

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

February 4, 2015

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
Councilwoman Delgado
Councilman DePew

Councilman Farrelly and Councilman Putnam were absent.

MINUTES

There were no minutes approved this evening.

ADDITIONS

Supervisor Croce stated that he had one addition to the evening's agenda. There seemed to be some issues with the workday resolution that was adopted in December for setting the workday requirements for the State Retirement System. He stated that the Town Board has a new resolution with the corrections.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adopt the New York State Retirement Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials which included the Town Clerk, Highway Superintendent and Town Board as elected officials and a Planning Board Member, the Assessor, the Bookkeeper, the Highway Dept. Clerk and the Dog Control Officer as Appointed Officials. A copy of the complete resolution is attached to these minutes and filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Mark Reynolds, a local newspaper reporter, asked if there were any issues going on with Civil Service in regards to the Recreation Director position and he also asked who the Town Board had hired?

Supervisor Croce explained that the Town Board had not appointed anyone as yet. They have put an ad in the newspaper to take applications until Feb. 28th. Then they will be setting up interviews and hiring someone at that time. He stated that he has been in contact with Civil Service and everything is fine with what they are doing.

Mrs. Annette Laskowsky asked what was different or has changed from the old workday resolution to this new one?

Supervisor Croce stated that he was not exactly sure as he did not have the previous one to look at in front of him. He stated that he knows someone was removed because we did not receive the information that was requested. He stated that he could obtain the information and get back to her to be more specific than that. He stated that he knew the Retirement System had contacted the bookkeeper and requested that we adopt this new resolution so that everyone would receive their benefits without any issues.

Mr. Reynolds questioned the 6 hours; was it per week or per month?

Supervisor Croce explained that elected officials and some appointed officials do not punch a time clock every day so there is not a clear record as to how many hours they work. These employees have to certify how many hours they do work for the retirement system by keeping a log of their daily duties for a 3 month period. Then the information is submitted to the Town Clerk for filing in her office. The times are calculated by the bookkeeper from those daily logs and submitted to the retirement system for their calculations. It is very involved, but we want to make sure that everyone gets the credit that they are entitled to.

Mr. Reynolds questioned the 6 or 8 hour day?

Councilman DePew stated that those are the choices; there is either an 8 hour day or a 6 hour day. Then the retirement system calculates the credit from there.

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 DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 1 – MODENA FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST

Supervisor Croce stated that he did not see the Modena Fire Dept. representative in the audience as yet. He stated that there has been discussion that the Modena Fire Dept. car show, that had been held the past 2 years, was getting to big to have it at the fire department building. There has been discussion to ask the Town if the Fire Dept. could use Town property for this event which has been held around Labor Day weekend.

Supervisor Croce stated that he was thinking that they could use the field across from the Park on the corner of Patura Road and Rt. 32 or maybe they could use the field behind the Pavilion so that they could use the bathrooms.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would suggest that the Town Board give these ideas some thought, but wanted to wait for someone from the Fire Dept. to formally ask the Town for this event. He stated that the gentleman has recently been ill and that could be the reason he is not here this evening.

SECTION 2 – GREYSTONE PROGRAMS, INC.

Supervisor Croce stated that he had received a notice from Greystone Programs, Inc. about purchasing a home in the Town of Plattekill for their residential services program. The company

purchases homes for essential services and life-enriching opportunities for children, adults and families living with Autism and other developmental disabilities. He stated that he has asked the representatives to come to this evening's meeting to tell the Town Board a little about their company and the services that they provide.

There were several representatives present and two of them explained what the company programs were and how they try to fit into the community. Mrs. Hathaway explained that the company was started in 1979 and their feelings are that people with developmental disabilities thrive living in a home situation where they are part of the community and not put in institutions where they have no contact with the "outside world".

Mrs. Hathaway continued stating that they wanted to purchase a home at 31 Whispering Oaks Drive and there would be 5 women, who are Autistic, that would live there with service personnel on site at all times. The girls would all be in their early 20's and there would also be a nurse and other people with them.

The Town Board asked specific questions, such as to how long the girls would be living at this home and if the home would be taken off the tax roll for the Town?

Another representative stated that the home would not be subject to paying taxes; however they usually do make a donation to the fire department and/or other services. He stated that this would be the home of the tenants and they would continue to reside there as long as there was not a reason to move them to a different facility for a different type of care.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that the Town of Plattekill has other homes in Town where residents with disabilities reside. She stated that she also works for the Wallkill School District as an aid to children with disabilities. They can be very responsible residents of the community.

Supervisor Croce stated that Councilwoman Delgado was correct that there are other homes in Town caring for residents with disabilities; however the most recent one was through the ARC organization.

Councilman DePew asked if the Greystone Company would consider giving a class to the Fire Dept. in the district where this home is located so that they would know the best way handle an emergency in the home, if one should arise?

The other representative stated that the Greystone Company does offer training and he assured the Town Board that training classes could be set up.

Supervisor Croce thanked the Greystone representatives for coming in this evening and answering questions. He stated that the Town Board has three options in regards to this company taking over ownership of the home. The first option is that the Town Board can approve the purchase. The second option is that the Town Board could object to the purchase for a particular reason and suggest another site that they feel is more suitable. The third option is to object based on several criteria including that there are already too many facilities like this one in the Town. He stated that the Town Board has 40 days to respond to the Greystone Company and he did not feel that the Town has reached that point where we have too many of these facilities in Town.

Councilman DePew asked if there was any requirement for the neighbors of this property to be notified that this will be a group home?

Mrs. Hathaway stated no, there was no requirement, however she thought that this might be a good idea so as not to make people feel the sale to a group home was done secretly for some reason. She suggested that maybe they could even have an open house before the residents move in or have a get together so that neighbors can meet the residents.

