

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 17, 2016

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 Delgado
Councilman DePew

MINUTES

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the January 20th, 2016 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 20th, 2016 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

ADDITIONS

Supervisor Croce stated that he had several additions in the form of two budget amendments and two transfers of funds.

Supervisor Croce read a memo he had received from Lt. Smith asking for funds to be moved within the Police Budget Line to offset payroll and contractual expenses from 2015 and future expenses in 2016.

1) Budget Amendment #2 of 2016:

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adopt the following Resolution:

Resolution #2 – 2016
2015 Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill has approved an increase in the 2015 Budget revenue line of A3389 State Aid in the amount of \$4,999.15 and an increase of expense line A3120.100 Police Personnel of \$3,811.30 and a decrease in expense line A3120.400 Police Contractual of \$3,410.86,

and

WHEREAS, the increase of A3389 is due to a DARE grant award, the increase of A3120.100 is to cover additional payroll expenses and the decrease in expense A3120.400 is being used to cover some of the increase in A3120.100,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill, Ulster County, to amend the year 2015 General Fund Budget Lines A3389, A3120.100 and A3120.400 as noted above and increase the 2015 General Fund Balance in the amount of \$4,598.71 from the remainder of DARE grant not utilized in 2015, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding will be supported by the receipt of DARE grant monies received in December 2015 and transfer from the A3120.400 to A3120.100. (A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes)

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

2)Budget Amendment #3 of 2016:

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adopt the following Resolution:

Resolution #3 – 2016

2016 Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill has approved an increase in A3120.400 Police Equipment in the amount of \$4,000.00, and

WHEREAS, the increase is necessary to cover contractual obligations for 2016,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill, Ulster County, to amend the year 2016 General Fund Budget Line A3120.400 in the amount of \$4,000.00, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funding is supported by the receipt of DARE \$4,999.15 grant monies received in December 2015 and not utilized in 2015. (A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes)

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

3)Transfer of Funds:

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to transfer \$4,000.00 from the General Fund Budget Line #A0917 General Unassigned Fund Balance to General Fund Budget Line #A3120.400 Police Contractual to cover the cost of contractual expenses in 2016. A copy of this complete transfer is attached to these minutes.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

4)Transfer of Funds for 2015 Budget:

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to transfer \$3,410.86 from the General fund Budget Line #A3120.400 and \$400.44 from the General Fund Balance #A0917 for a total of \$3,811.30 to General Fund Budget Line #A3120.1.00 Police Services Personnel to cover the cost of police personnel costs that

were under budgeted due to 27 pay periods in the 2015 Budget. A copy of this complete transfer is attached to these minutes.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mrs. Jody Lundy was present to let the Town Board know that she did come in to the Building Dept. and make a complaint about her neighbor's chickens coming on her property and causing damage. She stated that the Building Inspector did come to her house to see the problem, but explained that he really could not do much as the Town Codes do not give him any authority in this situation.

Supervisor Croce stated that he did not know that the Building Inspector had gone to her home and viewed the situation. He asked her if she had any pictures.

Mrs. Lundy stated that she had a few and gave them to the Supervisor.

Supervisor Croce stated that he did speak with the owners of the chickens and they have agreed to put up a fence to keep the birds on their own property, but they will have to wait a month or so until the ground is softer to put in the posts.

Mrs. Lundy stated that they have tried politely, for almost a year, to get them to agree to do something about the chickens. She stated that this was good news and she will let her husband know that they will be putting up a fence.

Councilman Putnam stated that the Building Inspector has also given the Town Board a draft copy of a law, for chickens, that they could use to adopt as part of the Town Code.

Supervisor Croce asked Mrs. Lundy to let him know if they have not put up a fence by the end of April.

Mrs. Lundy stated that she would keep him posted on the progress and thanked the Town Board for their help with this matter.

Mrs. Gilman, a resident from the Modena area, stated that she would hope the law said "poultry" and not just chickens. There are ducks, geese and other types of poultry/fowl that are in people's yards. Roosters can be a major problem too.

There was a short discussion on roosters and their impact on area residents.

Supervisor Croce brought up the situation where there were hundreds of roosters being kept on a farm on Plattekill-Ardonia Road and the situation was named "Angry Birds". There were hundreds of roosters kept in cages on the property and the police and SPCA were called in to remove them.

Mrs. Dibernardo, a resident from Ene Road in Modena, stated that she read in the minutes from the last meeting that Mr. Cohen was present at that meeting and said that practice sessions and races were posted on Mr. Kalamucki's website.

Supervisor Croce stated that Mr. Cohen did bring that up at the last Town Board Meeting and since then he has spoken with the Town Attorney to send a letter to Mr. Kalamucki informing him that he is currently out of business and publicizing a schedule was against the Stipulation of Settlement.

Supervisor Croce continued saying that Mr. Kalamucki then came in to the Town Hall and met with him on this issue. He stated that Mr. Kalamucki explained he had to pick event and practice dates to give them to the league so that they would hold those days open in case he got permission to hold races.

Supervisor Croce stated that he understood what Mr. Kalamucki was saying, but he also explained to him that the Town Board would not be able to agree on anything until at least the end of April so he should at the least take down the March and April dates from the website. He stated that Mr. Kalamucki has done this. He stated that he explained again to Mr. Kalamucki that the Court Order is in effect and there is to be no racing.

Councilwoman Delgado stated yes, he is an illegal track at this time.

Supervisor Croce assured the public that he would do everything in his power to avoid a situation where he is racing without the proper authority.

Ms. Valerie Smith stated that Mr. Kalamucki has had 14 years. He has had time to come up with something else to do and he did not even come in about the track in the back of the property. It can't be spelled out any better; it is not allowed in a residential district. The Court said it is not allowed there.

Supervisor Croce stated that he just wants to remind her that the Town Board has not made any decisions yet. We are listening to what he has to say, the same as we would any other resident in Town.

Ms. Smith stated that she just didn't see why the Town Board would be spending so many hours on this when it is not allowed.

Supervisor Croce thanked her for her comments.

There were no further comments from the public.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to close the Public Input Section of the meeting at 7:26 PM. Councilman Farrelly seconded. On the vote: all ayes.

Supervisor Croce stated that he wanted to move the Reports to the end of the meeting as there were many issues on the agenda requiring lengthy discussion.

SECTION 1 – TREES FOR TRIBUTARIES

Supervisor Croce stated that he had met with two representatives of the Trees for Tributaries Program which is working in conjunction with the Quassaick Creek Watershed Maintenance Program. He explained that the Town of Plattekill has several streams and tributaries that feed into the Chadwick Lake water reserve and the Trees for Tributaries program wants to offer to plant trees and bushes along those streams and tributaries to keep the water clean and cool. The cleaner the streams and tributaries are, that feed into Chadwick Lake, the cleaner the water will be for Newburgh residents. The program is free and is being offered to any property owners that have property bordering these streams and tributaries.

Supervisor Croce stated that he and Mr. Wilkin have researched on the internet, through Google, those properties that border the tributaries and streams in Plattekill and have designated three as

having an impact on the water system. He stated that he was willing to work with Mr. Wilkin in contacting these three property owners to let them know the program exists if they are interested.

Councilman DePew asked if there was any liability to the Town?

Supervisor Croce stated no, they are just making property owners aware that the program exists and the property owners would have to contact the program on their own.

Mr. Wilkin stated that the DEC will be doing most of the work and they get volunteers to plant the trees and bushes.

Councilwoman Delgado asked if the homeowner could say no to this program?

Mr. Wilkin stated that it is totally up to the property owner whether they sign on or say no to the program.

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board could also suggest to the Planning Board that they make applicants who have a project along one of these streams or tributaries aware that the program exists, but the Town would not be telling anyone that they have to be a part of this.

There was lengthy discussion on whether the Planning Board, in telling people about this program, would be mandating that the person take part in this program.

Mr. Wilkin stated that it was not their intent to mandate that anyone has to be a part of this program. The Watershed Maintenance Plan is strictly on a volunteer basis and the Town does not mandate that owners have to do this. Letting them know that this program exists to try to help protect the watershed is all that they can do. He stated that he felt it was government's responsibility to give some direction to the owners of these properties.

Supervisor Croce stated that he did not have a problem with explaining the benefits of the program, but he did not feel it should be a part of the Town Code.

Councilman DePew stated that he would rather see the Town give property addresses to the organization and have them contact the owners. Then the owners can read it and decide on their own about what they want to do. He stated that he did not feel that the Planning Board should feel they have to get the applicant to join the program either.

Supervisor Croce asked if he had the Town Board's authorization to send a letter to the Planning Board explaining that the Town Board would like them to let applicants know this program exists if the application property is located on one of these streams or tributaries.

Councilman DePew stated that he did not feel the letter should state that the "Town Board suggests" that they give them the information.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that she felt the Planning Board could just give them the same information packet that the Town Board received. Then they could get involved in it or not. It would be their decision.

The rest of the Town Board agreed that the Planning Board could make the information available.

SECTION 2 – IT PROVIDER

Supervisor Croce explained that the Town Board had given him direction to look into obtaining a new company to take care of the Town and Highway computer system. He stated that he and the Highway Superintendent met with three different companies and discussed how our system works and what they

thought we needed to upgrade. He stated that he found out that we are working on a Windows 3 application on our server.

Supervisor Croce stated that they interviewed three companies; Mr. Hack who does the IT work for the Town of Shawangunk, Alpha-Tech Enterprises who does IT work for the Town of Marlboro and Nick Monaco Computer Systems who does work for the Town of Lloyd Police and the Town of Saugerties.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would recommend using Alpha-Tech Enterprises because they charge \$60.00 per hour and are available to come on a moment's notice. They are local and have worked for the Town of Marlboro for 20 years. They come highly recommended.

Supervisor Croce stated that he also received a price quote on a new server from Alpha-Tech and from our current company Netteffx. Alpha –Tech is less than half the price of Netteffx.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to hire Alpha-Tech Enterprises, Inc. to do our IT work at the Town Hall and Highway Dept.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 3 – TOWN HEALTH INSURANCE

Supervisor Croce introduced Brad Palmiter who has been the Health Insurance Broker for the Town of Plattekill for many years. He stated that Mr. Palmiter had given him a breakdown of health insurance plans and that he had spoken with each Town Board member individually about them. He stated that Mr. Palmiter's assistant "Minnie" has always been very helpful and she comes to the Town Hall and does a short seminar for the employees to keep them up on any changes.

Mr. Palmiter reviewed the plans that the Town Board had received copies of and answered their questions. There were also questions on the vision and dental programs, which have changed slightly as extra riders on the original plan. The employees pay for the vision rider out of their own pockets.

There was also discussion on the HRA programs that help fund the employee's copayments and drug program. They discussed that the plan was going up 19% and they reviewed three different ways to fund it. The suggestion was to leave the funding as it was in previous years and they noted that it was the Cigna Company that leases their program to MVP.

Supervisor Croce asked Mr. Palmiter to explain what the "Cadillac Tax" was.

Mr. Palmiter stated that this has been put off to 2020 so the Town did not have to worry about it for now, but it involves there being a threshold amount and if the employer were to go over that threshold then the employer gets charged a 40% tax.

Councilman Farrelly asked that once the Town signs on for the new year, does someone come and let the Town employees know what has changed?

Supervisor Croce stated yes, Minnie would come in and have a session with our employees to explain any changes to the policy.

Mr. Palmiter stated that he just wanted to let the Town Board know that he was part of the Marshall & Sterling Group and they offer many videos and classes on things like Workplace Violence and other support tools for municipalities. If the Town is in a situation where they need some training, he could offer some videos and webinars that might be helpful.

The Town Board thanked him for coming in this evening.

SECTION 4 – NEW COPY MACHINE

Supervisor Croce stated that the copy machine for the Town Hall is getting old and the maintenance contract has been going up steadily each year. He stated that the Town Clerk's Office had received a new maintenance contract and it is going up again to a much higher rate. He explained that the Town Clerk has obtained some price quotes on a new machine and there are also some price quotes on leasing a machine instead of purchasing one.

The Town Clerk reviewed several of the price quotes with one quote being much lower because the company had priced a machine that only does 35 pages per minute.

Councilman DePew stated that he felt the Town should stay with the size machine that we currently have, instead of getting a lesser product.

The Town Clerk stated that she could not make a comparison between a machine that does 35 pages per minute, compared to our current machine that does 60 pages per minute without seeing the lesser machine in action. She stated that she also has three different price quotes on the maintenance contract and does not know which one is correct.

There was a short discussion on leasing a machine instead of purchasing as we are left with a machine that does still work, but has an expensive maintenance program. The older the machine, the more it is being fixed and this drives up the cost of the maintenance.

The Town Clerk suggested that the Town Board hold off making a decision on this matter until she could find out more information on the maintenance contract. Also, there were supposed to be more price quotes coming in that were not received.

The Town Board agreed to put this item on the next agenda.

SECTION 5 – COMBO LOCK ON BACK DOOR AT TOWN HALL

Supervisor Croce explained that during budget season, the Court had included the purchase of a new combination lock for the back door of the Town Hall. He stated that he spoke to Judge Murphy and he felt there was a security issue with people being able to walk in the back door during the day and while court was in session.

There was discussion and it was noted that the Building Dept. uses the door during daytime hours and it is unlocked all day. People do not read the sign posted outside on the door saying that the door is not for public access.

