

**Town of New Paltz Town Board Meeting
March 27, 2008**

Present: Kitty Brown, Jane Ann Williams, Nick Cartagena, Dave Lewis, Toni Hokanson

At 7:30 pm the meeting was opened by the Supervisor with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: Supervisor Hokanson proposed additions/changes to the agenda:

Health Insurance for volunteers; Transportation Improvement Resolution; move up renaming Bridge over the Wallkill. Supervisor Hokanson moved to accept agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilman Cartagena, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public Input:

Butch Dener, town resident, spoke of honoring the late Carmine Liberta. He stated that Carmine served a “bridge” in the community and suggested naming the bridge over the Wallkill River in his memory. He read aloud letters from Michael Kavanaugh, Associate Justice, and also a letter from former Town Supervisor Carol Roper in support of renaming the bridge in Carmine’s memory. He requested the town board to pass resolution to name the bridge in Carmine’s memory.

Fred Van Nostrand, town resident, had 3 topics he wanted to discuss:

- Senior Citizens – State of New York is starting a plan where seniors and disabled would not have to pay for parking meters. He questioned if the board had any information on this.
- Crossroads – he disagrees with the name of the project, he suggested it should be named after the man who owned some of the property, Abe Paradies.
- Community Center – he recommends that the community center be named after the person who fought for the center, Susan Zimet, former Town Supervisor.

Don Kerr – from Public access came looking for support from Town. He spoke of the programs that are now being played on channel 23, thanks to the purchase of a Lexus Nexus Machine (TV in a box). Public Access is now looking for sources to pay someone to work the program. He would like to be put on future agenda. He suggested that construction funds from Time Warner that would be left after cable has been put onto roads without cable service. He advised the Board to put a deadline to the request for cable for those that do not have it. Anyone in the community that does not have cable service has until 5/30 or 6/1 to apply. After that date whatever money is left over could be applied to Pubic Access.

Susan Zimet, Ulster County Legislator, spoke on bridge renaming, she was approached to support renaming bridge. Resolution must come from the Town then taken to the County. She said that the naming would be appropriate as Carmine bridged the friendship of her and Butch Denner. She stated it would be an honor and supports the renaming of the bridge in the memory of Carmine Liberta.

Dave Lent, former Supervisor of the Town wanted to talk about 3 items:

1. There are 13 street lights on Henry W. DuBois, 4 of them have been out for some time. He suggested calling Central Hudson before something happens.
2. He supports the line extension deadline to be 5/30 or 6/1; then suggested that the money left could go to Public Access.
3. Supports naming the bridge in memory of Carmine, in doing this the Town recognizes all the volunteers who worked behind the scenes.

Resolution in support of renaming bridge on 299: Councilman Cartagena moved to rename the bridge on 299 in memory of Carmine Liberta. Seconded by Councilman Lewis.

Councilwoman Brown expressed her reservation on taking action now. She explained that the Board did not go through the process and she felt the community should be part of the process. She stated that in the last few years we have lost several people who had volunteered and she believed that the public should have a chance to decide. She requested to table resolution for a month.

Councilman Lewis, describing himself as a “Democrat with a capital D” –he was impressed when the High School was considering moving and the community spoke and the school shall remain where it is. He concurs with Councilwoman Brown, process would leave no doubt of the will of the people.

Supervisor Hokanson stated that the request did not come from the Board but the community and she does not feel compelled to put it off. She is in favor of renaming the bridge.

Councilman Cartagena is in agreement with Supervisor. There is no process to be followed since this is the first. Butch Dener is from the community and he supports the resolution. Councilwoman Williams supports Councilwoman Brown, deferring the resolution to the next meeting, and this would give the community time to speak.

Councilman Cartagena stated he is not comfortable with waiting. He feels that Carmine deserves the recognition, and that there are other entities that could be named for others. Butch Dener thought the public would have plenty of time to speak when it goes to the county. Supervisor Hokanson agrees with Councilman Cartagena and that there would be other opportunities for other volunteers.

Councilwoman Brown stated that the Board never voted on the same night it was presented .Susan Zimet putting the Board in a position to vote.

Josh Honig stated that points made are political issue which this is not.

Everette Payne agrees with Josh rename the bridge in Carmine's memory.

Josh Honig suggested a referendum in the future.

Councilman Cartagena urges the Board to take action. Normally bridges are named after politicians, Carmine was not. He was a man who worked by volunteering for his community. Councilwoman Brown stated she did not want this to become a political or popularity contest. She offered a friendly amendment to hold off decision till the next meeting.

Councilman Cartagena declined the friendly amendment. Motion goes to vote; aye votes from Supervisor, Council members Cartagena, Brown, and Williams. Councilman Lewis abstained, feeling the community should have a say. Motion passed.

Funding for new municipal structure:

Supervisor Hokanson received a letter at last weeks meeting questioning funding of new building and various questions about the police budget and service. She stated that 31% of the residences on the tax roll are non profit. She asked the comptroller to set up emergency service districts last and has followed up with a letter and forwarded the questions to the chief.

Councilwoman Brown asked if it is too early to ask our assemblyman and state representatives for support.

Councilman Lewis questioned if the board could ask the state to pay for the college, and what would be the process.

Dave Lent stated the law requires the state to pay wherever there is a prison in the town, however this does not extend to State Universities.

Susan Zimet stated that some form of compensation is needed. Suggested maybe PILOT, intense pressure or membership dues.

Dave Lent you can put that in for 2010.

Josh Honig said identify why the cost is needed, show the numbers between the Thruway and the University.

