

**Joint Town & Village Meeting
December 6, 2012
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Supervisor Susan Zimet, Councilman Kevin Barry, Councilwoman Kitty Brown.

Absent: Councilwoman Jean Gallucci, Councilman Jeff Logan.

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

At 7:05 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Barry to open the joint meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Agenda: +Public Input

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

A motion was made by Trustee Rhoads to adopt the agenda as amended. Seconded by Trustee Glenn, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public Input:

Roberto Lobianco- Does not think this constitutes an emergency meeting, and that 7 days notice should have been given. He asked the Boards not to take action on this resolution tonight.

Trustee Rhoads responded by indicating that this action is tentative. The goal is to have the referendum before April 1st in order to get the \$1 million in 2013, or it will have to be postponed until 2014. She also indicated that most of the committee reports have been done and submitted. A lot of work has been done, but a lot of work still needs to be done. If the community is not ready, the date can be pushed back.

KT Tobin- Asked if sufficient notice for this meeting was given because it was a surprise to many. Believes the two points in the resolution should be dealt with separately. There is no guarantee that we will get the \$1 million. Asked why we are doing this, wants to see some honest data. Not in favor of hiring Ken Bond.

A gentleman named Nick asked if there is a specific reason why this meeting is being held with such short notice?

John Logan- Complained about the email addresses for the Village Board. Strongly urged the Boards not to hire Ken Bond, he has a poor attitude toward the people of our community. The people of this community need a detailed plan. A hybrid form of government with an 11 member Board is not recognized by NYS law. Urged the Boards to look around and interview other people. We have plenty of time to consolidate, 2014 is soon enough. A vote next November will draw more voters. Feels that we are already "One Community".

At 7:30 p.m. Councilman Logan arrived.

Katie Bunker- Thanked the Village Board for the opportunity to serve the Village residents. Felt as though the comments made about salaries and benefits at the Human Resources sub-committee meetings were rude and demeaning to Village employees. Employees work very hard for the benefits that are given. In the private sector employees would be eligible for additional benefits and higher salaries. Village employees should not be likened to school teachers.

Mike Zierler- Agreed with Katie Bunker, Town and Village employees are very fine people. Many people in the community don't even know about this. There is not enough information; can't make a decision or have an opinion. It is not going to do any good to rush this. Asking the Boards to take a step back and vote no.

Don Kerr- Working on HR sub-committee in good faith to get to the facts. Feels this is happening too fast and that this meeting is questionable. Mr. Bond's presentation to the School Board was not impressive. This process is not right.

Rebecca Rotzler- Concerned about this “emergency” meeting; not enough time to alert the community. Respectfully asking the Boards not to discuss this resolution and to shut this meeting down. Give public the chance to come to a meeting to get the information. Vote no on this resolution.

Jonathan Cohen- Was watching public comment at home, very disturbed. His taxes are very high. The Boards are trying to make a noble effort. Why didn’t people come to the HR meetings? We are trying to figure out a way and process to make it affordable to live here because people can’t anymore. We should be thanking these people. Feels as though people are trying to keep their political turfs. Time is of the essence because we are being taxed out of our homes.

Mike Zierler- Wants the Boards to engage the community and tell us why we should vote yes.

A motion was made by Councilman Logan for the Town Board to adjourn the meeting. There was no second. At 8:05 p.m. Councilman Logan left the table.

Councilman Barry and Councilwoman Brown believe that the public needs to know why we are here tonight.

Supervisor Zimet indicated that at the last joint meeting on November 1st, the Board passed a resolution to strive to have a referendum on the table for the Village and Town to vote on for the end of March, in order to qualify for the \$1 million. There is a certain timeline the Boards need to follow in order to meet that date of March 19, 2013. Step one is to hire Bond counsel (Ken Bond, Squire Sanders, LLP) for up to \$75,000 to help us put together the work that needs to be done in order to have a vote on December 19th for a resolution to set a referendum. We are here to honor that vote. We cannot do this alone; we need help. We need someone to lead us. Bringing in counsel is a good move.

Trustee Rhoads indicated that this firm comes highly recommended by Dr. Gerry Benjamin. Ken Bond has been bond counsel to the Village Board on many issues.

Supervisor Zimet stated that if Ken Bond is hired, a resolution for the referendum has to be drafted and passed on December 19th, which gives us 30 days to set the first of a series of public hearings, as well as the statutory 90 day waiting period for a vote before April 1st. If at any point during the process we feel that we are not ready, we can postpone the referendum to a later date or cancel it. If we hire him tonight, we as two Boards are committing to the community that we are trying to get to the answers and make the deadline of qualifying for the \$1 million, but we can’t do it alone. We need to prove to the community whether this is a good idea or not.

