

**Town of New Paltz
Public Hearing on Building Moratorium; Town Board Meeting
January 21, 2010**

Present: David Lewis, Jeff Logan, Kitty Brown, JaneAnn Williams and Supervisor Hokanson
At 7:13 p.m. Supervisor Hokanson moved to open the Public Hearing on Building Moratorium on subdivisions. Temporary suspension of certain residential development within the Town of New Paltz 18 months with 2 additional 3 month extension not related to prior resident with in special flood plain. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public Comments:

Fawn Tantillo: does not understand the timing – in these times problems with people having paying taxes, etc. if sub division could save family property. Planning process diligent – she asked the Board not to support.
Steve Vaccaro – agrees with Fawn-he does not understand the timing – coincide with Comprehensive Master Plan. Can not understand year and half, he feels this is excessive. There has been no new building since 2008 – hardly a call for 18 months. This is extremely excessive. Very little land to be sub divided at this magnitude. Urge board not to consider moratorium. Planning Board has grip on laws; cluster law taken a strong hold.
3 sub-division – Storm water – Vaccaro, Rappa and Christ, all have preliminary approval.
County Comments – as Town issue Supervisor Hokanson recusing self. County said they disapprove – Town should work to finalize Comprehensive Plan. own already has well written cluster plan. Super majority vote of 4 needed due to county disapproval.
Councilwoman Brown questioned where did this come from? Plea from Planning Board during housing bubble not able to do planning they wanted 1 ironic aspect – when things are hot, lot of question when cool as now. As for family property protection this would kick in for 4 or more lots.
Supervisor Hokanson was not in favor of moratorium-she feels the need to finish the Comprehensive Plan.
Councilman Logan fees stop gap – moratorium should be in place.
Supervisor Hokanson disagrees with that.
Supervisor Hokanson made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

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At 7:30 p.m. the meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: add request of BMX to close recycling, Transfer station 3 days in July. Councilwoman Brown requested to run a 3-minute clip of the taser demonstration from the Police Commission meeting.
Supervisor Hokanson made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes, motion carried.

Public Comment

William Watson, Town retiree, on Retirees decision - done a lot of things while worked here – earned the right to get benefits – only 1 of 19 to pay 20% - it is unfair. Why go to the bottom of the food chain to make cuts – why not start at top.
Councilwoman Brown has instituted policy for new hires to pay 10%. Mr. Watson thinks he should be grandfathered in. He questioned what happened to morals and respect.
Councilwoman Brown insists they are looking for people on bottom, taxpayers – no health care and no pension – more wrong. We are working with contracts.
Councilman Lewis agrees with retirees he feels these people worked under the idea they had benefits – adding to the agenda.
Supervisor Hokanson explained this is an estimated amount in budget. The Board made multiple changes in health insurance item not calculated to the penny. Put on next weeks agenda.
Victor Guirma – 15 years ago bought property on Kleinkill.
Supervisor Hokanson explained that right now there is a 3 month moratorium goal to prevent increase number of people who would be stranded in event of a flood. Mr. Guirma’s property is up for sale.
Ray Lunati – lived on Shivertown Road almost 9 years. Disagrees with moratorium on Springtown Road. FEMA good for reduced insurance. Insurance not needed for all properties.
Supervisor Hokanson - no new residences or new people.
Selling existing house? Other requirements? Did not see many floods where evacuation was necessary. Town Board is creating a financial hardship for properties not in flood plain.
Mark Lunati – letter asking Board not to restrict building of new homes.
Chris Ullrich – agrees with Ray, adding a question to the Board on what have they done specifically to get emergency vehicles to Shivertown with in the 6 months the moratorium has been in effect.
Supervisor Hokanson: not for the Town to debate, but took action in direct response to residents request.
Councilman Logan – has all the answers – Volunteers based on WOW to ensure coverage.
Sara Edmond – of Shivertown Road, there is a low % - there are risky areas where people still live such as CA. and San Francisco, New Orleans.
RE – retiring – same thing about building under moratorium.
Supervisor Hokanson – not a guarantee.

Butch Dener, Town resident, speaking for retirees, great quote – Hubert Humphrey. Prior employees were “promised” something. Read aloud a letter from Janet Solaas.

Court versus Town of Minneola disrespected, denied what was promised to them. Emergency volunteers website – auxiliary unit in event of violent disaster in Israel – Butch working with 5 New Paltz firemen volunteers who are going to Israel.

Fawn Tantillo – has been a public servant for many years – consider policy of not responding -this could be intimidating to people who are not strong speakers.

Councilwoman Brown – rude not to answer a specific question

Ira Margolis – re: 20% issue as senior citizen on government plan got big decrease in benefits – this is tuff time for everybody. Everybody should have to share the burden – that amount is less that I have to pay.

Presentation on Middle School issue:

10 minute for presentation – Board can ask questions but not questions from audience. Same applies next week
KT Flusser – 2005 building survey determined the need to renovate. 2008 Board resolved to keep Middle School in Village and construct green.

\$49.8 million – total of project

\$20 million education share

\$29.8 - local share

Education cuts coming from government state building. Aid will be cut for the first time

Councilwoman Brown questioned if there is a record of correspondence with School Board and state? Not a place you need to worry.

Councilwoman Brown total debt payment for a year?

Old Business:

Vaccaro Conservation easement: 2 Town Attorneys hashing out the language.

Town Planning Boards’ purview to decide where the easement is; easement is requirement of sub-division.

Councilman Logan moved to accept language for conservation for “Birches” new provision coming for lender being on board with easement. Both attorneys as written and soon to be amended and approved by Town Attorney, seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast.

Pam Richardson stated that Town Board send letter to Planning Board.

Announcements:

Councilman Logan reported that assistance is needed for 4th of July. Call 430-5082 Steve Warren.

Councilwoman Brown announced help with Haiti relief effort – Vassar College collecting emergency supplies – otc meds, food, no clothing, medical supplies. Cdy3@verizon.net

Shop Rite collecting money – New Paltz Rotary – funds – contact Supervisor Hokanson (Break 8:52 – 9:04)

Comprehensive Plan update – we need to declare ourselves lead agency. 4 chores to do

Update – committee met, reviewed consultants work – changed inventory, goals, and objectives,

Councilman Logan moved Town of New Paltz declare lead agency status for Town of New Paltz

Comprehensive plan update, seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all ayes votes.

Bill balance \$21,000 - \$10,000 included in package. Dave Clouser – this firms cost is ½ and less than other firms. New Paltz sophistication they did not count on – lots of rewrites- he agrees with payment schedule.

Councilwoman Brown – on greenway grants committee read many comprehensive plan documents – feeling they just keep churning out data – continue to find info from them to cast more darkness than light. She is not in favor of voting for final payments.

Supervisor Hokanson wants to schedule final meeting to be split for smaller groups of people to view.

Councilman Logan – Peter Smith does not understand why the board withheld the payment – no payment is distracting him from the goal raises questions for the Councilman, who suggested the Board should meet with him.

Councilwoman Brown questioned if we pay final \$10,000, Supervisor Hokanson advised then the Board still owes \$11,000.

Dave Clouser does not think Town should pay more than \$10,000. Supervisor Hokanson suggest paying \$8,000,

Supervisor Hokanson moved to authorize payment of \$8,000 as pre-payment to Peter J Smith, seconded by Councilman Logan. Vote is as follows: nay vote from Councilwoman Brown, all other are aye votes.

Building Moratorium on subdivision: Dave Clouser’s opinion is: do not do it unless there is a need.

Councilwoman Brown- right now there is no pressure on the Planning Board.

Straw-Poll – Councilman Logan – yes – change time period – goal was to get zoning change.

Councilwoman Brown finds flaws in cluster law – she is not comfortable amending proposal to allow cluster plans

Councilman Logan is more concerned with language on conservation easements.

Supervisor Hokanson will not vote for it.

Councilwoman Williams agrees with Supervisor Hokanson.

Councilwoman Brown suggested Town wide moratorium of 12 months.

Councilman Lewis feels findings from County Planning Board suggest we are going against the tide. He could not go along at this time.

Noise Ordinance – Board voted to refer to Attorney Moriello who has some concerns. He suggested we amend our own and not create a new one. Supervisor Hokanson will continue to work with Town Attorney. Councilman Logan is uncomfortable with 143 – fines – attorney feels should be consistent.

New Business:

ZBA fees – new recommendations provided; significant changes – left off use variance – hold for next week meeting after they meet.

PD Insurance refund – refund for damaged equipment due to big accident – left off of budget. Supervisor Hokanson moved to allow the Police Department to spend \$38,880.90 on replacement equipment. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown for discussion purposes. Equipment: laptops, radar units and radios
Councilman Logan says he would like to see bills and vouchers.
Supervisor Hokanson moved to authorize the checks to process vouchers and purchase normally. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Highway request for computer – Superintendent requested purchase of a lap top – Computer there not usable; it is not in the 2010 budget. Supervisor Hokanson made a motion to approve the purchase of a laptop. Seconded by Councilman Lewis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Building & Grounds request for truck purchase: Councilman Logan remiss in his duties – time factor important in fixing water break. Supervisor Hokanson did not offer that previously. The highway Superintendent supports truck for Building and Grounds for him to borrow. The truck is also needed to carry sludge out of Sewer 6 to replace the rack body. Councilman Logan added that now requires a CDL. A decision needs to be made tonight. Councilwoman Brown moved to approve the amount of \$35,329 for the purchase, seconded by Councilwoman Williams. No vote from Councilman Logan, all others cast aye votes. Supervisor Hokanson moved to pay for the truck as a prepay. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Close Recycling Center for weekend of July 9-10-11 for BMX tournament. Supervisor Hokanson suggested recycling be opened that Monday and staff take day off or be re-assigned. Notify the public by putting it in the paper several times; have big signs there, post the closing on the website and on Public Access. Supervisor Hokanson made a motion to close recycling on July 9 and 10. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Taser demo: Councilwoman Brown requests a three minute segment of taser demonstration from the Police Commission meeting be run on channel 23 in the interest of public information and discussion. She feels it is important to see the minute and a half before and afterwards; she would like a showing everyday for at least a week.

Warrants:

Councilwoman Brown moved to authorize the Supervisor to pay January warrant of \$741,522. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Minutes: Councilman Logan made a motion to approve the corrected minutes of November 19th. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown all ayes votes cast, motion carried.

At 11:07 pm Supervisor Hokanson moved to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all ayes votes, motion carried.

At 11:41 pm Supervisor Hokanson moved to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Appointments:

Councilwoman Williams moved to appoint Justin Finnigan to a 3 year term on the Police Commission, seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes.

Councilwoman Williams moved to appoint Ariana Basco to a 1 year term on the Police Commission. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Councilwoman Brown moved to reappoint Ira Margolis to serve a 1 year on the Police Commission. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 11:50 p.m. Councilman Logan moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marian Cappillino
Town Clerk