

## April 21, 2011 Town Board Meeting

Present: David Lewis, Jeff Logan, Kitty Brown, JaneAnn Williams, Toni Hokanson

**Agenda:** Supervisor Hokanson stated that she would like to add public hearing for water/sewer rates to bottom of new business. Councilwoman Brown would like to add discussion of website, Councilman Logan requested to add a discussion about monthly reports from department heads, landlord-tenant advisory committee, new business, fees from cable (closing construction fund), fire dept. budget (new) as demanded. A motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to adopt the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all ayes cast, motion carried.

### Public comment:

Steve Auerbach, Town resident, re-districting and its effect on New Paltz. Charter made it mandatory for committee and 2010 census. Goal was to have its own legislator. Committee came up with 3 options, adopting option number 3 was urged local political people committee at meeting in November well publicized and attended. Instead they drafted option 5.

He asked if Town Board could adopt a resolution for option 3? Or urge the Legislature or this committee to adopt option 3, so New Paltz would have two full time legislators, not one.

Ray Lunati- Town resident, Alternative energy fund- Supervisor Hokanson asked comptroller to review to ensure it meets the bid requirements. We don't have an answer yet. He also had some questions about the budget – the transfer from medical insurance to planning infrastructure, dental- had series of questions for the board- Supervisor Hokanson suggested that he put those questions in writing and give it to her. In addition, he made a comment that he thinks the wetlands law is a bad idea. It's just going to cost the taxpayers a lot of money. He asked about the Geothermal Drilling – where would they be drilling and how would it affect him? Supervisor Hokanson replied that if it happens, the wells will be in the right of way in the streets and would benefit the people who are hooked up to it. It wouldn't happen all over town all at once. He asked if they were still going with the Deputy Highway Superintendent Law? Supervisor Hokanson said yes. He said he thought the Bike Parking was a great law. He was told it was a Town law not a Village Law so would only affect new construction in the Town. He mentioned the Open Space Plan, and he commented that he wanted to make a law that the Town Board couldn't make new laws without the public coming to meetings to request those laws to be made. Councilman Logan suggested he google General Municipal Law because he doesn't think that that would be legal. He also talked about the Farm Land Preservation Act. Councilwoman Brown said that if farmland is converted to nonfarm use they will have to pay a tax equal to five times the taxes saved in the most recent year that they received an agricultural assessment and interest of 6 percent per year compounded annually will be added to the payment because the farmland has received special tax protection. And lastly, he commented that he thought that they had picked a great guy when they picked John Orfatelli to for the Historic Preservation Commission. Councilwoman Brown said that John had sent her an email saying the same thing about him.

Steve Takacs, town resident, would like to see a reduction on the legislative process because he thinks it's too specific. He's getting the perception that these legislative avenues that they are taking are representing only a few people. He mentioned the Wetlands Laws, and legislation for the flood plain people. He said you are making laws for the flood plain people when none of you live in the flood plain so he feels that they are not being fairly represented. Feels more public input should be sought before legislation is passed.

Deputy Highway Superintendent position- existed in previous administration. It is not a position to fill, explained the Supervisor, it is an internal move.

Chris Ullrich, seconds Steve's sentiments- New Paltz residents are not feeling represented - would like to hear presentation (Kent Pearce) in New Paltz Town Hall. A conversation ensued but the bottom line is

Councilwoman Brown said he could schedule a presentation at the Community Center, or he could come to a Town Board meeting and speak 3 to 5 minutes during the public comment section.

Supervisor Hokanson suggested anyone can run for office if they feel they're not being represented. We have an election in November.

**Community Announcements:** calendar events. Rabies Clinic , Cloth Diaper Change on Saturday at Hasbrouck Park at 11am , they are changing babies from disposable diapers into cloth diapers they are trying to set a world record, clean sweep 4/30, The regatta on 5/1. Cystic Fibrosis April 30<sup>th</sup>, run bike run on Springtown Road .

**Presentation on Park Point-** George Rodenhausen- Councilwoman Brown is concerned- Park Point applicants spending about \$12,000 this month alone; asked does this project fit our definition of PUD. She further stated the 42 acre parcel does not meet our 50-acre requirement, and a proposal to annex an additional eight acres. So right now a 42 acre parcel would not qualify. She wants to understand the ownership, the lease arrangement, and how the Town will be guaranteed that it will always be a 50 acre parcel. Ownership lease arrangements not interested in another sewage plant.

Discussion on sewer plant- Councilman Logan: we're in debt with our other two- Supervisor Hokanson is interested in a new sewage plant. Councilman Logan- at what point can we meet with people. George R- they are going through SEQRA which puts everything on hold. Thinks developer should meet with Town Board. Doing DEIS. Councilwoman Brown getting nervous – they will spend big bucks – it's not consistent with our PUD law. Councilwoman Brown has questions- George R- definitely cannot answer questions on behalf of the applicant. Supervisor Hokanson would like to see public benefit via contribution to the loop bus.

Councilman Logan – questions passed. Councilwoman Brown would like to work with applicant for their proposal to be consistent with our PUD law. George R- they (developers) need to hear what you're thinking.

Supervisor Hokanson- we should review Dave Clousers comments-

George R- can you offer an opinion on what obstacles interfere with PUD criteria.

**Ulster County Shovel Ready Grant application** – Supervisor Hokanson was authorized to get a cost estimate from Dave how much would it cost to get him to prepare The Shovel Ready Grant Application – cost is \$700-

Councilwoman Brown- this is the place to put money in Economic development

Town Engineer, Dave Clouser is worth every penny we pay him

Supervisor Hokanson- authorization up to \$700 Dave Clouser to prepare The Shovel Ready Grant application. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, Councilman Logan, no, all other ayes. So, Marian, does that mean the motion passed?

Justice court audit: Councilwoman Brown thinks Town Board should meet to work with auditor.

**Police Department request-** seized assets- The Chief requested that \$660 be released from the seized assets account to pay for K-9 officer to go to drug training (appropriate use). Supervisor Hokanson made a motion that we authorize to release \$660 from the seized assets account to be used for this purpose. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all ayes cast, motion carried.

**Procurement Policy-** limits raised (20000- 35000) Supervisor Hokanson said that the Procurement Policy that they had adopted at the Reorganizational meeting, \$10,000 for public purchase contracts, and \$20,000 for public works contracts Auditor said that those were the old rates and suggested we readopt procurement policy at the current rates which are \$20,000 for public purchase contracts and \$35,000 for public works contracts. Supervisor Hokanson moved that they adopt the amended Procurement Policy for the Town of New Paltz. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all ayes cast. Motion carried.

**Ragnar Relay Race:** safety review process in effect now. Fee will be coming. It will either be \$250 if they can provide proof of nonprofit status or \$500 if they cannot prove nonprofit status. A motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to approve this contingent upon us receiving the check and the Police Department

completing their safety review. Seconded by Councilman Logan, and he added for discussion and he would like it amended that the check that they send to us will be in the amount of \$500. Supervisor Hokanson commented that without knowing what all the details are she didn't want to commit them to that.

Councilwoman Brown said the check could be in the amount of \$250 if they receive verification of nonprofit status. Councilman Logan \$500 check unless we receive proof of 501-C-3 in the name of the applicant. And he added to let them know that if they send them a check in the amount of \$250, they won't be approving this. All aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Contract for Summer Youth Recreation.** Supervisor Hokanson made a motion designating the Town Board lead agency, for the purpose of signing a contract for Summer Youth Recreation, and declaring this a type II action. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast. Supervisor Hokanson added Joe prepared this and she did the Schedule A and reviewed it with him and was able to send it up to the Y just a couple of days ago and they came back with just one minor thing that they would like changed which is #5 Maintenance and Inspection of Records: they want it to be clear in this section that the Town Board has the opportunity to audit financial records that are about the camp not just all their financial records in general, so she said she'll ask Joe to clarify that if that's okay with the Board. So Supervisor Hokanson so we need a motion authorizing her to sign a contract with the Y. Councilwoman Williams said so moved. Seconded by Councilman Lewis. All ayes votes cast, motion carried.

**Letter for re-apportionment committee-** Councilwoman Brown - general public at meeting last week- everyone felt first 2 options were terrible- all support option 3 as better than 1 and 2. She stated that New Paltz is a community of 14,000 people and we have 2 legislators right now. She added that this current map wasn't even shown to them at that meeting. Councilman Logan added he didn't get that map sent to him last week from the County. Doesn't know when this map was produced. Supervisor Hokanson added that she couldn't believe that they would take the third largest Town in the County and just divide it up. Councilman Logan added that Woodstock, Marlboro, and Ellenville all get their own representation. Councilwoman Brown added what is so appalling is that the Town of New Paltz does not have a Legislator. Councilwoman Williams added that they totally disenfranchise most of the homeowners in the Town. Supervisor Hokanson asked so do you think we need to make this letter a little stronger? They all said yes. Councilwoman Brown added that she thinks this is such a slap in the face to the process. To actually invite us to a discussion, let us spend 2 hours discussing three options and giving our preference and then, this is bait and switch; they didn't even show us this option. And this option is the worst. Councilman Logan added that this version is even worse than option 1. Councilwoman Brown added as far as she can tell this plan means that New Paltz is the only Town without a Legislator. The letter needs to be stronger- Board feels. Councilman Logan will strengthen the letter and distribute to this Board before lunch tomorrow. And then he asked if Supervisor Hokanson and Councilwoman Williams would edit. They said they would. Supervisor Hokanson made a motion that the Board authorize the sending of an updated letter on behalf of the Town Board to the Redistricting Committee and the Legislature. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Set Public Hearing dates:** for amending the water and sewer rates- and need to decide on if we are going to go up 5% or 10%. Councilman Logan said that the biggest problem that they have with the water and sewer rates is and he looked at the last year's, particularly Sewer District 6, we're going to have to go to Bond there soon because he doesn't even know where we've been getting the money to run Sewer District 6, it's been running in the red substantially every year if you read that report that Dave Clouser wrote several years ago. So how much does Sewer District 6 owe General Fund right now? Supervisor Hokanson replied at the end of 2010 \$59,350. Councilman Logan added we misbudgeted for 2011 because that's got us running at a negative almost \$13,000. Supervisor Hokanson said it's running that way because we can't raise the rates without a public hearing. Councilman Logan said that we got a problem because unless we go to a Bond

Sewer District 6 won't be able to come up with \$60,000 on rates. He said he doesn't know how anyone could afford it. Their base rate would have to double or maybe triple. Supervisor Hokanson replied that she would like to get the rates changed to start with and work on a longer term solution. Councilman Logan said if we wait they'll be in the hole another \$40,000. Supervisor Hokanson mentioned that they might be able to get a grant. Councilwoman Williams suggested that getting grants would help with some of this, and to bond to pay off the old bonds and the debts that they currently have now. Supervisor Hokanson mentioned that she is meeting with Councilwoman Williams, Joe Moriello, and Dave Clouser on Monday to review the Sewer 6 section of the code. Councilman Logan feels the rest of the community is subsidizing Sewer District 6, and he mentioned that they're going to have to rebuild Sewer District 6 but that's not going to happen in 2011 or in 2012, so need a plan to stop going into debt. Supervisor Hokanson feels that they need to raise the rates but doesn't want to until she sees what it would do to the individual bills. So, bottom line is they need to raise rates and possibly bond the remainder for what is owed, move money into Sewer District 6. Councilman Logan suggested to table all until after Supervisor Hokanson's meeting and asked her to also come up with a rate.

**Website:** the designer is *Small Packages*. Councilwoman Brown feels the design is a problem, finding the department heads too awkward and needs a search field. Councilman Logan says the design is not user friendly. He also wanted the big Steve Jordan ads that link to Steve Jordan's website removed.

Councilwoman Brown said and they all seemed to agree that the Steve Jordan images could remain if they don't link to his website and she would like them to be smaller. Supervisor indicated the cost is little - \$500 per year. Councilman Logan feels that the Police Department should not have their own website. Their info. Should be incorporated into the Town's website. Why should we pay for 2 websites? Supervisor Hoganson said first she'd like to know how much the Police Department is paying for their own website, and find out how much it would cost to incorporate the Police Dept. info into the Town's website before they do anything else. Councilman Logan volunteered to help with the website and email. Supervisor Hokanson said she went to an internship meeting at the college, would be good to get student interns to work on the website and on doing publicity for the Town. Randall Leverette will pay for his own e-mail address on the Police Commission, and said he would help do publicity for the Town, and help supervise the interns. And he asked why we don't have a .gov for our website? He said you apply to the General Services Administration. He said he would help them do this.

**Landlord-Tenant Advocacy Committee-** held at Village last week. The committee is in the Village; are we interested in making it a joint committee? They have seven seats: three tenants, three landlords.

Ira stated they are a council- need 3-3-1 members. The problem is not having a quorum, the problem is there are not enough members. Supervisor Hokanson feels it is not a good idea, that everything is different between the two groups.

**Monthly reports:** Supervisor Hokanson said some of the things that we've been asking the departments to do is to enter what the balance is on certain line numbers on the vouchers, another is status updates but she said didn't want to ask them for status updates because the new software system will be online on May 1<sup>st</sup>, so decided to wait on that, but will ask them for that. Councilman Logan feels report should include more detail ex. How many people attended the lacrosse clinic, how much was raised. He feels the Recreation Director is spending money we don't have. For example: he spent \$1400 to hold a lacrosse clinic but we don't have \$3500 to mow the lawns.

**(Cable) Construction Fund-** do we need to get attorney involved? Councilman Logan- let's not spend money on attorney- let's use the Association of Towns -Councilwoman Brown- suggested the Supervisor send the same email to Brenda Parks everyday for 2 weeks; Councilman Logan: and send letter to everyone at Time Warner, and the Public Service Commission.

**Fire Department Budget- Village Budget- Councilman Logan- Moriello Pool** -plans for paving with detail; public access TV- **Councilman Logan** what are we paying for from what line? **Supervisor Hokanson** said we're paying for the Access Coordinator for Planning Board meetings out of the B fund, Access Coordinator for Town Board and Police Commission out of the A fund, and Access for Public, not Town, not government, but Public portion we moved that fund into the B fund because we wanted the Village to match it. **Councilwoman Brown** asked **Supervisor Hokanson** to call Jean and go over all of that.

**Supervisor Hokanson**- fire department budget for 2010/2011 arrived on Wednesday (the contract) completely signed; and she said she delivered by hand the remaining portion of our budget check to them on Wednesday, still have to give them the host benefit, believes that's going to them tomorrow. **Councilwoman Brown** asked and the new contract for 11-12? Have we resolved this whole host contract brouhaha? **Supervisor Hokanson** said no, haven't resolved anything for next year.

**Moriello Pool- Councilman Logan biggest thing** Village is interested in is paving, Highway Superintendent will give an estimate of cost to prepare the lots for paving and to fix pot holes. **Supervisor Hokanson** will follow up.

**Warrant:** a motion was made by **Councilwoman Brown** authorizing the **Supervisor** to sign the warrant for April totaling \$771,485.78. Seconded by **Councilman Logan**, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Budget modification- Supervisor Hokanson**- need to move money from unappreciated fund (amount of \$27,030) balance, to make last payment to **Floyd Kniffen** for construction on the **Police Department**. She said she didn't budget for this in 2011 because she thought we were going to pay for it in 2010. This also includes returning the retainage. Seconded by **Councilman Logan**, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Councilwoman Brown**- would like to schedule meeting with 2 special prosecutors. **Councilman Lewis** added that the **Police commission** would like to meet with the **Town Board** to discuss with them what the **Town Board** would like to see them doing. They couldn't agree on a time and date, so **Councilwoman Brown** suggested they ask them when they are available.

At 10:58 p.m. a motion was made by **Councilman Lewis** to adjourn. Seconded by **Councilwoman Brown**, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Cappillino  
Town Clerk