

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

October 16, 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 Putnam
- Councilman Farrelly
- Councilwoman Morano
- Councilman DePew

MINUTES

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes from the September 18, 2013 and the October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 Regular Town Board Meetings.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 18, 2013 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: Supervisor Croce	Yes
Councilman Putnam	Yes
Councilwoman Morano	Abstained (she was absent)
Councilman DePew	Yes

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 2, 2013 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilwoman Morano seconded.

On the vote: Supervisor Croce	Yes
Councilman Putnam	Yes
Councilman Farrelly	Abstained (he was absent)
Councilwoman Morano	Yes
Councilman DePew	Yes

PRESENTATION: BASIC- STAR EXEMPTION:

Supervisor Croce introduced Victoria Costello, a representative from the New York State Tax Department, who was present this evening to try to explain the STAR registration program that the State had instituted this year for Basic STAR exemptions. Residents who have the Basic STAR program, for an exemption on their school tax bill, were being sent a letter with a code that had to be entered into the State website by Dec. 31, 2013 in order to continue to receive this exemption.

Mrs. Costello explained that this was just for residents who receive the Basic STAR exemption and did not affect the seniors or those receiving the Enhanced STAR exemption. She explained that the Basic STAR recipient would receive a letter in September and would have to respond either on line over the internet or call a phone number in Albany to register. She stated that if the applicant did not register by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, they would be sending out another letter as a reminder. Also, if someone did not receive a letter or the letter was miss-placed, the home owner could call the Albany phone number and someone would look up the code number for them.

Mrs. Costello then reviewed the process for going on line to renew the exemption and put in the proper documentation.

Mrs. Costello stated that this was a one-time registration and the Basic STAR recipient would not have to do this again next year.

She asked if there were any questions from the audience.

Someone asked what a person signing up for the STAR exemption, for the first time, would have to do.

Mrs. Costello stated that a new applicant would just have to register with Mr. Dunham, the Town Assessor, as any first time applicant would have had to do.

Supervisor Croce asked if this one time process was to update information with the State?

Mrs. Costello stated yes, they want to update everyone's information and try to catch anyone who is claiming two exemptions instead of one. Each homeowner can only receive one STAR exemption.

Councilman Farrelly asked if there was an increase in the allowed income to receive a STAR exemption?

Mr. Dunham, who was also present at this meeting, stated yes, they did increase the income and this was the first time doing so in a long time.

Mrs. Costello stated that she would stay in the back of the room if anyone had any further questions for her this evening.

The Town Board thanked her for coming and sharing this information.

ADDITIONS:

There were no additions this evening.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. William Farrell, the Town Recreation Director, was present and he stated that he wanted to thank everyone who helped at the Senior Picnic last weekend. Do to some scheduling conflicts, it was held at the Elks Club on Rt. 32. He stated that he wanted to give a special thank you to Kevin Roberts for his support.

Mr. Farrell stated that he also is a trustee for the Town Library and he has heard some rumors about the Library and their budget. He stated that he wanted everyone to know that the meetings are always open and people can ask questions on anything they are concerned about. He stated that he wanted to know what was going on so he became a trustee to better understand what the Library does. He stated that Mr. Joe Egan has now taken one of the empty trustee positions too. He stated that he just wanted everyone to know that the budget is always on the table and anyone can come and see what goes on. He stated that the meetings are always on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Ms. Valerie Smith, who is also part of the Town Library Board, stated that she agreed with Mr. Farrell and stated that anyone with questions about the Library should come and ask.

Mr. Farrell stated that he just wanted to remind everyone that the Veteran's Committee was having their Fall Dance at the VFW in New Paltz this Saturday night. There are still some tickets available.

Mrs. Morse, Chairperson for the Veteran's Committee, stated yes, there are still some tickets left and the theme is a USO dance. They have some acts that will be performing.

Supervisor Croce asked if there were any other questions.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to close the Public Input section of the meeting at 7:25 PM. Councilman Farrelly seconded.

At this time, Mr. Arnold Wager asked a question about the large increase in the Wallkill School tax bills that were received last month.

Supervisor Croce rescinded his motion and Councilman Farrelly rescinded his second on the motion.

Mr. Wager stated again that he was just wondering why the Wallkill School tax had such an increase this year.

Mr. Dunham, the Town Assessor, was still present in the room and explained that the budget for the school is split amongst five different Towns. The market value of each Town is determined by reviewing sales of the year prior to the Valuation Date of July 1. The 2013 Assessment Roll's sales were from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. The equalization rate is determined by the State, by reviewing sales of all properties in each Town. He stated that the Town of Plattekill has remained stable over the past three years indicating that the market value has remained stable over this period. He stated that the full value of each of the Towns in the district has changed at different rates over the past several years. However, Shawangunk and Newburgh have decreased. This causes a change in the share of the tax levy for each Town. As a result of the changes in market value, we saw an increase in the tax bill as part of our share,

because we remained stable and several of the other Towns decreased in value, so they did not see the same increases. The shift of responsibility was on the other stable Towns.

Mr. Wager asked, so are we going to pay this much again? He stated that his property increase for the past two- years is \$1,300.00. That is pretty steep. There are lots of people saying they are going to pack it in and get out of here. The average increase this year was between \$500.00 to \$700.00.

Mr. Dunham stated that hopefully we will not see this big a shift again, but it is not really up to the Town.

Mr. Wager stated that it doesn't matter. We can't keep having this monstrous increase every year. You are supposed to help us.

There was a discussion about decreasing the assessments on the homes in Plattekill and whether that would help us or not.

Mr. Dunham stated that if we change the assessments equally, throughout the Towns, then they will change the rates and we will still end up owing the same. He stated again that the values have been stable since 2011.

There was discussion about the sales of homes since 2010.

Mr. Dunham stated that he just received information this morning on three homes that were just sold in Plattekill and all three of them paid a price higher than the assessed value he had given them.

Mr. Wager stated that he is concerned that next year this will happen again. We can't keep doing this. People want to purchase a home and they don't when they see what the taxes will be.

Mr. Dunham stated that he has written a letter to the school asking them to raise the Senior Exemption.

Supervisor Croce stated that everyone here received the same increase and we are not happy either. He stated that he would try to sit down with the finance officer to see what we can do.

Mrs. Morse asked if there was any talk to change the way taxes are done?

Mr. Dunham stated that he has been here for 21 years and they have been talking about it before he started. The State Legislature has to do something. Is it good to look at 45 homes to rate all the rest of the homes in Town; probably not, but there is equity in that the whole State system works the same.

Mr. Dunham stated that the Town Clerk had someone come in her office on Monday and say we should consider his property abandoned. He was driving a truck with a trailer all loaded up and he was out of here heading for Tennessee. Many people are being affected by all of this and the State should do something to try to help.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to close the Public Input Section of the meeting at 7:40 PM.  
Councilman Farrelly seconded.  
On the vote: all ayes.

#### REPORTS:

1. Police Monthly Report:

Supervisor Croce stated that he did not have the Police Monthly Report for this evening. He spoke with the Chief and there was a computer problem with getting the report printed. We should have the report for the next meeting.

2. Dog Control Monthly Report:

Councilman DePew read the Dog Control Monthly Report for the month of September 2013.

Councilman DePew read that there were a total of 25 calls for the month of September with 5 of those calls coming through the Town of Plattekill PD or the Ulster County Sheriff's Office. The report stated that there were 5 open cases, 5 dogs impounded and/or seized, 3 dogs redeemed, 4 appearance tickets issued and we currently have 4 dogs in the Town kennel. The report also stated that 3 of those 4 dogs were scheduled to transfer to the Walden Humane Society on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. The report also stated that there were no Court cases under investigation and there were no Court cases scheduled at this time.

3. Building Dept. Monthly Report:

Supervisor Croce read the Building Dept. Monthly Report for September 2013. He read that there were 34 Field Inspections done, 0 Stop Work Orders issued, 29 Violations issued, 0 Violations closed, there was one Court case on the docket with the next Court date "pending", there was 1 Complaint, there was 1 Structure Fire where the Inspector was called to the site, 9 Building Permits issued, 1 Certificate of Occupancy issued, no Certificates of Compliance issued, 7 Municipal Searches done, no Site Plans reviewed, 4 Fire Safety Inspections done, 3 Office Meetings held and 11 Mobile Home Park Inspections done. These numbers do not include returning phone calls and residents coming in for assistance with codes, building permits, zoning and subdivision issues and FOIL requests.

The Town Board had a question as to why the Court case has been going on for so long and is still "pending".

Supervisor Croce stated that he would check with Mr. LoCicero to find out why this case is hanging on for so long.

Councilman Farrelly stated that there also seems to be a lot of Violations that were issued. It would be nice, with so many being issued, to know what these Violations are.

Councilman DePew stated that in the past, they have asked for a breakdown on Violations.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would remind Mr. LoCicero again.

SECTION 1 – EAGLE SCOUT SERVICE PROJECT

Supervisor Croce stated that at the last meeting, there was discussion that there were two Eagle Scouts who had to do a 6 hour service project and they were suggesting that they refurbish the Veterans Memorial at the Library and Senior Center Building. These Scouts had indicated that they would be here this evening.

The Scouts were present to give a presentation of what they were going to do. They were proposing to fix the Memorial plaque, clean up the garden and the memorial area and plant some new flowers and/or bushes.

Mr. Farrell added that the Highway Superintendent has agreed to remove the debris and they want to plant mums and some other plants now and touch up the flowers in the Spring. They are also going to clean out the flower beds in front of the Library and make them look better. They are working closely with Mr. Wager and this will be considered two separate projects; one will be fixing the memorial area and the other will be fixing the flower beds in front of the building.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to authorize Neil Peets and Patricio Ortiz to move forward with their Scout Service Project at the Library building.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

There was discussion that the Troop might be able to do this project on a yearly basis so that the flower beds in front of the building will always look maintained.

Councilman Putnam suggested that the Scouts go back to the Troop and ask if they can have the Troop do these clean-up projects on a yearly basis.

The Scouts stated that they would try to set up this yearly project for the Troop to carry on.

## SECTION 2 – ELECTRONIC RECYCLING CONTRACT

Supervisor Croce stated that he had received a letter from the Rochester Computer Recycling & Recovery Company that takes our electronics at the Transfer Station. He explained that they have been paying the Town three cents per pound to take our electronics for recycling. He read the letter from them stating that they would no longer be able to pay the Town the three cents per pound and would have to start charging the Town twenty five cents per lb. to take CRTs (cathode ray tube monitors and televisions).

Supervisor Croce stated that he had asked the recycling company for an estimate of how much per pound, from our Transfer Station, is CRT electronics and they stated that approximately 82% of what we take in is CRTs.

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board will have to think about what we want to do. We don't want to raise the Town fees, but if they are going to charge the Town then we will probably have to raise them. We don't have a lot of choice.

Councilman DePew asked if they were picking up the next batch of electronics on Monday? Will this batch still be for free?

Supervisor Croce stated yes, but they would not be paying us the three cents per pound.

Councilman Putnam stated that if the Town is being charged for a certain item, then he felt we should pass this cost on to the person bringing in that item. If they are not charging for flat screens and other items like that, then those items will still be free.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would also like to suggest to the Town Board that we might change the hours of operation of the Transfer Station. We are open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Sunday from 8:00 AM to 12 noon. The problem is that on Thursdays, we hardly have any business and we do not cover the cost of the attendant. He was considering that we close on Thursdays and maybe try to be open on Sunday afternoon. Sunday mornings are our busiest days. We

should try to keep both attendants so that if one cannot work, the other can cover the hours. All something we should think about.

Councilman DePew asked if there were any other companies that would offer us a better deal? He would think there must be other companies who recycle electronics. The letter says that the E-waste Alliance, that this company works with, accounts for about 50% of the companies that recycle. What about the other 50%?

Supervisor Croce stated that he did have a good point and asked him if he wanted to look in to getting a different company to give us a price quote.

Councilman DePew stated that he would like to look into getting a different company. We should table this discussion until the next meeting.

Councilman Farrelly asked if the Town would have to separate the CRTs from the other electronics?

Supervisor Croce stated that he did not see anything saying that they had to sort the electronics.

### SECTION 3 – DALE KLEIN LOGGING PERMIT

Supervisor Croce stated that Mr. Klein was present this evening to receive approval on his application for a Logging Permit. He read a memo from the Highway Superintendent stating that the lot and the temporary driveways had been inspected and that there will be two landing areas. He also has been spoken to about keeping the large trucks off the road when school busses are picking up or dropping off children.

Supervisor Croce continued saying that the letters to the neighboring residents, within 500 feet of the project, were notified and the green cards have been returned. He also has a notarized Letter of Agent from the property owner (108.3-3-1).

A resident who had received one of the letters was present and stated that he had never had anyone do logging near his home and he just wanted to know what the process was.

Supervisor Croce explained that Mr. Klein would be logging the property and would have to put up a bond to cover any damage to the roadway.

Mr. Klein explained that the property was actually on two sides of the road and he would be logging one side at a time. He would be cleaning up the first side and getting an approval from the Highway Superintendent before moving to the other side of the road. He would be logging 30 acres of the 41 acre parcel and has put down that it will take him 1 year to complete the project just in case there is bad weather and he has to stop. He actually expects to be done within one month from starting.

Councilman Putnam explained that the DEC promotes selective harvesting/logging for the good of the forest. This allows light to the new growth.

Supervisor Croce stated that Mr. Klein has been made aware of all the rules and regulations. We have everything we are supposed to have and all we need is the \$5,000.00 bond or check.

Mr. Klein stated that he has the check this evening.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion that the Town Board approves the Logging Permit for Dale Klein, aka Klein Logging, to log at SBL#108.3-3-1, with the logging project to begin on October 17, 2013.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 4 – 2014 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING DATE

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board should set the date for the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget since we will not have another Town Board meeting until after the General Election. The Public Hearing must be held on or before November 7<sup>th</sup>.

\* Councilman DePew made a motion to hold the year 2014 Budget Public Hearing on November 6, 2013 at 6:00 PM.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 5 – VOUCHERS

\* Councilman DePew made a motion to pay the Voucher Detail Report dated 10/16/2013, which includes the General Fund amount of \$38,933.85, the Highway Fund amount of \$75,765.18, the Capital Projects amount of \$320.47, the Clintondale Light District amount of \$808.45, the Modena Light District of 1,401.24 and the Trust & Agency amount of \$5,381.45 for a total amount of \$122,610.64 recognizing that the Audit Committee has reviewed the claims and found them acceptable for payment.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 6 – ADJOURNMENT

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.