

Final Minutes

Joint Meeting of New Paltz Village Board and the New Paltz Town Board
7:30pm, 01/09/13, Village Hall

Present: Village: Mayor West
Deputy Mayor Rhoads
Trustee Glenn
Trustee Kimbiz
Trustee Basco

Town: Supervisor Susan Zimet
Councilman Barry
Councilwoman Brown, arrival at 7:41pm
Councilwoman Gallucci,
Councilman Logan

Also Present: Kathryn Doyle-Bunker, Village Clerk

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 7:38pm

Approval of the Agenda

There were no additions to the Agenda

Mayor West moved to approve the Agenda. Trustee Kimbiz seconded. 5 Ayes. Motion passed.

Announcements

Trustee Glenn had one announcement. Trustee Glenn is the liaison to the Fire Dept. Trustee Glenn stated that at the meeting this week the officers for the Fire Department requested that Trustee Glenn put out the word that they are always in need for volunteers.

Consensus Agenda for the Village of New Paltz Board

1. Bills and Claims
2. Request for Spring Duathlon (Dual) Against Cystic Fibrosis on April 27, 2013
 - Request letter from Marcy Rynne,
 - Concept Approval email from Joseph Snyder, Chief of Police
 - Map for event

Mayor West moved to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Glenn seconded. 5 Ayes. Motion passed

Legislative Business

1. Presentation of the Report from the Consolidation Committee-Finance
 - Report from Committee

Councilman Barry moved to open the Town Board Meeting. Councilwoman Gallucci seconded. 4 Ayes. Motion passed. Councilwoman Brown was not present for the vote.

Councilwoman Brown arrived at 7:41pm.

Deputy Mayor Rhoads began the presentation by saying that three years ago New Paltz applied for a grant to study efficiency and perhaps some sharing of services. The Village Board and the Town Board organized a committee that had the Supervisor and a Board Member from the Town, the Mayor and one member from the Village Board, two members from the community, one representative from the School District, and one representative from the college. Deputy Mayor Rhoads pointed out the Gerry Benjamin, who was the representative from the college was in the audience for this evening's meeting. Deputy Mayor Rhoads wanted to personally thank and recognize Dr. Benjamin for all of the work, support, and help he has given. A round of applause was offered for Dr. Benjamin.

The Efficiency Committee reported out on October 31st 2011. The committee made several recommendations, and on January 16, 2012 the Joint Boards met. The Joint Boards received and heard the Fairweather report. Deputy Mayor Rhoads pointed out that the Fairweather report was a much larger document than the recommendations the Efficiency Committee made from that document. From the Fairweather report recommendations were made to the two Boards including a recommendation from Dr. Benjamin that New York State Finance Law needed to be amended in order for this community to be eligible for the citizen's empowerment grant of one million dollars. Deputy Mayor Rhoads stated when considering the one million dollars 70% is to be used to offset taxes and 30% to be used for other things. Deputy Mayor Rhoads stated that those other things would most likely be transactional costs. Deputy Mayor Rhoads stated it through the good offices of Dr. Benjamin, the Governor's Office, John Bonacic, Kevin Cahill, the Supervisor, herself, and the Mayor the amendment was passed, and New Paltz got the million dollars. Deputy Mayor Rhoads stated there were a lot of people who felt that the Fairweather report did not necessarily address all of the things that people were concerned about. Deputy Mayor Rhoads continued to discuss the Fairweather report, and that people thought things needed to be addressed, and that people thought items needed to be looked at a lot harder. Deputy Mayor Rhoads stated that they came up with study committees which were convened by Board members. Deputy Mayor Rhoads stated that she had the privilege of convening the Finance Committee until an expert was able to take over. Deputy Mayor Rhoads stated she would introduce the expert shortly. Deputy Mayor Rhoads stated that she hadn't worked so hard, or argued so much. Deputy Mayor Rhoads stated that the Finance Committee met frequently both in small group and in larger groups. Deputy Mayor Rhoads stated that the member of the Committee fought a lot, they argued a lot, and they have come out with what Deputy Mayor Rhoads believed to be a unanimous report of the Committee. Deputy Mayor Rhoads stated that there is nothing in the report that the Committee has not agreed to. Before introducing the Finance Committee Chair, David Lent, Deputy Mayor Rhoads read the end portion of the Finance Committee report. "The Committee sincerely thanks our Chair David Lent, for his leadership, cost analysis and his diligence in keeping the Committee focused on completing our task. In addition, the Chair and Committee took on the additional task of analyzing space needs for one government. Again special thanks to Chris Marx and Bleu Terwilliger for providing current space information."

David Lent, Chairman for the Finance Committee addressed the Joint Boards. Mr. Lent read the Finance Committee report to the Joint Boards, and those present. The report has been attached to the minutes as part of the permanent record. Mr. Lent stated he wanted to make a couple of personal comments now that the report had been read out loud. Mr. Lent started his comments by stating he has had 18 meeting in the last few months with Susan Zimet on one side and Sally Rhoads on the other and it has been a challenge. Mr. Lent went on to say more seriously that since he moved to this community when he was three, and for nearly 80 years he has listened to, read, and in some cases experienced, and sometimes been part of the confrontations between the Town and the Village that one government would eliminate. Mr. Lent went on to say that he has had seen so many friends and neighbor that have had said they can't stand the taxes in New Paltz, and that those people have had to move to Gardiner, Esopus, or Lloyd even though they work and have interest in New Paltz. Mr. Lent stated what was sadder to him were the neighbors who grew up in New Paltz, raised their families in New Paltz and say – I can't live here anymore, I can't stand the taxes, they sell their home and move to places like North Carolina. Mr. Lent stated that he was addressing those in the assembly at Village Hall, and to anyone who might be watching the video record of the meeting. Mr. Lent stated that he suspected that the residents of New Paltz are going to get a vote, and it is their opportunity to personally do something about taxes. Mr. Lent stated that if the residents of New Paltz failed to do something then it was Mr. lent's opinion that the residents should not complain to anyone about the taxes in the Village or Town of New Paltz.

Mr. Lent introduced Ross Pollack who was presenting a chart on the impact of finding of the report are. Mr. Lent stated that the committee looked at the impact without any aid, with the benefit district which is at the center of the

community. Mr. Lent stated that the Committee looked at what would be the impact and the tax rates if New Paltz were able to get the one million dollars from the State.

Mr. Lent stated that if in fact no changes for a special assessment district and no extra million dollars from the State the savings to the Village taxpayer would be 39.59%. To the Town residents it would be 12.35%.

Mr. Lent stated that if New Paltz were to get the million dollars and the Benefit District, Town savings would be 23.43%. The Village would be 43.83%. The Benefit Assessment District in the middle of the Village would show a very small percentage difference .06%. Mr. Lent stated that his rationalization is that the people in the Benefit Assessment District cause a tremendous amount 23-30% of the cost of the police at least in terms of the numbers of calls. Mr. Lent stated that the 23-20% of calls does not take into account how many officers are on the call, and if one were to look at the details of the calls they are significant calls that often require more than one officer. Mr. Lent stated that those operations and businesses in this area have chosen to be here and are aware of today's present tax rate, and feel they are successful which is why they see a minimal amount of reduction.

Mr. Lent stated that the only problem that cannot be controlled is that no one knows what the State is going to do in terms of the rates for retirement, and also the committee did not know what may change for medical rates. Mr. Lent also stated that new contracts with employee are an unknown cost.

Deputy Mayor Rhoads wanted to sincerely thank the people she worked with on the committee. Deputy Mayor Rhoads stated that she wanted people to know that the committee is made up of people who are very experienced, and have had many years in budgeting.

Deputy Mayor Rhoads moved to accept the Financial Report. Trustee Kimbiz seconded. 4 Ayes. 1 Nay, Mayor West. Motion passed.

Councilwoman Gallucci moved to accept the Financial Report on behalf of the Town. Councilman Barry seconded. 4 Ayes, 1 Nay, Councilman Logan. Councilman Logan noted that he was voting nay because he had "just been handed" the report. Motion passed.

Deputy Mayor Rhoads stated that she wanted to thank all of this community, and that it has been a privilege to live in this community for as long as she has, and to have done as much as she could to have been in service to the community. Deputy Mayor Rhoads stated that she hoped would be able to continue to help the community help themselves. Deputy Mayor Rhoads stated that she believed there is not a separate Village, there is not a separate Town, this is the community of New Paltz and she is proud of you and she is proud of us.