Councilman DePew stated that he felt this would be a very positive thing to do.

* Councilwoman Delgado made a motion to approve that Greystone Programs, Inc. purchase the home at 31 Whispering Oaks Drive.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

The Town Board thanked the Greystone representatives for coming in this evening.

SECTION 3 – LANDFILL WELL MONITORING

Supervisor Croce explained that the Town has 6 or 7 monitoring wells at the Town Landfill that was capped back in the mid 1990's. He stated that the Town has had the wells tested in the past and there has not been a problem with the groundwater, however the testing has not been done in several years and the DEC is requesting that they be tested again. There is a schedule for the wells to be tested and we are overdue. He stated that he has obtained some price quotes from companies who do well testing and would like to present them to the Town Board this evening.

Supervisor Croce stated that he tried to obtain three different price quotes, but the other company that he contacted was a part of the Morris Company that he also received a price quote from. So the two local companies are Morris Associates and C2G Environmental Consultants, LLC.

The Town Board reviewed the price quote from Morris Associates at \$9,500.00 which included testing 6 Landfill wells, 3 residential wells and one surface water site with a data report and the quality monitoring analysis report as per the NYSDEC requirements. The C2G Environmental Consultants price was \$8,950.00 which included the same wells being tested, but stated that a groundwater sampling report would be an extra \$1,250.00.

The Town Board was not certain as to whether the extra cost, from C2G, was for the report that was needed for reporting to the DEC. If so than Morris Associates would be the better, least expensive, company. It seemed that Morris Associates was saying that they were providing the DEC report in their price quote.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would contact C2G Environmental Consultants to see if a report is included in their initial cost or if the report was extra and that he would call Morris Associates to make sure that the report that was included in their cost, was the correct one for the DEC. Then the Town Board can vote on this issue at the next meeting.

At this time, a resident asked if he could speak to the Town Board?

Supervisor Croce stated that the Public Input section of the meeting was at the beginning of the meeting, shortly after 7:00 PM, and that portion of the meeting was closed after a short discussion and no one present had any further comments or questions.

The resident questioned when the next available time to speak to the Town Board would be?

Supervisor Croce stated that it would be at the next Town Board Meeting, which would be on Feb. 18th.

SECTION 4 – AFL-CIO RESOLUTION REQUEST (HUDSON VALLEY AREA LABOR FEDERATION)

Supervisor Croce stated that he had received a letter from the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation which represents 114,000 union members throughout the Hudson Valley asking for support to keep the Mid-Hudson Postal Facility Plant open. He stated that they have included a resolution, which the Town Board can decide whether to adopt or not, stating that the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill is not in agreement with closing the Mid-Hudson Postal Processing and Distribution Center which would delay mail and eliminate overnight delivery of first-class mail.

Supervisor Croce read the letter from the Labor Union.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that she thought they had already closed this facility.

Supervisor Croce stated that his bookkeeper used to work for the Postal Service and she stated that it was partially closed and many workers did lose their jobs.

The Town Board discussed the trouble that they have had with receiving their own mail and the Town Clerk stated that letters and tax bills from the Town Hall have been seriously impacted with the partial closure of this facility.

Supervisor Croce stated that he has noticed that all the mail seems to be going to Albany before coming back here to us. He stated that it seems to be a little better this year, than last year.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would read the resolution so that they would hear the wording in the resolution.

Councilman DePew stated that he would second that resolution if the Supervisor were to make it a motion.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adopt the resolution that he had just read.

Councilman DePew seconded.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that she would like to change the word “demand” in the resolution to “request”. She stated that she would still vote for the resolution either way.

Councilman DePew stated that he would prefer to leave it the way it currently reads.

Councilman DePew and Supervisor Croce both stated that they did not think it would change the tone of the resolution and Councilwoman Delgado stated that she would go along with leaving the word “demand” in the sentence.

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board has not heard the other side of the story from the Post Office and he knows that they have been losing money. He just wondered if maybe this is an effort to try to counteract that loss. Not that he wasn't for the resolution, but it is something to think about. He stated that the Town Board just went through looking at both sides of the pipeline issue and this letter is from the Labor Federation that is looking out for its members, as well it should. He just wanted to consider the Postal Service side of the issue.

Councilman DePew stated that he was sure the Postal Service has a lot of people in the back room looking into what is financially good for them, but the amount of people that this facility actually touches and comes in contact with, that benefit from this facility being open, that justifies keeping this

facility open. He stated that a lot of the mail that he receives from New Jersey and south, that takes 7 or 8 days to get here, gets put on a truck and driven right up past here to Albany and then back down to us.

Supervisor Croce stated that it makes you wonder, if this facility closes altogether, will it make the mail that much later to get to us.

Councilman DePew stated that he is in favor of adopting this resolution.

Supervisor Croce stated that there are always two sides to every story and some in the middle.

Councilman DePew stated "and more".

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 5 – VOUCHERS

* Councilman DePew made a motion to pay the Voucher Detail Report dated 2/4/2015, paying vouchers from the year of 2014, which includes: the General Fund amount of \$1,044.00 and the Highway Fund amount of \$5.36 for a total amount of \$1,049.36 recognizing that the Audit Committee has reviewed the claims and found them acceptable for payment.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

* Councilman DePew made a motion to pay the Voucher Detail Report dated 21/4/2015, paying vouchers for the year of 2015, which includes: the General Fund amount of \$59,685.57, the Highway Fund amount of \$79,437.63 and the Trust & Agency amount of \$1,102.50 for a total amount of \$140,225.70 recognizing that the Audit Committee has reviewed the claims and found them acceptable for payment.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 6 – ADJOURNMENT

* Councilwoman Delgado made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 PM.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.