

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 5, 2014

Time: 7:00 PM

SALUTE TO FLAG

Supervisor Croce opened the meeting with a salute to the American Flag. He asked that everyone stay standing to observe a moment of silence in memory of Father John Jaume, Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Church, who had passed away a few days ago.

ROLL CALL

The following Town Board Members were present:

Supervisor Croce
Councilman Putnam
Councilman Farrelly
Councilwoman Delgado

Councilman DePew was absent.

ADDITIONS

Supervisor Croce stated that he had one addition for this evening and asked if anyone else had an addition.

There were no further additions to add to the agenda.

1)Police Vehicle Replacement:

Supervisor Croce stated that there was an incident that occurred a few days ago where one of our Police Dept. vehicles was involved in an accident and the police car was totaled. The Officer was taken to the hospital to be checked out, but there were no serious injuries to any persons involved. The problem this evening is that we need to replace that vehicle. He stated that we have been leasing vehicles over the past few years and it takes quite a bit of time to receive it once it is ordered. What we would do is lease a new vehicle to bring the fleet back to its original number of cars.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to allow the Police Dept. to move forward with leasing a new police car to replace the 2013 Police Interceptor.

Councilman Delgado seconded.

Councilman Putnam asked where the funds would be coming from. Will insurance be paying for this?

Supervisor Croce stated that he was not sure of all the funding as yet, but the police report stated that our officer was not at fault for this accident. It was investigated by the Ulster County Sherriff's Office and he was not sure at this time if tickets were issued. He also wanted to say that they were in a hurry to order this car because it takes a minimum of 8 to 10 weeks, if not longer, to get a new car and our fleet is currently down one car. Being short one vehicle will mean that the other vehicles will accrue more mileage.

Lieutenant Smith stated that the lease is a lease-purchase. There is a 3-year lease and then we purchase the car for \$1.00. We have done this for the past 9 years and it has worked out very well for us.

On the vote: all ayes.

MINUTES

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the February 5th and February 19th, 2014 Regular Town Board Meetings.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 5, 2014 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: Supervisor Croce	Yes
Councilman Putnam	Abstained (was absent at that meeting)
Councilman Farrelly	Yes
Councilwoman Delgado	Yes

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 19, 2014 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

PRESENTATION

Supervisor Croce stated that we have a guest this evening from the U.R.G.E.N.T. Task Force and he will be making a presentation to our Police Dept. Chief Ryan is on his way and he would like to hold off on this presentation until he arrives.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mrs. Annette Laskowsky asked when the agenda for the Town Board Meetings is put on the Town website? She stated that she always has a hard time finding it.

Supervisor Croce stated that the agenda should be available on Friday's before the meeting. He stated that he usually makes it on Friday morning and e-mails it to the publicist so she can get it on there as soon as possible. He stated that he would speak with the publicist to see when it goes on line. This is the first time he has had anyone say that they could not find it. We designed the website to be very user friendly and if there is a problem, we need to address it.

A person in the audience stated that you could go to the drop-down listing at the top of the page and the agenda is there. When you click on the agenda, it will drop down for the Town Board or other departments. You just click on the one for the Town Board.

The Town Clerk also explained that there is a listing/paragraph on the right side of the front page and when she puts something new on the website, it appears in that listing. You can click on it there and it will also take you to the agenda.

Supervisor Croce stated that if it is not easy to find, then we need to fix it. We need this type of feedback.

Mrs. Laskowsky stated that she was able to easily download a form that she needed, so she was not sure why she was having a hard time finding the agenda.

Supervisor Croce suggested that if she has the time, she should stop in the Town Clerk's Office and ask Mrs. Colombo to show her how to get to the agenda.

Mr. Mark Reynolds asked how many cars were in the police fleet?

Lieutenant Smith stated that, with this new car, there are 5 marked units and some that are not marked. And we should not have to pay for this new car as it should be covered by the insurance.

Supervisor Croce stated that this car is not increasing the fleet; it is just replacing the car that was totaled.

A resident asked about a school exemption she read about in the newspaper and wondered why she had not heard about it from the Wallkill School District?

The Town Clerk stated that the Wallkill School District was not adopting this exemption at this time. There are several schools that have adopted it, but Wallkill is waiting until next year to make a decision on this new exemption.

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town just adopted a new exemption for Veteran's and it will allow someone who is on Veteran's Disability to deduct that amount from their annual income when it is calculated for exemptions. The best person to talk to is the Assessor and he can explain the exemptions that we currently have.

There were no further questions or comments from the public.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to close the Public Input Section of the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 1 – HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE

Supervisor Croce stated that Councilman Farrelly and he had met with Marshall & Sterling and Brad Palmiter from the Palmiter Health Group and they have been extremely helpful in finding Health Insurance for the Town employees. He stated that he wanted to let everyone know that the cost of our health care has been skyrocketing over the past few years. Part of it is due to the Affordable Health Care Act and some of it is just due to increasing economic costs. He stated that our monthly increase, for this coming year, has been estimated at a 28%. There would have been an increase without the Affordable Health Care Act, but it would have been around 15%. He stated that these figures are not final and they are working to get the costs down as much as possible, but it is not a pretty picture. He

stated that he felt they were using the right people to deal with this situation, but we only budgeted for the estimated 15% which has now jumped higher.

Councilman Farrelly stated that he wanted everyone to realize that the broker that the Town uses goes out and scans all the health insurance companies out there and gives us a breakdown of what policies contain and cost.

Mr. Reynolds asked how many employees the Town had on its health care program?

Supervisor Croce stated that there were 19 employees currently on the health care program and this is something that we just have to work out and deal with.

Ms. Valerie Smith questioned that this is all about the Affordable Health Care Act?

Supervisor Croce stated no, just a portion of the increase is due to the Health Care Act; there are other factors too. He stated that there are many companies out there and we can research in-network, out of network, Marketplace and other companies. He stated that he was not against affordable health care for everyone; it is just that we have issues with these types of increases.

Councilman Farrelly stated that his concern is that if the program is going up 28% this year, what will it go up next year?

Ms. Smith stated that she knew the Town had to provide Health Care to the Town employees due to their Union agreement. It is important to give good health care.

Supervisor Croce stated yes, there is no question that we do have a good health care program. He stated that he just wanted to bring this situation to everyone's attention. This is something that we and future Town Boards will have to deal with. And it is not just us; everyone is in the same boat. Other Towns and businesses are all feeling these increases.

SECTION 2 – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT MEMO

Supervisor Croce read a memo from the Highway Superintendent asking that we make some transfers to cover costs for snow plowing. He stated that he thinks everyone is well aware of this winter that won't quit. And everyone seems to be happy with how they are keeping our roads clean. So we will do these transfers later in the meeting.

SECTION 3 – PHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE

Supervisor Croce stated that he has given the Town Board information on purchasing a new interior phone system for the Town Hall and Highway Garage. We have an antiquated phone system which has had numerous problems over the past year. He stated that we have spent approximately \$3,000.00 in repairs over the past three years and he would like to see the Town purchase a new system.

Supervisor Croce stated that we recently spent \$795.00 on a new "card" for our current phone system and if we choose to use Sound Telephone Systems again, they will credit the \$795.00 to our new system.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would like to take a little more time to go over these prices again before making a decision. There are three price quotes; one from Sound Telephone, one from Cross-Point and one from NEC.

Councilman Farrelly stated that he would like to see the Town Board move on this quickly and asked if Supervisor Croce could have the final price quotes by the next Town Board meeting.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would work on this.

SECTION 4 – MARK DOOLEY RACE OF HONOR

Supervisor Croce stated that he just wanted to let everyone know that the Southern Ulster Rotary has set the date of March 30, 2014 for the Mark Dooley Race of Honor. They will be using the Pavilion at the Park for the starting area and they will again be using Patura Road for the race. This makes it safe for the runners by keeping them off of Rt. 32. There is a poster on the bulletin board in the hallway if anyone is interested in running or walking.

SECTION 5 – TOWN CLERK - TRAINING REQUEST

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Clerk is requesting to attend training at the New York State Town Clerk’s Association Conference in Saratoga Springs, New York in April. The funding for this training was budgeted in the Town Clerk budget line for this year.

* Councilwoman Delgado made a motion to authorize the Town Clerk to attend training at the New York State Town Clerk’s Association Conference to be held in Saratoga Springs, New York from April 28th to April 30th, 2014.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 6 – TRANSFERS

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to transfer \$40,000.00 from the Highway Fund Budget Line Item #DA0909 Highway Fund Balance Unassigned to the Highway Fund Budget Line Item #DA5142.4 Snow Removal Contractual in the amount of \$25,000.00 and to the Highway Fund Budget Line Item #DA5142.1 Snow Removal Personnel in the amount of \$15,000.00 (for a total amount of \$40,000.00) due to unforeseen future costs related to snow removal. A copy of this complete transfer is attached to these minutes.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adopt the following resolution to transfer Highway Funds:

RESOLUTION FOR TRANSFER OF HIGHWAY FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Highway Superintendent has requested the transfer of Highway Department Unassigned Funds, and

WHEREAS, the approval of this transfer will increase the Budget Appropriations for 2014 and is necessary to cover the cost of unforeseen future cost related to snow removal,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill, Ulster County, to amend the year 2014 Highway Fund Budget Line Item #DA5142.400 Snow Removal Contractual by an increase of \$25,000.00 and DA5142.100 Snow Removal Personnel by an increase of \$15,000.00, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding shall be supported by a transfer from the Highway Unappropriated Fund Balance of \$40,000.00.
Councilman Putnam seconded.
On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 7 - PRESENTATION

Supervisor Croce stated that Chief Ryan had arrived and he would like to have the presentation done at this time. He stated that Detective Ed Brewster was present from the Ulster County Sherriff's Office to make a presentation to Chief Ryan, the Police Dept. and the Town.

Det. Brewster stated that he was also from the U.R.G.E.N.T. Task Force and he wanted to thank the Town of Plattekill for being the most involved Town in this program. He stated that due to the work of the Officers in the Task Force, many of which come from the Town of Plattekill, they have made a considerable number of drug arrests including drug dealers who have been taken off the streets and put in jail. He wanted to thank the Town of Plattekill and present a check for \$14,000.00 in confiscated funds that will go back to the Town to be used for more patrols and to put more officers on the street.

Chief Joseph Ryan thanked Det. Brewster and the Sherriff's Dept. for these funds. He stated that the Plattekill Police Dept. has a great working relationship with the U.R.G.E.N.T Task Force and they have done an outstanding job for us. He stated that Plattekill has a rather small department and could not adequately have a Narcotics Dept. to deal with the drug situation we currently have. It is great that we can call on the Task Force for help and they are here within a day to add their support.

Mr. Reynolds asked how long the Plattekill Dept. has been a part of the U.R.G.E. N.T. Task Force?

Chief Ryan stated that they have been a part of the Task Force since 2007 and he was looking forward to many more years.

The Town Board thanked Det. Brewster for coming this evening and stated that they would be entering into Executive Session at this time.

SECTION 8 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a Police Personnel matter and to invite in Det. Brewster, Chief Ryan and Lt. Smith.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

Time: 7:40 PM

Back: 7:55 PM

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to close Executive Session and re-open the Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 9 – VOUCHERS

* Councilwoman Delgado made a motion to pay the Voucher Detail Report dated 3/5/2014, which included the General Fund amount of \$31,441.68 and the Highway Fund amount of \$14,173.20 for a total amount of \$45,614.88 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 7:56 PM.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.