

Minutes of the Town Board Preliminary Meeting held at Town Hall on June 1, 2015 at 7:30PM

Present: Ralph Caruso, Supervisor
Timothy Arone, Robert Hunter, Frank Palermo and Marilyn Prestia, Councilpersons
Absent: None
Also Present: Joseph McKay, Attorney for the Town; Laura Breslin, Assessor; Sandra Capriglione and Karen Ungerer, Village Zoning Board

1. Discussion – Beautification Commission/Committee Draft Local Law:

Clerk Potvin explained the law as proposed by the Beautification Commission. There was a discussion held about the number of individuals that the executive board should consist of and it was decided that seven would be more appropriate than five, although Councilman Hunter felt that five members is sufficient. The Board will take action to schedule a public hearing at the June 4 meeting.

2. Discussion – Tax Certiorari Settlement:

This item will be discussed in executive session at the end of the meeting.

3. Discussion – Resolution – Intervention or Preserve Hudson Litigation:

Supervisor Caruso presented a copy of a resolution that was adopted by Village Board recently supporting litigation brought on by a group called Preserve Hudson, Inc., challenging the Commissioner's (for the Department of Environmental Conservation) determination regarding Lead Agency for the petition of annexation the Village of Kiryas Joel brought against the Town of Monroe. Their resolution also authorizes the special counsel for the Village to intervene in the litigation as well. Attorney McKay stated he has reviewed the resolution and needs direction from the Board whether they want to support the efforts of the Preserve Hudson group or if they want him to intervene on behalf of the Town Board. The Board discussed the issue and it was decided that Attorney McKay will draft a resolution to be considered at the June 4 meeting that will support the efforts of Preserve Hudson in this matter.

4. Discussion – 2016 OCCD Grant Program Options:

A letter was received from Engineer Fusco detailing the results of the review conducted by the Community Development program on the projects suggested during the public hearing held last month. All of the projects were rejected except for the improvements to the disabled access ramp to Town Hall. Engineer Fusco and Supervisor Caruso discussed installing an elevator in Town Hall, which Engineer Fusco stated he felt would be eligible based on his experience. Supervisor Caruso noted that Engineer Fusco told him that if a new Town Hall is purchased or constructed, the elevator can be moved. It will at the very least increase the value of the building. The Board discussed the issue and agreed it was worth looking into. Councilman Arone noted that he would like to see efforts resume with the school board for the rental of the Education Center. Councilman Hunter stated he agrees the ramp improvements make sense but is unsure about the elevator, noting that a new building is needed instead. Clerk Potvin will prepare a resolution for the Board to consider at the June 4, 2015 meeting.

5. Update – Town Hall Meeting Room Audio Equipment:

Councilman Arone stated he and Councilman Hunter met with the vendor from Audio Services to discuss the audio equipment used for the meetings. They were the entity hired by Cablevision for the initial install. He is recommending upgrading the equipment at a total cost, including labor, of \$6400. He feels that the microphones being used are the wrong type and the digital mixer is not calibrated correctly. Since the total cost of the equipment recommended is over \$5000, a second quote will be

needed or the proposal needs to be amended. Councilman Arone stated another update will be given in the future.

6. Discussion – Annexation Bills Before State Legislature:

Councilman Arone stated there are two critical annexation bills before the state legislature that he feels are beneficial to the region that addresses annexation and he would like the Board to consider supporting their passage. The Board discussed the issue and all agreed that the legislation should be supported and hoped that the County of Orange would follow through with their responsibility if passed. A resolution will be prepared for the June 4 meeting.

810PM - EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to enter into an executive session to discuss two notices of claims (one regarding stored impounded vehicles and one regarding a death that occurred on I87), a tax certiorari and the employment history of a particular individual.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Palermo, Prestia
 NOES 0

There were no minutes of the executive session recorded.

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss or comments received, a motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilman Palermo, to end the executive session and adjourn the meeting at 9:25PM.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Caruso, Arone, Hunter, Palermo, Prestia
 NOES 0

Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk