

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held at Town Hall on August 6, 2015 at 7:30PM

Present: Ralph Caruso, Supervisor
Timothy Arone, Robert Hunter and Marilyn Prestia, Councilpersons
Absent: Frank Palermo, Councilman
Also Present: Robert Weyant, Highway Superintendent; Carol Herb, Tax Collector; Maria Hunter,
Village Planning Board; Timothy Egan and David Sutz, Village Trustee

I. Administrative Business:

a. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilwoman Prestia, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held July 16, 2015.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Prestia
NOES 0

Motion was then offered by Councilman Hunter, seconded by Councilman Arone, to accept the minutes of the preliminary meeting held August 3, 2015.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Prestia
NOES 0

b. Approval of Abstract:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilwoman Prestia, to approve Abstract 14 containing Vouchers 20151694 – 20151813 and totaling \$485,855.32.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Prestia
NOES 0

c. Acceptance of Resignation – PT Custodian:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to accept the resignation of Thomas Lakis from the position of part-time custodian effective immediately.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Prestia
NOES 0

d. Acceptance of Resignation – Police Officer:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilwoman Prestia, to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Joseph Panzica from the position of full-time Police Officer effective August 18, 2015.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Prestia
NOES 0

Officer Panzica has worked for the Town of Woodbury since July 1995 and he was acknowledged for his service and dedication.

e. Acceptance of Resignation – Police Sergeant:

Motion was offered by Councilman Hunter, seconded by Councilwoman Prestia, to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Scott Arrao from the position of full-time Police Sergeant effective August 23, 2015.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Prestia
NOES 0

Sergeant Arrao has worked for the Town of Woodbury since September 1984. He was acknowledged for his service and dedication.

II. Old Business:

a. Renewal of Energy Rates Lock-In:

The current “lock-in” contract that the Town has for energy rates will expire at the end of this month. Our consultant, M & R Energy, has prepared a bid for the Board to review. Based on the results provided, they are recommended the Town sign a 25 month contract with Constellation/Intergrys at a lock-in rate of \$0.07512 per kilowatt hour. Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to authorize the Supervisor to sign a 25 month contract with Constellation/Intergrys for the supply of energy at a rate of \$0.07512 per kilowatt hour.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Prestia
 NOES 0

Councilwoman Prestia noted this issue was originally discussed in May and the Board opted to wait until now to see if the rates would improve, which they did.

III. New Business:

a. Proposal – Cellular Tower on Town Property:

A request was received from Homeland Towers, working with Verizon, to erect a telecommunications tower within the Town-owned property around Woodbury Junction. The two sites they are interested in are Section 254, Block 1, Lot 24.2 and Section 254, Block 2, Lot 97.22. They would like to know if the Town Board is interested in leasing portions of the property to them. Supervisor Caruso explained that a few months ago he was contacted by Homeland Towers and was told they were interested in erecting a tower on Town property. He asked them specifically where they had in mind but the representative did not have that information at that time. Several informal discussions were held over several weeks and he was finally told that they had two locations within the buffer zone of Woodbury Junction development that they were considering. Supervisor Caruso told the representative that it was his own personal feeling that a cellular tower should not be erected within a residential development. The representative is now looking for a Board decision. Councilman Hunter stated he has an issue with not being informed of this proposal in January when it was first received. Had the Board been made aware of it then research could have been conducted to determine the feasibility of it. Supervisor Caruso noted the Board received the most recent communication on Tuesday of this week and asked Councilman Hunter why he did not contact him then to discuss the issue. Councilman Arone stated he feels that a presentation by the representative would be appropriate so the Board can evaluate the proposal and make an informed decision. Supervisor Caruso added that he asked the representative if he would consider a different location than the two he proposed and was told no. It was decided that the property would be researched to determine if there were any restrictions imposed upon it when it was donated to the Town as open space. Supervisor Caruso asked the Board if there was any interest in entertaining this request. No member stated clearly yes or no, but they did indicate that more information is needed.

