

Minutes of the Town Board Worksession held at Town Hall on March 31, 2014 at 7:30PM

Present: John Burke, Supervisor  
Timothy Arone, Robert Hunter and Frank Palermo, Councilmen  
Absent: Marilyn Prestia, Councilwoman  
Also Present: Robert Weyant, Highway Superintendent; Richard Vasquez, Police Chief

**1. Discussion – Community Prosecution Program with County District Attorney’s Office:**

Robert Conflitti, Executive Assistant District Attorney, and Darlene DeJesus, Assistant District Attorney, spoke to the Board about District Attorney David Hoovler’s program of community prosecution. This program is designed to involve the community, law enforcement and other agencies/groups in cooperative efforts to remedy issues that lead to criminal activity in Orange County’s communities. So far DA Hoovler has established a county-wide Community Advisory Board to provide input on issues relevant to community prosecution, and has established within his office a bureau with responsibility for coordinating community prosecution throughout the county. The Community Advisory Board is currently divided into seven regions, with further refinement of the regions in the future if necessary. Periodic evaluation of the program is necessary to determine whether initiatives are implemented properly, are effective, or are in need of modification. Community prosecution involves strategies designed to be proactive rather than reacting when crimes occur. The Board asked the representatives from the DA’s office some questions about the program and also provided some suggestions for the DA’s office regarding circumstances that should be handled more severely (i.e., individuals driving without a license, insurance fraud, welfare fraud).

**2. Discussion – Tasers Grant for Police Department:**

Mike Georgoulis, Master TASER Instructor and Sergeant with the Danbury, CT, Police Department, gave a presentation showing the benefits of using a TASERs in the Police Department. These benefits include reducing the use of deadly force, reducing injury to suspects, reducing injury to officers by suspects and reducing litigation by injured suspects. He provided some examples from his career experience of when TASERs have been used to save lives and/or control a situation that had escalated violently. He noted that Danbury PD has been using the devise for 12 years and has never received a complaint about their use. This is due to the amount of training the officers receive to know how to properly use the TASER effectively. He noted that this devise is ideal for when dealing with an emotionally disturbed individual. The injury rate of a TASER is miniscule compared to the use of a firearm, baton or physical altercation. Each TASER has a smart data management system that gives complete details of its activity (safety activation, trigger event duration with times, dates and battery life). The Board then asked questions regarding integration of the TASER into our Police Department, training and the costs involved. Each unit is warrantied for one year, and an additional four years can be purchased. After five years it become cost prohibitive to repair them. He feels that as the technology improves, the five years of service would be extended. Chief Vasquez stated there may be grants available to be used towards the purchase of these units.

**3. Discussion – Changes to O&R Street Lights (not Traffic Lights) on Route 32 by Woodbury Common:**

A meeting was held recently with representatives from Orange & Rockland (O&R) to review the existing street lights that illuminate the cross-walk areas on Route 32 in front of Woodbury Common. They are proposing to erect three new lights on existing poles (two with 400 water sodium vapor, 15’ arms and one with 250 watt sodium vapor, 8’ arm), remove two 400 watt mercury vapor streetlights on 8’ arms and install 250 watt sodium vapor streetlight on 15’ arm and remove a 70 watt sodium vapor streetlight on a 8’ arm and install a 250 watt sodium vapor streetlight 8’ arm. The total cost of the

proposal to upgrade these lights is \$1989.84. This will cause our streetlight usage bill to increase by \$1214.52 per year, plus energy and fuel adjustment charges. Supervisor Burke stated he does feel that there is a lighting issue at both crosswalks. He noted that there are no streetlights on the crosswalks where the incident that recently took place at which an individual lost their life. He asked O&R to concentrate on better illumination of the two crosswalks and the distance between the two where there is currently no lighting on the eastside of the road. He has asked that the Board take the time to review the proposal, each go and look at the site and then decide at a future meeting if the proposed improvements are sufficient. Councilman Arone asked if the streetlight responsibility is the Towns or the Villages and if Woodbury Common could pay for any of these improvements. Supervisor Burke stated he does not know when the issue will be resolved over which municipality should be responsible for the streetlights but he feels this is a safety issue that needs to be addressed. Regarding the suggestion that Woodbury Common be requested to contribute towards to the cost of the upgrades, he stated they will contribute nothing. He feels they force the employees to park across the street at the school and they should have reached out to the Town to see if we can work together to form a solution to the problem they have created. He feels we have an obligation to the people to provide safe lighting. Councilman Palermo stated he feels that sidewalks should be installed as well. Supervisor Burke stated he agreed but as it is a State highway they would need to construct them and added that the Town will then become responsible for their maintenance (snow/ice removal). Councilman Hunter suggested O&R installed LED lighting as it is brighter and more cost effective. Supervisor Burke stated he would pass the suggestion onto O&R. He concluded by stating he would like the Board to have a decision by the second meeting in April on this issue.

#### **4. Discussion – Updating of Parkland Study:**

A proposal was received from Tectonic Engineering to update the Park System Master Plan, which was last done February 1999. The cost of the proposal is \$11,400 (plus \$500 per meeting attended). Updating of the study will include obtaining input on future recreational needs and potential timing of implementation, updating the previously completed inventory of existing conditions, estimating the useful life remaining and the current cost of replacement, and creating an estimate of expenditures and a funding plan spreading the expenditures over time and escalating the cost estimates accordingly. The results of the analysis will be summarized in report format with exhibits appended. Councilman Palermo noted he feels it is important to the future of our parks to be prepared for what our needs will be with unknown future development. He added that all development currently approved are locked into the parkland fee costs as they currently are but all new development would need to pay the higher fee once it is determined as a result of the study. Councilman Hunter stated he feels the cost to do the study is pricey and that the report will draw the same conclusions as the one prepared in 1999. Supervisor Burke stated he agrees with Councilman Palermo that it could be an important report. Councilman Arone stated he agrees as well and feels that Parks Director Joseph Gianzero and Buildings/Grounds Superintendent Robert Blair should be involved in the process.

#### **Adjournment:**

With no further business to discuss, a motion was offered by Councilman Palermo, seconded by Councilman Arone, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30PM.

**ADOPTED**      AYES    4            Burke, Arone, Hunter, Palermo  
                     NOES    0

Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk