

**Town of New Paltz Joint Town/Village Meeting
February 18, 2010**

Present for Village: Shari Osborn, Pat O'Donnell, Brian Kimbiz, Terry Dungan.

Present for Town: JaneAnn Williams, Kitty Brown, Toni Hokanson, Dave Lewis, Jeff Logan.

At 7:31 p.m. the meeting was opened with the recital of the Pledge.

Agenda for Town: copier leases be taken off and put on for next meeting. Supervisor Hokanson made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Agenda for the Village: Trustee O'Donnell made a motion to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Trustee Osborn, all aye votes cast.

Announcements:

African American Burial Grounds commemorating Margaret Wade Lewis

Census coming – please complete to ensure getting fair share of federal funding.

Village – students need to participate (72% of population participated in last census.

Pat – Village will need executive session

Supervisor Hokanson back for Association of Towns – executive sessions distributed to Board.

Comprehensive Plan draft available. Public presentation at the Community Center 3/19 at 7 pm and 3/20 at 9:30 am and 1:30 pm

Public Comments

Arne Sand spoke regarding the moratorium on Shivertown Road – he has a 20-acre parcel and was planning to build a home. The DEC gave permission for driveway thru Humpokill. Two weeks into project, the Building Department stopped him – advised him to go to the Planning Board. Tried to sub-divide the property. He spent \$80,000 before approval granted; \$70,000 additional cost on drive way; paid \$50,000 in taxes and \$4,500 in recreation fees. Over \$300,000 invested so far.

Town is trying to steal his property – legal ramifications coming.

Ray Lunati – 2009 wettest year on record 60.99 inches of precipitation. How many floods occurred in 2009? Rescind moratorium will result in article 78.

Mike Zierler - March 1st from 7 to 9 p.m. at BOCES – Workshop on MillBrook preserve re: ecology of the area.

Scott Schulte – New Paltz Fire Dept. announced that 5 firefighters are going to Israel in April for terrorist training. They are looking for donations, both financial and frequent flier miles.

Rachel Lagotka, Village resident, stated the NYSDEC is closing the superfund site on Tuesday – contamination from dry cleaners at Stop & Shop will be addressed at 7 p.m. at NYSDEC; she is hoping someone from the Town will attend.

Presentation by the New Paltz Fire Company and Fire Districting: Tom Powers President and Chairman of fire company, along with Attorney Terry Hannigan.

A Joint District is their goal, they feel it is in best public interest; the Community has changed.

There were 104 fire calls year-to-date. Membership in 1980 was 65 members ; in 2010 they have 36 active members, which includes 8 probationary members.

Terry Hannigan, attorney (also a fire fighter) obtained by the Department - He said it may be a better way to operate than the Village paying and Town contracting. Town law has a specific provision to create a joint district. Board of Fire Commissioners would be unpaid. They would do

the budgeting, activities. This would remove those duties from the Village, another political entity. A new tax levy would be set and the Town and Village would have no authority on the tax rate set (section 176 of Town law).

Advantages:

Depoliticization of fire department

Commissioners would be elected to five year terms.

Supervisor Hokanson mentioned a rumor that taxes would triple with a district.

Mr. hannigan responded no, there are spending limits. It would be taking management of fire service to new level.

Elections would run separately from others - the second Tuesday in December. The Budget hearing would be held on the second Tuesday in October.

Trustee O'Donnell is in favor of depoliticizing the fire department.

Public Safety component – Town of New Paltz – operationally we will not skip a beat, response to calls will not change.

Recruitment and retention would be handled with better management.

Resources are available – similar to NYCOMCO.

Supervisor Hokanson stated that some of the non-taxable properties now become taxable. She wants to talk to the assessor.

Mayor Dungan stated that districts have more capability of getting grant money.

Fire taxes go away from tax bills and are issued separately by the fire district. Other places with model Cortlandville

With out district – in 5 years will see a decrease.

Joint meeting –each board decide to explore further. Joint Public Hearing with in 30 days – with a detailed presentation. Both Boards would vote; referendum in each government and would have to pass both. Appoint Commissioners for the first round, then have them elected.

Councilwoman Brown suggested that having a proposed budget and list of potential properties to be taxed for general information would be helpful.

Supervisor Hokanson had 2 questions. Take over Jan 2011 – referendum when?

Answer: June or July with budget ready for Jan 2011.

What are issues? Fire Dept developing financial picture Councilwoman Brown asked for.

Supervisor Hokanson” What about current equipment of Village

Answer: could be transferred (actually covered)

Debt? Answer: would be assumed by new district.

Councilwoman Williams: questioned reserves held by Village

Answer: already reserved for equipment.

Supervisor Hokanson if public has questions go to Assessors office.

Tom encourages e-mailing of questions approaches Town support and vice versa.

Water District 4 service request: September letter – 2 properties seeking inclusion. Mayor can not add new subscribers until an issue is resolved.

Supervisor Hokanson stated we formed a district – Village has approved hook ups.

Mayor Dungan: NYC Water Board approved – still had to go thru Health Department. NYC says the Village is not authorized to sell water to anyone else.

Roadblocks:

End of 2002 agreement was close. Have fired attorney come back in order to move forward.

Contract for Ambulance Service: Supervisor Hokanson provided the contract and is working with Michael Zierler.

Trustee O'Donnell: Patrick questioned different rates paid by Village versus Town residents.

Jeff L – responded that Town is paying more money – not fair to ask?

Supervisor Hokanson – put into next \$50438.97: Town put in 95538.03

Mayor Dungan claimed there is another issue, in 2002 continued with joint service but with separate contracts. Three years ago supervisor broke contract – put in A fund.

Supervisor Hokanson responded that it was his interpretation. Michael to Patrick – you need to look at history- the numbers do not change much.

(Robert Feldman – Tom Nyquist - \$2) supervisor wants to go back to that

Councilwoman Williams suggested to have meeting dedicated to these issues.

Patrick – Shari both would like to see Comptroller offer opinion.

Supervisor agrees but questions the timeliness – attorney gets a faster answer – framing issue for them is important. Jack Zand and Joe Moriello, Mayor Dungan: – law separate contracts lower level of service would cost less money. It may generate a different contract price.

Councilwoman Brown questioned is it legal for the Village to make up the difference for the services it uses.

Joe – allow the attorneys to do some research on existing opinion.

Supervisor Hokanson moved to authorize Joe Moriello to work with Village attorney for form, seconded by Councilwoman Williams and to expend funds on researching previous opinion, all ayes.

Moriello Park improvements for 2010:

Supervisor stated moving forward with paving and road.

Trustee Osborn: stumbling block previously with highway dept and neighbors – paving could satisfy neighbors. Enter top – drop off – exit thru bottom, can also enter thru bottom lot. Reduced park space was an issue.

Supervisor stated we put the road. We will provide funding and we each will provide workers.

Pat needs to see and hear more before voting.

Bookkeeper was supposed to take care of something that she didn't.

Shari suggested having Dave and Andy to show their map.

Pat questioned what parts are or are not fenced in.

Map by Chuck of proposed basketball, volleyball, and bocci ball.

All are in agreement that conceptionally it is a good idea.

Trustee O'Donnell says he is not ready to say go ahead. What is deal with outstanding money?

What will be there? What are peoples' expectations for use?

Trustee Osborn moved that Village share ½ of cost to have Dave Clouser look at space and plot out on a scaled drawing. Motion was seconded by Trustee Kimbiz, no vote from Trustee O'Donnell,

Mayor Dungan agrees with outstanding issues to be resolved.

