

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

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

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

At 7:37 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Logan to open the joint meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Announcements:**

The Finance Committee has scheduled a series of meetings to review the study report. It will be open to the public to attend and ask questions. The dates are on the Village website and will be held at Village Hall, not the community center.

**Town Board Agenda:** + Standard Workday Resolution, + AOT Tree Planting Resolution.

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

**Village Business:**

A motion was made by Trustee Kimbiz to adopt Google Drive for the Village website will allow easy formatting and posting of documents. Create a Village of New Paltz account that will be maintained and created by the office of the Village Clerk. Will start with 5 MB and eventually upgrade to 100 MB at a cost of \$4.99/month from line A1680, Central Data Processing. Seconded by Trustee Basco, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At the January 16, 2013 meeting the Village Board gave provisional permission for One Billion Rising to gather on the streets of New Paltz and at 3:45 pm the would be dancing in about ½ the square at the intersection of Main, Plattekill and N. Front. Chief Snyder indicated that it would be difficult to work that out.

His suggestion and the motion that was put before the Board was to allow the group One Billion Rising to close the part of Plattekill that meets Main Street between Starbucks and Chase Bank. The group can occupy the space until right before the bank's parking lot. The group may not hinder customers coming in and out of the Dentist's office, the Bank or Starbucks and each of these business must be notified that it will be happening. A motion was made by Trustee Rhoads to approve this request. Seconded by Trustee Kimbiz, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Rhoads where she recommended to the Village Board that all future joint meetings on consolidation be held by the Town. Seconded by Trustee Basco for discussion. Trustees Glenn and Kimbiz believe that the initial idea of alternating the meetings would be best. This will be discussed further at the end of the meeting. Trustee Basco withdrew her second.

**Public Comment:**

Jonathan Cohen indicated that he supports consolidation and the process the Town and Village are working through to create the opportunity for people to afford live in their homes. He was instrumental in creating a logo that supports and represents the idea of consolidation. He strongly expressed his disappointment in the actions of certain individuals that created a similar logo that is mocking and shooting down the symbol of dreams and aspirations to live here.

Ira Margolis briefly explained the difference between "At-large" and "Wards" when it comes to the consolidated Town/Village Board representation. At-large only benefits politicians because they are not elected and would not have to answer to anyone. There would be no responsibility to the rest of the at-large members. With Wards, the members would be elected to represent everyone and their responsibilities would be to the people of the community.

Mike Russo explained that the poster was a way for many people to vent out their frustrations from not getting answers to their questions. He feels as though there are serious problems with the figures in the Finance Report.

Tammy Friedman indicated she would like to see the increases and decreases in costs to the Village residents. She believes that it is absurd that the business owners that benefit from this Town and who do not live here, are not being taxed extra. She also expressed her disappointment in seeing garbage along the streets to the point where she will pick it up.

Steve Greenfield indicated that he believes there are many flaws with the committee reports. He also indicated that he has not received answers to his questions.

Trustee Rhoads invited everyone to attend the Finance Committee meetings. She indicated that one of the recommendations made by the Finance Committee was to do a full re-assessment of the whole Town.

Councilman Barry feels as though there is a lot of confusion on the part of the public in terms of where the Town and Village have to go, they may not understand. The Finance Report is a good benchmark, but not a good representation of where the Town and Village will be in 2 or 3 years.

Supervisor Zimet clarified the difference between Town, Village, County and State roads and who has jurisdiction over maintaining them. She also emphasized how New Paltz would receive the \$1 million if consolidation occurred or if the Village was dissolved.

There was more discussion on hiring an outside auditor. Councilman Barry does not think people should focus on the \$1.6 million figure that was highlighted in the Finance Report because it is too confusing. It is more important to consider that the minimum savings will be the \$1 million from the state. The next step is to figure out how to drive efficiencies moving forward and how more savings will be realized.

Councilwoman Gallucci indicated that the budget process is very involved and detailed. She also indicated that there are several legal implications and unknowns that the Town and Village do not have answers for at this point.

Supervisor Zimet briefly discussed the process that the Finance Committee used in determining the report figures. She also indicated that while not all the members were in agreement about the possible \$300,000 in Police Department Savings; Committee Chair Dave Lent felt very confident about including and explaining it.

Trustees Basco and Kimbiz believe that it's not about the numbers themselves. The focus should be on "why" the Town and Village are saving this money.

Trustee Glenn indicated that the main problem is perception. There have been many questions asked and some are very sophisticated. He does not want to vote on anything until these questions have been answered. It is very important to develop a scope of work if an auditor is to be hired, must be done cleverly. A lot of money is at stake but it's worth doing. The committees are open and anyone with expertise is welcome to help.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci for the purpose of discussing a resolution to engage the services of Squire Sanders US, LLP to conduct financial review of the proposed merger of the Town and Village, as presented by Supervisor Zimet. Seconded by Councilman Barry. Supervisor Zimet indicated this firm already provides services to the Town and Village.

The same resolution was moved by Trustee Rhoads and seconded by Trustee Basco.

