

Minutes of the Town Board Worksession held at Town Hall on January 13, 2014 at 7:30PM

Present: John Burke, Supervisor
Robert Hunter, Frank Palermo and Marilyn Prestia, Councilpersons
Absent: Timothy Arone, Councilman

1. Discussion – Association of Towns Resolutions:

Supervisor Burke explained each of the proposed eleven resolutions in detail that will be voted upon by the Town’s designated delegate at the annual Associations of Towns business meeting held on February 19, 2014. These resolutions will be how the Association will lobby the State Legislature to vote on proposed legislation. The resolutions proposed are as follows:

1. Support of Broadband access and deployment through additional funding, legislative initiatives and programs
2. Establish, enhance and fund incentives for emergency service volunteers, such as increasing personal income tax credits, tuition assistance, and other incentives to encourage greater levels of volunteerism.
3. Amend Real Property Tax Law to reinstate funding to towns and cities to administer the School Tax Relief program.
4. Amend the General Construction Law to allow papers, distributed with charge, but with an established and large circulation, to be considered newspapers in certain instances to permit towns and other local governments to place legal notices in the local publications which may reach a larger audience and/or be less costly to the taxpayers. Also to support legislation providing for optional alternative media for publication of legal notices in order to improve citizen participation and awareness of town programs and expenses.
5. Preserve and strengthen home rule and to strongly oppose any state initiative to weaken or eliminate New York’s long-standing tradition of home rule and local government authority.
6. Define and enact a uniform, well-defined approach to exemption and taxable status date legislation and provide state funding for any state-mandated or –encouraged exemption programs and protect local property tax revenues.
7. Maintain CHIPS funding in the 2014-2015 State Budget and to provide a stable and sustainable funding stream for local infrastructure. Also to adopt a multi-year federal surface transportation bill, which includes funding for local roads, bridges and transportation projects and to fully fund the federal highway trust fund.
8. Enact comprehensive mandate relief legislation that provides permanent and full funding of existing mandates, identifies and eliminates unnecessary mandates, eliminates future unfunded and underfunded mandates and requires all future legislation to include specific local fiscal impact notes, which will inform members of the Legislature and the public with regard to the actual expense of implementing said legislation.
9. Amend Article 30 of the state Labor Law, as well as Part 56 of Title 12 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York, to provide a waiver of fees for municipally owned properties.
10. To improve (or, at the very least, maintain) the ability of local governments to tax the production of natural gas at the current level when considering the taxation of natural gas development or extraction by any alternative method and to adopt a fee structure for natural gas drilling permits that recognizes the immediate costs to be borne by the

affected local governments and the lag between those expenditures and any potential real property tax revenue.

- 11. Request that the Real Property Tax Law be amended to provide that fiber optic cable on private property is subject to assessment and taxation.

The Board agreed with all the above resolutions except for #11. Councilman Palermo stated that if the property becomes taxable these entities will just add the cost to their consumers. Supervisor Burke stated more information will be obtained from Assessor Breslin on the issue and it can be discussed further at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, a motion was offered by Councilman Prestia, seconded by Councilman Palermo, to adjourn the meeting at 8PM.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Burke, Hunter, Palermo, Prestia
 NOES 0

Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk