

Joint Town & Village / Town Board Meeting
January 24, 2013
7:30 p.m.

Present –Town: Supervisor Susan Zimet, Councilwoman Jean Gallucci, Councilwoman Kitty Brown, Councilman Jeff Logan, Councilman Kevin Barry.

Present-Village: Mayor Jason West, Trustee Sally Rhoads, Trustee Stewart Glenn, Trustee Ariana Basco, Trustee Brian Kimbiz.

At 7:41 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to open the Joint meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public Input:

Mark Portier believes that an outside accounting firm should be hired to verify the numbers presented to the community. This firm should be from outside this County.

Mike Zierler read aloud a statement from Nikki Koenig Nielson, who could not attend the meeting. In 2009 she worked with Town and Village officials to develop the grant application to study the best structure and services that New Paltz government could provide. That in turn led to a feasibility study that helped decide to move forward with a “new” New Paltz. She is now disappointed in the approach that some current elected officials are taking because it is not the most responsive, productive or cooperative New Paltz possible.

Mike Zierler indicated that he is agnostic about the idea of consolidation. He has not made up his mind one way or another. He stressed the importance of answering the community’s questions.

Steve Greenfield supports the idea of merging the Town and Village, for the most part. However, he finds many flaws in the Finance Report.

Don Kerr indicated that this process is very important. He felt as though the questions that were not answered last week should be answered tonight before moving on to something else. Believes that separate benefit districts will cause a tax shift from the Town to village residents.

Mike Russo indicated that he asked 12 questions at last week’s meeting and got little answers. It is hard to find the answers among the hours of taped committee meetings. He indicated that he is not against consolidation but wants to see honest, open government and good math. Does not believe that good math was presented in the Finance Report.

KT Tobin indicated that she was also involved in developing the grant application in 2009. The process has turned out differently than hoped. She feels the committee reports lack details and explanations. She does not support what’s been presented, more work still needs to be done.

Dave Weeks indicated that the newspapers keep mentioning 13 employee layoffs. He believes that the Town and Village should be honest with their employees.

Dave Lent indicated that he is willing to have more meetings so the public can come and ask questions. He personally thinks the savings were underestimated and hopes the boards move forward in some way tonight.

Rebecca Rotzler thought it was a good idea to have more meetings so questions can be answered.

Ray Lunati believes it is not possible to answer all the questions because more questions arise. Believes that the position of Town Clerk and Highway/DPW Superintendent should remain elected, leave it up to the people.

Councilman Jeff Logan read aloud a statement from John Logan who could not attend the meeting. The statement indicated that he does not believe in the numbers presented in the Finance Report. He urged the Town and Village to hire an outside firm to audit the fiscal work.

Councilman Barry suggested hiring an outside firm to put together pro-forma budgets for 2014 and 2015.

Trustee Kimbiz suggested a narrative outlining how the figures were determined.

Trustee Rhoads feels that Councilman Barry has a reasonable approach. She also indicated that the fund balances from the Town and Village were not included in the calculations. A lot of assumptions go into budgeting. In favor of Dave Lent's idea to have more meetings.

Councilman Brown is in favor of hiring an independent auditor and requested that Mayor West try to find someone outside the county to provide an estimate.

Councilwoman Gallucci indicated that money cannot be allocated for an auditor because the cost is unknown. The scope of work needs to be determined first.

Trustee Glenn believes that it is important to look at consolidation in two pieces. First is finances, and questions should be answered in detail. Every financial aspect should be looked at before moving forward. Agreed with Councilwoman Gallucci regarding determining the scope of work to be done by an auditor. The other piece is governance, which is just as important as the finances. Does not think that the Town and Village should move forward with this if it costs anyone, or any segment a lot of money. It's only a good idea if it saves money.

Trustee Basco indicated that it is really important to answer the public's questions with a narrative.

Trustee Kimbiz indicated that the narrative should be a written document on the website so the public can read it. Agrees with the idea of determining the scope of work for an auditor.

Councilman Logan agreed with Councilman Barry about pro-forma budgets. In favor of hiring an outside auditor and determining the scope of work.

At 9:17 p.m. Mayor West left the meeting.

Supervisor Zimet indicated that budgets are a reflection of what your elected officials believe and think is best for the community. She also indicated that bringing in an auditor is problematic because they would be auditing a thought process.

Councilman Logan believes that there are mathematical errors on spreadsheets. There needs to be more explanations as to where numbers came from.

Trustee Kimbiz suggested coming up with some meeting dates.

Councilwoman Gallucci suggested having a forum with the Finance Committee on a Saturday morning at the community center. Some people cannot make evening meetings during the week. She also indicated she would like to see more debt service added to the calculations because there will be more borrowing and all the debt needs to be in the confines of the budget. The \$1 million should be added to the revenue.

The Boards discussed the points outlined on the agenda. The consensus was that both Boards will move forward with the following concepts:

*Recommending the creation of a consolidated coterminous Town/Village, acting principally as a village, under the condition that the initial consolidated budget has no increase in taxes due to government consolidation. (Councilman Logan does not agree with this language)

*A single governing board for coterminous Town/Village.

*Fire protection is provided by a volunteer fire department.

The Boards agreed to have further discussion on the following:

*One board with 5-7 members (5 at large, 1 from ward based on Village boundaries, 1 from ward based on Town outside Village boundaries). One of the members at large is elected as the Chief Elected Officer (Mayor). (Trustees Rhoads and Kimbiz agreed that a bigger board is better)

*One clerk who is appointed.

*The positions of DPW/Highway Superintendent are eliminated and combined with Highway, Buildings & Grounds, Sewer & Water, and one Superintendent is appointed.

*Non-Partisan Elections run by the County.