Dave Lent suggested closing the bars earlier but that is a county decision.

Sue Zimet said she did bring up the decision to close bars early in her Criminal Justice Meeting but was told that needs to start from the community.

Councilman Lewis questioned that if asking the bars to pay more isn't this double jeopardy. Supervisor Hokanson explained that presently businesses pay the same tax rate as residents. Table till next month.

Bike-Ped Committee's recommendation: Refer to attorney to get legal wording to fit our code.

Contract for ambulance services (New Paltz Rescue Squad):

Formula has been take call volume-remove college-separate Town and Village subtract 24% from Village and add to town. College supplies Rescue Squad with fuel. Sign a two-year contract with Rescue Squad as proposed if the rescue squad is agreeable, to allow both Town and Village contracts to come due at the same time to adjust the formula to add in the college calls. Councilwoman Brown moved to sign the contract for 2 years paying \$100,480 for 2008 and \$102,490 for 2009. Seconded by Councilman Lewis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Follow up discussion on solar panels: Supervisor Hokanson has contacted the Comptroller's office and received the suggestion that two members each of Village and Town Board meet to devise an equitable rate for solar power received.

Transportation Improvement.

Councilwoman Williams attended Village meeting, she said Chris White spoke passionately at Village Meeting for the trustees to vote to continue one way pair study, but Village voted 4 to 1 against any study of one way and their argument was deterioration of neighborhood.

Supervisor Hokanson would like to write a cover letter to DOT to continue study.

Councilwoman Brown hesitant but said letter to state that Town Board represents both Town and Village.

Councilman Lewis questioned what would happen if Village does not move forward, just what effect will that have with the State.

Supervisor Hokanson stated that DOT has the authority to continue study and implement the change without authorization from the Town and Village but have not indicated they would forward without the community support.

Supervisor Hokanson moved to pass resolution to the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz requesting that the NYS Department of Transportation undertake certain work regarding traffic mitigation. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

MX Energy Proposal:

Supervisor Hokanson explained sale of electricity is deregulated and MX energy is interested in selling the town electricity; there is no cost to switch. Tabled to the next meeting. References requested.

Energy Star Requirements:

Recommended by the Town EnCC that all new housing meet requirements for NY Energy Star. Tabled till more information can be obtained.

284 Agreement for Highway Improvements:

Supervisor Hokanson moved to pass the 2008 agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys (highway law 284). Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Health Insurance for Volunteers at 100% cost to the person. Need to talk to our health provider and attorney, table for next month's meeting.

Time Warner: Supervisor Hokanson would like permission to set deadline of 6/1/2008 for extending Time Warner; putting a cap on funds. Councilwoman Brown suggested a cap of \$7000 for a single road. Supervisor Hokanson doesn't feel the need for the cap, may need to look at it on a one-to-one basis. Councilwoman Brown feels the need to get this closed out and get on with Public Access. Supervisor Hokanson feels a \$7,000 cap may not be equitable. There will be a mailing going out from assessor- add notice to that mailing. Councilwoman Brown moved to send out notice to all, with the assessor's mailing, advising anyone desiring cable on their street of the June 1st deadline and a cap. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Prepay:

Supervisor Hokanson moved Town Board to approve the prepayment of the following voucher(s):

Voucher # 85725 in the amount of \$754.50 to Ron Turner from Public Access, B165044.

Reason: This voucher was received on the due date of March 12, but required a Department head signature.

Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Supervisor Hokanson made a motion for the Board to authorize the Supervisor to modify the 2008 adopted budget as follows:

To create budget lines for the Empire State Development Corporation for the new Paltz Police Department-Equipment Purchase, Project #V739. From Revenue line AAA9803584 reimburse Grant ESDC \$50,000

Expense line AAA522312225 Reimb Grant, ESDC, Eq \$50,000

Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

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| Supervisor Hokanson moved with the following: | |
| Requesting the Town Board to pass resolution authorizing the Supervisor to transfer the following monies to close the 2007 fiscal year: | |
| | |

| FROM | | | TO | | |
|--------------|-------------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|----------|
| A135510 | Assessor, PS | 3,460.00 | A111010 | Justices, PS | 3,460.00 |
| A134040 | Budget, CE | 68.00 | A751040 | Historian, CE | 68.00 |
| A904080 | Workers Comp. | 150.00 | A903080 | Social security | 150.00 |
| B142040 | Attorney, CE | 8,000.00 | B144040 | Engineer, CE | 8,000.00 |
| B165040 | Central Comm., CE | 2,755.00 | B144040 | Engineer, CE | 2,755.00 |
| B871040 | Open Space, CE | 2,350.00 | B809140 | Global Warming | 2,350.00 |
| DB5142 40 | Snow Removal, CE | 25.00 | DB51304 0 | Machinery, CE | 25.00 |

Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all ayes votes cast, motion carried.

Board Member Resignation: Councilman Cartagena read the following:

Dear Town Clerk and Fellow Board Members:

I am writing to advise you that I am resigning from my position as New Paltz Town Board member effective March 28, 2008.

Executive Session: At 10 p.m. Supervisor Hokanson made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the hiring firing, promotion, demotion, or discipline of a particular individual. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 10:30 pm Supervisor Hokanson moved to come out of executive session. Seconded by Councilman Cartagena, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Supervisor Hokanson made a motion to appoint Ken Wishnick to fill Councilman Cartagena's position, until a special election is held. Seconded by Councilman Lewis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 10:40 pm Supervisor Hokanson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Cartagena, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Liggan
Deputy Clerk