

Joint Village/Town Board Meeting

7:00 p.m., 12/14/2016, Village Hall

Minutes

Present: Village Mayor Tim Rogers; Deputy Mayor Rebecca Rotzler; Village Board Trustee Dennis Young; Village Board Trustee Tom Rocco; Village Board Trustee Don Kerr; Town Supervisor Neil Bettez; Town Deputy Supervisor Dan Torres (left at 7:15 PM); Town Councilperson Marty Irwin; Town Councilperson Julie Seyfert-Lillis

Also present: 2 representatives from O'Connor Davies, LLP; 2 representatives from SmartWatt Energy; 10 members of the public; members of the press; Alex Wojcik, Deputy Clerk

Absent: Town Councilperson Jeff Logan

Call to Order: Mayor Rogers motioned to open the December 14th, 2016 Joint Village and Town of New Paltz Board Meeting for the Village at 7:00 PM; Deputy Mayor Rotzler seconded. All voted Aye.

Supervisor Bettez motioned to open the December 14th, 2016 Joint Village and Town of New Paltz Board Meeting for the Town; Councilperson Irwin seconded; all voted Aye.

Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative Business

- Approval of the Agenda --

The following items were moved from the Village Board-only agenda to the Joint agenda:

Presentation from O'Connor Davies, LLP on Village of New Paltz's annual audit for fiscal year end 2016; Consideration of Village Planner's advice to pursue the Clean Energy Communities Grant Program administered by NYSERDA (Program Opportunity Notice 3298); Consideration of Village Planner's advice to pursue Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant in conjunction with the Public Square idea for Post Office parking area

The following items were added to the agenda: DEP backup water supply project; Mill Brook Preserve

Mayor Rogers motioned to accept the agenda as amended; Trustee Rocco seconded; all voted Aye (5-0)

Deputy Supervisor Torres motioned to accept the agenda as amended; Councilperson Irwin seconded; all voted Aye (4-0)

- Announcements

- Formal acceptance of Mark Sherman's resignation from the Transportation Implementation Committee: Mark not only served for 13 years on the Transportation/Land Use citizens advisory committee and the resulting TIC, but through his service on the Town Council, and intervening years, he has devoted over 30 years to addressing safety concerns for members of our community. Thank you to Mark for his service!
- New Paltz won big with CFA awards, thanks to the Village Planner and all involved:
 - Mill Brook Preserve (request \$318,000, Match: the Village acquired the land for \$650k and anticipates volunteer labor organized through the Mill Brook Preserve, Inc. (MBPI) plus Village admin time of another \$75k for a total local match of \$750k). Funds to be used for development of 3.3 miles of recreation trails with bridges, a bike trail, low-impact hiking trails, plus a 0.5 mile universally-accessible trail that leads to an overlook of the beaver pond. This is a joint Town and Village project across 130 acres with parcels owned by each.
 - Village sewer construction/ line upgrade (request \$750,000 – project cost \$757,430)
 - Engineering Planning Grant for sewer (request \$99,888) including camera work to help with capital planning prioritization. Also includes evaluating green infrastructure opportunities.
 - Climate Smart Communities Certification for the completion of the work required for the Town and the Village. Each have all the required documentation needed to submit applications to be designated as Certified in the NY State Climate Smart Communities program. The grant is for \$90,710. The Town has requested \$38,000 from the State and the Town and Village will provide \$52,710 in supplies, equipment and services. This will help economic development by identifying areas where the Town and Village can move toward becoming a climate smart community, which will save money and the environment.

- Also: both Town and Village both in the running for grants with Senator Bonacic's office; they will be announcing recipients after the holidays

- Public Comment --None

Consent Agenda

Business Agenda

1. Presentation: **Village of New Paltz's annual audit for fiscal year end 2016, O'Connor Davies, LLP** -- Representatives from O'Connor Davies, LLP presented their findings and offered a few suggestions; kudos to Nancy Branco, Village Treasurer, for her work.

7:15 PM -- Deputy Supervisor Torres left the meeting during the Village Board audit presentation

2. **SmartWatt street lighting presentation** -- Chance Parker and Brian Marshall from SmartWatt Energy, a "full service integrated energy solutions firm," shared a powerpoint presentation regarding their company's proposal for the Town and Village to convert all streetlights to LEDs. The Boards addressed the importance of switching to LED lights and discussed matters not addressed in the presentation including the cost of maintenance, how to budget for replacement of lights, and the expense of turning-in old fixtures. The discussion will be continued in the future.
3. **DEP Backup Water Supply Project** -- Mayor Rogers provided a brief update: both he and Supervisor Bettez are meeting with DEP later this week (Thursday 12/15/2016 & Friday 12/16/2016). Boards briefly discussed. Concerns include those brought up by the Village Engineer regarding whether or not there will be enough water for our residents during the execution of the backup water supply project, as well as possible discrepancies between two different reports regarding how much water is truly needed. Mayor Rogers stated that the Village exceeded the 634 gallons per minute that is the standard of the current plan 40% of the time in 2015.

Mayor Rogers motioned for the Village Board to not accept one of the abovementioned reports over another; Trustee Young seconded; all voted Aye (5-0).

Supervisor Bettez motioned for the Town Board to not accept one of the abovementioned reports over another; Councilperson Irwin seconded; all voted Aye (3-0).

4. **Consideration of Village Planner's advice to pursue the Clean Energy Communities Grant Program administered by NYSERDA (Program Opportunity Notice 3298)** -- Mayor Rogers introduced the topic; Supervisor Bettez provided some background regarding

different milestones (high-impact actions), several of which need to be achieved in order to qualify for the grants.

5. **Consideration of Village Planner's advice to pursue Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant in conjunction with the Public Square idea for Post Office parking area**
The Boards briefly discussed. The deadline for this grant is March.
6. **Mill Brook Preserve** -- Deputy Mayor Rotzler gave an update regarding photo-mapping of the MBP.

8:43 PM Councilperson Seyfert-Lillis recused herself

The Boards discussed the in-progress agreement between Mill Brook Preserve Inc. and the Town that will outline responsibilities and authorities of each individual party within the confines of the Town's previously passed Conservation Easement. The MBP Recreation Plan is currently in the process of being drafted.

8:48 PM Councilperson Seyfert-Lillis returned

7. **Letter to Governor Cuomo requesting that he budget sufficient resources for the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to conduct an enhanced monitoring study of the Wallkill River** --

Mayor Rogers motioned to agree to sign the letter; Trustee Young seconded. Discussion: Deputy Mayor Rotzler recommended that the letter include information such as photographs of the algae bloom. Mayor Rogers motioned to agree to sign the letter as amended; all voted Aye (5-0).

Councilperson Irwin motioned to agree to sign the letter as amended as above; Supervisor Bettez seconded; all voted Aye (3-0).

8. **Consideration of proposed amendments to the "Resolution in Support of Resettlement of Syrian Refugees in New Paltz" (5/19/2016) for the purpose of being more inclusive of others in need of resettlement, including Congolese and Burmese refugees** -- Mayor Rogers provided some background on the topic. Discussion regarding how to be inclusive in the resolution, yet to address current events, ensued. The Boards are working with community members and SUNY professors on revising the resolution and will revisit this topic in early 2017.
9. **Concept for Town and Village Municipal offices at 25/23 Plattekill Ave** -- The Boards discussed the idea of using the square footage of the current Village Hall and Courthouse.

Trustee Kerr motioned to have the Village consider recreating a shared municipal space at 25/23 Plattekill Ave., while urging the Town to do the same; Mayor Rogers seconded; all voted Aye (5-0).

Trustee Kerr motioned that the Town & Village consider the topic of a deep retrofit of the spaces at 25/23 Plattekill Ave. at the next Joint Meeting; Trustee Rocco seconded; all voted Aye (5-0).

10. Moriello Pool -- Mayor Rogers suggested streamlining the process of funding capital projects like Moriello Pool because the Village currently has zero say regarding how the pool is run (e.g. cost of membership, hours of operation, etc.) despite contributing to capital costs. The Boards will return to this long-term issue of streamlining at the next Joint Meeting. In regard to the short-term issue of replacing the liner, Mayor Rogers stated "Send us the bill and we'll be happy to pay for our share."

11. Feral and stray cat rescuer registration --Laura Petit, on behalf of ASPCA as a volunteer, presented the proposal that is intended to help manage cats that don't have human owners, and help to reunite cats who get mistakenly rescued. Trustee Young has received letters of support from community members. The Boards will take action at the next Joint Meeting.

12. Design review board (TABLED UNTIL NEXT JOINT MEETING)

Adjournment

Mayor Rogers motioned to adjourn the December 14th 2016 Joint Village & Town Board meeting at 9:38 PM; Deputy Mayor Rotzler seconded; all voted Aye (5-0)

Councilperson Irwin motioned to adjourn the December 14th 2016 Joint Village & Town Board meeting at 9:38 PM; Councilperson Seyfert-Lillis seconded; all voted Aye (4-0)

Respectfully submitted by:

Alex Wojcik, Deputy Clerk