

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held at on March 21, 2019 at 7:30PM

Present: Frank Palermo, Supervisor
Timothy Arone, Robert Hunter and Jacqueline Hernandez, Council
Absent: Michael Essig, Council
Also Present: Joseph McKay, Attorney for the Town; Kevin Watson, Police Chief; Robert Weyant, Village Streets Superintendent; Maria Hunter, Village Planning Board

I. Public Hearing:

a. Orange County Community Development Grant FY2020:

Due to the lack of the timely publication by the newspaper, the hearing was unable to be held. Motion was offered by Councilwoman Hernandez, seconded by Councilman Arone, to reschedule the public hearing to April 4, 2019.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Arone, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

II. Public Input:

Robin Crouse asked questions about specific vouchers that appear on Abstract 6 (Fusco, Home Depot). With regards to the parking lot at the Recreation Building, she noted the parking lot was not part of the original plan and asked if the work could be done by municipal employees. Supervisor Palermo stated the engineer would still need to prepare the specifications. He noted he spoke to Superintendent Weyant about the work involved and he did offer to map out the area but he didn't believe he was authorized to do the work for the Town. Mrs. Crouse asked if there would be a "not to exceed" amount established for the engineering work and Supervisor Palermo stated the cost will be whatever the bids received are. He feels the parking lot needs to be paved for safety reasons and for Camp Rez. Mrs. Crouse stated she is concerned about the cost to the taxpayers. Supervisor Palermo stated Engineer Fusco charges the Town \$86 per hour and he has full trust that the work will be done correctly.

Maria Hunter stated she may not be able to attend the next meeting so she will be submitting her project suggestions now. They are: 1) sidewalks along the west side of Route 32 from the Highland Mills Methodist church north; 2) improving the parking at the animal shelter; 3) repairing the disabled ramp at the Central Valley library and improving landscaping at this location. Regarding comments made by Mrs. Crouse, she agrees a cap on the engineer costs involved for the Recreation Center parking lot should be set. Attorney McKay noted the Board is looking for advice from its engineer to get an idea of the scope of work to be done and an estimate of the cost to do the work.

Superintendent Weyant stated the County has an annual bid that goes out for non-highway related projects at the end of May/beginning of June. He noted the bid is open to use by all municipalities and doing so would save the Town a significant amount of money, which the Town's engineer should be fully aware of. Supervisor Palermo stated he does not want to wait that long because the lot needs to be done now.

III. Administrative Business:

a. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to accept receipt of the minutes of the regular meeting held March 7, 2019.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Arone, Hernandez, Hunter

NOES 0

b. Approval of Abstract:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to approve Abstract 6 containing vouchers 20190459 - 20190536 and totaling \$267,643.23.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Arone, Hernandez, Hunter
NOES 0

c. Approval of Budget Modification:

Motion was offered by Councilman Hunter, seconded by Councilwoman Hernandez, to approve a modification to the 2019 budget of the Police Department by increasing B599 (Appropriated Fund Balance) by \$48,930 and increasing B3120.200 (Equipment - Cars/Motorcycles) by \$48,930.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Arone, Hernandez, Hunter
NOES 0

IV. New Business:

a. Appointment of Part-Time ACO:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilwoman Hernandez, to appoint Casey M Craig to the position of part-time ACO with a start date of March 28, 2019. This position is paid \$16.36/hour and is on the UPSEU Table A, Grade 1.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Arone, Hernandez, Hunter
NOES 0

Supervisor Palermo noted the appointment of this individual is being partially paid for by the Town of Monroe through the IMA.

b. Authorize the Supervisor to Sign Agreement - SafeCo Alarm Systems, Inc.:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to authorize the Supervisor to sign an agreement with SafeCo Alarm Systems, Inc.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Arone, Hernandez, Hunter
NOES 0

Supervisor Palermo explained this agreement is for fire alarms at the new Recreation Center and the monthly monitoring costs will be \$45.

c. Resolution - Support of Upgrading Route 17 in Orange & Sullivan Counties:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Supervisor Palermo, to adopt the following resolution supporting the upgrading of Route 17 in Orange and Sullivan Counties:

WHEREAS, the Mid-Hudson Region is achieving economic and population growth due to its proximity to New York City and other states as well as being home to attractive communities with a high quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Region has an immediate requirement for infrastructure investments to allow economic development to continue and maintain the Region's ability to attract jobs and preserve its quality of life for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2013, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) issued a study (the Route 17 Transportation Corridor Study) that recommended a new General Use Third Lane be developed along the Route 17 Corridor and found that *"additional transportation capacity is needed to address existing and projected levels of congestion in the corridor, provide for enhanced mobility, and allow for future economic growth in both Sullivan and Orange Counties"*, and

WHEREAS, while the improvements underway at Interchange 131 near Woodbury Common, and the proposed improvements to accommodate LEGOLAND are welcome and necessary, they will not address the existing and worsening traffic issues along the Corridor, and

WHEREAS, investments along the Route 17 Corridor are consistent with smart growth principles and the 2011 report issued by the Open Space Institute (Private Lands, Public Benefits) which found that Sullivan County has the greatest percentage of preferred growth area in the Catskills, “*which is largely concentrated in the center of the county and coincides with significant, established infrastructure*”, and

WHEREAS, the full conversion of Route 17 to interstate standards (I-86) was previously scheduled to be completed by 2009 but that has not occurred in many of the eastern sections of Route 17, and major upgrades to Route 17 need to be implemented to meet interstate standards, and

WHEREAS, as part of the 2018-19 New York State Budget, the New York State Department of Transportation has committed to “*provide up to \$5 million to advance environmental and design activities related to the construction of a third travel lane along the Route 17 Corridor in Orange and Sullivan Counties.*”, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation anticipates hiring a consultant to conduct a Planning and Environmental Linkage Study (PEL) in the Spring of 2019 as the next step in the process leading to the implementation of the recommendations from the Corridor Study, providing locations of priority and conducting environmental assessments and preliminary engineering, and

WHEREAS, the current estimate of the cost of implementing the Corridor Study is approximately \$500 million, and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Hudson Valley Region needs to continue to grow and attract businesses and jobs, and the 2013 NYSDOT Study has documented the requirements of the Route 17 Corridor.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Woodbury strongly supports efforts to improve the Route 17 Corridor and encourages the New York State Department of Transportation to begin, as soon as possible, the environmental processes necessary to advance the construction of a third lane along the Route 17 Corridor, consistent with interstate standards; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that \$500 million in Capital Funding to make these important investments along the Route 17 Corridor be included in the State’s and Nation’s Infrastructure Programs so that the necessary projects to modernize Route 17 can commence as soon as possible.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Arone, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

d. Authorize the Town Engineer to prepare the bid for a parking lot at the new Community Center at the Rez and for the Town Clerk to publish the Bid:

Motion was offered by Councilwoman Hernandez, seconded by Councilman Arone, to authorize the Town Engineer to prepare the bid for the parking lot at the new Community Center at Earl's Reservoir and to authorize the Town Clerk to publish the bid.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Arone, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

Councilwoman Hernandez thanked Superintendent Weyant for sharing the information he did this evening. She added the Town should save money wherever possible but for this circumstance she believes timing is an issue and the work needs to be done prior to the County bid being available.

e. Change of Employment Status - Edeli Tomasi - Provisional to Permanent position of Library Assistant Spanish/English Bilingual at her current rate of 19.27 per hr. and up to 29 hrs per week:

Motion was offered by Councilwoman Hernandez, seconded by Councilman Arone, to change the employment status of Edeli Tomasi from provisional to permanent in her position as Library

Assistant Spanish/English Bilingual. There will be no change in her hourly rate (\$19.27) and workweek will be up to 29 hours. This will be effective March 27, 2019.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Arone, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

V. Old Business:

EXTRA ITEM - Staffing of Buildings/Grounds Department:

Councilman Hunter stated the Beautification Commission sent a letter in January inquiring about the status of the hiring of the part-time individual that was approved in the 2019 budget that will work for them and the Buildings/Grounds Department. Supervisor Palermo stated at the request of Robert Blair that individual has been delayed until mid-April and it is currently being worked on at this time.

EXTRA ITEM - Signage at Courthouse/Old Town Hall:

Councilman Hunter stated the signage at the Courthouse that's says "Town Hall" (decals on the front glass doors, wood lettering at the top of the arched entryway) needs to be removed as it is causing confusion. Supervisor Palermo stated he does not want to remove the signage from the arched entryway until there is something to replace it and because he fears there could be asbestos behind it. Councilman Hunter stated the wooden signboard was erected a few years ago by the Beautification Committee so asbestos should not be a concern. He also stated the letter decals on the glass doors can be easily removed.

EXTRA ITEM - Issues at the Dog Park:

Councilman Hunter stated he has concerns about the disabled parking at the dog park and it not being angled correctly. Supervisor Palermo stated there is a cut that is needed in the berm, which he had asked Superintendent Weyant to do. Superintendent Weyant stated the elevation of the parking spot is the issue as you cannot have a disabled parking spot that is on an incline. Supervisor Palermo asked Superintendent Weyant if he can look into the Superintendent Weyant stated he would. Councilwoman Hernandez stated the dog park will be getting a facelift by an individual working on their Eagle Scout badge. It will include the repair of the apparatuses.

EXTRA ITEM - Art Council Meeting:

Councilwoman Hernandez noted in November she posted information about creating an Art Council. Information will be on the Town's website and anyone interested can contact the Supervisor's office for more information.

EXTRA ITEM - Inter-Municipal Water Council Kiosk:

Councilwoman Hernandez stated the kiosk that was proposed by the Inter-Municipal Water Council several months ago will be erected soon.

VI. Department Reports:

a. Supervisor's Report:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilwoman Hernandez, to approve the February 2019 Supervisor's Report with receipts totaling \$4,779,905.70 and disbursements totaling \$1,123,394.61.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Arone, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

b. Town Clerks Report - February 2019

c. Building & Grounds - February 2019

- d. ACO Report - February 2019
- e. Police/Communications Report - February 2019
- f. Beautification Committee Minutes - No March Meeting Held
- g. Library Minutes - February 26, 2019
- h. Parks & Recreation – No February Meeting Held
- i. Budget vs. Actual - February 2019

V. Board Meeting Comments:

Councilwoman Hernandez stated there has been a buzz in the community for a youth program in the summer camp for ages 13-15. She believes this is a feasible option and she urged anyone interested to contact the Parks Department so a needs assessment can be done. The Parks Department will be conducting their walkthrough shortly and they recommend adding an area for children with special needs. She also noted she is exploring the climate smart community which will help to preserve our environment, adding grants are available for renewable energy at the park, possible solar field at reservoir, renewable heating energy at town facilities and other potential collaborations with the Village.

Councilman Hunter thanked the Village Highway Department for the preventive maintenance work they did on Park Avenue this week. He thinks they did a great job and Supervisor Palermo agreed.

Supervisor Palermo stated when an individual misspeaks about the Town Board or himself he will correct the statement. At a recent Village Board meeting it was said that the Supervisor was suing the Village and it is the Supervisor that is causing all the issues. He stressed he does not have the power to do this and he is only one vote on the Board. He decided when he took office he would review things that were done wrong and fix them. There would be absolutely no lawsuit if former Supervisor Sutz and current Mayor Queenan did what they were supposed to do, which was talk to an attorney about it. He is disappointed that this statement was made after the Town Board, at the request of Councilman Hunter, reached out to the Village Board to meet and discuss a settlement. He then asked everyone to use caution while driving since daylight is lasting longer and more people are out walking/playing on the roads.

8:15PM - Executive Session:

Motion was offered by Councilman Arone, seconded by Councilman Hunter, to enter into an executive session pursuant to Public Officers Law Section 105(1)(f) to discuss a matter of employment.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Arone, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

No minutes of the executive session were recorded as no recordable action was taken.

VI. Adjournment:

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

ADOPTED AYES 4 Palermo, Arone, Hernandez, Hunter
 NOES 0

Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk

After adjournment the Board entered into a closed session with Attorney McKay.