

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

October 5, 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
Councilwoman Delgado
Councilman DePew

Councilman Farrelly was absent.

MINUTES

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the September 7, 2016 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 7, 2016 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

PRESENTATION

Supervisor Croce explained that he had a very special presentation this evening. He stated that Officer Willard Sutton, who was an officer for the Town for a very good, 32 years, was retiring and he will be missed. He explained that he had wanted to do something special for Officer Sutton and he asked the Chief if it was possible to retire his police badge number. So when the Chief stated that this could be done, he had a shadow-box made that included the Plattekill Police Department patch, an American Flag patch, his badge and his collar pins. Supervisor Croce stated that this badge number will never be used again in the Plattekill Police Department. No one can ever fill his shoes.

Supervisor Croce then presented Mr. Sutton with the shadow-box and pictures were taken with the Town Board.

Lieutenant Smith, from the Plattekill Police Department, Mrs. Pearl Morse, a past Supervisor for the Town and Officer Riley, President of the PBA also spoke highly of Officer Sutton and about his dedication to the residents and the community.

Officer Sutton thanked the Town Board and stated that he enjoyed his job of being a Plattekill Police Officer and helping people in the community.

ADDITIONS

Supervisor Croce stated that he had two letters to add to the evening's agenda.

1. Plattekill Day – Report by Linda Byrnes:

Supervisor Croce read a letter from Mrs. Linda Byrnes, the Chairperson for Plattekill Day. The letter indicated the types of activities and booths that were set up for the day, there was a strolling clown that did magic tricks and balloon animals and a hay ride driven by Councilman Putnam. There were bouncy houses and a steady stream of entertainment, at the stage area, all day long. The car show brought in a record \$2,470.00 for the Veterans's Memorial Fund and Citizen of the Year awards were given to Mr. Fred Fowler and posthumously to Father John Jaume for their years of hard work and devotion to the community.

Supervisor Croce continued to read that Mrs. Byrnes wanted to thank all the sponsors and people who helped make the day a success and she thanked the Town Board for allowing her the privilege and honor to be the Chairperson of this wonderful event. (A copy of the complete letter is attached to these minutes)

The Town Board thanked Mrs. Byrnes for volunteering to be the Chairperson.

Supervisor Croce stated that he knows Mrs. Byrnes puts in a lot of time and makes a lot of phone calls to set up this event. It is a lot of work and the Town Board appreciates all that she does. He stated that he understands that next year's Plattekill Day will be the 25th Anniversary year and he would like to make it a little more special than it already is. He stated that the Town Board will discuss this at a budget workshop meeting.

2. Plattekill Library letter:

Supervisor Croce read a letter that he had received from the Plattekill Library Director, John Georghiou. The letter indicated that the Library had received a grant from Senator Larkin's Office to provide several new computers for the public and some other needed technology for the community. The letter stated that the Library had created a new Technology Center area and they wanted to do a "Grand Opening" ceremony near the end of October. The Library wanted to invite the Town Board members to attend this grand opening. The letter stated that as soon as a date had been set with Sen. Larkin, Mr. Georghiou would let the Town Board know.

Supervisor Croce continued to read that there was a little money left over from the grant and the Library would like to bring illumination to the signs on the front lawn. The letter indicated that Mr. Wager had spoken with the electrician, Mr. Ferrante and he had approved running an electric line for them. They will contact the Building Department for a permit. They are asking for permission to run this electric line.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would speak with Mr. Wager and see what he has discussed with the Library Director. He stated that he felt whatever Mr. Wager suggests will be appropriate.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mrs. Esther Coppola stated, since they were talking about electric and signs, that she would like to bring to everyone's attention that there are a lot of electrical signs in our Town and she did not believe that there were any regulations in our Town Codes for these signs. And now they are flashing and extremely bright.

Mrs. Morse stated that even though they are not allowed, they are getting bigger and flashing and strobing. These types of signs can induce seizures.

Mrs. Coppola stated that at first, she thought that the churches and fire departments were exempt and that was why the signs were put in. But she knows that they are not supposed to have them and she feels that they can cause problems, as Mrs. Morse has stated, due to the flashing.

Supervisor Croce asked if she had put in a complaint to the Building Department?

Mrs. Coppola stated that she had not put in a complaint as yet. She stated that she just wanted to make the Town Board aware that they were there; and as the Town grows – more will come.

Mr. Mark Reynolds, a local reporter, asked the Town Board if there was any new information on the Zoning Changes that the Town Board recently discussed?

Supervisor Croce stated that he had just received comments from the Ulster County Planning Board and he hasn't had a chance to review them thoroughly. He stated that he did read through them quickly and some modifications could be made in the proposed local law, however he felt that the UC Planning Board may not have understood what the Town Board was trying to do.

Mr. Reynolds asked if the Town Board had received a legal opinion on whether they could sell the Library building to the Town Library yet?

Supervisor Croce explained that he has taken all the information to the Attorney and he is waiting for a response. He stated that he did mention to the Attorney that this would be a sale from one government agency to another, however he has not heard back as yet.