Supervisor Zimet stated that there was a lot of information, and that the committee tried to give as much information as possible. Supervisor Zimet stated that it would take a little bit of time for everyone to be able to look through, and digest and speaking on her own behalf, it was an incredible amount of work with very strong personalities. Supervisor Zimet stated that it was a lot of hard work by very bright people who really cared, who had honest conversation, and honest discussions. Supervisor Zimet stated that if they did not agree on something then they just left the numbers the way they were. Supervisor Zimet stated that they did not try and squeeze money out to have greater savings. Supervisor Zimet stated that if the committee could not agree on something they kept it at the higher number, and agreed that they could not agree so that they could move on. Supervisor Zimet stated that like Dave Lent said she really believed that there could be more savings. Supervisor Zimet stated that she thought there could be more savings, and that there were a lot of things that were not in the report because the report does not reflect the savings from buildings. Supervisor Zimet stated that when most budgets are done, and the taxes are levied and a fund balance is used to offset the taxes. Supervisor Zimet stated that the savings presented by Mr. Lent do not have fund balances. Supervisor Zimet stated that she would like to thank Dave Lent for his leadership, his dedication, and his steady hand, and his ability to manage strong personalities. Supervisor Zimet stated it was an honor to work with Dave Lent, and the rest of the Board.

Councilwoman Brown stated that when the efficiency committee recommended that a Town-wide Village would be the best option for consolidation it was after a lot of input from the public. Councilwoman Brown stated there was a concern that the historic character of the Village is something that all residents whether they are in the Town or in the Village really feel part of. The Efficiency Committee felt that if there was a Town-wide Village that sense of

identity would continue through the next form of government. Councilwoman Brown stated that as John Logan has consistently pointed out the Village form of government is a very effective form of government. Councilwoman Brown stated that the Village form of government has more latitude than Town government. Councilwoman Brown stated that the big question at the end of the efficiency study process was what is the tax benefit to the community at large?

Mr. Lent pointed out that in the report mentions that Town Hall will no longer be needed, but the report does not consider the savings of not having to run Town Hall.

Councilman Logan stated that he had just received the report but in a quick review of the report he has a few questions. Councilman Logan's first question is on an anticipated savings of \$300,000 in police. Supervisor Zimet and Councilman Logan agreed that they might now have the answer that evening, but Councilman Logan stated that he thought it was important to discuss. Councilman Logan pointed out that at this time New Paltz is paying over 550,000 for the retired police. Councilman Logan stated that over the next five years that number will probably go up by a "good third if not more". Councilman Logan stated that as he continued to look at the report there is \$300,000 in saving, but there are contractual obligations to be considered. Councilman Logan stated that as he looked at the very large gorillas in the room at the 300,000 and 500,000 in savings from the Highway Department. Councilman Logan stated he was unsure of the savings unless as he stated there will be road closures, and the laying off of significant numbers of people. Councilman Logan stated that there are fourteen miles of center line miles in the Village, "40 some" miles of centerline miles in the Town. Councilman Logan stated that unless people state to him that they are okay with their roads not being plowed for two days, and people are okay with their kids not going to school for a few days because the roads cannot be cleared he could not see how there was a savings. Councilman Logan stated that at first glance of the 1.6 million in savings there is \$800,000 in savings that he has severe questions about that are not part of the three page report. Councilman Logan stated that he would like to see the back up on where the savings are from. Councilman Logan stated that he hoped the savings were there, and if it is possible to realize some of the savings without consolidating the government Councilman Logan said to "do it this year".

Dr. Gerald Benjamin addressed the Board by stating that he was sure there is some back up documentation to the report and the reason for the presentation is to release the document and provoke questions, and have questions answered so he does not have a quarrel with anyone who has questions, because he has confidence in the people who did the work. Dr. Benjamin stated that the eyes of the State are on New Paltz, and he knows this from conversations he has been involved with over the last few days. Dr. Benjamin stated that the State of New York did not anticipate this alternative. When New Paltz undertook this process and wrote the grant one of the things that were written is that New Paltz wanted to consider things that were not necessarily conventional.

Trustee Basco and Trustee Glenn discussed the ways in which the Outreach Committee will be working to get the information in the reports out to the residents of New Paltz. If residents have question they can email them to npconsolidationquestions@gmail.com.

Deputy Mayor Rhoads moved to adjourn the meeting. Mayor West seconded. 5 Ayes. Motion passed.

Councilman Barry moved to support the resolution for the CLG-Grant Program. Councilwoman Brown seconded. 5 Ayes. Motion carried. The resolution is attached as part of the permanent record.

Councilwoman Gallucci moved to adjourn. Councilman Barry seconded. 5 Ayes. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned 8:43pm.

Resolution
RE: CLG Sub-Grant Program

- WHEREAS* The Town of New Paltz is a Certified Local Government (CLG);
- And, *WHEREAS* The Town has a duly constituted Historic Preservation Commission;
- And, *WHEREAS* The Town wishes to assist the Commission in its work to promote historic preservation throughout our community;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. the Town Council of the Town of New Paltz authorizes the Supervisor to submit an application requesting funds through the CLG Sub-Grant program;
2. the funds requested will be used to undertake research on up to 20 historically significant properties in the Town of New Paltz using two SUNY students under the direction of Commissioner Caryn Sobel. The team would utilize the Haviland-Heidgerd Historical Collection to create detailed histories and digitize accompanying photos which would be published on our On-Line Map Site. An underlying theme would dictate which properties are selected. For example, a particular area of construction (stone houses), transition from agriculture to business, impact of transportation, or a specific area or hamlet. The material would be used to support designations of all of the properties as local landmarks.
3. the Town Council commits a sum of \$1,000 (one thousand dollars) towards the match for this grant in 2014;
4. it is the intent of the Town Council that the financial commitment of the Town shall not exceed the \$1,000 as authorized by this resolution;
5. the Town Council authorizes the Historic Preservation Commission to donate \$2000 volunteer time in addition to the monetary sum to be utilized towards the match for this grant; and that
6. in the event that this grant application is approved, the Supervisor is authorized to sign and enter into a contract with the State of New York, pursuant to the CLG Sub-Grant program.

- measures of performance;
- consequences of not performing the activity; and
- benefits of the activity.

Step 2—Ranking the decision packages. This requires that decision packages should be evaluated and ranked in order of importance. Both cost/benefit analysis and subjective evaluation can be used. The process helps managers to explicitly identify their priorities. Top management can use the rankings to evaluate and compare the relative needs and priorities of different projects.

Step 3—Allocating resources. Once decision packages are developed and ranked, management should allocate resources accordingly, funding the most important activities, whether pre-existing or new. The final budget is then produced, taking packages that are approved for funding, sorting them into their appropriate budget units and adding up the costs identified on each package to produce the budget for each unit.

Zero-based budgeting:

- provides top management with detailed information concerning the money needed to accomplish desired ends;
- highlights redundancies and duplications of effort within a department;
- focuses on actual dollars needed to produce outputs rather than on the percentage increase or decrease from the previous year;
- specifies priorities within and among work units/divisions of a department;
- allows a performance audit to determine whether each activity or operation was performed as promised.

The list of ranked decision packages can also be used during the operating year to identify activities which could be reduced or expanded if allowable expenditure levels change, or actual costs vary from the budget.

Zero-based budgeting will probably have its most significant impact in the middle and lower levels of management, where managers will have to evaluate their planning, operations, efficiency, and cost effectiveness on a detailed and continuous basis.

Zero-based budgeting shifts the budgeting process away from a "number crunching" exercise, towards analysis and decision making. Instead of merely addressing the question of how much a given operation will cost, it seeks to identify what the operation is doing, why, and what alternative ways can be pursued.

Zero-based budgeting is likely to be the most effective method for achieving an output based budget, particularly in the first few years after a department moves to Mode B. Output based budgeting requires a department to budget for the outputs it will deliver in the coming year. These should be expressed not only in dollar terms but also in terms of their quality and quantity.

Zero-based budgeting is therefore more useful to management than incremental budgeting. It is, however, more time consuming and more costly. The costs should be weighed against the benefits. It may not be cost effective to apply a zero-based budgeting approach to all departmental activities in every budget round.

In fact, most organisations will adopt an approach somewhere between the two extremes of incremental and zero-based budgeting.