Trustee Rhoads thanked all the members of the committees who volunteered. Consolidation has been talked about for many years. It is time to stop talking about it and see if it is going to work. If it’s not going to work, we would not present something that is not in the best interest of the community and employees.

Councilwoman Brown indicated that she was having second thoughts about a March referendum. She didn’t know it would cost \$75,000 to hire Mr. Bond. We should interview people because it is not responsible to hire someone that has not been through a formal selection process. People will vote no if the information is not out.

Trustee Basco agreed with Councilwoman Brown. She did not have enough time to review the resolution for tonight. As a member of the Public Outreach committee, she recognizes that there has not been enough public outreach.

Trustee Glenn believes that we need to get professionals to help us move forward. \$75,000 is not a lot of money in the big picture. The opportunity costs will be more expensive if we take more time to interview people. He is not in favor of delaying the process. Let’s hire someone now and if we are not ready in March, we shouldn’t move forward. If this makes sense financially, we should do this for governance.

Supervisor Zimet responded to Councilwoman Brown’s comment by indicating that the Town put \$33,500 in the B-Fund for Ken Bond in the 2013 budget. Also, the Board is not required to seek 3 bids for consultants.

Mayor West indicated that he will be voting no tonight because we do not have enough information. It would help to see the Finance Committee report to see what the benefit is. We should spend more time listening to the public that came out and answer their questions. Councilman Barry indicated that he is not for or against consolidation but in favor of finding out the facts. We have to spend the time and money. Not sure how he will vote but we need to move forward to see if it makes sense. It would be irresponsible not to find out, we shouldn't delay.

Trustee Kimbiz indicated that he had issues with Ken Bond's email. During his time on the Village Board, he has seen a lot of inaction by the Town and Village. If we could work together, we could come up with one Master Plan rather than growing in two separate ways, doesn't make sense. We are doing double the work. The committee meetings were open to the public and no one would've been turned away. The HR report that was submitted recommended examining 13 positions, not firing anyone. Tonight's meeting came together too fast and preferred to have time to review the information.

Supervisor Zimet indicated that this resolution was distributed at the last joint meeting on November 1st.

Trustee Rhoads indicated that almost a year ago, the two Boards accepted the recommendations presented by Fairweather Consultants, which are not necessarily the recommendations made to the two Boards by the Efficiency Committee. Both Boards agreed that further studies needed to be done. It's been a lot of hard work and people have worked very hard. Two committee reports are in and the Finance Committee is almost done.

Supervisor Zimet indicated that 48 hours notice to hold a meeting is legal.

Trustee Basco indicated that tonight feels wrong and a better way is needed to outreach to the public.

Councilwoman Brown is not comfortable with the proposed resolution because we don't know what we're getting. She would like the draft resolution before the next joint meeting on December 19th.

Supervisor Zimet indicated that that is not feasible because of the amount of work that it will take for the attorney to draft the resolution tailored specifically to the Town.

The Boards discussed authorizing an amount lower than the \$75,000 based on how much time they thought it would take the attorney to draft the resolution.

Dave Lent, Chair of the Finance Committee indicated that the committee's final report will be approved on Monday, December 10th. He will be available to answer questions after the report has been finalized.

It was decided by both Boards that on December 17th at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, a joint meeting will be scheduled in order for the HR, Infrastructure, Planning and Community Outreach committees to present their final reports. A half hour will be allowed for each, and will include the opportunity for public comment.

The Finance Committee will then make its' final recommendations/report to the Umbrella and the community at a joint meeting on January 9th at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall. Public Comment will be allowed after the Finance Committee presentation.

On January 24th at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, another joint meeting will be scheduled to discuss a resolution to hire Ken Bond by the Umbrella Committee.

Councilwoman Brown wants all the committee reports on both websites after they have been presented.

A motion was made by Trustee Rhoads to proceed to act along the lines of the dates as we discussed. Seconded by Mayor West, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Barry to proceed to act along the lines of the dates as we discussed. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

May 16th- Supervisor Zimet requested the following corrections:

“One Community Status”- *“Robert Feldman agreed to wire the community center”. “The deadline (except the Community Education/Feedback and Umbrella Committees) for finished committee work and report is November 30, 2012”.*

June 26th-Supervisor Zimet requested the following corrections:

“Zimit” should be “Zimet” and “Jerry Benjamin” should be “Gerry Benjamin”.

A motion was made by Councilman Barry to approve the minutes of **May 16th and June 26th** as amended. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Mayor West to approve the minutes of **May 16th and June 26th** as amended. Seconded by Trustee Kimbiz, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 10:26 p.m. a motion was made by Mayor West to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Kimbiz, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Mazzaccari
Town Clerk