

**Public Hearing Fire Contract
Town Board Meeting
March 17, 2011**

Present: Councilman David Lewis, Councilman Jeff Logan, Councilwoman Kitty Brown, Councilwoman Jane Ann Williams, Supervisor Toni Hokanson

Supervisor Hokanson opened the Public Hearing on the fire contract. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried. A motion was made by Councilman Logan to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by Councilman Lewis, all aye votes cast, motion carried. There was discussion with the attorney on the amount to be paid. Without a signed contract we should not send a payment of \$304,000 due to an error in the Village attorney's figures.

Supervisor Hokanson suggested approving the contract for \$304,000 but pay '08-'09 contract amount, and hold off the difference until the new contract is signed.

Jean Gallucci, Acting Mayor, indicated that the Village is out of money without the Towns' payment. If risk is due to the amount published, would you want to advertise in the dailies that you're going to have a public hearing on the \$304,000?

Supervisor Hokanson indicated that the \$16,000 is not substantial, and is willing to take the risk.

At 7:39 p.m. the meeting was opened by the Supervisor with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: A motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to add fire contract to old business and remove ICIB on request- move to next week.

Councilman Logan suggested under old business- HVME update. Supervisor Hokanson suggested moving the update to after Mass gatherings.

Councilman Logan suggested Water District rates, to which Supervisor said next week.

Councilman Logan suggested a Field of Dreams update. The Supervisor will report next week if Councilman Logan gives a list.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to adopt the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public comment: will be limited to 3 minutes

Bob Gabrielli, Town resident; **3% tax day**- flood law decreased value by 80%- other tax payers will pick up slack in taxes for West Of Wallkill going down. Regarding the Geothermal agreement, signing a contract gave them a monopoly.

Councilman Logan- you're absolutely right- only signed letter of intent for them to ask around. We will not sign a contract that gives them a monopoly.

Bob Gabrielli- People will pay for utility whether they use it or not. Googled dangers of geothermal.

Fred VanNostrand, Town resident; regarding recycling- Board wanted to charge seniors more for their permits in an attempt to drive users to county facility.

Supervisor Hokanson: The fees went up because there the things we can't weigh, which means we aren't collecting enough.

Fred VanNostrand- Re: Deputy Highway Superintendent- Doesn't remember ever having one.

Supervisor Hokanson- Phil Johnson and Bob Tompkins had deputies to make decisions when the Highway Superintendent isn't there.

Fred VanNostrand- Hard to manage financially- won't get better, will get worse.

Mark Newman, Plutarch Rd- Deputy superintendent for highway- is it possible for foreman to be in charge, rather than hire new person. We need to reign ourselves in. People are finding it harder to live here. Need to make more cuts. Why isn't someone actually pursuing Central Hudson to keep the bladder down?

Chris Ullrich- Comprehensive Master Plan will affect our community- will be divisive and significantly raise everybody's taxes.

Ed Ezell, Plutarch Rd- Sacred cow- Highway Department, if you think you're getting your money's worth- sadly mistaken. Weston road, which is cleaned by Esopus is always cleaned and sanded in the winter. Not the case when heading toward New Paltz. Plutarch has large potholes and the Highway just drives by, does nothing.

Community announcements:

Calendar events.

Unison 8 page program guide is out.

Councilman Logan- Highway, Plutarch Rd- got through heavy winter with using only 37% of the snow removal budget using inventive scheduling. Individual complaints should be forwarded to the Supervisor or the Highway Superintendent.

Fire contract- A motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to make the Town Board declare itself lead agency and declaring it a type II action. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson authorizing herself to sign the fire contract for \$304,004.25. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Wetlands Local Law: Dave Gordon- environmental review had item to look at- quality vernal pools, type of wetlands. Dave Clouser looking for another month to finalize the EAF, and is taking into account Spider's Vernal Pools Assessment. Supervisor Hokanson want to move forward with educational session in the meantime. SEQR review- review of environmental impacts.

In general SEQR does not look at individual taxpayer. Looking at impact on the Town. Information session with differences from last year- most recent draft will go on our website.

Employee residence requirement- Originally just the Highway superintendent's deputy, and then all employees in general also.

Councilwoman Brown-Want to keep municipal jobs in New Paltz. Put in residency requirements for entry level jobs.

Supervisor Hokanson: Discovered an issue, have not followed in the past- officers and elected officials of the Town are required to be residents of the Town.

Joe Moriello- BAR members are officers; assessor is under contract, not considered an employee.

Councilwoman Brown- Are we out of compliance with current positions with the residency law?

Councilman Logan- Sees no reason to change current law. No interest in spending money to change the law to let someone who lives outside our community to work here.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson- authorizing Joe Moriello to move forward with the preparation of the local law for public hearing consistent with Town of Olive local law- in the first instance we will hire a resident, if there is no eligible resident; we have the opportunity hire someone who is not a resident. This applies for all positions that are public officers. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams for discussion.

Councilman Logan- Opens any department to allow employee at highest level or just below to live outside New Paltz. New law is a waste of public money, and wants to stick with current law.

Supervisor Hokanson- Problem with department heads who don't live here.

Councilwoman Brown- Go into executive session- needs to understand who we're talking about.

Councilman Lewis- Department head has a right to appoint people.

Supervisor Hokanson-Currently 4 people out of compliance.