There was more discussion on price quotes for a new combination lock with the cost being either \$1,300.00 or another lock that was \$2,000.00. One lock was computerized and would keep track of who came through the door because each employee could be given a separate number to enter.

Councilman DePew stated that he did not see why the door had to be left unlocked during the day. He asked if the door could stay locked. Employees going out that door would have to take a key with them to get back in or use the front door.

Supervisor Croce stated yes, they could just unlock it to come in and then relock it. To leave, they would only have to push the crash-bar. Anyone coming in would have to use their key or use the front

door. He stated that originally the Court had requested this in their budget, but he felt it was a facilities expense and moved the funding to the buildings budget line. He stated that he was not sure changing the lock to a combination lock was going to give them better security than just using a key.

Councilman DePew stated that he did not have a problem with someone letting someone else in but feels the door should be locked all day. We would just have to make sure anyone using that door has a key when they leave.

The Town Board was in agreement that this was a lot of money to spend for a lock.

SECTION 6 – INSULATION FOR TOWN HALL

Supervisor Croce explained that the Town Hall employees have been complaining for years about the cold that comes in through the walls of the Town Hall during the winter. He stated that there is very little, if any, insulation in the walls. He stated that he had spoken to the Highway Superintendent, who is also our buildings & grounds manager, to see if he could look into getting some type of insulation and what the cost would be.

Supervisor Croce stated that Mr. Wager has given the Town Board a memo on his findings. He stated that the memo explained that spray foaming insulation by injection could not be done due to the thickness of the walls and that there is no viable access to spray into the wall cavities. We would be paying for more insulation due to the thickness of the wall cavity.

Supervisor Croce stated that they have come up with a possible solution by cutting and removing portions of the existing paneling and drywall, cleaning out the wall cavity, weatherizing the area that the floor meets up to the outer wall sheeting and installing Roxul insulation from the floor to the ceiling height. Then they would install new drywall and tape and reinstall the original paneling. The cost of the materials would be approximately \$4,100.00 with the cost of the labor at around \$5,000.00. There may also be some unexpected issues and the cost of carpet cleaning. The estimated time to do this project would be about a week and everything would have to be removed from the exterior walls. Any desks or file cabinets or shelving would have to be moved and computers and cables would have to be unplugged and moved. The project would include all the exterior walls except for the area of the vault and the bookkeeper's office which has already been done. No business could be conducted during this project.

There was discussion that the offices could be relocated to keep them open which led to discussion on renting trailers like they did in New Paltz at \$8,000.00 a month plus moving all the computers and phone lines or using the senior center for that week plus moving computers and phones.

There was discussion that the Town Hall was a little warmer this winter since the new roof was put on.

Mr. Wager questioned the Town Board on if they felt they should put a lot more money into this building when the septic system is still in question. The new toilets are better, but we are still having problems with them clogging. He reminded the Town Board that fixing the septic lines meant displacing the Town Clerk's Office and breaking up the floor to get to the pipes.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that she was not sure she wanted to spend that much more money on this building.

Mr. Wager stated that they were in the process of getting a camera to put down the lines to see what can be done.

Councilwoman Delgado asked if it would be better to put in a new septic system? The cost would be more now, but in the long run, it may be the better way to go.

Mr. Wager stated that he would know better after they use the camera to see what is there now.

Mr. Castillo stated that he would donate his time to help do the plumbing, after all, that is what he does for a living.

There was more discussion and the Town Board seemed to be in agreement that they did not want to close down the Town Hall for a week.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion that the Town Board was not in favor of spending this amount of money to try to insulate the Town Hall.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

At this time, Mr. Wager the Highway Superintendent, stated that as a department head, he wanted to ask the Town Board if they had looked into using other brokers for prices on health care? He stated that in 2013 he had a health care budget of \$131,000.00 and the next year it went up to \$181,000.00. He asked if an RFP had been put out to other companies to obtain bids on our health care benefits? He stated that he would really like to see what some other companies offer as comparisons. He stated that the Town of Gardiner seems to have gone down in their health care costs and the Town of Marlboro has been the same for the past few years at about half of what we pay. He is not saying that we are wrong, but he would just feel better if we could check into some other companies for comparison.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would just like to say that sometimes, when providing for our employees, there are other things to consider than just the bottom line.

Mr. Wager stated that he agreed with that, but he would still like to see comparisons. We had Rose & Kiernan in past years and maybe they would offer something different.

SECTION 7 – ASSESSOR TRAINING REQUEST

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board has received another request from the Assessor to go to a training class. His memo thanked the Town Board for allowing him to take the class on Not-For-Profit Exemptions which was very informative and he would now like to take another class that is on the Valuation of Solar Panels. This is an up and coming issue with the increase in solar technology and there is a need to understand the valuation methods behind it. He stated that he has already had questions on what value he would put on solar panels for a proposed solar farm in Town.

The Town Board agreed that this would be a good class since more and more residents are getting solar panels for their homes and businesses.

* Councilwoman Delgado made a motion to allow the Assessor, Matt Sabia, to attend the Solar Seminar to be held on April 15, 2016 at the Town of Shawangunk at a cost of \$110.00.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 8 – TRANSFER STATION FEES

Supervisor Croce explained that he had given the Town Board a spread sheet with the fees and charges from Transfer Stations of area Towns. He stated that the UCRRA has increased their tipping fees, rental fees and pull fees and we are going to come up way short in the budget for this year if we do not raise our fees. His suggestion was to have an annual permit that would be good for 1 year from purchase. The permits will be sold in the Town Clerk's Office and a hole can be punched in it for the month of purchase.

There was much discussion on what was done in the past and whether they should be colored differently for each year.

Councilman DePew stated that he was concerned that raising the fees would mean that we would see more trash and garbage thrown out on the sides of the road. He stated that he felt the Town Board should also look at what our codes say to make these types of offenses (littering) punishable by a higher fee.

The Town Board discussed the prices charged by other Towns.

Supervisor Croce stated that he wanted to discuss the permits first. He suggested that residents could pay \$50.00 per year, seniors \$35.00 and Commercial \$150.00.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that she felt this was too much. She would suggest \$35.00 for residents, \$20.00 for seniors and keep the \$150.00 for commercial.

This led to more discussion and the rest of the Town Board agreed that the yearly Permit Fees would be \$20.00 for Senior's (people 65 and over), \$35.00 for residents and \$150.00 for commercial businesses. There would also be a 1-day pass for \$20.00 and anyone wanting a second permit would pay \$5.00 for each additional sticker.

There was discussion that we do probably get some people who are not residents of our Town using our facility. These people may be doing work in the Town and have debris from a resident's home. They would be subject to the \$20.00 one day pass.

There was more discussion on some of the individual charges. The Town Board decided to leave the per bag rates as they were, but changed the "per yard" rates for Bulk Refuse to \$35.00 per yard and the C & D Material to \$50.00 per yard. They also decided to change Kitchen or Office Chairs to \$4.00 per chair, Living Room Furniture to \$6.00 per seat/cushion, making a Love Seat (2cushion) \$12.00, a Sofa (3 cushion) \$18.00 and a Sleeper Sofa would stay at \$25.00. Costs for mattresses and Box Springs would also remain the same. All other prices/fees not discussed would remain the same.

There was also discussion that some Towns double the price of padded furniture if it is wet as this increases the weight and causes the UCRRA to charge us more. The Town Board decided that the Town of Plattekill charges would also be doubled if items are brought in wet.

Councilman DePew stated that the problem with having to do this is that the people who use the Transfer Station are people who can't afford to have their trash picked up and now we are raising these fees.

Supervisor Croce stated that the increases that were made this evening will still be less than paying for pick-up.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would make up a letter for the attendants at the Transfer Station to hand out for the next month and we will put these changes on the website. We can also put up a new sign

at the Transfer Station and try whatever we can to get the word out to people that they will need a permit/sticker to use the Transfer Station. Then we can hopefully start with the new charges in April.

Time: 10:15 PM – Everyone in the audience had left the meeting.

* Councilwoman Delgado made a motion to wave the reading of the reports.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

Councilman DePew stated that he just wanted to ask one question. He stated that the Building Dept. has done a good job of getting information to them about permits and inspections but he would still like to see what types of violations are open and what types are closed. This would give us a better idea of what problems are out there.

Supervisor Croce stated that if he was looking for information that is not in the report, he would have to let the Building Dept. know.

SECTION 9 - VOUCHERS

* Councilman DePew made a motion to pay the Voucher Detail Report dated 2/17/2016, which includes: the General Fund amount of \$1,574,002.34, the Highway Fund amount of \$3,157.56, the Clintondale Light District amount of \$682.28, the Modena Light District amount of \$1,238.50 and the Trust & Agency amount of \$1,010.00 for a total amount of \$1,580,090.68 recognizing that the Audit Committee has reviewed the claims and found them acceptable for payment.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 10 – ADJOURNMENT

* Councilwoman Delgado made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 PM.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.