

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

August 21, 2013

Time: 7:00 PM

SALUTE TO FLAG

Supervisor Croce opened the meeting with a salute to the American Flag.

ROLL CALL

The following Town Board Members were present:

Supervisor Croce  
Councilman Farrelly  
Councilwoman Morano  
Councilman DePew

Councilman Putnam was absent.

MINUTES

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the August 7, 2013 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 7, 2013 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: Supervisor Croce	Yes
Councilman Farrelly	Yes
Councilwoman Morano	Abstained (she was absent on 8/7/13)
Councilman DePew	Yes

ADDITIONS

Supervisor Croce stated that he had two additions for this evening's agenda; the Paribelli Subdivision and the Committee on Private Road Specifications.

These issues were discussed later in the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Chris O'Brien asked the Town Board if they had heard that the Assessor in the Town of Marlboro had reduced some assessments on people's properties in the Town of Marlboro due to the large increase expected in school taxes for this year? He stated that the taxes were going to be going up 9.9% and he wanted to know if his assessment could also be reduced because his property is located in Plattekill, but he too is in the Marlboro School District.

Supervisor Croce told Mr. O'Brien that he should speak with Mr. Dunham to see what could be done. He stated that Mr. Dunham is aware that there is a bad situation in Marlboro and stated that he too would bring this issue to Mr. Dunham's attention. It would be up to Mr. Dunham to decide if this was a positive solution for residents in our Town.

There were no further comments or questions from the public.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to close the Public Input Section of the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Councilman Morano seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

#### SECTION 1 – POLICE DEPT. – JULY 2013 MONTHLY REPORT

Supervisor Croce stated that he had spoken with Chief Ryan and he was not going to be able to make it to the meeting this evening. He stated that he would read through the monthly report.

Supervisor Croce read that there were 457 service related calls to the Police Dept. and a total of 102 Traffic Tickets issued. There were 7 motor vehicle accidents handled with 3 people reporting injuries.

Supervisor Croce did not read the arrest blotter as it was rather long and stated that copies of this report could be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office.

Supervisor Croce continued to read the Detective Report which stated that there was a Burglary 2<sup>nd</sup> that was closed with an investigation, an Endangering the Welfare of a Child charge closed with an arrest, a Harassment 2<sup>nd</sup> closed with an arrest, a Grand Larceny 4<sup>th</sup> closed with an uncooperative victim and another Burglary 2<sup>nd</sup> closed with an investigation. The Detectives also closed another Burglary investigation that occurred on H. Urban Drive and charges have been filed with the Court on this person who is currently incarcerated in the Dutchess County Jail.

#### SECTION 2 – BUILDING DEPT. – JULY 2013 MONTHLY REPORT

Supervisor Croce read the July 2013 Building Dept. Monthly Report. The report stated that there were 25 Field Inspections done, 1 Court case that started in Nov. 2012 has a new Court date of Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, 4 Violations closed, 4 Complaints taken, 1 Structure Fire inspected, 19 Building Permits issued, 3 Certificates of Occupancy issued, 11 Municipal Searches done, 2 Site Plans reviewed, 6 Fire Safety Inspections done and 6 Office Meetings held. This does not include returning phone calls and residents coming in for assistance with codes, building permits, zoning and subdivision issues and FOIL Requests.

Supervisor Croce asked if there were any questions.

The Town Board did not have any questions.

Supervisor Croce stated that the report is giving us a little more information so we have fewer questions.

#### SECTION 3 – DOG CONTROL - JULY 2013 MONTHLY REPORT

Supervisor Croce read the July 2013 Dog Control Monthly Report. The report stated that there were a total number of 30 calls with 4 calls coming from the Town and County Sheriff Depts. There are 6 open cases, 3 dogs were impounded or seized, 3 dogs were redeemed and there are currently no dogs in the kennel. The report stated that the Dog Control Officer successfully closed 1 dangerous dog hearing through mediation and that Ag & Markets did a kennel inspection which was considered successful. The

report stated that currently there was 1 dangerous dog hearing in progress and 2 potential hearings are being investigated.

Supervisor Croce stated that he felt it was very encouraging to hear that dangerous dog issues are being mediated. He stated that he wanted to commend Mr. McKee for his work on these cases.

#### SECTION 4 – COMMITTEE TO REVIEW “PRIVATE ROAD SPECIFICATIONS” CODE

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board has had several discussions over the past couple of years, when issues have come up, that the Private Road Specifications are a part of the Town Code, but not a part of the Zoning Code. He stated that he felt the Town Board should set up a committee to review the current Private Road Specifications chapter to make changes relative to some of the recent issues that have come up and to include language for pre-existing uses. He stated that once the code has been reviewed, then it can be considered that we add this chapter to the Zoning Code. By doing this, it will allow residents the ability to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a determination. Currently, a resident, who has a problem or question on the Code, has nowhere to go because the chapter is not part of the Zoning Code.

Supervisor Croce stated that he had spoken about this situation with the Planning Board Chairperson and they came up with an idea to set up a committee to review the Code. The committee would consist of two Town Board Members, two Planning Board Members, two people from the Zoning Board and the Highway Superintendent. He stated that this committee could meet on a regular basis to discuss the code as it exists and try to revise or up-date it. We have had issues over the past years and these issues can be discussed for possible changes to the Code. He asked the Town Board if they thought this was a good idea. He stated that he would be willing to serve on this committee if the Town Board thought this was a good idea.

Councilman DePew stated that he thought this would be the logical way to proceed. He asked if the committee would meet once a month?

Supervisor Croce stated that that was something that could be figured out at the first meeting.

Supervisor Croce explained that he had been a part of a previous committee to make changes to the Multi-Family Codes. He felt that this was a good way to proceed as it worked out well in the past.

Councilman Farrelly stated that he would like to be on this committee.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would contact the other Departments to set up a first meeting date for this committee.

#### SECTION 5 – PARIBELLI SUBDIVISION ON BARCLAY ROAD – PLANNING BOARD MEMO

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board had discussed this case at the last meeting and made a decision to waive the private road specifications on this project. He stated that he wrote a memo that he thought explained what the Town Board had decided and sent it to the Planning Board, but they have returned a memo to the Town Board, that everyone should have a copy of, with questions and the suggestion that he be a little more specific.

Supervisor Croce stated that they were suggesting that there was a little more to it than just exempting them from the Private Road Specifications. He stated that they suggested he should label the dwellings as number one and number two and that he include the SBL# for the property as well as state

the address of the properties, among other things. He stated that they were thinking into the future and were asking if this was a blanket exemption that anything in the future would also be exempt? What if the property was sold to someone else, would the exemption go with any future projects? These would be concerns.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would like to re-write this memo and include some of the Planning Board suggestions if that would be acceptable with the rest of the Town Board?

Councilman Farrelly asked what he was going to write?

Supervisor Croce stated that he would write a new memo, probably referring to the first memo and include things like the SBL number and the address. After all, we are talking about one property and the driveways and roadway and we are not exempting everything from the Private Road Specifications. We did not address the two dwellings on one parcel. This is something not allowed by the Private Road Specs.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to send a new memo to the Planning Board to include the address, the SBL number, that the residences will be labeled dwelling #1 and dwelling #2 and to address any other issues or concerns of the Planning Board for the Paribelli Subdivision.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

#### SECTION 6 – ASSESSOR & BUILDING DEPT. REQUEST FOR RENOVATIONS

Supervisor Croce explained that the Assessor's Office and Building Dept. have requested to expand their office by putting in a wall up to the Court bench and bringing the wall down the track of the expandable divider. They would then have a window across from the mailboxes so that people would not have to go into the Court room, on Mondays and Fridays when Court is in session, to see the Building Inspector or the Assessor. They would like to re-vamp the entire office space and move the Historian over into the corner that is now used by the Assessor.

Supervisor Croce stated that he understands that they are cramped, but most of the employees in this building are working in cramped quarters. He stated that he doesn't know if the two offices have tried to investigate better utilizing the space they have. He would like to see this done first. Also, this request did not come with a cost estimate. We would have to see where the money would come from to do these renovations.

Mrs. Morse stated that the Assessor's office used to be up front where the Bookkeeper currently is.

Supervisor Croce stated yes, and that is his question. Have we investigated our use of the space we already have?

Councilman Farrelly asked if anyone had investigated putting an addition on this building?

The Town Board discussed that it had been discussed in the past that the building could be expanded, however the back of the building (the north side) does not have much room to the property line and the side of the building, facing the road, has the septic system on that side. The septic could always be moved farther out towards the road. And, maybe we could put an extension on the Court room end, towards the Highway Garage.

Supervisor Croce stated that he felt this would all need more research.

Councilwoman Morano asked if the Planning Board and Zoning Board could put their files on micro-film? At the very least, the older files.

Supervisor Croce stated that there are many questions. He stated that he was not saying no, that we shouldn't do this expansion, but have we looked at all the possibilities. And he would also like to see a cost estimate.

Supervisor Croce stated that he agreed with a suggestion that was given to him to set up a committee to study the building and determine if we are using this building efficiently. Maybe it would be a good idea to expand the building. If we were to do a 30-foot extension, what would that cost? He stated that currently the Bookkeeper is up in the front of the building. People coming in really do not have a need to see her. They are usually looking for the Building Dept., Assessor or the Court. Maybe she should be located somewhere else and that office should be used for an office that the residents would frequent more. These are all questions and ideas. A committee could sort them out.

Councilman DePew stated that he thought an assessment of the situation was a good idea and should be done first before renovating the building.

Supervisor Croce stated that he also felt that we should look at how this will affect our residents. We should do an energy assessment too.

The Town Board was in agreement that a committee should be set up.

Councilman DePew stated that he felt Mr. Dougherty and Mr. Wager should also be a part of this committee since they are the buildings and grounds overseers. He stated that he would like to volunteer to be on the committee too.

Councilwoman Morano stated that she would also like to help on the committee.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would contact Mr. Dougherty and Mr. Wager and see where this goes.

SECTION 7 – TRANSFER STATION ATTENDENT

Supervisor Croce stated that he has spoken with Mr. Paul Battaglia and he is still looking to get a better, full time job. He did not want to continue on as a Transfer Station attendant. He stated that the Town Board had interviewed 5 people to replace Mr. Battaglia and he felt they should vote on hiring one of the people that had been interviewed.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to hire David Fiekowsky to be one of our two employees at the Transfer Station.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: Supervisor Croce	Yes
Councilman Farrelly	Yes
Councilwoman Morano	Abstained (she was not present for the interviews)
Councilman DePew	Yes

At this time, Councilman DePew asked the Supervisor if there had been any new information on the sale of the Police Cars?

Supervisor Croce stated no, he had not gotten a chance to look into using the auction companies. He stated that first we had trouble with the telephone lines and then this week the entire Town Hall phone system was acting up and all the features on the phones were wiped out. The technician stated that this could have happened as the result of a power surge or a power outage, but we have not had any storms or anything like that. He was here for two days and spent hours at the Supervisor's phone trying to re-set and re-program everyone's phones. There are still a few issues yet, we don't have the menu answering the phones and some offices cannot retrieve their messages. The Tech is coming back in again tomorrow and we will see how we make out.

SECTION 8 – VOUCHERS

\* Councilman DePew made a motion to pay the Voucher Detail Report dated 8/21/2013 which includes the General Fund amount of \$31,061.43, the Highway Fund amount of \$2,643.67, the Clintondale Light District amount of \$763.46, the Modena Light District amount of \$1,328.72 and the Trust and Agency amount of \$2,814.70 for a total amount of \$38,611.98 recognizing that the Audit Committee has reviewed the claims and found them acceptable for payment.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 9 – ADJOURNMENT

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 PM.

Councilwoman Morano seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

(The Town Board stayed after the meeting was adjourned to respond to questions from a Boy Scout who had attended the meeting as part of his work to obtain a Citizenship Badge.)