

Joint Town & Village Board Meeting

March 7, 2012

7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Councilman Kevin Barry

Present-Village: Mayor Jason West, Deputy Mayor Sally Rhoads, Trustee Brian Kimbiz

Absent: Trustee Stewart Glenn, Trustee Ariana Basco

At 7:28 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Logan to open the Town meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 7:28 p.m., a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Rhoads to open the Village meeting. Seconded by Mayor West, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Agenda:

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Rhoads to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Councilman Logan for discussion. Trustee Kimbiz requested the agenda be available by the Friday before the meeting. Both Boards agreed that it could be amended at the meeting if needed. Councilwoman Brown requested that the issue of contracts between the town and village be added. Mayor West opposed. All aye votes cast to adopt the agenda, motion carried.

Announcements:

None

Public Input:

Ron Turner- There is a sewage problem on Mulberry St.; it is going into the park. The playground is still locked. People are squeezing themselves through the locked gate doors. It is public property, people should be allowed in.

Approval of Minutes, February 7th:

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Rhoads to amend the agenda to add the "Approval of Minutes" from the February 7th Joint Town & Village meeting. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Rhoads- Would like her statement on Page 3 under "Discussion" revised to read "proposed the 10 committees " and not "discussed".

Supervisor Zimet-Would like her comment on Page 2 revised to properly read, "... she did not know she was responding to a Facebook page, but regardless, the comments about the police were inappropriate".

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Rhoads to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

One Community Committee Structure/Appointments:

Supervisor Zimet and Deputy Mayor Rhoads created a proposed list of committees and volunteers willing to serve.

Umbrella Committee: "Receptacle of Information" responsible for:

- Clarifying any legal technicalities or issues
- Pursue available resources/grants for current and transactional costs
- Create timeline for committees and deliverables
- Receive and collate information from other committees
- Review assessable properties and how assessed
- Structure Public Hearings
- Make final recommendations to joint boards for consideration for referendum
- If approved, set vote date and prepare ballot referendum

Both Boards agreed to add "Structure of meetings" to the list of tasks. There was a discussion relative to who should serve on this committee. Trustee Kimbiz recommended this committee be mainly comprised of the Town and Village Boards. Councilwoman Gallucci is opposed to this idea. She would rather see the Town Supervisor and the Village Mayor on the Umbrella Committee to keep it formulated and structured. Councilwoman Gallucci stated that the general public needs to be more involved and the Umbrella Committee would make proposed recommendations to both boards, who will in turn make the final decisions. Mayor West agreed.

Finance Committee:

This committee is responsible for preparing a consolidated budget (revenues and appropriations) for one New Paltz.

Mayor West stated that the Finances are a lot bigger issue than people think. Supervisor Zimet stated that this is all a constant process with different components. Councilwoman Gallucci stated that it was all about the design and fluidity.

Planning/Zoning:

This committee's mission is to compile, compare and contrast all existing zoning ordinances and recommend a merged master plan and code.

Councilwoman Brown stated that once consolidation occurs, the existing zoning for both municipalities becomes the default zoning for the community for the next 2 years; during which the community has the option of revising or adopting it as is. She suggested replacing the proposed mission with the following description:

- Definitions and examination of the zones in the Town and Village should be consistent
- Roles assigned to the ZBA should be identical in both zoning codes, if not, how should they be combined

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Rhoads that the recommendations/language put forth by Councilwoman Brown, be accepted. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Facilities/Space/Equipment:

- Inventory all buildings, parks, equipment and land owned by the two governments
- Assess the worthiness and capacity of current space
- Make recommendations for future consolidated space
- Research the market value of all unessential space/equipment
- Recommend a facilities plan

Infrastructure/Benefits Districts:

- Recommend options of a consolidation plan for sewer, water, lighting benefit districts
 - The boards agreed to add "Sidewalks".
- Review NYC water contracts as well as all Intermunicipal Agreements where appropriate
- Review and assess emergency services and make recommendations for funding and delivery services

Union Contracts:

This committee will review the terms and conditions of all contracts and recommend a consolidated approach.

The Boards agreed that this committee should be renamed "*Human Resources*" because it should encompass personnel and labor as well.

Community Outreach:

- Hold public forums to present the recommendations of the Government Efficiency Committee accepted by the Town and Village Boards
- Within the parameters, discuss with the public and ascertain all community concerns and questions regarding one government for New Paltz
- Convey all questions to the Umbrella Committee for answers that will be disseminated back to the public at the following forum.

Committee Appointees:

Supervisor Zimet and Deputy Mayor Rhoads put together the committees with people who have the expertise in specific areas who want to find answers and get the right information to decide if this works.

Mayor West stated he had concerns about the process in which the committees were created. Wants to see more objectivity and transparency in the selection of volunteers.

Councilwoman Gallucci agreed with Mayor West and would like to advertise in the New Paltz Times so people know the Town and Village are ready for people to serve.

Trustee Kimbiz had reservations about Town and Village employees serving as committee people because the consideration of their jobs could be at stake. However, they could be brought in as advisors or consultants.

Councilwoman Gallucci added that some of the employees do not live here and are not vested in the community.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown to create committees as recommended with the deletions that were suggested by Trustee Kimbiz relative to Town and Village employees, and that the open and transparent committee get an ad in the paper, on channel 23, on Facebook and with posters inviting the public to submit a letter of interest to join the committee of their choice. Seconded by Councilman Logan with a friendly amendment that the committees accept and enact the procedures set by the Boards and agree to meet monthly and each committee's meeting has public comment period. Aye votes were cast by Supervisor Zimet, Councilman Logan and Councilwoman Brown; a nay vote was cast by Councilwoman Gallucci. Motion passed.

The next Joint Town and Village meeting will be on April 4th at 7:30 p.m., at Village Hall. The agenda will be ready the Friday before so both boards have time to review it.

At 10:53 p.m., a motion was made by Supervisor Zimet to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Mazzaccari
Town Clerk