Councilwoman Brown- interested in new hires, entry level, not breaking law; wants flexibility to go outside the Town if necessary.

Supervisor Hokanson- Public officer defined as: department heads, deputy clerk, building inspector, B&G head, recreation director, recycling coordinator, assessor, and youth center director, chief & lieutenant (they are exempt).

Joe Moriello- every elected officer, every other officer at time of appointment shall be elector of the Town. Building Inspector- will check due to civil service appointments.

Councilman Logan- Not interested in spending more money.

Councilwoman Williams-Wants to find out if we're out of compliance.

Supervisor Hokanson-Will withdraw motion to get further information.

Councilman Logan- Wants to get a list of who is required to be an electorate.

Joe Moriello- Ethics law talks about officers of the Town being employees or department heads and their supervisory personnel.

Kniffen Annexation: Floyd Kniffen- In December left off with Dave Clouser revising EAF and Town forwarded information to the Ulster County Planning Board, comments back. Planning Board will have to assign zoning districts.

Supervisor Hokanson- concerned about creating donut hole in the Town, and reducing size of annexation to keep Town connected.

Joe Moriello- In order to make a decision for a petition of annexation, the Board has to adopt in writing it's findings and final determination that the annexation is in the interest of public. Has village made final determination?

Floyd Kniffen-No, did a short form EAF, never got filed so the 30 days just started.

Councilwoman Brown- trying to direct recreation fees towards Moriello.

Supervisor Hokanson- no other way to do that than by Village voluntarily agreeing to do it.

Floyd Kniffen-Property has 24 lots, small- could combine them into 15, and then no need for recreation fees, was an old sub-division from the 50's. Feels he's not obligated to pay recreation fees because he is not creating new lots.

Joe Moriello- Voluntary contribution is different from creating new lots and having to pay recreation fees.

Supervisor Hokanson- One public benefit includes- protection of ecosystem through utilization of cluster development which will extend the Millbrook Preserve. Also the ability to create additional and another type of housing.

Councilman Logan- This would allow sidewalks along Henry W. Dubois and access for tools, equipment around pump station area.

Joe Moriello-Would like a public benefit list from Floyd and John.

Supervisor Hokanson- Short form versus 3 part form? EAF will have to be modified for new acreage.

Mass gatherings law: Referred to Joe Moriello but a lot of issues not covered. Joe Moriello is suggesting not adopting. Need to include Planning Board as well- they would look at for site plan approval. Other issue- where in zoning districts would these types of events be allowed to be held? Where can we accommodate traffic, limit to access to county highway, etc.? We have the Ulster County fairgrounds, a place in Town for these types of events if people want to hold them. Mass gathering is not a permitted use in our zoning law.

Supervisor Hokanson to Joe Moriello- file until it comes up again.

HVME Update from Attorney Moriello: stipulation of settlement has been signed, they are in the process of vacating. Trailers are back in the Town's possession.

ICIB: 485 B exemption not allowed for school taxes.

Appointments: Two Terms are expiring December 2011, 1 term expiring December 2013.

At 9:53 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to go into executive session to discuss the advice of attorney, and for the hiring, firing, promotion, demotion of individuals. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 10:30 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.

A motion was made by Councilman Lewis to appoint Randall Leverette to the Police Commission for a term of 1 year which will expire in December 2011. Appoint Matt Aube to the Police Commission for a 1 year term, which will expire in December 2011. Appoint Ira Margolis to the Police Commission for a 3 year term which will expire in December 2013. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Alternative Electric Pricing- Supervisor Hokanson- NYS allows you to purchase your electric energy from any provider; Central Hudson will add a surcharge to their equipment you're using.

Rob, EMEX Power Representative- EMEX is a clearing house for electricity. Will find the bids on behalf of the users. Town can choose provider with a lot of plans available-you can choose term, opportunity to lock into a rate. Central Hudson will still bill- no longer has monopoly.

Supervisor Hokanson-Will go back on agenda when we have more information.

Infrastructure on South Putt Corners Rd. - Water and Sewer lines should go into the road during the shoulder widening project. Supervisor Hokanson needs more information for Board and will go on another agenda with the application to the IDA and a ball park estimate from Dave Clouser.

Councilman Logan- Can we go to a request for proposal? Our engineering costs are tremendous.

Highway Dept. Equipment Replacement Policy: Councilwoman Williams- Asked Superintendent to do a 20-year projection of his capital equipment.

Supervisor Hokanson wants Mike to come in and discuss on another agenda.

Appointments:

A motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to appoint John House Wilson to EnCB for a term expiring December 2012. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to re-appoint Mariann Sennett to the Zoning Board.

Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried. For a 5 year term expiring 2015.

Warrants:

Councilman Logan- mistakes -Sewer 6, Rapid Pump Meter- classified as disposal of sewage, why?

A motion was made by Councilwoman Williams authorizing the Supervisor to pay \$1,012,938.88.

Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Councilman Logan questioned Jay M. Siegel- arbitration costing \$1600 for a cancellation of a hearing?

Supervisor Hokanson responded the Board cannot discuss outside of executive session but it was part of a stipulation agreement; the Town did the cancellation. We did not have a choice about the \$1600, but it was a good reason to cancel.

Prepays:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Williams to authorize the Supervisor to approve all vouchers as needed on the memo of March 17, 2011, in the amount totaling \$9,646.79. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 11:13 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Marian Cappillino
Town Clerk