Mr. Wilfrido Castillo stated that he wanted to let everyone know that Mr. Ishy Martinez, who wrote the book on the "Villas of Plattekill", will be having a free showing of a short film that he has also put together on the Villas of Plattekill. He stated that the event should be near the end of October and that he would make sure to let everyone know the date, as soon as it is set. He

stated that they had the first viewing and over 400 people attended. Now they will be having another.

Supervisor Croce stated that that part of our Town History is very important and he remembers what Plattekill was like and all the Villas that were around when he was growing up. He stated that he would be interested in knowing the date and time of this showing.

Mr. Castillo stated he would let the Town Board know when a date is set.

Mrs. Thompson, from Freetown Highway, asked the Town Board if there was some way to get the speed limit reduced on Freetown Highway. She stated that there are many cars that are speeding.

Supervisor Croce explained to her how hard it was to get the State to agree to lower a speed limit. They usually do not want to lower one, unless you can prove that there are too many accidents.

Supervisor Croce suggested to her that they could put the speed traffic monitor sign on the road for a while and then have the Police Department step-up patrols to catch those speeding. The sign reminds drivers of how fast they are going by signaling their speed as they approach the sign. He stated that the Town Board appreciates her coming in and letting them know that there is a problem. They cannot attempt to fix the problem if they do not know it exists.

Mr. Castillo, who lives in the same area as Mrs. Thompson, stated that there are cars and one motorcycle that fly up and down this area of the road and often times pass other cars on the double yellow line.

Mrs. Coppola asked if the Town Board had to go through the DOT to have a reduction in the speed limit?

Supervisor Croce stated yes.

Mrs. Coppola stated that she always wondered, since they will not lower the speed limit on Rt. 32 in Modena, why is the speed limit at 35 miles per hour in Ardonia and Clintondale on Rt. 44-55?

Supervisor Croce stated that it was due to the almost 90degree turn in front of the Ardonia Market. He stated that in Clintondale, there are lots of curves and turns too. They do traffic studies and take the number of accidents into account.

There was more discussion on other areas in Town where people felt there were bad turns and turns with poor site distance. They also discussed that there were no lines on some of the roads and no lines at some intersections. They also discussed that some are Town Roads and some are County Roads that intersect the State Roads.

Supervisor Croce stated that the State is aware of these situations and there is a long list of places where the DOT has registered complaints and concerns about intersections, however there is a lot to do with little time and money available.

Mrs. Coppola stated that she felt it would be good for the Police to sit at the Tuckers Corners intersection. Many cars, trucks and extremely large trucks just fly right through the stop sign on Milton Turnpike.

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 7:46 PM. Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 1 – GASB#34

Supervisor Croce stated that he wanted to give everyone an update on the inventory, or GASB #34. He stated that the people from RCI were here and inventoried all the items. He wanted to thank all the Departments for their cooperation and help in answering any questions.

Supervisor Croce stated that we did not receive the software yet; they are working on inputting all of our data.

SECTION 2 – 2017 TENTATIVE BUDGET

The Town Clerk stated that she had presented each of the Town Board Members with a copy of the Tentative Budget as was given to her by the Budget Officer/Supervisor on Sept. 30th, 2016.

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board has agreed on some meeting dates with the Department Heads and those meetings start tomorrow night. He stated that the meeting dates have been posted on the bulletin board in the hallway and he suggested to the Town Clerk that these dates should also be posted on the website.

The Town Clerk stated that she would get the list to the Publicist.

SECTION 3 – LAND DONATIONS

Supervisor Croce stated that he had received a phone call and a letter, from two different people, both stating that they had land that they wanted to donate to the Town.

Supervisor Croce stated that he had given a map showing each property and wanted to ask the Town Board if they felt there was some way that these properties could be of use to the Town.

The first property was a small, .25 acre parcel, that looked like a triangle, just south of Ridge Road on Rt. 32. The other properties were part of an old subdivision off of Huckleberry Turnpike and the parcels were mostly small and on a private road that is now overgrown with vegetation. Most of these pieces were virtually land locked except for one that was 1.9 acres which had frontage on Huckleberry Tpk.

The Town Clerk stated that when she spoke to the owners of these properties, they both stated that they did not want to continue to pay taxes on them and they did not have any use for them.

The Town Board was in agreement that they did not see any benefit to the Town owning these parcels.

Supervisor Croce stated that he agreed; the Town does not want to have these people's problems become the Town's problems.

The Town Clerk stated that she had explained to these owners that if they did not pay the taxes for three years, then they would go up for tax sale by the County.

* Councilman DePew made a motion that the Town contact these two owners to let them know that we appreciate their offers, however we do not have a use for the properties either.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

Supervisor Croce stated that he would check with the Highway Superintendent just to make sure he does not see a use for them.

SECTION 4 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:54 to discuss personnel and Library negotiations.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to close Executive Session and re-open the Regular Town Board Meeting at 8:37 PM.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 5 – VOUCHERS

* Councilman DePew made a motion to pay the Voucher Detail Report dated 10/5/2016, which includes: the General Fund amount of \$16,061.27, the Highway Fund amount of \$39,199.91, the Clintondale Light District amount of \$697.75, and the Modena Light District amount of \$1,253.73 for a total amount of \$57,212.66 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

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM

Councilman Putnam seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.