

## Regular Town Board Meeting

November 14, 2013

Members Present: Supervisor Nayer, Councilperson Miller-Simmons, Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and Councilperson Mettler. Councilperson Gabaccia was absent.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler to waive the reading of the minutes of the Special Board Meeting October 5, 2013, Regular Board Meeting October 13, 2013 and the Budget Public Hearing October 26, 2013 and to accept the minutes as written. Motion was carried.

### Announcements:

Supervisor Nayer announced that the American Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive on November 29<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm to 7:00pm at the Copake Park Building. The Holiday Light Parade will be on November 14<sup>th</sup> with lineup at the Copake Fire House at 5:00 pm. The Copake Community Service Inc. will be once again sponsoring the Holiday Christmas Trees throughout the Hamlet. The trees will be \$20.00 and you can sign up in the Copake Town Clerk's Office. There will be a Special Board Meeting Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am to consider the adoption of the 2014 Budget. John Keeler asked if we could start a donation box collect items to the Philippines following their recent devastation.

### Correspondence:

From Jack Schultz – a letter of resignation as Deputy Code Enforcement Officer effective December 23, 2013.

From Veronique Fabio, Secretary Z.B.A. – a letter advising the Town Board that on September 26, 2013 the Z.B.A. members accept the resignation of Frank Peteroy as Vice Chairman and nominated Jon Strom to replace him.

From Sean M. Carroll, Hearing Officer, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications & Cable – a copy of a petition to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission requesting the reconsideration in the matter of Charter Communications, Inc., petitions for determination of effective competition in 46 communities in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York, CSR-8558-E, CSR-8559-E, CSR-8560-E, CSR-8561-E.

From Harlem Valley Rail Trail – an email advising that they will be having an early opening and ribbon cutting of the newest part of the rail trail from Anthony Street to Black Grocery Road on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 pm.

### Public Forum:

Harvey Webber, representing the Roe Jan Young at Hearters questioned if the petition handed in last month was passed onto a Committee to follow through on the possibility of getting a drug store back in Town? Supervisor Nayer requested representatives of their group to meet with him to look into this request.

Marcia Peteroy advised the public that she had spoken to a friend of hers that works for CVS and they have no interest in opening a drug store or a satellite.

#### Department Head Reports:

Planning Board – Catamount is reapplying for their development plans for a resort.

Code Enforcement Officer – Their Office is very busy.

Ag & Farmland Committee - Councilperson Mettler reported that the Committee is completing an in depth survey of farmers and owners of farmland in an attempt to determine meaningful ways to improve agriculture. There will be an open discussion forum for all farmers and farm land owners on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall starting at noon.

Environmental Advisory – Harvey Weber reported that the Committee will be changing their meetings to a different time and day to make it more convenient for their members.

Parks & Recreation Commission – Lindsay LeBrecht reported that there are still positions available on the Commission, the Light Parade will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> and if any Town Board Members would like to bake cookies for this event it would be appreciated. The Commission is also looking for two Santa's helpers for the parade. The Commission also requested that the parade be called the Christmas Light Parade. The Board and the public discussed the changing of the name of the parade and the consensus of the Board was that it should stay as the Holiday Parade so all religions feel welcome to participate and the Park Commission should reconsider changing the name.

Conservation Advisory Committee – Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney reported that they were not able to meet this past month however they do have someone poised to discuss hydro fracking in January. Supervisor Nayer will put them on as a presentation in January.

Hamlet Revitalization Taskforce – Councilperson Mettler reported that they have been meeting twice a month, they have been publishing the Copake Connection on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. They will meeting with Ken Flood from Columbia County at their next meeting, the biking team will be meeting to discuss ways in which biking can be an economical catalyst in Copake. The Taskforce is planning a Gangster Films Series at the Copake Grange in the spring with John Pollack. The Taskforce is continuing to make grant applications to get a Hamlet Planner and as part of that they are seeking to have the Hamlet a census designated place that will make it easier to generate population and income statistics to draft proposals for hamlet revitalizations.

#### New Business:

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and was seconded by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney to authorize Supervisor Nayer to sign a six month fixed rate contract with Viridian Energy to be the Town's electric energy supplier for the Town Hall. Motion was carried. Switching electric supplier will save the Town approximately \$550.00 - \$800.00 per year.

Supervisor Nayer reviewed the openings that are on the Town Committees and Boards and anyone wishing to be reappointed should get their letters of interests in. There is an opening on the Planning Board, three adult and one youth openings on the Park Commission, two openings on the Economic Advisory Board. We will advertise these openings with letters of interest back by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made by Councilperson Mettler and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons to accept Jack Schultz's letter of resignation as Deputy Code Enforcement Officer effective December 23, 2013 with thanks for his service to the Town. Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Mettler to advertise for a Deputy Code Enforcement Officer and a Secretary for the Building Department Office. Motion was carried.

The Ag & Farmland Committee has sent the Board a proposed Zoning Change and has been forwarded to the LURC for their input. Councilperson Miller-Simmons stated that the LURC has some suggestions and recommendations on these changes and have forward them to the Town's Consultant to prepare for the Board for their December meeting. After the Consultant has completed her work the proposal changes should be sent back to the Ag & Farmland Committee and the Town's Attorney prior to being sent to the Town Board.

The Board received one applicant for the LURC Secretary position and the Board will interview her after the Special Meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and seconded by Councilperson Mettler to authorize Supervisor Nayer to enter into an agreement with Value Payment Systems at no cost to the Town pending that the Town's Attorney reviews the contract to see that there no hidden charges to the Town. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Nayer advised the Board that the Town does not have a credit card to make purchases when necessary. Supervisor Nayer has been using his personal credit card and then submitting a voucher for reimbursement which is permitted by the State Comptroller. Supervisor will continue to look for a credit card company that will not charge any fees to the Town if one does exist.

#### Old Business:

The Vietnam Veteran Monument through Copake Community Service Inc. has raised about \$4,800.00 so far and should be another \$800.00 in wreath sales should put us in good shape to do the work. We really need all the names that are missing on the monument as soon as possible.

Councilperson Mettler announced that the Town's new website was launched on November 8<sup>th</sup>. There was a lot of work to get the site ready to launch by the Town's Consultant, the Town Clerk's Office and the Website Committee. It was a hard task due to the lack of an old website to transfer documents and minutes. We will be continuing to add items and making changes as we go along. Please look at the website and give us your feedback.

#### Appointments:

A motion as made by Councilperson Mettler and was seconded by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney to reappoint Harvey Weber to the Board of Assessment review effective October 1, 2013. Motion was carried.

#### Budget:

Special Meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am to consider the adoption of the 2014 budget.

Supervisor Nayer reported our sales tax check for the third quarter \$159,236.20 up about \$13,000.00 over last year's third quarter check. We just got an email that our mortgage tax will be up to about \$116,000.00 for the year.

I had a meeting with the Community Rescue Squad Board of Directors and the Supervisors of the Towns that they serve to review their proposed operating budget for 2014 and they are requesting \$221,849.00.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler to agree to budget \$221,849.00 to the Rescue Squad for 2014. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Mettler and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons to authorize Supervisor Nayer to sign the charge back agreement with Columbia County for the \$221,849.00 for the Community Rescue Squad. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Nayer announced to the public that Councilperson Mettler and David Paciencia were elected to the two four year Town Council positions.

Public Forum:

Lindsay LeBrecht asked if there was a credit card machine in the court that the Town Clerk's office could use. Supervisor Nayer explained that the Unified Court System supplies the court a machine for their sole use at no charge to the Town.

Stosh Gansowski applauded the Park Committee for wanting to change the name of the Holiday Light Parade to the Christmas Parade.

Dave Paciencia spoke in favor of keeping the name as the Holiday Parade as our Town is made of a lot of different religions and no one should be slighted.

Diana Wilson ask the Board that when addressing the proposed Zoning Changes it should be addressed more properly and not try to clean it up by calling it processing as you have to slaughter the fowl and small animals before you can process them.

A motion was made by Councilperson Mettler and was seconded by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney that the bills from Highway Abstract # 11 and the bills from the General Abstract # 11 be paid. Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler that the meeting be adjourned. Motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