Trustee Glenn indicated that the best thing to do is to allow the Finance Committee to answer the public's questions and to see what the Town and Village want in terms of the 8 points of governance introduced at the previous meeting; before hiring an outside firm.

Councilman Barry believes that the Town and Village should be running things in parallel, and not one at a time.

Trustee Rhoads indicated that it was not the Finance Committee's job to create a merged budget for the future, it was to show savings, if any.

Councilwoman Gallucci withdrew her motion relative to the resolution of services from Squire Sanders.

Trustee Rhoads indicated she spoke with Peter Fairweather who recommended not focusing on terminology of coterminous vs. Town-wide Village. Important to determine what the Town and Village want for the referendum first, at which point an attorney can then put it in the proper legalese. Councilwoman Gallucci would like the differentiation made before moving forward.

With a coterminous government, both have to exist and the Town Board must convene and conduct business one day a year.

Supervisor Zimet strongly believes that the Town and Village need Squire Sanders to help guide toward the next step with their legal and financial expertise.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to approve the resolution where the Town and Village Boards of the Town of New Paltz authorize the Supervisor of the Town of New Paltz to submit an application for a Planning grant through the Citizens Empowerment Grant up to the maximum amount available of \$50,000 and agree to the 10% match of up to \$2,500, from the B-Fund. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Glenn to approve the resolution where the Town and Village Boards of the Town of New Paltz authorize the Supervisor of the Town of New Paltz to submit an application for a Planning grant through the Citizens Empowerment Grant up to the maximum amount available of \$50,000 and agree to the 10% match of up to \$2,500. Seconded by Trustee Rhoads, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Rhoads to authorize up to \$1,000 to have Ken Bond attend a joint meeting to answer consolidation questions. Seconded by Trustee Glenn, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to authorize up to \$1,000 to have Ken Bond attend a joint meeting to answer consolidation questions. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried. Supervisor Zimet will contact Ken Bond to see if he is available for a joint meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to continue this joint meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup> so both Boards can discuss what will be asked on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Supervisor Zimet, all aye votes cast, motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee Basco to continue this joint meeting on February 21 so both Boards can discuss what will be asked on February 21<sup>st</sup>, Seconded by Trustee Kimbiz, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 11:03 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to adjourn the joint meeting. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

#### **Town Business:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to adopt the ***Standard Workday and Reporting Resolution*** and post it for 30 days. Seconded by Councilman Barry, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

#### **Association of Towns Tree Planting Resolution:**

A motion was made by Councilman Logan to adopt the following revised resolution as presented by Al Wegener:

### **RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF NEW PALTZ BOARD**

#### **IN SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL TREE PLANTINGS BEYOND THE RIGHT OF WAY**

WHEREAS, trees planted in the right-of-way are likely to conflict with utility lines, resulting in increased costs to counties, towns and villages, power outages, and disfigurement of the street trees; and

WHEREAS, soil volume within the right-of-way is often inadequate to support healthy street trees, resulting in vulnerability to insects and diseases and limiting growth to less than full mature size; and

WHEREAS, trees subject to disfigurement to accommodate utility lines and trees with inadequate soil volume to support healthy growth are less able to withstand the stresses of climate variability, particularly intense storms, resulting in hazardous conditions on roads; and

WHEREAS, trees planted within the right of way interfere with road maintenance operations; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Association of Town Superintendents of Highways actively discourages the planting of trees within the right of way; and

WHEREAS, some municipalities in the State now prohibit planting of trees within the right of way; and

WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service estimates that for a planting cost of \$250-600, which includes 3-years of maintenance, trees return over \$90,000 of direct benefits over the lifetime of the tree; and

WHEREAS, street trees provide increased safety for motorized traffic and pedestrians, reduce urban traffic speeds, lengthen pavement life, lessen road rage, and create safer and more pleasant walking environments; and

WHEREAS, street trees impart 12% higher income for businesses located on tree-scaped streets and add value to adjacent homes businesses and, in turn, the tax base; and

WHEREAS, street trees reduce storm water runoff and flooding potential; and

WHEREAS, street trees provide rain, sun, heat, and skin protection, reduce harms from tailpipe emissions, and lower pollutants; and

WHEREAS, street help shape and preserve community character; and

WHEREAS, New York State Municipal Home Rule law authorizes the enactment of local laws that acknowledge the public benefits of street trees and allow for the planting of such trees beyond the right-of-way; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of New Paltz calls upon the New York State Governor, Andrew Cuomo, to provide equal consideration in New York State grant programs for municipalities that engage in street tree planting programs under such local laws.

Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Prepay:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to authorize the prepay to the Village in the amount of \$244,000 for the Fire Contract. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Park Point Revised Town Board Comments:**

A motion was made by Councilman Logan to authorize the Supervisor to submit the Town Board comments to the Planning Board on the DEIS for Park Point. Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Contract Negotiations:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to authorize the Supervisor to make a payment to the UCRRA based on what Councilman Barry and Attorney George Rodenhausen will discuss. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 11:20 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Mazzaccari  
Town Clerk