

TOWN OF PLATTEKILL
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

September 6, 2017

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 DePew

Councilman Putnam was absent.

MINUTES

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the August 16, 2017 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 16, 2017 Regular Town Board Meeting.

Councilman Farrelly seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

ADDITIONS

Supervisor Croce stated that he had two additions for this evening's agenda. The first one was about applications for the Planning Board and Zoning Board Clerk that we can discuss under old business. He stated that the second addition was for an employee who has worked for the Town for 30 years.

1.30 Year Celebration For Irving Ellis:

Supervisor Croce stated that the Highway Dept. had a celebration for Mr. Irving Ellis who has worked for the Town for 30 years. He stated that Mr. Wager, the Highway Superintendent, had invited him to attend the celebration to congratulate him and thank him for his service to the Town.

Supervisor Croce suggested that anyone who sees Mr. Ellis should try to remember to thank him for his 30 years of dedication to his position and the community.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mrs. Pearl "Sis" Morse stated that she has received a donation from the VFW in New Paltz for the Veteran's Memorial. She stated that they have donated a light that we will be using to light the Veteran's Memorial sign.

Supervisor Croce suggested that she contact Mr. Wager to see if he had somewhere to store it, so she would not have to keep it at her house.

Mrs. Morse stated that she was going to contact Mr. Wager, but he has been kind of busy and she has also been busy, but she will contact him soon. She stated that she has already sent them a thank you from the Veteran's Committee and the Town.

Mr. Mark Reynolds, a local reporter, asked if the Town Board had received any applications for the open Zoning Board/Planning Board Clerk position and whether it had been decided who would hire this person?

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Board has advertised it on the website and in the local newspaper; however they have not received any applications as yet. That is what the Town Board will be discussing when we get to that item on the agenda. He stated that Mr. Wilkin was correct that the Planning Board would do the hiring and firing of this position. However the Town Board also has interest in this position too. He stated that it would be unreasonable to think that we could get the seven members of the Planning Board and the seven members of the Zoning Board and the Town Board all together in one room to interview this person. That would be nineteen people at the interviews. We will certainly share in having some Planning and Zoning Board members present. We will work this out with them.

Mr. Kevin Roberts, one of the Town's County Legislators, was present and wanted to thank the Supervisor for helping him with a problem that one of the Town's residents was having. He stated that he was not sure who the resident should speak with and Supervisor Croce helped direct him to the proper person to get the problem solved. He just wanted to thank the Supervisor for taking the time to help.

Mr. Roberts stated that he also wanted to let everyone know that he is still looking into the Plattekill Library's claim that they do not have to have a vote on their budget for next year because it is staying the same as it was this year. They are saying that they do not have to have a vote because the budget is not going up or down.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that she has copied two papers and has also called the Association of Towns for their opinion on this issue. The Association of Towns is saying that they would have to have a vote unless they have a caveat in their Charter saying that they don't have to. She feels that they should be having a vote too. She stated that she has been reviewing some of the paperwork in the Town Clerk's Office and she also has someone else looking into this situation. She stated that it is a tax levy and it is taxpayer money; we should have a vote.

Supervisor Croce stated that he was approached by someone who is a member of the Library Board and he wanted him to sign a petition so that he could be re-elected. He stated that he felt there should be a vote as we do every year and also vote for the trustees. If they are spending taxpayer money, we need to have a vote.

Councilman DePew questioned voting for the Trustee Board, someone can do a write in?

Supervisor Croce stated yes, but that is usually done when voting on a budget. He stated that he is still looking for answers too and will make a few more phone calls.

Mr. Roberts stated that he was told; not voting was a cost saving measure.

Mrs. Coppola asked what the Town Board's position was on the continued use of the Senior Center?

Councilman DePew explained that Councilwoman Delgado and he had had several meetings with the Library Board to discuss issues about the sale of the building. He stated that everything they spoke about and talked about is documented and they were in total agreement with them that the Senior Center would stay as the Senior Center unless something new, equivalent or better was built to accommodate the Seniors.

Councilwoman Delgado stated yes, the Library Board did agree to keep the Senior Center as the Senior Center and this will be built in the contract. The Senior Center will remain so until a new, equivalent or better venue is found.

Councilman DePew stated that there is not a contract as yet, but the next phase, if they accept the Town's offer, will be to draw up the contract of sale.

Supervisor Croce stated that it is the feeling of the entire Town Board, if we go to contract of sale, that there will be wording in the contract to keep the Senior Center the Senior Center.

Mrs. Coppola stated that she was just making sure that the seniors are not negatively impacted by this sale.

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 7:23 PM.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 1 – TOWN PARK SIGN – EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

The Town Board had received a new draft of what the wording on the Thomas Felten Park sign would say. The Boy Scout doing the project was present to hear if there were any further concerns with this new design.

Councilman DePew stated that he felt it was more appropriate and better than it was. He stated that he would suggest, if it is possible, to put a "pin stripe" around the edge. He also asked if there would be coloring in the Town Seal as it has color in the draft.

The Boy Scout stated yes, there would be coloring in the Town Seal, however he was not sure about adding the pin striping.

The entire Town Board stated that they felt the "font" of the lettering was much better in this new design.

Supervisor Croce stated that since the Town Board is in agreement on the new design that he should contact the Highway Superintendent, Mr. Wager, to work on exactly where the sign would be located.

The Boy Scout stated that it is supposed to be located between the two grinding stones that are currently located on the center section, near Rt. 32.

Councilman DePew asked if there were going to be any flowers planted on the ground around the bottom of the sign?

The Boy Scout stated that plantings were not part of the project.

Councilman DePew stated that maybe that could be a separate project for the next Eagle Scout.

Supervisor Croce suggested that the Town could plant some flowers in the spring.

The Town Board thanked the Boy Scout for doing such a great project for the Town.

SECTION 2 – POLICE - LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

Supervisor Croce stated that at the last Town Board Meeting he read the monthly Police Report which stated that two of our Officers were receiving ‘Letters of Commendation for Excellent Police Duty’. He stated that he requested copies of these letters because he felt that they should be read at a town board meeting.

Supervisor Croce read two Letters of Commendation for Officer Michael Brenner who showed excellent police work on a burglary case and a possible suicide attempt case.

Supervisor Croce also read a third Letter of Commendation for Officer Meyers for her excellent police work on a motor vehicle stop that resulted in an arrest on drug and drug manufacturing equipment.

SECTION 3 – APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING & ZONING BOARD CLERK

Supervisor Croce explained that the Town Board has advertised the position for Planning Board and Zoning Board Clerk in the Southern Ulster Times for 2 weeks and it is also on the Town Website, but we have not received any applications as yet. He stated that he has spoken to Cindy Hilbert and she stated that she would put a notice on the Planning Federation website and the Association of Towns website. He stated that we are running out of time as Mrs. Bolde will be leaving at the end of September. He stated that Mrs. Bolde has offered to come back in and help the person that we hire, but it would be better to have someone before she leaves.

Councilman DePew stated that there is a State Office of Mobility that he can access to put a help wanted notice on. He stated that he would try to get it on in a day or so and it should be free.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that there are some websites that people can post their resumes on and we could probably put our ad on there too.

The Town Clerk, Barbara Dawes, stated that she has tried to use one of these sites in the past, but we would have to join their program and pay to be a part of that program to use their site. People can post their resumes for free, but they charge the employer.

Supervisor Croce questioned that the Town Board is agreeable to posting on the government sites and not in another, different newspaper?

The Town Board all agreed to continue with the sites that Mrs. Hilbert had suggested.

SECTION 4 – HEALTH CARE INSURANCE – OUT OF STATE

Supervisor Croce explained that there is wording in our Employee Handbook, that under certain circumstances, when someone retires, the Town will continue to pay for their health insurance for life. The problem is if they move to another State, how do we continue to pay for their insurance? Some insurance is not the same when you are out of State. He stated that he has spoken to our Insurance Company but Minnie is on vacation this week, so he is waiting for her to get back. He stated that he is relying on them to come up with some suggestions. He stated that he was going to suggest giving a

specific amount of money to the person and letting them find their own plan in the other State, but he is not sure that we can or should handle it this way.

Councilman DePew stated that he thought there should be a rider that we could obtain on our current policy to cover us in those types of situations. He stated that he would like to wait and see what our insurance company has to offer.

The Town Board discussed getting a price quote for the new 2018 budget that they will be working on soon.

Supervisor Croce stated that they have been very good in the past with estimating any increases that may occur next spring when our plan is renewed.

SECTION 5 – 2018 BUDGET MEETING DATES

Supervisor Croce stated that he has requested the preliminary budget figures from the Town Departments and he will be putting the Tentative Budget together soon. He stated that he wanted to remind the Town Board that budget meeting dates will be set up in October so we can meet with the department heads to verify their needs for next year. He stated he was not looking to set up any particular dates this evening, he was just reminding everyone that we will need to meet between regular Town Board Meetings to get the figures finalized for each department.

Councilwoman Delgado stated that she could e-mail the dates she would be available as she will not be present at the next regular Town Board Meeting on Sept. 20th.

Supervisor Croce stated that that would be a great idea if everyone would e-mail him some dates then his Clerk, Tiffany, is very good at setting up meeting dates and putting this all together.

Councilman Farrelly stated that he would be away from Sept. 27th to October 11th.

SECTION 6 – HUDSON VALLEY RUGBY CLUB

Supervisor Croce stated that the Town Clerk happened to be up at the Town Park on a Wednesday and she noticed that the Rugby Club was there having practice. He stated that he had spoken to someone from the Rugby Club and they were supposed to send us proof of insurance and a check to cover their use of our Park, but he had never received these items.

Supervisor Croce continued saying that he then went up to the Park on the following Wednesday and sure enough, they were there practicing again. He stated that he found someone who said they were in charge of the Rugby Team and informed them that they were not supposed to be using the Park without giving us proof of insurance and the \$500.00 check. He stated that this person stated he would get this information and the check to the Town as soon as possible. We will now wait and see what we get.

Supervisor Croce stated that the only other issue is that he has received a copy of the schedule and they have a scheduled tournament on the same day that we have Plattekill Day. This is not going to work. They will have to move their tournament as we use the area where they play. He stated that he will get back to them about the payment, insurance and changing the tournament day.

At this time, Councilman Farrelly stated that he has been on Forest Road many times in the last two weeks and he has not seen one police officer.

Supervisor Croce stated that he has been seeing officers sitting at the back entrance to Hannaford's and he too was thinking that he would rather see these officers sitting somewhere on Forest Road. He

said that he has seen officers sitting at the entrance area to Sunny Acres Rd, so they are monitoring Plattekill Ardonia Rd.

Councilwoman Delgado stated yes, she has also seen officers monitoring traffic near Sunny Acres Rd.

Supervisor Croce stated that he is very pleased with the way the detour has been working out. Plattekill Ardonia Rd. is getting a lot of traffic, but we have not had any major incidences or accidents. This seems to be working and he spoke to the Construction Manager at the bridge site and he is insisting that they are on schedule and will be done on time. He stated that he knows there have been some rumors that they are behind in the schedule, but according to the Construction Manager they are just rumors.

Mrs. Coppola stated that she had spoken with Mr. Hoppenstedt and the workers at Domenico's Pizza and they are saying that their business is down 40% from what it is when the bridge is open.

Supervisor Croce stated that with the added traffic on Plattekill Ardonia Road, he would think that business would be doing better than that. He stated that it was certainly not the intention to have an effect on their businesses.

SECTION 7 – VOUCHERS

* Councilman DePew made a motion to pay the Voucher Detail Report dated 9/5/2017, which includes: the General Fund amount of \$ 59,577.15, the Highway Fund amount of \$15,446.48, the Capital Projects amount of \$3,117.75, the Clintondale Light District amount of \$709.07 and the Modena Light District amount of \$1,264.02 for a total amount of \$80,114.47 recognizing that the Audit Committee has reviewed the claims and found them acceptable for payment.

Councilwoman Delgado seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.

SECTION 8 – ADJOURNMENT

* Supervisor Croce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM.

Councilman DePew seconded.

On the vote: all ayes.