

Minutes of the Town Board Worksession held August 2, 2021

Present: Frank Palermo, Supervisor
Thomas Burke, Tyler Etzel, Jacqueline Hernandez and Robert Hunter, Council
Absent: None

1. Resolution – Scheduling Public Hearing – Annexation Petition:

Motion was offered by Councilman Burke, seconded by Councilwoman Hernandez, to adopt the following resolution scheduling a public hearing concerning the annexation petition filed by Zigmond Brach on behalf of 2 Seven Springs Estate, LLC:

WHEREAS, a Petition for Annexation of Territory was filed the Town of Woodbury on July 20, 2021, by Petitioner Zigmond Brach, on behalf of 2 Seven Springs Estate, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the territory to be annexed is identified as Tax Map Section 213, Block 1, Lot 64.2; and

WHEREAS, Article 17 of the General Municipal Law requires that a public hearing be held to determine if the proposed annexation is in the overall public interest; and

WHEREAS, General Municipal Law § 704 of the General Municipal Law permits the Town and Village where the territory is situated to jointly publish a notice for said public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Woodbury and Village of Woodbury wish to cause a joint Notice of Public Hearing to be published Times Herald-Record and to be mailed to property owners within the proposed territory and to school authorities and local fire districts in compliance with the provisions of General Municipal Law § 704(1) and (2);

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY

RESOLVED, the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to cause to be published a Notice of Hearing as well as otherwise provide notification to all required pursuant to applicable law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a joint public hearing, be held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Woodbury and the Town Board of the Town of Woodbury, New York, the Town Board of the Town of Palm Tree, New York, and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Kiryas Joel, on August 31, 2021 at 7:30PM, at the Village of Woodbury Village Hall, located at 455 Route 32, Highland Mills, New York.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Palermo, Burke, Etzel, Hernandez, Hunter
NOES 0

4. Discussion on Revised Employee Handbook:

Councilman Burke asked if the unions have reviewed the document and Supervisor Palermo stated they were each provided a copy and each submitted comments. The contracts take precedence if there is any content that contradicts. Councilwoman Hernandez stated the PBA noted their concerns could be addressed at negotiations. She noted further the handbook mostly covers only non-union employees but is also a “catch-all” for whatever is not included in the contracts. The Board agreed they are prepared to vote on adopting the handbook at the next meeting.

2. Library Clerk – Meeting Two Candidates for Appointment:

The Board met with Christopher Shortle, individual applying for the full-time Library Clerk position working at reduced hours (less than 29 hours a week) with a start date of August 6. The Board asked Mr. Shortle questions about his experience (no library experience but has computer and organizational skills). Supervisor Palermo stated Mr. Shortle has been hired from the Civil Service List and he has been preapproved by the County. After Mr. Shortle left, Councilman Burke asked if the hiring of two individuals is necessary, adding he does not think that it is. Supervisor Palermo he thinks it

is necessary, adding two individuals resigned and two are currently out on medical leave. The second individual, Justine Veras, did not appear to be interviewed by the Board. Library Director Johnson (who arrived after Mr. Shortle left the meeting) stated Ms. Veras works at another job on Monday nights and is not available to meet with the Board. Supervisor Palermo asked Director Johnson to have Ms. Veras attend the meeting Thursday night so the Board can interview her. Director Johnson stated she will check to see if she can attend and Supervisor Palermo stated if she is unable to do so then she will not be able to be appointed. Director Johnson stated the start date is August 10 and Supervisor Palermo stated as long as she appears to be interviewed that will be fine otherwise the start date will need to be changed. Councilwoman Hernandez asked Director Johnson how many Library Clerk's she has on staff at this time and Director Johnson stated she thinks three. Councilman Burke asked Director Johnson about her staff that is working remotely still even though he was told by the Library Board that as of April 19 all staff will be back to in person work. Director Johnson stated she had spoken to Supervisor Palermo about this and she was under the impression it was okay to continue. The employees still working remotely are one that manages all the remote programs, one that does all the website and social media work and one that does some virtual programs but also works in person. Councilman Burke stated there are other departments that could justify remote work but they are required to all be in person now. He feels all library employees should be in person working. The Board then discussed different programs the library has and using the recreation building/senior center for them.

3. Discussion of Fence on Woodbury Property – Woodbury Junction:

Joel and Rabi, representing WP3 (Woodbury Junction), would like to have an eruv put around the development similar to what the Town approved to be done at Country Crossings a few years ago. They noted the Homeowners Association for the development will provide the necessary insurance for this request. Both individuals then approached the Board with a map and discussed the issue, but the conversation could not be heard to record minutes of such. Councilwoman Hernandez requested a copy of the map be provided to all Board members. Supervisor Palermo stated he will discuss the request with the Town Attorney and an escrow will need to be posted to cover all legal costs. He noted the issue will tentatively be put on the August 19 agenda. Clerk Potvin asked if a building permit was required for the eruv and Supervisor Palermo stated it is not.

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, a motion as offered by Councilwoman Hernandez, seconded by Supervisor Palermo, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52PM.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Palermo, Burke, Etzel, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk