

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 16, 2014

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
Councilman DePew

Councilwoman Delgado was absent.

MINUTES

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the March 27th, 2014 Special Town Board Meeting and the April 2, 2014 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: Supervisor Croce	Yes
Councilman Putnam	Yes
Councilman Farrelly	Yes
Councilman DePew	Abstained

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 27, 2014 Special Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: Supervisor Croce	Yes
Councilman Putnam	Yes
Councilman Farrelly	Yes
Councilman DePew	Abstained (He was absent from this meeting)

The Town Board was not able to accept the minutes from the April 2nd meeting as Councilwoman Delgado was not present to vote.

ADDITIONS

Supervisor Croce stated that he had received a memo from Linda Burns, who is in charge of Plattekill Day. She wanted him to announce the date for Plattekill Day so that all the organizations in Town would be able to make plans for the day.

Supervisor Croce stated that Plattekill Day this year would be Saturday, September 20th, 2014 with a rain date of Sunday, Sept. 21st. The vendor spaces will be \$25.00 without electric and \$30.00 with electric hook-up.

Supervisor Croce stated that for anyone who doesn't know, the Veterans Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 24th, 2014 with a rain date of May 25th. Line-up will be at 12:00 noon, at the Town Hall and step-off is at 1:00 PM. The Parade will go down Rt. 32 to the Park.

Supervisor Croce stated that he had three other additions: one is to hear about another Eagle Project which we will hold off until New Business and the other two items are for awarding the Mowing Bid and the Haying Bid.

1) Mowing Bid:

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board had received copies of the bid prices in their mailboxes. He explained that there were four bids opened for Mowing & Trimming of the Town Properties which were \$825.00 from DeMaio & DeMaio Enterprises, \$449.00 from J & N Stafford, \$365.00 from Filip Landscaping and \$355.00 from Joe Mehl Landscaping. (A complete listing of the bids is attached to these minutes)

Supervisor Croce read a memo from the Highway Superintendent suggesting that the Town Board award the bid to Joe Mehl Landscaping.

There were no questions from the Town Board.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion that we accept the bid from Joe Mehl Landscaping, of \$355.00, for the Mowing & Trimming of the Town Properties.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

2) Haying of the Field Bid:

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board had received one bid for the Haying of the Field. The bid was from Mr. Jody DePew and he will pay the Town \$20.00 to cut and remove the hay.

* Councilman Putnam made a motion to award Jody DePew the bid for Haying of the Field.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Tom Wilkin asked Supervisor Croce if he had seen the Quassaick Creek Project report as the final draft was e-mailed to him asking for any comments or questions.

Supervisor Croce stated that he did see the report and thought that he had asked his Clerk to e-mail a response back to him letting him know that he had seen it. He stated that he did not have any further comments or questions on the Project and felt very confident that Mr. Wilkin had represented the Town.

Mr. Wilkin stated that the Orange County Planning Dept. did a very good job on this project and the Town does not have to adopt anything or make any promises to do anything. But because the Town of Plattekill was a part of this project, we could use this report if we were thinking of applying for a grant.

Supervisor Croce asked Mr. Wilkin if he was going to continue to be active with this Project?

Mr. Wilkin stated that the Project was winding down and there would not be any more Project Committee meetings going on.

Supervisor Croce asked if Mr. Wilkin would like to stay as the Town contact person on this?

Mr. Wilkin stated that he really didn't have to. The Quassaick Creek Alliance would like to see people from Plattekill join the Alliance, but he did not see any reason for him to join it. He stated that the only municipalities that put anything into this project were the Town and City of Newburgh and the Town of Plattekill.

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town of Plattekill is very grateful to him for all the time and energy that he gave to representing us in this project and working with this group.

Mr. Wilkin explained that this was a study and it went across town lines. He feels that if the Town of Plattekill ever wanted to do something near the watershed, this study would be a good tool for our use.

Councilman DePew stated that he was thinking the same as the Supervisor; that since he had spent a lot of time on this project and knows what is going on in the watershed and since this will be an on-going situation, he would love to see him stay on in this position as the liaison.

Mr. Wilkin stated that he could stay on in that position, but this project is just a guide and a study of the watershed that starts in Plattekill and ends in Orange County. He stated that the documents are and will be available for use if there is a need for the information.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would just like to see Mr. Wilkin be available as he would have the answers if any issues do arise and there are questions about the watershed.

Mr. Wilkin stated that he would be available if a situation arises, but he felt the documentation will also be available if there is a need for another review of the watershed area.

Supervisor Croce again thanked Mr. Wilkin for all his time and energy that he put into helping on this study.

Supervisor Croce asked if there were any further comments or questions from the public?

There were no further comments or questions.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to close the Public Input Section of the meeting at 7:18 PM.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

REPORTS:

SECTION 1 – POLICE MONTHLY REPORT

Supervisor Croce read the Police Monthly Report for March 2014 as Chief Ryan was not present this evening.

Supervisor Croce read that there were 378 documented calls for service, 131 Traffic Tickets issued and 10 Motor Vehicle accidents with 2 persons suffering injuries. There was an extensive Arrest Blotter

and a listing of many Burglary, Theft and Larceny cases worked and closed. Anyone wanting further information could obtain a copy of the complete monthly report at the Town Clerk's Office.

Supervisor Croce stated that the vehicles were all in good working order and the new vehicle that will replace the vehicle that was totaled in an accident, will be delivered next week.

SECTION 2 – DOG CONTROL

Supervisor Croce read the Dog Control Monthly Report for March 2014. He read that there were 27 calls to the Plattekill Dog Control with 4 calls coming from the Plattekill PD and UC Sheriff's Dept. There are 3 open cases, 1 dog was seized or impounded, no dogs redeemed, 1 dog adopted or transferred, no appearance tickets issued and there are currently 2 dogs in the kennel. He read that there is currently 1 dangerous dog hearing in the Court and there were 5 animal welfare complaints that were referred to the UC SPCA.

Supervisor Croce read that the Dog Control Officer would be attending training by the NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets in Gilderland, NY on May 7th and 8th, 2014. He also read that Mr. McKee would like to thank Hannaford's for their generous donation of food to our shelter as well as the funds collected in their donation box. He also read that Mr. McKee was currently looking for donations of towels and blankets to be used for bedding for dogs having to stay overnight in the kennel. Anyone wishing to donate items can contact the Dog Control Officer.

The Town Clerk stated that she would also take any donations for the Dog Control Officer in her office.

Supervisor Croce stated that a representative from Hannaford's stopped in his office last week and gave the Town \$493.00 that was from their donation box to go towards supplies for the Dog Control Dept. Thank you to everyone that donated as these funds are greatly appreciated.

SECTION 3 – RECREATION DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Councilman Farrelly read the Recreation Dept. Monthly Report dated April 16, 2014. He read that the Annual Easter Egg Hunt went very well as there was perfect weather for the Egg Hunt. The report stated that there were approximately 185 kids with their parents in attendance and the Easter Bunny also showed up for some great pictures. The report stated that Mr. Farrell wanted to thank the seniors from Aloha who helped to stuff the eggs with candy and to Hannaford's for supplying most of the candy.

Councilman Farrelly continued to read about the T-Ball program. There will be at least 20 kids, ages 4-7 years old, and practice will start this Thursday, April 17. They will be playing in the small field behind the Library building and Mr. Farrell is looking to expand this program into a regular league. He is still looking for volunteers who would like to coach. Practice will start at 5:50 PM and conclude at 7PM.

Councilman Farrelly read that the Spring Soccer season would also be starting on April 18th at 5:00 PM on the center field at the Park. The coach and players from the Ulster County Community College Team will be volunteering their time with over 40 kids in this program.

Councilman Farrelly read that Mr. Farrell had set up a breakfast for seniors at the Gateway Diner on Rt. 9W in Highland on April 17th. Seniors could arrive between 8:00 AM and 12 noon to have breakfast for \$3.75 and if anyone wore their Veteran's hat, they could receive breakfast for \$2.00. This breakfast

was open to all Town of Plattekill Senior Citizens. Mr. Farrell wanted to thank the Gateway Diner for hosting this event.

Councilman Farrelly finished by reading that the Spring Basketball Program for Teens would continue at the New Hurley Church gym on New Hurley Road. Play is from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Wednesday nights and there are volunteer coaches to encourage the teens to learn the rules of the game as well as play in a controlled environment. The last night of the winter Basketball program had 48 teens in attendance. Mr. Farrell stated that he would also like to promote this program into a league for teens.

SECTION 4 – BUILDING DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board did not receive a monthly report from the Building Dept. and they would submit a report for two months, next month.

SECTION 5 – ASSESSOR MONTHLY REPORT

Supervisor Croce read the Assessor's Monthly Report for March 2014. The report gave a list of the sales, foreclosures and arm's length transactions. The report also stated that the Assessor had received a list from the State of property owners who will no longer be eligible for Basic STAR Exemptions this year. There were 251 property owners on that list which included 78 properties that were either converted to the Enhanced STAR, sold to new owners or the owner is now deceased. The report stated that the Assessor has tried to contact several property owners who he knew were still eligible for the exemption and suggested that they follow up with the State. The report stated that he should receive an updated list in the middle of April and he will try to double check that list to try to get to everyone who should have renewed their exemption. Property owners will have a chance, until the end of this year, to petition the State to reinstate their exemption if they have not re-registered.

Supervisor Croce continued reading that all the notices for the tax roll update project have been mailed out to property owners. The Assessor will be meeting with property owners until the middle of April on this update process.

Supervisor Croce finished the report by reading that the Assessor has met with the State and they have reviewed the 2014 Tentative Assessment Roll for the Town. Based on this review they have determined that the level of assessment for the Town is now at 100% and this will be the equalization rate for the 2014 Assessment Roll.

Supervisor Croce stated that he does know that the Assessor has tried to reach everyone who did not re-register for the STAR Exemption and he sent letters out to all residential property owners that he was adjusting the assessments to put us at 100% for this coming year. It is a lot of work to get this all done in time for the Final Assessment Roll.

SECTION 6 – PAARIBELLI ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board has had some issues that they have dealt with involving this project off of Barclay Road. There have been discussions about the roadway and driveways and the shape of the end of the road. He stated that the Town Board was also asked to review the road

maintenance agreement and he has spoken with the Chairperson of the Planning Board and received the Town Attorney's opinion and this maintenance agreement is adequate.

* Councilman Farrelly made a motion that the Supervisor send a letter to the Planning Board stating that the Town Board has no issues with the road maintenance agreement for the Paribelli Subdivision. Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 7 – ORCHARD HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION

Supervisor Croce stated that Mr. William James, the developer and his Attorney, Mr. Stenger, for the Orchard Heights Subdivision, were present to discuss a situation involving the driveways of 3 lots within the subdivision.

Supervisor Croce stated that he has taken each Town Board member to the site so that they could understand the situation better. He explained that the developer would like to set up a bond or cash-bond to construct the driveways at a later date, when the individual lots are sold.

Mr. Stenger explained the situation to the Town Board and explained that the Town would hold these bonds on each property until the property is sold and then the money would be used to put in the driveway according to the specifications of the Town engineer and Planning Board. If there is a property or properties that are not sold, after two years, then the Town could take the money from the bonds and build the driveways.

Mr. Stenger continued stating that there would be \$50,000.00 for each driveway put in either a credit line or a letter of credit or both. The money would remain with the Town so that the driveways could be built correctly when the lots are sold. The money for each driveway would be released from the bond as the driveways are built. That is it in a nutshell.

Mr. Stenger continued explaining that Lot #5 has been sold and the driveway will be built in July. The buyer is eager to get in and build so there will only be 2 lots that will remain bonded for a longer period of time. He stated again that if the lots are not sold, then in 2 years, the Town Board could decide whether they want to build the driveways.

Supervisor Croce stated that he felt this was a problem. He is leery of the Town building these driveways, even using someone else's money and even if we know it is done to the engineer's specifications. What if there is a problem and the driveway fails? Then it is now the Town's responsibility and liability. What if a fire truck goes down the driveway and it rolls over. It is on the Town for building the driveway.

Mr. Stenger stated that the Town would not be liable. He stated that there is no liability on the Town or the engineer. The driveways have to be built to the specifications on the map.

Supervisor Croce asked "you are sure of this"?

Mr. Stenger stated that he should ask the Town Attorney this question.

Supervisor Croce stated that he still feels that the Town should not be in the business of putting in driveways on private property. There are many issues. Who would be tracking these bonds; the building dept., the Planning Board? Who would be making sure all of this is done properly? Who knows who will be here two years from now?

Supervisor Croce further explained that the agreement for the Town to take over this process was just received late this afternoon and no one has had a chance to review it yet. He stated that the Town Board needs to review it and the Town Attorney needs to review it. There isn't any way a decision could be made this evening.

Councilman Putnam asked why they could not put in the sub-base of the driveways now?

There was discussion that if the driveways were put in now, then when someone purchases the property, they might want to move the location of the house and the driveway would not work. Another issue was that if the driveway was partially put in (the sub-base), people could possibly drive down the driveway, because it would be there, and then get stuck or damage their vehicle in some way. Also there are guardrails and barriers that have to be put up on the driveways and these would not be put up until the final stage of building the driveways.

There was also some discussion that if Mr. James could put in the driveways now, the cost to build the driveways would be a lot less. If the Town has to put them in, the cost would have to include enough to cover "prevailing wages". It would have to be cheaper for the driveways to be put in now.

Councilman Farrelly stated that he did not feel the Town should be in the business of putting in driveways on private property.

Mr. Stenger stated that this process of bonding the driveways is a quality control mechanism. It is a good process and a practical solution to make sure the driveways are built to specifications designated by the engineer.

Ms. Cindy Hilbert, the Chairperson for the Planning Board, explained that the Planning Board has concerns that in the past it was the owner's responsibility and things don't always work out for the best. This way we can make sure these driveways are built to the specifications and that everything is engineered and inspected.

Supervisor Croce stated that he has a concern as to who will keep track of these things.

Ms. Hilbert stated that it is usually the Town Board or the Town Board can appoint someone else. She is hoping everyone will work together on this.

Supervisor Croce stated that his concern is five or ten years down the road, when no one the same is still here.

Mr. Stenger stated that if they did not sell the lots in 2 years, then the Town can go in and build the driveways with the money in the bond.

Councilman DePew stated that this will take a lot of coordination between the Town and the developer. He asked what is in the contract that covers the Town to put in the driveway?

Mr. Stenger stated that the bond is there and even if something happens with the contractor/ developer or the lots don't sell, the bond money is still there.

Councilman DePew stated that he would like to have Mr. Kellar review this agreement.

There was discussion that the next Planning Board meeting would be next Tuesday and the Town Board did not think that they would have a response on this agreement by that date.

Mr. Stenger stated that he understood this would take longer since the agreement was just received this day.

Councilman DePew asked about the drainage easements on these properties.

Mr. Stenger stated that there is already a collection drainage pond on Lot #1 and the right-of-way is already there to allow for the Town to go in and clean it out.

Mr. James explained that there will be a series of new, wider swales that will direct the water down to this area.

Supervisor Croce stated that they feel the lay of the land will drain most of the water to the west.

Mr. James stated that they have done a full water maintenance study.

Supervisor Croce thanked Mr. James and Mr. Stenger for coming in this evening and he will forward this agreement to the Attorney for his review.

SECTION 8 – EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – CHARLES TRAFAGANDER

Supervisor Croce introduced Mr. Charles Trafagander Jr., a Boy Scout who wanted to do an Eagle Scout Project for the Town.

Mr. Trafagander Jr. explained that he wanted to clean-up and fix the poles and fencing around the baseball field and backstop on the small baseball field behind the Library. He would also sand and reinforce the benches that are already there.

Supervisor Croce stated that it sounded like a great project to him. He asked if he had spoken to the head of Buildings and Ground about doing this project?

Mr. Trafagander Jr. stated yes, he had spoken with Mr. Wager.

Supervisor Croce explained that in the past, we have had some Eagle Scouts who started their project and did not raise enough funds to complete it and the Town had to step in and foot the rest of the bill. Is there some way that you can do the fundraising before you start the project so we can be assured that the project will be completed without the Town having to put out any funds?

Mr. Trafagander Sr. was also present and stated that this project will not cost the Town any money. He stated that his son would be doing some fundraising and they already have a lot of items that are going to be donated.

Mr. Trafagander Jr. stated that he has estimated the project will cost approximately \$2,000.00.

Supervisor Croce asked what happens to any funds left over from the project?

Councilman Putnam stated that a Scout who raises extra funds can donate them to a non-profit organization.

Councilman Farrelly asked when the project will start as there will be sport teams using the field in the coming months.

Mr. Trafagander Jr. stated that he would like to start around the middle of May and he would work with the Recreation Director and see when games are being played. He will do the work on off days.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would like to see the backstop and benches all fixed as he can remember refurbishing them years ago when Mr. Felten and he cleaned up the area. Now years later, it does need help again and this is a good project. He stated that he believes the benches were put in about 40 years ago.

Mr. Trafagander Sr. stated that he has a lot of adults that have offered their time and expertise to help with this project.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would request that the Highway Superintendent be kept up on what is going on and how the project is progressing .

Mr. Trafagander Jr. stated that he will forward the project plans to the Boy Scout Committee and he will get started as soon as he has approval to do the project.

* Councilman DePew made a motion to allow Charles Trafagander Jr. to proceed with his Eagle Scout Project at the baseball field on the Town Library Building property.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 9 – VOUCHERS

* Councilman DePew made a motion to pay the Voucher Detail Report dated 4/16/2014, which includes: the General Fund amount of \$38,653.81, the Highway Fund amount of \$8,525.69, the Clintondale Light District amount of \$802.49, the Modena Light District amount of \$1,506.01 and the Trust & Agency amount of \$417.90 for a total amount of \$49,905.90 recognizing that the Audit Committee has reviewed the claims and found them acceptable for payment.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 10 – ADJOURNMENT

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.