

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

September 2, 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
- Councilman Putnam
- Councilwoman Delgado
- Councilman DePew

Councilman Farrelly was absent.

ADDITIONS

Supervisor Croce stated that he had one addition this evening. He wanted to let everyone know that he has received, what should be the final contract of sale, with the Fire District for the jointly owned property in the lower Plattekill area. He stated that he would be presenting it to the Town Board for their review this evening. He stated that the Plattekill Fire District does not have a copy of it yet.

MINUTES

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the August 5 and 19, 2015 Regular Town Board Meetings.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 5, 2015 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 19, 2015 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: Supervisor Croce	Yes
Councilman Putnam	Yes
Councilwoman Delgado	Abstained (absent)
Councilman DePew	Yes

Supervisor Croce stated that he also wanted everyone to know that the father of our Police Chief, Joe Ryan, passed away. Information on the funeral services can be obtained in his office.

PUBLIC INPUT

Councilwoman Delgado stated that she just wanted to let everyone know that she was in a car accident, about a month ago, at the intersection of Plattekill Ardonia Road and Rt. 44-55. She stated that she was unable to see a truck that was on Rt. 44-55 due to the hill on the corner property. She stated that the hill on the right side of the road was lowered a few years ago, but the property to the left still hides the view of on-coming traffic. She stated that she asked the Highway Superintendent who she should speak with to get this situation remedied and he suggested she speak with Kevin Roberts, our County Legislator as Plattekill Ardonia Road is a County Road.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that Mr. Roberts has been helping her contact the appropriate people to try to get the situation fixed so that other people don't find themselves in the same situation. She stated that she has been speaking with the County Safety Officer about how many accidents have been at this location and what can be done to make it better.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that she just wanted to officially thank Mr. Roberts for all the help that he has given her and she is hoping to see the site distance situation fixed before there is another accident.

Mr. Wager, the Highway Superintendent, stated that the intersecting road, Rt. 44-55, is a State Road and he felt that they would also have to be included in making any changes to the corner area.

Mr. William Farrell asked if the Town has abandoned the Eagle Scout project that was done on the east side of the stone wall to the small pond?

Mr. Wager answered that he had to put a gate at the opening in the stone wall because our insurance company had an issue with small children on that side of the stone wall, near the pond. They felt a small child could not be seen. He stated that he has also found some metal pieces that are sticking up through the ground. There is also a tree that grew through a metal barrel. He stated that he will try to put some clean material in there to cover it. He stated that he was looking into getting an Eagle Scout project to put in a fence around the pond.

Mrs. Gladys Figueroa stated that there is property across the street from Mr. Hoppenstedt's store on Rt. 32 and people are using it to dump trash. She stated that there used to be a container to take used clothing, but people were leaving all types of items like couches and other furniture. She stated that the container has been removed, but people keep adding more junk at the site. She stated that now there is a couch and a dresser.

Mr. Wager stated that he received a call a week or so ago and he did go there to check out the situation. Typically, what is usually done, is to contact the owner of the property. He stated that if there is garbage and they can find a name or address on a bill or some other paperwork, then they have the police contact the owners of the garbage to have it removed.

Supervisor Croce stated that he has not heard that there was a problem at this location. He stated that he felt this was interesting as the Town just had the free, \$20.00 coupon month. The coupon would have paid for someone to dispose of the items at no charge. He stated that he had just received the bill for July pick up from the UCRRA and coupon month cost the Town over \$10,000.00. It is getting to the point where we have to ask if this is something we can afford to do for our residents.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would agree with the Highway Superintendent. If someone had come to him with this information, he would have gone to the Building Dept. as they can contact the owner of the property to get it cleaned up. He stated that he would double check with the Building Dept. to see if they have been working on this situation.

Councilman DePew stated that he would also suggest that Mrs. Figueroa also go to the Building Dept. and make a formal complaint.

There was discussion that there are still some Towns that allow their residents to put large items on the edge of their property that are then picked up by the Town. This is very costly and takes a lot of manpower to go through the entire Town picking up items.

