

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 2, 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 Farrelly  
Councilwoman Delgado

Councilman Putnam and Councilman DePew were absent.

MINUTES

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Regular Town Board Meeting

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

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

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

ADDITIONS

Supervisor Croce stated that he had one addition for this evening's agenda. He had a transfer to move money for the new phone system. We will do this at the end of the meeting under "transfers".

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Chris O'Brien asked the Town Board if it was possible to have an e-mail address, or some other option, so residents can reach each Town Board member in case they have a question or complaint. He stated that when he has been able to attend Town Board meetings, there are never many people here, so he is thinking that most residents either cannot make it here or maybe they don't know when Town Board meetings are held. He stated that some residents might not want to attend a meeting and they would prefer to speak with a Town Board

member confidentially. He stated that he would like to see the Town reach out to the residents more so that maybe there will be more involvement. If there is someone with a complaint, maybe they don't know how to contact their local representatives.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would like to see more people attend Town Board meetings and when he went to training, the suggestion was to assign e-mail addresses to the Town Board members. He stated that, while a Town e-mail address has not been assigned, most of the Town Board members do have their own personal e-mails and he gave Mr. O'Brien his e-mail address.

The Town Clerk stated that there is an e-mail address on the Town website and the publicist has been forwarding e-mails to the specific departments that the e-mails are requesting information from. If someone is asking for a specific Town Board member, she will forward the e-mail to that Town Board member also.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that she receives phone calls at her home on a regular basis.

Mr. Reynolds, a local reporter, suggested that maybe there could be a section on the website that would be for "Public Input" where residents could go and make suggestions or comments.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would speak with the Publicist and see if this would be an option. He stated that he knows some area Towns have their Town Board meetings televised and he could look into doing this for Plattekill too. But that doesn't allow someone to privately contact a Town Board member.

The Town Clerk stated that the local newspaper and the Times Herald Record often publish a page which gives the entire local, County and State Officials address and phone numbers.

Supervisor Croce stated that he does feel that Town Board members are due a private life and he would hope that people respect their family time, but he also feels that if there is a concern it is on the resident to get in touch with a Town Board member. He stated that it is discouraging that we don't get many people at the meetings.

Ms. Valerie Smith stated that there are also mailboxes in the hallway that residents can put letters in.

The Town Clerk stated yes, when she receives letters for any department or official, they are put in their respective mail boxes.

Mrs. Pearl Morse stated that the Parade Committee sent out letters to all the marchers and the Fire Dept. has been contacted to put up the flags for the Memorial Day parade. She stated that she has a lot of items left over from last year and they will just have to purchase the water, hotdogs and rolls. She stated that the flier that they have put out also indicates that there is a Veterans Breakfast at the Modena Fire Dept. and a ceremony at Aloha Home Acres during the same weekend as the parade. She stated that she would be calling a meeting in the near

future, to get everyone working on the parade together, to set up the job schedule. The parade is scheduled for Sat. May 24<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of May 25<sup>th</sup>.2014. She stated that they will also be notifying people who live on the parade route.

Mrs. Morse stated that they are also working on setting up the golf tournament. It will be held again at the New Paltz Golf Club and Young's Garage has donated a car for the hole-in-one prize. More information will be out soon.

Mrs. Morse finished by letting everyone know that Ms. Norma Cardona had passed away a few days ago and there will be a wake for her on Friday night and a funeral on Saturday at Brook's Funeral Home in Newburgh. Ms. Cardona used to work for the Town and had an office here at the Town Hall. She helped a lot of people and she worked with migrant workers in Plattekill and all of Ulster County.

Supervisor Croce thanked Mrs. Morse for keeping everyone up-to-date on what is going on and for doing so much for the community.

Mr. Ryan McAleer, a resident from Blossom Grove Court, stated that he wanted to bring the Town Board's attention to the speeding problem on his road. He stated that it is a dead end road and people are still speeding. The road is posted at 35mph and they are doing 45 mph. He stated that just this day, he heard wheels screeching and looked out his window to see two cars almost hit head on. He stated that people are flying up and down the road and there are kids and people walking who are going to get hurt. He stated that he felt he had to come to the meeting before someone gets seriously injured.

Supervisor Croce stated that he had gone through the proper channels to try to get a reduction in the speed limit on Rt. 32 and he found out it takes more than just speeding to get a speed limit reduced. He explained that other areas in the hamlets, like Clintondale and Ardonia, have reduced speeds and he assumed he could get a reduction in Modena, but it also had to do with the physical layout of the road. He stated that in the past the police dept. has put up a sign that lets the person driving, see what speed they are driving at and what the speed should be. Once that sign goes away, then the Police target that road to hand out tickets.

Mr. McAleer stated that he did speak with the Police and they have suggested the same thing. He stated that he would like to try whatever can be done as he does not want to see someone get hurt.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would speak with the Police about this matter and thanked Mr. McAleer for coming in and alerting the Town Board to this situation.

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 7:28 PM.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

#### SECTION 1 – BOARD OF REVIEW APPOINTMENT

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board met to interview the two applicants who had put in applications for the open position on the Assessment Board of Review on March 27, 2014. The Town Board interviewed the two applicants and after some discussion decided to make a motion to appoint Mrs. Barbara Ritshie to replace the out-going member Fred Riley.

Supervisor Croce explained that the Assessment Board of Review was a 5-member Board that meets on Grievance Day (the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in May) to hear residents requesting their property assessments be changed from what the Assessor has determined as their assessed value.

Supervisor Croce explained further that Mrs. Ritshie sells real estate in the area so her knowledge should be useful in this position on the Assessment Board of Review.

#### SECTION 2 – ASSESSOR MEMO

Supervisor Croce stated that the question has come up again this year as to whether the Assessor should be present at the Grievance Day proceedings as some residents complain that it is intimidating that Mr. Dunham is present and sitting at the table while they are trying to explain their situation.

Supervisor Croce read the memo from Mr. Dunham explaining that by State Law, “the Assessor shall attend all hearings of the Board of Review”. The memo further indicated that the Assessor has a minimal role on Grievance Day and is only there to answer questions from property owners or the Board of Review members, if they arise.

Supervisor Croce stated that Mr. Dunham has supplied a copy of the State Law and a copy of a legal opinion if anyone is interested in reading them. He stated that he can understand that someone may feel intimidated by the Assessor being present, but by State Law, he is required to be there.

#### SECTION 3 – PBA (POLICE OFFICERS) CONTRACT

Supervisor Croce stated that Councilman Farrelly and he have been working for quite some time on the Police Officer’s Contract with the PBA representatives. They have had lengthy negotiations and there was a lot of back and forth going on. He stated that the final draft has now been approved by the members of the PBA and now the Town Board has to sign off on it.

He stated that the new Contract would start from January 2014 and go until Dec. 31, 2016.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that she had not seen the draft contract.

Supervisor Croce stated that he thought each Town Board member had received a copy in their mailbox and he gave her a copy to look at.

Councilman Farrelly suggested that Supervisor Croce review some of the changes and salary increases.

Supervisor Croce went over the increase in salaries , the increase in uniform allowance based on how many hours were worked and that there was a reduction on a holiday pay schedule from double-time and a half to just double-time. Also, Easter was a holiday added to the list of holidays.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to approve the Contract with the PBA to commence on January 1, 2014 and to end on December 31, 2016.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

#### SECTION 4 – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – SUMMER HOURS

Supervisor Croce read a memo from the Highway Superintendent stating that the summer hours for the Highway Dept. employees would begin on Monday April 28, 2014 and those hours would be from Monday through Thursday, 6:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

#### SECTION 5 – DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

Councilman Farrelly read a memo from the Highway Superintendent, Robert Wager, asking the Town Board to sell several vehicles and a material spreader that the Highway Dept. is not using. These are older vehicles that have been used for spare parts and most no longer start. Some do include plows and/or dump bodies. The Highway Superintendent has also requested that the Town Board include in their motion that any equipment that does not sell, be allowed to be sold for scrap.

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to advertise the sale of all surplus vehicles and equipment as specified in the Highway Superintendent's memo, in the Town Newspaper, with all bids to be received by 10:00 AM, at the Town Clerk's Office, on May 19, 2014 and then the bids will be awarded at the regular Town Board meeting on May 21, 2014 and that any vehicles not sold as of this date (May 21, 2014) will be scraped.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 6 – EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – DAVID BURTCHAELL

Mr. David Burtchaell was present this evening to ask the Town Board for permission to do his Eagle Scout project at the Town Park. He explained that he wanted to clear the brush from the east side of the stone wall to the little pond to make a picnic area. He explained that he would have to remove a few small trees and the underbrush. Then he would plant grass so that people could use the open space. He would not be cleaning entirely around the pond, just the portion that is east of the stone wall.

Mr. Burtchaell stated that there was garbage that would also have to be removed and he may have to have someone grade the lawn area to make it level to plant grass. He stated that he already had a tree and landscaping company that was going to offer to donate equipment to take down the small trees and grade the lawn area. He stated that he was figuring it would take him about four to six weeks to get the project done. He stated that he would be doing fundraisers to get the funding for the materials for this project.

In conclusion, Mr. Burtchaell stated that he wanted to involve the Town as much as possible and make sure that he does what is acceptable to the Town. He had already spoken with the Recreation Director and now he was coming to the Town Board.

Councilman Farrelly asked what he would be doing with the trees that he cuts down.

Mr. Burtchaell stated that he was thinking he could donate the wood to a family that would use it for heat in their woodstove.

Supervisor Croce stated that they have to be careful about donating anything that belongs to the Town. The Town has to offer whatever it is to everyone and that could be difficult. If we just offer it to one family, then we are showing favoritism. His suggestion was to pile the wood in another area and then the Town could use the wood for next year's Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Mr. Burtchaell stated that he would do whatever the Town would like.

Supervisor Croce stated that he also wanted to let him know if anyone comes on the property with equipment, the Town would have to have a one million dollar insurance form with the Town named as also insured. If a contractor were to come in, we would also need the same type of insurance. Also, the Highway Superintendent must approve of this as he is in charge of Buildings and Grounds. He stated that Mr. Burtchaell would have to work very closely with the Highway Superintendent.

Mr. Burtchaell stated that he would do whatever it takes to get this project done.

Mr. Farrell, the Town Recreation Director, was present in the audience and stated that he has mentioned this project to Mr. Wager and met him at the site of the project. Mr. Wager has stated that if the project needs a little more soil to make it level, he would try to get some to level it out.

Supervisor Croce stated that another concern he has is whether this area will add a security risk to the Park. If we clear out this area, will people go back there where they cannot be seen?

Mr. Burtchaell, and the Scout Master that was present with him this evening, stated that they would be clearing out the weeds in and against the stone wall which should open up better visibility to this area. Currently the brush does not allow you to see back there. This project should allow the police and other security people to have a clearer view of this area.

Supervisor Croce stated that he wanted to commend Mr. Burtchaell for stating in his project plan that this expansion of the Park area would be in following with the Town Master Plan. This is true and that is a great way to sell the project.

Supervisor Croce stated that he had one other question. In the past we have had other Eagle Scout projects and the Scout was supposed to raise enough money to do the project, but in the end, the project ran short on funds and the Town had to step in and pay for it to be finished. He wanted to know if this was a possibility with this project too. Can funds be raised before the project is started so we are sure the funds are there to do the project?

Mr. Burtchaell stated that the project is to be funded by the Scout as part of the project. He stated that he would be starting the fundraising as soon as he has all the final approvals to move forward.

The Scout Master stated that the Scout will raise all the funds.

Councilwoman Delgado asked if he was putting in picnic tables or benches as they are in the picture he supplied, but not in the actual plan.

Mr. Burtchaell stated no, the picture was just to give you an idea of what it could look like when he is done. He was going to leave it up to the Town to put picnic tables or whatever they would like, once the grass is grown.

Mr. Farrell further explained that this project is just to open up the area and plant grass. Another Scout can do tables unless the Town wants to put some there before that happens. He stated that he would like to see a couple of tables in there by the end of the year.

Supervisor Croce asked if any pesticides were going to be used to clear the underbrush?

Mr. Burtchaell stated no, he will be removing everything in a very environmental way, by pulling everything out by hand.

\* Councilman Farrelly made a motion that the Town Board allows David Burtchaell to do his Eagle Scout Project and to move forward as proposed recognizing that any insurance will be submitted to the Town before work is started.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

Mr. Burtchaell thanked the Town Board and reminded them that the project still has to be approved by the Scout Council before he is ready to start.

SECTION 7 – WAIVER OF LATE PAYMENT FEE FOR TAXES

**RESOLUTION**

**WAIVER OF LATE PENALTY FEE**

Supervisor Croce made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill is authorized to assess a late penalty fee for those property owners who do not pay their real property taxes on time, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board, as in the past, has waived the fee recognizing that although the amount assessed is minor, the waiver of the fee does provide a relief to taxpayers;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill, Ulster County, to waive the requirement of a late penalty fee to be assessed against property owners in the Town of Plattekill for the year 2014.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 8 – TRANSFER OF FUNDS

**RESOLUTION**

**TRANSFER OF GENERAL FUNDS – AMENDING 2014 BUDGET**

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill has approved the purchase of a new telephone system from Sound Telephone for the sum of \$6,220.00, and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of this new telephone system is necessary to update our current system to current technology and the price includes installation and training,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Board of the Town of Plattekill, Ulster County, to amend the year 2014 General Fund Budget line item A1620.200 Buildings & Grounds Equipment by the amount of \$6,220.00, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that funding shall be supported by a transfer from the General Capital Project Account of \$6,220.00 to the General Fund Checking Account.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 9 – VOUCHERS

\* Councilwoman Delgado made a motion to pay the Voucher Detail Report dated 4/2/2014, which includes: the General Fund amount of \$49,476.31, the Highway Fund amount of \$14,000.94 and the Trust & Agency amount of \$1,239.20 for a total amount of \$64,716.45 recognizing that the Audit Committee has reviewed the claims and found them acceptable for payment.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.



SECTION 10 – ADJOURNMENT

\* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM.  
Councilwoman Delgado seconded.  
On the vote: all ayes.