

Minutes of the Town Board Worksession/Meeting held at Town Hall on April 4, 2016

Present: David Sutz, Supervisor
Timothy Arone, Michael Essig, Robert Hunter and Frank Palermo, Councilmen
Absent: None
Also Present: Arthur Abbott, Police Lieutenant; Tracy Maggio, Clerk to the Supervisor; John Smith, Parks Director; Sandra Capriglione; Village Zoning Board

I. Public Hearing:

a. FY2017 Orange County Community Development Grant:

A public hearing was held to entertain suggestions for projects to be applied for funding through the 2017 Orange County Community Development Grant program. The public notice was printed in the Times Herald Record on March 25, 2016 and the following comments were received:

Supervisor Sutz suggested a new 150 to 200 person Senior Citizen building in the amount of \$375,000 as part of the municipal center planned with the Village of Woodbury. He also suggested a bus be purchased to be used by the Senior Center to transport seniors to functions. Currently the Senior Center contracts this service with a vendor and it is quite costly.

With no further suggestions received, a motion was offered by Councilman Palermo, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to close the public hearing.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Sutz, Arone, Essig, Hunter, Palermo
NOES 0

Motion was then offered by Councilman Palermo, seconded by Councilman Arone, to authorize the Supervisor and Town Engineer to sign any and all documents relating to the FY2017 Orange County Community Development Grant, the deadline for which is April 15, 2016.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Sutz, Arone, Essig, Hunter, Palermo
NOES 0

Supervisor Sutz noted a certified copy of the minutes of this public hearing will be forwarded to the Town Engineer for the application process.

II. Administrative Business:

a. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilman Palermo, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held March 17, 2016.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Sutz, Arone, Essig, Hunter, Palermo
NOES 0

b. Approval of Abstract:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilman Essig, to approve Abstract 7 containing vouchers 20160501 - 20160578 (voiding voucher 20160573 - check #15575) and totaling \$162,311.91.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Sutz, Arone, Essig, Hunter, Palermo
NOES 0

c. Acceptance of Resignations - PT Dispatchers:

Motion was offered by Councilman Essig, seconded by Councilman Palermo, to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Jennifer Ellis (effective March 20, 2016) and Jackson Sewitt (effective March 28, 2016) from the positions of part-time dispatcher.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Sutz, Arone, Essig, Hunter, Palermo

NOES 0

d. Appointment of PT Animal Control Officer:

Motion was offered by Councilman Palermo, seconded by Councilman Arone, to appoint Sarah Blum to the position of part-time Animal Control Officer effective April 9, 2016. This position is classified as "IA" under the UPSEU contract and is paid \$16.04 per hour.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Sutz, Arone, Essig, Hunter, Palermo
NOES 0

e. Change in Status - Animal Control Officer:

Councilman Palermo feels the issue needs to be discussed further in executive session to discuss the entire situation more. He also feels there are other things involved to discuss and he is concerned the union may have concerns on this issue. Supervisor Sutz suggested the Board do their research and then it can be discussed at an executive session at the next worksession. He hopes to have an answer from UPSEU by then as well.

III. Old Business:

a. Authorize Supervisor to Sign - New Phone System Contracts:

Supervisor Sutz explained that the current telephone system used at Town Hall is obsolete and, according to Frontier Communications, no longer able to be supported. Several meetings were held with Frontier and it has been determined that a significant amount of money can be saved by replacing the existing telephone system and upgrading all lines to a DSL based system. In addition, the upgrades will include the ability to transfer calls not only within Town Hall, but to all municipal buildings (Highway, Water/Sewer, Village Hall) and they can transfer calls directly to Town Hall. This will make each municipality more accessible to residents. It was noted the cost for the equipment and usage will be shared proportionally with the Village. Based on the proposal received, the estimated, minimum savings will be about \$700 per month. Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilman Palermo, to authorize the Supervisor to sign a five-year lease agreement with Frontier Communications (and their sub-contractors where necessary) to install a new telephone system for all municipal offices (already reviewed and signed-off by Attorney McKay). It was further noted the "brain" of the system and all equipment except for wiring is transferrable should a new municipal building be built.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Sutz, Arone, Essig, Hunter, Palermo
NOES 0

b. Authorize Supervisor to Sign - Dial-A-Bus with T/Monroe:

Supervisor Sutz noted that the Dial-A-Bus program in Woodbury has been operating without a contract with the Town of Monroe since 2013. Therefore, both entities have discussed this issue last week and a contract was drafted to rectify the situation. Councilman Palermo noted that Blooming Grove is trying to obtain a Dial-A-Bus for their community and feels that we should reach out to them to see if we can partner with them. Supervisor Sutz noted that someone from his office reached out to Blooming Grove to see if they would consider it and they asked for some time to get off the ground first. Motion was then offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilman Palermo, to authorize the Supervisor to sign an agreement with the Town of Monroe for Dial-A-Bus services in 2016 (already reviewed and signed-off by Attorney McKay).

ADOPTED AYES 5 Sutz, Arone, Essig, Hunter, Palermo
NOES 0

IV. New Business:

a. Advertise for Bids - Bulk Chlorine:

Motion was offered by Councilman Palermo, seconded by Councilman Arone, to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for bids for bulk chlorine for the 2016 season.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Sutz, Arone, Essig, Hunter, Palermo
 NOES 0

V. Board Member Comments:

Councilman Hunter thanked Assemblyman James Skoufis for securing funds in the State budget for the Exit 131 project. He also acknowledged the Police Department for their new Women's Self Defense class they are hosting on Thursdays this month.

Councilman Arone agreed with Councilman Hunter and added the Police Department's program has been very well received and there is a lot of interest in the community.

Councilman Essig also acknowledged Assemblyman Skoufis for this ability to get the project funded in this year State budget. A press conference was held today and he is upset that Cablevision opted to not attend.

Supervisor Sutz noted the Town Board was well represented at the press conference today and thanked the Board members that were able to attend. He announced that security personnel will begin patrolling the parks this month. He also announced the Thevenant School will be holding a fundraiser on April 29 at the Warwick Winery to help with the cost for their planned expansion.

VI. Public Comment:

Robin Crouse asked if the Friendly Visitors Program will continue if the Senior Center obtains grant funds to purchase a bus. She was told that it would and the bus would be used for transporting seniors to outings planned by the Senior Center. Councilman Arone added that at the next meeting the Board will be discussing a contract with Jewish Family Services directly relating to the Friendly Visitors Program.

John Smith asked about the audio/visual issues experienced with Channel 22. Supervisor Sutz stated Cablevision was here three weeks ago and thought they had fixed the issue. Several calls have been made since to get them back but they gave gone unanswered. Mr. Smith then inquired about the land clearing occurring on Route 105 and he was told that property is in the Town of Monroe.

Sandra Capriglione thanked the Board of opposing the Pilgrim Pipeline. Supervisor Sutz stated he believes the Village is entertaining adopting a local law that would oppose the pipeline as well.

Justin Hunter asked if the Highway Department is permitted to do whatever they want on Town property, citing an example of modifying the land the Highway garage sits on. Supervisor Sutz noted this issue is not addressed in the IMA, which is one of the reasons he suggested turning over the property to the Village. He also feels this will clear up the confusion that exists between all parties involved. When he brought it up to the Board in January he was told by a Board member it would not be possible as giving away property would affect the Town's bond rating. That has been determined to be false. When the Board is ready to address the issue again they will let him know. Regardless, Village Streets Superintendent Weyant spoke to Supervisor Sutz about the work he wanted to do and Supervisor Sutz approved it being done.

VII. Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss or comments received, a motion was offered by Councilman Palermo, seconded by Councilman Arone, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30PM.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Sutz, Arone, Essig, Hunter, Palermo
 NOES 0

Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk