

## January 27, 2011 Town Board Meeting

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

At 7:40 p.m. the meeting was opened by the Supervisor with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda:** add lease for Harcourt Sanctuary (old business) lease rather than purchase, requested by Councilman Logan.

Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, four aye votes cast and one nay vote cast by Councilman Logan, motion carried.

Councilman Logan suggested to remove the topic of resident Deputy Highway Superintendent, or go into Executive Session to discuss, due to it being about an individual. Councilman Logan made a motion to remove from the agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, vote as follows: three nay by Council members Logan, Brown and Lewis; two aye votes.

Councilwoman Brown requested an update on the Wetlands law. Councilman Logan requested to add under new business the Town website and fire contract with the Village. The Supervisor said it would be a short discussion. He also requested an update on the mass gathering law, which he distributed and was referred to Attorney Moriello. The Supervisor said that would also be a short discussion. Councilman Logan asked where we are with cablevision, relative to closing and getting the money. Councilwoman Brown offered to give report. A motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to adopt the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

➤ **Public comment:** Ray Lunati, Town resident, spoke on three topics - what happened to FOIL he submitted;

Wood burning furnaces - Supervisor Hokanson said we closed the Public Hearing- has to be re-noticed; sign request for front of Town Hall displaying what is going on.

Police Department: south public entrance/exit has bad site distance- remove hill, telephone bill, mail box; 189 Springtown Road- Planning Board Members, Town engineers, and Town attorney

Dirt bike track just before Dug Road- 4 part request- at no time- didn't come up that Springtown/Dug road- access-floodplain. They should be informed Town code does not allow an activity

Judy McGuire, Town resident, is concerned about the percentage of homes unable to rebuild due to flood and fires. She sees confusion with request as described by Ray Lunati. The process of the Planning Boards' conceptual review was explained by board members.

**Community announcements:** New Paltz winter carnival, Chili contest, Martin Luther King celebration for Dr. Wade-Lewis Scholarship Fund.

**Lease for Harcourt Sanctuary-** Mary Etta Schneider and Christie Ferguson appeared before the board. A new opportunity arose, HHS has an opportunity to sell Harcourt Sanctuary to OSI to resell to a responsible party. A Foundation has come forward and offered to purchase if the Town would provide some support. They met with the Supervisor to discuss insurance. With the town being a co-owner to insure; the Supervisor said it is more viable to lease where it doesn't include budget or impact liability costs looking at lease for \$1 per year. Mary Etta Schneider indicated the Village is offering to continue to do mowing, which amounts to one mile of trails and is done twice a year for an hour.

Police protection is third piece- already helping to protect. Bridge repair as needed-Town would help. Those are four key things

Supervisor Hokanson: distribute resolution committing to a lease. Councilman Logan: 48 hours prior are needed to review.

Aware of Foundation interested in purchasing; looking for more commitment from the Village - mowing is a problem. The bridge is not up to standards with the ADA- the engineer should address it without our paying; suspect of bridges' sustainability, would like an association established like the Rail Trail for maintenance.

Councilman Logan: said the Town has no budget to mow the ball fields and that CWOSP did not meet this month. Ms. Schneider indicated purchasing the property is off the table.

Councilman Logan: we pay insurance- it's an expense to our community. He wants the Village to agree to maintain the property.

Councilwoman Brown questioned the Foundation maintaining the property. Supervisor Hokanson changed their terminology from "protection to Police "surveillance" but the police department is not expected to do more than they are already doing. Councilwoman Brown feels there are a few language issues to clear up. Ms. Schneider indicated the Foundation's commitment is needed; Councilwoman Brown feels we would need the right to close the bridge. The land is being hayed- it is public land. The Town will mow in partnership with the Village if the Village agrees. Is it possible to meet with attorney Moriello after 6:30 p.m. on January 31st? Councilwoman Brown is not available until February 7th.

Councilwoman Brown made a motion that the Town Board resolve to negotiate in good faith- according to the four points enumerated by the Supervisor. Seconded by Councilman Lewis, four aye votes cast, with a nay vote cast by Councilman Logan. Motion passed

Councilwoman Brown suggested that language be developed by our Town attorney and Supervisor to resolve the problems she and Councilman Logan itemized. A Special meeting is scheduled at Town Hall on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

Supervisor Hokanson does not want to rush a lease agreement for the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Schneider indicated it is not necessary, there is time to carefully negotiate the lease agreement; there is no time pressure on a lease.

Councilwoman Brown wants everything transparent before going to the Foundation. Wants to make sure the resolution going to OSI and the Foundation solves the problems raised tonight. Is Attorney Moriello available on January 31st?

**Water bill reimbursement request:** Henry Hudson, of his Main Street property. He prepared a request for the Town Board to reimburse him due to his saying a verbal agreement took place years ago for his utility bill to be manually adjusted. There is no agreement on the part of current town employees that this is so.

It needs to be disconnected says Councilman Logan; Councilwoman Williams suggested the Board find out what reality is and refer to Attorney Moriello.

**Fire contract:** signed by Supervisor Hokanson and referred to the Mayor.

The Supervisor said she is preparing a list for the deputy mayor of outstanding items with the Town. Councilwoman Brown: letter to Bob Feldman, who is the new liaison to the Fire Department- we are willing to make a payment.

**Mass gathering Request:** Councilman Logan distributed material to the Board that he obtained from another town; he offered to resubmit to everyone. He felt *Hunter* had the best laws; he will scan the *Hunter* information to the Supervisor and she will e-mail the information to Attorney Moriello.

**Cablevision:** Councilman Logan feels the website is still disastrous- every page has an ad for SUNY New Paltz- we need the calendar as we used to have; there is too much spam.

**Property Foreclosures:** The County sends out lists asking if we have an interest in obtaining properties, and asking us about outstanding violations. Property on North Ohioville – good parkland-(possibly the old Grace Elliott farm) barn falling down. Councilwoman Brown thought the land trust should be notified. The second parcel is land-locked- could be future water service? We would buy for back taxes. Councilwoman Brown indicated willing to spend up to \$500. It was suggested to wait until executive session- Town Clerk will look up.

**Prepays:** Councilwoman Brown made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to pay as enumerated 1/27. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 9:17 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Williams to go into Executive Session for the purpose of firing, hiring, promotion, demotion of all public individuals. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 10:17 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried. No action taken.

**Appointments:** Supervisor Hokanson made a motion to reappoint Mike Domitrovits to the EnCB through 12/2013; Norm Turner to the EnCB through 12/2012, Rhett Weirs to the EnCB through 12/2013, Jenna Dern to the EnCB through 12/2012, and Donna Cramsie to the EnCB through 2011. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried. Councilwoman Brown added letters will be out by Monday.

**Foreclosure:** no one will pay taxes on landlocked property. The town may have a use

Supervisor Hokanson made a motion to notify Ulster County we are interested in a parcel . Seconded by Councilman Williams. Seconded by Councilman Logan Supervisor to go forward with a friendly amendment of not to exceed \$500. All aye votes cast, motion carried.

Clerk: Call office - County Finance Commissioner- to obtain current figures due.

At 10:21p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Logan to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Lewis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Cappillino  
Town Clerk