Joint meeting scheduled for March 4th at Village hall at 7:30 p.m. (10 year contract-Moriello Pool – Trustee Osborn: requests fire stuff also)

Mayor Dungan agreed to a Joint meeting. Seconded by Trustee Kimbiz, all aye votes cast. Mayor Dungan made a motion to go into Executive session to discuss contract negotiations pursuant to Taylor Law. Seconded by Trustee Kimbiz, all aye votes, motion carried. Executive session any topic can be discussed in public.

Town Business

Chief Snyder's request for camera purchase caused concern. How did vote go - no response from Attorney until today. Attorney says vote stands but does not prohibit withdrawing or re-voting.

Chief – reporter told him there was an issue. Camera used for many investigations.

Councilman Logan observing public lands privately need a court order.

Chief said the police can do that. He went on to say that police protect people not violate them.

Had to upgrade some equipment. It is part of what the department does, he did not want to spend tax payers money but planned to use drug money instead, with the permission of the supervisor and board vote. Not cameras on street – that was a different issue.

Seized assets – o t for backfilling, K-9 training for K-9's, security for new building. \$8000 currently; another \$30,000 will be added. (\$1863. is targeted for camera)

Jeff L is training.

Chief had a problem describing on camera tonight what they are going to use.

Councilman Logan: there is no written policy on use of camera.

Chief responded constitutional right tells us where to use the camera.

Councilwoman Brown wants the Chief's assurance – trouble down the road for inappropriate use.

Councilman Lewis questioned using cameras for investigations and not placed for perpetuity.

Councilman Logan found policies online for camera use suggested New Paltz should pursue.

Going ahead.

Police Department estimate for hybrid vehicle:

Councilman Lewis questioned if the town has a chase policy and would a hybrid car be able to keep up.

Chief replied that it runs on gas and battery.

Councilman Logan expressed his concern on future maintenance costs.

Chief responded that there are not many departments around using them for patrols. Used for administrative and detectives.

For a patrol vehicle – after adding all the equipment it is unknown how the car will hold up over time. \$1300 more a year on lease. Could get double the mileage of patrol cars getting 12 mpg.

Idling? In a hybrid you would not be burning gas or polluting the air.

JaneAnn worries on maintenance side also.

Chief would be willing to try out a sergeants car as a hybrid. (Mercury Mariner is being considered)

Councilwoman Williams: battery technology is relatively new in hybrids.

Supervisor has concerns about adding equipment to drain the battery.

Councilwoman Brown thinks \$1300 more a year is worth it to cut idling and pollution.

Councilwoman Brown moved to authorize the chief to lease hybrid for sergeants' car. Seconded by Councilman Lewis. Supervisor Hokanson nervous about warranty not being honored and battery replacement and statement on displaced breaking. Councilwoman Williams agrees and thinks we should defer for a year or two.

Councilman Lewis would like to try, just one car.

Councilman Logan: disposing of highly toxic lithium batteries negates any environmental efforts.

Aye votes from Councilwoman Brown and Councilman Lewis, Nay votes from Supervisor Hokanson, Council members Williams and Logan. Motion failed.

Prepayments:

Supervisor Hokanson made a motion to approve the prepayment of voucher # 90938 for the Highway Dept. for petty cash in the amount of \$218.80. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Outstanding bill of 6/18/2009 approved upgrading water main on Henry DuBois Drive being paid by Woodland Pond. Pipe was smaller – maximum of \$17,000. Councilwoman Brown moved to pay \$17,598.56 out of Water District #1 to Roehrs. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried. (NO PAPERWORK)

Warrants: Councilwoman Brown made a motion to pay the warrant in the amount of \$439,698.63. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 11:17 p.m. Supervisor Hokanson made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the hiring firing, promotion, demotion of a particular individual. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 11:47 p.m. Supervisor Hokanson moved to come out of executive session. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Supervisor Hokanson move that the Board approve UPSEO Contract and sign. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 11:43 p.m. Supervisor Hokanson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Lewis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Cappillino
Town Clerk