

Weekly Town Board Meeting
July 29, 2009

The Town Board held their Weekly Workshop on the above date at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York 10516.

PRESENT: William Mazzuca	Supervisor
Betty Budney	Councilwoman
Richard Shea	Councilman
Barbara Scuccimarra	Councilwoman
Nancy Montgomery	Councilwoman

Prior to the Town Board addressing the agenda, Jacqueline Grant congratulated the Town Board on the Recycling Center on Lane Gate Road. She noted that she is interested in lowering her carbon footprint and has a suggestion. She asked if it would be possible for the Town Board to have a garbage truck at the site so that residents could bring household garbage there and, for a small fee, be able to utilize this service. This would also serve as an additional service to residents that are outside the two villages who get curbside pick up. The Town Board asked Ms. Grant to submit a letter and they would then schedule a workshop and discuss it with the Village of Cold Spring.

AGENDA

1. Resolution requesting Putnam County to install the traffic light at the intersection of Route 9 and Fishkill Road.

Supervisor Mazzuca asked that this matter be tabled. He noted that he had a discussion with John Tully, Deputy County Executive, and they concurred that this resolution should be directed to NYSDOT and not the County.

RESOLUTION #126-09

Councilwoman Budney made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Montgomery and unanimously carried;

RESOLVED, that this matter be tabled until a revised resolution addressed to the NYSDOT can be compiled.

2. Discussion regarding a Memorandum dated July 23, 2009, from Councilwoman Scuccimarra on proposed resolutions in support of the withdrawal, removal, and secession from the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District.

Councilwoman Scuccimarra noted that the MTA tax has adversely impacted the businesses and residents of Putnam County. She went on to say that the Putnam County Legislature has put up two resolutions stating that they want to withdraw from the MTA District as an act of civil disobedience. She reported that Mr. Bondi has vetoed the resolution. She suggested that the Town Board write a letter stating that this is an unfair tax, especially since this is a retroactive tax. Supervisor Mazzuca asked what exactly does this mean "withdraw from the district?"

Councilman Shea interjected, stating that he wonders how much the general public understands this tax, or is this some knee jerk reaction? He stated that he's not sure that this falls on individuals at all, that as a business owner, he is responsible for paying the tax, not his employees. He also noted that this town relies on the MTA.

Discussion continued with regard to the MTA, at which time, the Town Board decided to support a resolution calling for the State Comptroller to audit the MTA.

3. Discussion regarding a Memorandum dated July 28, 2009, from Councilwoman Montgomery regarding the NYS DOS Local Government Efficiency Grant Program.

Councilwoman Montgomery asked for the Town Board's support before she reached out to the different agencies.

She stated that the Department of State is currently accepting High Priority Planning Grant applications. This is an opportunity for the Town of Philipstown to receive the funding necessary to examine the efficiency, cost effectiveness and safety of our Emergency Service system.

In April of 2008, the New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency & Competitiveness began its report with the following observation:

- People are demanding changes at all levels of government. They are frustrated by a local tax burden that is the highest in the nation. They value their communities, but want modern, efficient services at an affordable price.
- The changing nature of our community's population, and new regulations continue to impact our emergency service organizations.
- As elected officials we are faced with a continued demand for improved services for our community.
- I have the highest respect for all those who serve this community in the Fire, Rescue and Emergency organization.
- We have a professional and moral obligation to the community and the people who volunteer to assure their safety within a modern and efficient delivery system.
- It is for this essential reason that I would like to pursue this grant application.
- To proceed, she would need the cooperation of the Town Board as well as our village governments and the six agencies that provide emergency services to the Town. After receiving comments from the members of the Town Board, the plan is to present a MOU to each agency to include with the application package.

- Once the grant is filed and funding is secured, a Public Safety Consultant will be hired to assist the Town in examining the efficiency, cost effectiveness and safety of the services currently being provided.
- This study will gather input from leaders of the emergency services and members of those agencies, elected officials, and the general public. It will also provide specific recommendations for improvements.

RESOLUTION #127-09

The following Resolution was presented by Councilwoman Budney, seconded by Councilwoman Montgomery and unanimously carried;

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby supports Councilwoman Montgomery's applying for the NYS DOS Local Government Efficiency Grant Program.

4. Discussion on the Town Planners fee schedule.

RESOLUTION #128-09

The following Resolution was presented by Councilwoman Montgomery, seconded by Councilwoman Scuccimarra and unanimously carried;

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves retaining Ronald J. Gainer, P. E., as the Town Planner at the following rates:

Principal	\$115.00 / hour
Technical Support Staff	\$ 90.00 / hour
Expenses – Mileage	\$ 0.55 / per mile

Other project related expenses, at cost.

4A. Resolution approving an hourly pay rate for Robert Emerick, Acting Code Enforcement Officer.

The Town Board also discussed Dave Klotzle attending classes to attain his certification for Stormwater Coordinator.

RESOLUTION #129-09

The following Resolution was presented by Councilwoman Budney, seconded by Councilwoman Scuccimarra and unanimously carried;

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the increase in Robert Emerick's, Acting Code Enforcement Officer, hourly pay rate to \$32.50.

5. Discussion regarding the Quarry Pond PDD's responsibility of tax payments for the gift of parkland to the Town.

Supervisor Mazzuca read a memo from Town Clerk Merando stating that on July 23, 2009, George Michaud stated that when the Quarry Pond property is turned over to the Town, both the school tax and town & county taxes must be paid. He noted that since Wilder Balter owned the property prior to March 1, 2009 (taxable status date), the town might want to have Wilder Balter put monies into escrow for the taxes unless another avenue is explored.

Supervisor Mazzuca noted that he has spoken with Bill Balter and they discussed the \$150,000.00 escrow that was agreed upon. The original agreement was that the money be used for a traffic light and would be held in escrow for 10 years. However, if the town didn't need the money for the light, both the town and Mr. Balter would not be able to use the monies. Supervisor Mazzuca stated that in his most recent conversation with Mr. Balter, some fees due to the town plus additional monies could be used for this purpose. Negotiations will be ongoing.

6. Any other business that may come before the Town Board.

RESOLUTION #130-09

The following Resolution was presented by Councilman Shea, seconded by Councilwoman Scuccimarra and unanimously carried;

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Susan Kenney to close the Salt Dome Account #15004203443128 with M & T Bank.

RESOLUTION #131-09

The following Resolution was presented by Councilman Shea, seconded by Councilwoman Budney and unanimously carried;

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Susan Kenney to close the Dahlia House Account #15004212556251 with M & T Bank.

RESOLUTION #132-09

The following Resolution was presented by Councilman Shea, seconded by Councilwoman Montgomery and unanimously carried;

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Susan Kenney to close the East Mountain Road account #15004202705272 with M & T Bank.

RESOLUTION #133-09

The following Resolution was presented by Councilman Shea, seconded by Councilwoman Budney and unanimously carried;

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Susan Kenney to close the Knox Lane/ Brant Terrace account #1315007713 with M & T Bank.

Councilwoman Montgomery read the following:

On June 8th the Town Board met with the villages of Cold Spring and Nelsonville to discuss shared services and savings to taxpayers. The first step in this long-term task is to ensure that we continue to provide full services in all departments. The Town Board would like to make certain that all town offices are open and providing full services during published and established hours. Please review policies and procedures regarding posted office hours, vacation comp. time and time sheet submissions.

In an effort to guarantee accurate audit of purchases we would like to remind all departments that any equipment purchase of \$250 or more needs to be approved by the finance committee prior to a purchase. Two Council members must approve and sign.

Thank you for helping us provides a more efficient government.

Councilwoman Montgomery noted for the record that this memo is not directed at any one person, but just a general statement.

RESOLUTION #134-09

The following Resolution was presented by Councilwoman Montgomery, seconded by Councilwoman Scuccimarra and unanimously carried;

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Town Clerk Merando to distribute a memorandum from the Town Board addressing efficient government.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Budney to close the Weekly Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tina M. Merando
Town Clerk