Mr. Wager stated that there are some people who volunteer to pick up garbage along the side of the road and then a Highway employee would drive around and pick up the bags. We have to put money aside to do this.

Councilman Putnam suggested putting up a "No Dumping" sign.

Mr. Wager stated that that does not always work. They have put up signs and people dump their trash all around the sign. And, he can only post signs on Town roads. Usually they have to contact the property owner.

Mr. McCord stated that he had originally told the Building Dept. about the mess at the gas station property across the street from Mr. Hoppenstedt's store. He stated that they contacted Chestnut Mobile in New Paltz and they cleaned it up. Now, after a few weeks, there is more dumped there again. The problem is that people see the pile of items and then they add to it.

Supervisor Croce explained that there are a lot of foreclosure properties and the Building Dept. has been trying to stay on top of the banks to keep the properties mowed, secured and clean of trash. It does take time to get them to come out and clean up the property and a few weeks later it will need it again. It is an on-going situation.

Councilman DePew stated again that he felt residents should come in and make a formal complaint to the Building Dept.; then action can be taken. Memorialize it in writing so someone will respond to the complaint.

Mr. McCord stated that he has dealt with the Building Dept. and they have always been very nice and very helpful. He stated that he did not want to bother them too much.

Supervisor Croce and Councilman DePew both explained that he should not feel this way. He should come in when there is a problem so that it shows a pattern of what is going on.

There were no further comments from the public.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to close the Public Input section of the meeting at 7:46 PM.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 1 – WEBSITE SECURITY UPDATE

Supervisor Croce explained that at the last Town Board Meeting, the Town Board discussed adding a security and maintenance program to protect the Town Website from hackers. He stated that he has also been asked by several departments to put a department e-mail address on the website. He stated that he had asked the Publicist, who maintains the website, to ask Mr. Perry some questions about the middle of the road (\$137.00 per month) maintenance plan and about the e-mails.

The Town Board discussed Mr. Perry's responses. On the e-mails, he would set them up based on the \$65.00 per hour current rate. On the purchase of the protection, if the Town will commit to purchasing the 2016 year at \$137.00 per month (with 1 month free) then for Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec. of 2015, he would give us a rate of \$87.00 per month for all the services of the \$137.00 program.

Councilman DePew stated that he felt the Town was behind in doing this and he would also like to include that we purchase a Town Laptop Computer for the Publicist to use, instead of using her personal one at home.

There was discussion that the Town should purchase a laptop for the Publicist, however Supervisor Croce felt that the cost should be put in the 2016 budget. The Publicist had offered to maintain the website from her home computer when she accepted the position. He felt that the laptop purchase could wait until January.

There was discussion, back and forth, on whether to purchase a laptop now or wait until next year and where they would find the funds to purchase it in 2015.

* Councilwoman Delgado made a motion to contract with Wiltwyck Web Design to use them for website security at \$87.00 per month for the rest of 2015 and then to pay them \$1,507.00 for website security for the year 2016.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

Councilman DePew stated that he would continue to work with the Publicist to obtain prices for laptops.

SECTION 2 – GIRL SCOUTS REQUEST TO USE SENIOR CENTER

Supervisor Croce stated that he had received a request from a Girl Scout Troop that uses the Senior Center to hold their meetings, to have an overnight event from Sunday, Sept. 6th to the 7th. The 7th is Labor Day, a holiday, so there will not be anyone using the Senior Center that day. This Troop has used the room for an overnight in the past.

* Councilwoman Delgado made a motion to allow the Girl Scout Troop to use the Senior Center for an overnight stay on Sept. 6th to Sept. 7th, 2015.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 3 – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REQUEST TO BID ON FIRE DEPARTMENT TRUCK

Mr. Wager, the Highway Superintendent, explained that the Modena Fire Dept. was selling a fire truck that had only 26 thousand miles on it. He stated that he and the Supervisor have driven the truck and it is in very good condition. He stated that it was an International Truck and the body can be used for many different purposes. He stated that the Highway Dept. could use it to replace the very old water truck that we currently have and it can be made into a dump truck or we could use it for a roll off. It could also be used to plow snow. He explained that most of the current Town trucks are Internationals and therefore it would be easy to swap parts or purchase standard replacement parts. They know the history of the vehicle and know that it has been maintained well.

Mr. Wager stated that he would like to submit a bid for the truck, somewhere between \$15,000.00 and \$23,000.00. This would give him some leeway in making his decision on what to offer.

Supervisor Croce stated that he felt this was a good idea, but asked what we would do with the pump?

Mr. Wager stated that we could use it ourselves or we could sell it.

* Councilwoman Delgado made a motion to authorize the Highway Superintendent to put in a sealed bid on a used Modena Fire District Truck not to exceed \$23,000.00.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 4 – NEW POSTAGE METER

Supervisor Croce stated that he had been contacted by a company named National Business Equipment & Supply. This was an older company that was opening new offices in the area and one of their products is to supply postage machines to businesses. He stated that he met with two representatives from the company and they gave him a cheaper rental than we currently have with Pitney Bowes.

Supervisor Croce stated that they brought a new machine that was equivalent to what we currently have and explained how the new machine worked. We discussed postage supplies and what we pay on a quarterly basis.

Supervisor Croce stated that the new machine will have a touch screen and basically works the same as our current machine, but it will use the internet to download postage. He stated that they are offering a 36 month rental for \$169.00 per quarter, a 48 month rental at \$159.00 per quarter or a 60 month rental at \$154.00 per quarter. We currently pay \$189.50 per quarter, so this would be another area where we could save a little money by switching companies.

* Councilman Putnam made a motion to rent a postage meter for 48 months at \$159.00 per quarter from the National Business Equipment and Supply Company.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 5 – BUDGET MEETING DATES

Supervisor Croce stated that he would like to start meeting with Departments to go over their budget proposals for next year.

The Town Board discussed meeting in September to get a good start on the budget for next year. They went through the calendar and let the Supervisor know what dates they were available and what time of day.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would have his secretary set up appointments with the various departments and will let everyone know when they will be meeting.

SECTION 6 – ASSESSOR INTERVIEWS

Supervisor Croce stated that he had several applications for the open Assessor position and he would like to set up interviews.

The Town Board agreed that the Supervisor should have his clerk set up interviews on a day that they had already suggested for a budget meeting.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would let everyone know what day the interviews would be held.

SECTION 7 – LIBRARY LETTER

Supervisor Croce stated that he had received a letter from the Director of the Library explaining that the Library had received a grant from Senator Larkin for their Building Fund. He stated that the letter also said there could be a grant that the Town could ask for to put an elevator in the current Library building.

Councilman DePew asked if someone from the Library had approached anyone here at the Town Hall about purchasing the building?

Supervisor Croce stated no, not that he was aware of.

Councilman DePew stated that he was surprised by this letter talking about putting in an elevator because they have not come and asked us to do that and they are moving out.

Supervisor Croce stated that he does want to thank Mr. Georghiou for bringing this grant to our attention.

There was some discussion on what the Town would do with the upstairs portion of the building if the Library were to move out.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that if the Town were to sell them the building, we would have to make sure the Senior Center is kept there.

Councilman DePew stated that he felt it was a shame the Library did not come to talk to the Town Board about using the building.

Mrs. Morse stated that if they were to look in the past minute books, they would find answers to their questions.

SECTION 8 – VOUCHERS

* Councilman DePew made a motion to pay the Voucher Detail Report dated 9/2/2015, which includes: the General Fund amount of \$14,864.72, the Highway Fund amount of \$38,692.05 and the

Trust & Agency amount of \$1,391.00 for a total amount of \$54,947.77 recognizing that the Audit Committee has reviewed the claims and found them acceptable for payment.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 9 – ADJOURNMENT

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.