs, having to pay staff and fuel cost.

A discussion was held on fund raising, incentives to get volunteers and the condition of the rescue squad building.

S. Reiminski commented on the budget deficit, felt that now new programs should be started and that the Board should consider the health & safety of the residents before anything. He stated that the Board should plan for the future, create reserve accounts without raiding them and to be careful of emotional items.

A Mackey inquired if the Town Board would have a follow up public hearing if they have another workshop.

Supervisor Connelly stated that they would take in the public comments, make necessary changes from comments received tonight and adopt the budget. There would not be another public hearing.

With everyone having the opportunity to comment on the proposed 2009 budget Supervisor Connelly declared the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

Regular Mtg resumed.

Reports

Supt of Highways (Mark Minick)

Canal: Supt Minick reported that there has been flooding situations in regard to the railroad bed and canal in the riverside area. He stated that they are working to rectify the situation.

Glen Hollow Park: Supt Minick stated the parking area is completed and that they are ready to move on to the next phase in the spring.

Luther Forest: Supt Minick reported that the bid opening for the sewer portion should be sometime in Dec.

Budget: Supt Minick commented on the budget in respect to the Highway. He stated that they need to be proactive not reactive, they need not to be in crisis management mode and for every dollar they save today may cost five dollars down the road. He went on to say that he is going on his twentieth year and the planning that he originally started is coming into place, their moving forward, the roads are being kept updated and equipment is kept updated. He stated that he wants the Town Board to understand that the Highway Dept is as critical as the emergency services.

Town Attorney (James Trainor)

Codification: Attorney Trainor reported that the codification should be completed by the end of the year and ready for the Town Board to adopt.

Councilman Petronis inquired as to the status of the Cold Springs Rd project.

Attorney Trainor reported that since the last meeting the funding has slowed the easement closings and that they are in the process of wrapping up the no compensation parcels.

Town Clerk (Sue Cunningham)

Sue Cunningham, Town Clerk reported that she submitted her report to the Board members.

Town Engineer (Joe Lanaro)

Engineer Lanaro submitted a report to the Board and briefly went over the report. (Copy on file in the Town Clerks Office)

Councilwoman Whitman asked the Supervisor about the status of the \$100,000 grant.

Supervisor Connelly stated that they have heard or received nothing as of today.

Public Input

Resident I inquired about AMD update & a host benefit package, status of Revolutionary Heights, the two highway trucks that were sold, code enforcement hours & the consultant from the Engineers office, and the Highway Supt's plan for 2009.

Supervisor Connelly stated that AMD is moving forward, Revolutionary Heights is waiting a permit from the Army Corp of Engineers, the 2 trucks sold for \$1,400, the Code Enforcement Officer puts in over 40 hours a week and the consultant handles the planning & zoning applications.

Supt Minick stated that the schedule he plans in the fall is adjustable and reviewed every spring.

Resident II suggested that the Board think outside the box to look for a better way to do a better job and find a way to communicate with the residents.

A discussion was held on the budget, the different funds and ways to communicate with the residents.

Resident III commented on the budget in regard to adopting the budget now before knowing the unexpended balances from this year.

A discussion was held on the timeframe of preparing the budget to finalizing the budget.

Resident IV commented on the retention ponds and storm water that is running on to her land from the development on Stratton Lane. She stated that the situation has not been fixed and requested that it be fixed. She said that she hopes this board will be more conscience and do the right thing.

Resident V commented on the measurement of the roads in Saratoga Hills and the alleged code violations.

Discussion was held on ownership of the road and how the resident's addition & fence is on Town property.

Councilwoman Bruno commented on the resident being proactive in the Town following the Town laws and she inquired what they should do about his addition and fence being on Town property.

Resident VI commented on the budget, the Board fine tuning the budget and the budget timeframe.

A discussion on the unexpended balances and timeframe was held.

Note: The Town Clerk noted for the record that she did make several cuts in the contractual and equipment portion of her budget.

Resident I commented on a food drive that is going on for the local food pantries and let everyone know that there will be a box for collection in the Town Clerks Office.

Resident VII commented on the water billing, raising the late penalty on water bills, the railroad site, the recreation field in Luther Forest, and the Village accessing the County sewer.

A discussion was held on the water billing and penalty for paying late.

Supervisor Connelly stated that there are no documents showing the plan for the old rail yard, the recreation field will be for everyone's use and the Village was denied access to hooking up to the County sewer.

Audited Claims

Motion by Councilwoman Whitman and seconded by Councilman Petronis to pay the audited claims.

General	#509-#531	\$14,975.50
Highway	#471-#488	\$9,157.37
Town Outside	#106-#114	\$12,098.79
Water & Sewer	#57-#59	\$4,294.30
Capital Projects (CSR, BOA, Boilerhouse)	#69-#71	\$62,661.32

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Petronis and seconded by Councilwoman Whitman to adjourn the regular meeting and adjourn into executive session for personnel & litigation at 9:20PM. **Motion carried**

Note: The Town Board stated that they would not be acting on any further business and would not resume the regular business meeting.

Respectfully submitted by

Sue Cunningham
Stillwater Town Clerk