*Water & Sewer services are provided by one benefit district where geographically possible; where not by separate benefit districts.

*Other amenities such as sidewalks, lighting are covered by separate benefit districts, costs covered by benefited properties.

A motion was made by Trustee Rhoads to schedule the continuation of this joint meeting, for the purposes of further discussing these items, on Wednesday, January 30th at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Seconded by Supervisor Zimet, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 10:35 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to adjourn the joint meeting and continue it on January 30th. Seconded by Supervisor Zimet, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 10:36 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Barry to open the Town Board meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Town Business:

Agenda: +Standard Workday Resolution, +Park Point Letter

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to adopt the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilman Logan all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public Input:

Ray Lunati believes that the pool is lacking security and the minimum bid of \$700 for the concession stand is too high. He also explained the projected increase in calls and costs for the Fire Department and Town if the Park Point Project is built. The increase is around \$65-70,000.

Hire auditing firm for 2012 annual report:

Supervisor Zimet hopes to get the report filed on time this year.

A motion was made by Councilman Barry to hire Sedore & Company to prepare the 2012 annual report at a cost of \$18,000. Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Funding for IT implementation:

A motion was made by Councilman Barry to secure \$25,000 from the 2012 budget to implement recommendations from the Comptroller's report relative to the Town's IT. This would be applied to the website and the IT problems. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast. Councilwoman Gallucci voted no. Motion carried.

Symantec Anti-Virus package:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to authorize the expenditure of \$2,166 for the 3-year Symantec Anti-Virus package for 38 computers. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Standard Workday Resolution:

Tabled until next Wednesday.

Park Point Letter:

Councilmen Barry and Logan will continue to work on the comments to be adopted next Wednesday.

PrePays:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to approve the following prepaids, close out 2012:

- Voucher #12-02585 to Dave Clouser for \$2,376.40
- Voucher #12-02876 to the College Diner for \$143.25
- Voucher #12-02583 & 12-02784 to DiStasi, Moriello & Murphy for \$1,260
- Voucher #12-02811 to For Paws of Ulster, Inc. for \$500
- Voucher #12-02467 to Hudson Valley Office for \$827
- Voucher #12-02832 to Kimlin Propane for \$433.54
- Voucher #12-02685 to LexisNexis Matthew Bender for \$297.48
- Voucher #12-01974 to Montanos for \$109.99
- Voucher #12-01819 to the New Paltz Soccer League for \$1,485
- Voucher #12-01822 to New Paltz Youth Basketball for \$990
- Voucher #12-02884 to Rapport, Myers, Whitbeck for \$1,258.50
- Voucher #12-02885 to UCAT for \$10,053.12

Total: 19,734.28

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

A motion was made by Councilman Barry to approve the attendance of Councilwoman Gallucci at the GFOA conference from April 10-12 in Albany at a cost of \$707, which includes the \$160 membership. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried. Councilwoman Gallucci indicated she will not be attending the Association of Towns Conference.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Supervisor Zimet to approve the minutes of **November 15, 2012** as amended with the following corrections to the Budget discussion:

- "Supervisor Zimet stated that she gave the Mayor all the supporting documentation he needed prior to the meeting and is incredibly frustrated that he tabled it based on lack of information."*
- "Councilwoman Brown believed that since the Public Hearing is closed, no changes can be made that will increase the budget."*

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to approve the minutes of **November 20, 2012** as amended with the following corrections to the Health Insurance and Budget discussions:

- "deductible", not deductibility.*
- "The Town wants to offer..."*
- "The absolute worst-case scenario with Town funding 75% of employee's portion, is that the Town would save \$55,000 and pay \$68,000 out of deductible. The total MVP cost to the Town for the 37 employees under this model would be \$580,692 plus the costs of MVP Gold and NYSHIP."*
- Strike "doctors and etc."*
- "we are under union contracts..."*
- "Increase Sale of Scrap, increase General Repairs"*
- "Increase CHIPS revenue and increase CHIPS road..."*

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to approve the minutes of **November 26, 2012** as amended with the following corrections:

- "...as offered by Mid-Hudson and the administrative..."*

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

A motion was made by Councilman Barry to approve the minutes of **November 29, 2012** as amended with the following corrections to the Park Point Discussion:

- "March Gallagher from the Ulster County Executive's Office..."*

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

A motion was made by Councilman Logan to approve the minutes of **December 13, 2012** as written. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast. Councilwoman Gallucci abstained due to her absence from the meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Barry to approve the minutes of **December 20, 2012** as amended with the following corrections to the Park Point and Tax Rate discussion:

- "Councilwoman Brown feels that there is not enough housing..."*
- "An error was discovered on the calculations for 2012 A-Fund tax rate by the former Supervisor which impacted calculations, and the correct decrease..."*

Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast. Councilwoman Gallucci abstained due to her absence from the meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to approve the minutes of **January 3, 2013** as amended with the following corrections to the Personnel Policy Handbook, General Policies and Cash Funds discussions:

-“ *Supervisor Zimet pointed out that part-time employees eligible to pay for Town health insurance, include Town Board members.*”

-“ *Town Supervisor- \$50,786.00, -Stipend 9,607.00”, Town Highway Supt 44,290.00*

-*Stipend 18,210.00”*

-“ *Tax Collector retains a \$300.00 cash drawer and \$50 petty cash fund.*”

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to approve the minutes of **January 17, 2013** as amended with the following corrections to the Public Comment and Bike-Ped appointment discussions:

-“*...people on the border of New Paltz ...*”

-“*... Bike-Ped Committee for a term of 5 years to expire 12/31/17.*”

-“*...and incorporate it into the Town’s Master Plan...*”

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

At 11:31 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Mazzaccari
Town Clerk