b. Request – Donation of Town Property:

A request was received from the current operators of the Gasho Hibachi Steakhouse requesting that the Town donate to them various pieces of equipment and décor that is stored within buildings that are on the property recently purchased by the Town that was formerly owned by Gasho. Supervisor Caruso noted that he and Buildings/Grounds Superintendent Robert Blair conducted a site visit and took pictures of the items they are requesting – granite table tops, a Japanese screen and a waterwheel. He shared digital copies of the pictures with the Board. The restaurant is planning to open in about two weeks, but this request will not delay their plans. In looking at the items, he does not believe that the Town has a use for them. Councilman Hunter stated he would like to see if the Historical Society would

like anything that is in the buildings and Supervisor Caruso stated he will contact the Historian about that. Councilman Hunter also noted that he feels the Japanese screen should remain with the Town as it is part of the history of the tearoom buildings that are there, adding he would like to see one of the tearoom buildings moved to Earl Reservoir. Councilwoman Prestia added that an inventory should be conducted so the Board is aware of exactly what is on the property. Motion was then offered by Councilwoman Prestia, seconded by Councilman Arone, to authorize the Supervisor to negotiate a fair and marketable value for the sale of the granite tables and waterwheel to the owners of Gasho Hibachi Steakhouse.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Prestia
 NOES 0

IV. Board Member Comments

Councilman Hunter reminded that public that on September 26 Woodbury will be hosting the Orange County Firemen's Parade. He feels this is a big deal, noting that fire companies throughout the County will be participating. He urged all of our residents to participate.

Councilman Arone thanked the Parks Department for the excellent job they did with the "Pool Blast" that was held this past weekend. He then asked Supervisor Caruso about an email he sent to the Board members last week that was about a personnel issue and was copied to a member of the associated press. Supervisor Caruso stated it was unintentional and was not aware that he had done so until Councilman Hunter contacted him about it. He added that a member of the Board did respond back to the email, and included the same member of the associated press in his response.

Councilwoman Prestia agreed that the Parks Department did a great job at this year's "Pool Blast" and thanked all involved. She also congratulated Officer Panzica and Sergeant Arrao on their upcoming retirement, wishing them the best of luck and thanking them for their dedication to Woodbury.

Supervisor Caruso stated he received notice today that that the State Office of Real Property Tax Services has established a final State equalization rate of 42.75 for Woodbury. He also noted that he has been in contact with residents that use the Dog Park informing him of the condition of the equipment located there. In May 2011, Rebecca Halzack received her Gold Award in Girl Scouting by constructing an agility course for the dogs, which included steps, tunnels and jumps. Due to use, weather and aging, they are in a condition now that needs to be rehabilitated. He contacted Ms. Halzack to see if she would be interested in revitalizing her project and she has agreed to do so. Therefore, on August 15 and 16 portions of the dog park will be closed while these improvements are being done. Councilman Prestia stated she will post a note at the park. Supervisor Caruso then asked when an update can be expected on the audio system and Councilman Arone stated he would like it discussed at the August 20 meeting.

V. Public Comment

David Sutz asked for clarification about the timeline relating to the cellular tower proposal that was received in January and that no one conducted research on this revenue generating issue. Supervisor Caruso stated the Town was contacted by a representative at that time and wanted to know if the Town would be interested in a cellular tower being put on Town property, but a specific location was not provided at that time. An informal dialogue was held back and forth between himself and the representative. He told the representative that he was not interested in having a cellular tower erected in a residential area. No formal proposal was submitted until late last month. Mr. Sutz stated he feels that the issue should have been researched prior to a decision being made without the Boards input.

Maria Hunter reminded all that Woodbury Day is scheduled for October 3 on Smith Clove Road and at the Smith Clove Elementary School parking lot. They are soliciting suggestions and input through their website.

VI. Adjournment:

With no further comments received or business to discuss, a motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05PM.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Prestia
 NOES 0

Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk