

Regular Town Board Meeting
January 26, 2012
7:30 p.m.

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

At 7:35 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Logan to open the meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Agenda:

- Add approval of Official Undertaking of Municipal Officers.
- Add Government Efficiency Village Update.
- Add Budget Transfer Request.

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

Public Input:

Everett Payne- The Town's Tree Cutting law is illegal.

Fred Van Nostrand- There hasn't been a Senior Task force in 4-6 years. Would like to see a new one created.

Ira Margolis- Would also like to see a new Senior Task Force created. Concerned about the grading around the handicap parking areas at Town Hall. When it rains, there are big puddles and that's a problem.

Supervisor Zimet- Created a Senior Task Force during her first term as Supervisor and will now work on getting a new one going again. Handicap parking issue will be taken care of.

Project Hope Presentation:

Adrienne and Brynn- A community based organization whose mission is to "assist individuals and communities in recovering from the effects of natural and human-caused disasters through the provision of community based outreach and psycho-educational services". Funded by FEMA to help victims of Hurricane Irene by coming out to their homes and providing support for recovery. They can be reached by phone (845) 336-4747, ext. 150, email- projecthope@mhaimulster.com and Facebook.

MOU-U.R.G.E.N.T. Task Force (Ulster Regional Gang Enforcement Narcotics Team):

Frank Faluotico, Ulster County Sheriff's Office-By entering into this MOU with the UC Sheriff's Office, the City of Kingston Police Department, various towns and villages in Ulster County, and the Ulster County District Attorney's Office, members of the Town's Police Department will participate in investigations related to the ongoing drug and gang activity in the community. As a result, the Town will be eligible to receive seizure money based on its participation that helps offset certain costs to the Town. The work that the Task Force does is priceless.

Supervisor Zimet- Would like the Town to host a screening of the movie "Distractions", which documents the dangers of texting and driving.

A motion was made by Councilman Barry for the Town to engage in the URGENT as a member agency and for the Town Board to authorize Chief Snyder to enter into an MOU consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Frank Faluotico- Seized assets can only be used based on the guidelines set forth by the DEA. One guideline states that the assets cannot be put back into the general fund. They must be used for Police investigations. Ex. Police department overtime.

Ethics Board Review:

Alan Stout, member- The intent of the Ethics law is to establish guidelines to ensure that “public office is not to be used for personal gain.” The Ethics Board is only advisory. In the report issued to the Town Board, the New Paltz law was compared to a NY model law. It was agreed that the NY model is easier to understand and more detailed and thorough, however, the New Paltz model did compare favorably in terms of content. The Ethics Board also requests the Town Board immediately pass a resolution requiring Financial Disclosures be filled out annually, and submitted within 30 days of the passing of this resolution; also in future years, the Ethics Board would like them filled out in January and due by January 31st. In addition, the Ethics Board would like the Town Board to update and modernize the law with simpler language using the recommendations set forth in the Ethics report. Currently there are approximately 70 employees that are required to fill one out.

Councilwoman Gallucci- Is the Ethics Board opposed to adopting the NY model law? Feels that the Model law is very strong.

*Alan Stout-*Not opposed to it, but wants to keep the New Paltz specifics.

It was pointed out that the Model law does not include Consultants as being required to file a disclosure. However, our current law does, but we have not been requiring them to do so. For instance, the Town engineer and attorneys will have to start filing their disclosures as well. The disclosures are about honesty, not necessarily questionable situations.

Supervisor Zimet asked Councilwoman Gallucci to make suggestions for Alan and the Ethics Board on possible revisions to include parts of the Model law and parts of the New Paltz law.

Councilman Barry suggests the addition of “employment” on the disclosure.

Alan Stout- The Ethics Board intends on possibly revising the actual Disclosure Statement.

A motion was made by Councilman Barry to agree to adopt the Financial Disclosure as amended with the addition of “employment”, and to have the required employees file within the next 30 days and annually thereafter. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Supervisor’s Audit Report meeting with an auditor from the Comptroller:

Supervisor Zimet indicated there is a lot of work to be done because there are no internal controls in place. Restricted funds may have been seriously misused, including the Water/Sewer funds, which are depleted by significant amounts.

DWI/DWAI dispositions in the Town Court Contracts:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contracts. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

DWI Task Force Patrol Contract:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried. The Town will get money from the County to have our police officers do active DWI patrols, up to \$20,000.

MOU-DMV Hearings:

This action was tabled until the correct information is obtained.

China Sister City:

Gerald Benjamin, Director of CRREO- Wrote to Supervisor Zimet and Mayor West requesting New Paltz enter into a sister relationship with Fenghua City, China.

Councilwoman Brown- Would like residents to decide on a place. Ultimately would like more info.

Councilman Barry-Not opposed to this relationship but suggests using Skype to get to know their community better before a resolution is adopted.

This action was tabled until our community is able to get to know the community of Fenghua City better.

Building Permit Refund:

Mr. Tabak is requesting a full refund of \$960 on this building permit because construction was not started. Building Inspector Stacy Delarede is not opposed to the request, however suggests the Town refund \$860 and keep only \$100 to cover the Building Department's clerical costs of the plan review and issuance of the initial permit.

Councilman Logan- In previous years, the Board has tried not to do this to avoid setting a precedent. This action was tabled until more details can be obtained.

One month grace period on tax payment similar to school district (For discussion):

Supervisor Zimet has received phone calls from residents who were affected by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee that were requesting an extension to pay their Town & County Property taxes with no penalty. Ultimately the Town cannot do that because the extension given by the school was facilitated by Governor Cuomo.

Police Commission Discussion:

There have been discussions to dissolve the Police Commission and replace it with a Citizen Review Board.

Supervisor Zimet- The Police Commission was created for a reason, in effect for about 15 years. We can have further discussions by scheduling a special meeting with the Commission, Chief Snyder and the public so that we can understand more about this subject, what our options are and how we can move forward. It would be unfair for the new Board members to make a decision at this point.

Councilwoman Gallucci- A Citizen Advisory Board is completely different from the currently constituted Police Commission. Will work with the Commission to establish a date for a meeting.

Board of Assessment Review:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown to approve \$800/year as part of the budget for the members of the BAR. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Official Undertaking of Municipal Officers:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to accept the Official Undertaking signed by Supervisor Zimet, Town Clerk Rosanna Mazzaccari, Judge James Bacon and Highway Superintendent Chris Marx. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Government Efficiency Update:

Supervisor Zimet attended the Village Board meeting last night where they discussed the results of the study and offered recommendations to the Town, however no action was taken. The Town Board agreed to join the Village on February 7th from 7-9 at Village Hall for a Joint meeting. Trustee Rhoads recommended the creation of a number of committees be set up, including: A Fiscal Committee, Inventory Assessment Committee, Community Outreach Committee, Legal Committee, Planning/Zoning Committee and a Police Committee.

Supervisor Zimet recommends the creation of an additional "committee to redefine Village/Town boundaries to be consistent with delivery of services of municipal services and reduce conflict within the governments for the benefit of the community", to assess what the needs are.

Budget Transfer Request:

This action was tabled until more information is obtained.

At 10:35 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Logan to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of Assessor's Office Personnel in relation to the reclassification of a union classification. Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 10:54 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Logan to come out of executive session. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to add the position of Deputy Assessor to the New Paltz Assessor's Office, and to send the job description to Ulster County Personnel for processing. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to approve the minutes from ***the Re-org meeting and the January 19th meeting***. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 10:59 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Logan to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Mazzaccari
Town Clerk