

Regular Town Board Meeting

March 12, 2015

Members Present: Supervisor Nayer, Councilperson Miller-Simmons, Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney, Councilperson Mettler and Councilperson Sullivan.

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler to waive the reading of the Regular 2/12/15 Meeting minutes and accept them as written. Motion was carried.

Announcements:

3/15 presentation of the story of the Copake Iron Works, 4/4 Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Park & Copake Fire Company Chicken BBQ, 5/16 Copake Cleanup Day at Highway Garage, 5/30 & 6/6 Summer Playground Signups.

Correspondence:

From Veronique Fabio, Secretary, Copake Zoning Board of Appeals – a letter requesting more time to discuss the topic regarding the Planning Board handling the Special Use Permits instead of the Z.B.A.

From Dominick Sinisi, Jr. Dancer's Marina notice of their application to renew their On-Premises Alcoholic Beverage License.

From Susan Stalker – an email opposing the Town approval for the proposed Catamount Development.

From Jacquie Burdick – a letter requesting to become a member of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

From Michael Bradway, Park Superintendent – a letter advising the Board of a list of normal Park maintenance expenses for 2015.

From Roberta Roll, Chairperson Copake Hamlet Revitalization Taskforce – a letter requesting the Town, County and State look into improving safety at the intersection of Snyder Pond Road and County Route 7A.

Public Forum:

Roberta Rolls asked the status of the Casino Case. Supervisor Nayer advised that the Town is waiting on a decision from Judge Nichols.

Department Head Report:

Highway Superintendent Gregory advised that hopefully the snow season is winding down.

Councilperson Mettler advised that the Board of Ethics has nothing before them at this time, they are going to take another look at the Ethics Code because they did come up with some inconsistency when they were working through this last case. Supervisor Nayer stated that he had wished that they would of did that before we changed the law again, that was what they were supposed to do.

Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney reported that the Conservation Advisory Committee met in March no action taken and their next meeting will be April 18th.

Roberta Rolls, Chairperson Copake Hamlet Revitalization Taskforce reported that they have met with the Hamlet Planner and have scheduled a weekend work shop on May 2nd and 3rd. There will be public sessions in the morning for residents of Copake. By the end of that weekend there should be a new design for the Hamlet. The Taskforce will be doing a mailing to all resident and articles in the paper.

Councilperson Sullivan reported that the Environmental Committee are looking at the merits of the studying of the water.

New Business:

Supervisor Nayer advised that the Town received six letters of interest for membership to the Agricultural Advisory Committee. The Board set a Special Meeting for Wednesday, March 18th at 7:00 pm and Saturday, March 21st at 10:00 am if necessary. The purpose of these special meetings are for interviews and possible appointments to the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Supervisor Nayer reported that the painting of the Park Building has been completed and they did an excellent job. The total cost to the Town was \$412.00 and Supervisor Nayer would like a motion to ask the Sheriff's Department if they can do the meeting room, halls and restrooms in the Town Hall.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler to authorize Supervisor Nayer to contact the Columbia County Sheriff's Department to schedule to have the inmates paint some of the interior of the Town Hall. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Nayer advised the Town Board that we have experienced some leaks in the Town Hall roof due to the back up of ice and we will be contacting a metal roofing company in the spring to look at possible repairs.

Supervisor Nayer will be sending out a memo to all of the Planning Board and Z.B.A. members reminding them of the 4 hours required training that they need to attend.

Chris Quinby explained the plans to have a 10 week program featuring bands, lawn mower tractor pull, family day, etc. The program will not cost the Town any money as he will go to businesses to sponsor the different events. The food businesses in the Hamlet are going to offer a special food package for anyone interested on the nights of the events and the Park Commission will be selling snacks also.

A motion was made by Councilperson Mettler and seconded by Councilperson to have the Parks and Recreation Commission oversee the 10 week Music in the Park Program. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Nayer advised that he is working on updating some minor changes to the Town's Emergency Management Plan.

Supervisor Nayer announced the following changes to for the Town Board Liaison: Councilperson Mettler Agricultural Advisory Committee and Councilperson Sullivan to the Ethics Board.

Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and Councilperson Mettler updated the Board of the status of their research on how the Lighting Districts were formed in the Town of Copake and some of the mistakes in the Districts. Councilperson Mettler and Winchell-Sweeney will have more information by the next meeting. The Board tabled the matter until the April Town Board Meeting.

Old Business:

Do to the request of the Copake Zoning Board of Appeals for more time to look into the changing of which Board would handle the Special Use Permits, the Town Board tabled any action on this matter until the April Town Board Meeting.

Councilperson Metter reported:

“Last month we considered the Opinion of the Ethics Board in which they recommended that the Town provide training to members of non-elected boards on **“appropriate methods for interacting with the public professionally, respectfully, and without appearance of partiality”**.

NYS requires each Board member to take four hours training annually, and it is up to the Town to determine what training shall fulfill those requirements. We adjourned this matter until this evening- for me to check: 1) whether the training could count toward the annual requirement, 2) what it might cost.3) whether it can be made mandatory. The answers are: If we set up training it can count towards the annual requirement; the Association of Towns has offered to provide this training, free of charge, provided that we allow Board members from other towns to attend. And yes, we can make it mandatory.

Councilwoman Mettler advised that she did connect with an attorney Sarah Brancatella who can provide training on ethics. When she spoke to the Supervisor, he told her that it was more “professionalism” which he thought should be taught. Ms. Mettler reported that she had also spoken to Christopher Anderson of Association of Towns- who would be willing to provide a course on professionalism.

Supervisor Nayer feels that the training should be for all Boards and Committees and has issues with mandatory training. Also when it comes to Zoning and Planning Board’s training he would prefer that it be related to Planning and Zoning topics.

Ms. Mettler asked the Board which they would prefer—a training on Ethics- or a training on Professionalism and dealing with the public. Board members indicated that they would prefer a training which would focus on dealing with the public. Ms. Metter agreed to go back to Association of Towns to try to create a course which would really be tailored to what the Board is requesting.

The Board reviewed Highway Superintendent Gregory’s request to purchase a tandem axle all season truck to replace an old vehicle that has over 300,000 miles on it. The cost will be \$219,895.00 through the Onondaga County Bid. Supervisor Nayer explained a few ways to finance this purchase, the Town could take a loan out for \$200,000.00 for five years at 2% to 3% or the Town could use the Fund Balance, the Highway has about \$165,000.00 and the General Budget has about \$1,300,000.00 Fund Balance maybe more. Supervisor Nayer suggested to the Board to use General Fund Balance for the purchase of this vehicle and leave the Highway Fund Balance for emergency situations.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler to authorize the purchase of a new tandem axle all season truck through the Onondaga County bid for a purchase price of \$219,895.00 and be fund balance of the Town. Motion was carried.

Budget:

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Mettler to authorize Park Superintendent Bradway to purchase the annual maintenance supplies necessary for the Park. Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to authorize issuing two \$500.00 checks, one for petty cash and one for the snack train to Bridget Roberts, Summer Playground Director for the 2015 Playground Program. Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons to accept the Justice Court Assistance Program Grant in the amount of \$12,310.89. Motion was carried.

A motion was by Councilperson Mettler and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons to amend the 2015 Budget to reflect the Justice Court Assistance Program Grant money as follows: increase revenue item # A3089 by \$12,310.29 and increase expenditure item # A1110.2 by \$12,310.29. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Nayer advised that after the tax season he will meeting with the Town's Accounting Firm to review the Town's fund balances and start building capital accounts to secure the future of the Town.

Councilperson Reports:

Councilperson Miller-Simmons reported that the Park Commission have elected new officers, still looking for basket donations for the Easter Egg Hunt, the Park Face Book Page is being update on a regular basis now to keep the public informed of upcoming events, the Park Commission will once again sponsor a field trip for the Summer Program and would like the Town Board to approve an amount of up to \$800.00 for the field trip. The Park Commission is also working on a rededication of the Park on its 35 anniversary on July 22nd and 23rd of 2017 and anyone interested on helping with the rededication is asked to contact the Commission. Also the Commission is looking to see if there is a release form that a parent could sign off on to permit the use of photos of children that are attending the Park.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and was seconded by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney to authorize the expenditure of up to \$800.00 from the Special Park Fund to sponsor a field trip for the Summer Program. Motion was carried.

Public Forum:

Lindsay LeBrecht thanked the Town Highway Department for the wonderful job they did this winter. Also questioned if there is a real problem at the entrance to the Library that would require the installation of a street light? Councilperson Mettler advised Lindsay that this recent research with the lighting districts is not about the Library, it is about people who are paying for the lighting district that do not live in the district.

Marcia Becker asked if the Town Board has looked to see where we are as a Town in accomplishing the goals, objectives and tasks set forth in the Comprehensive Plan. Councilperson Mettler stated that the Board did do a work shop on this matter three or four years ago and we have accomplish a lot but we really should hold another work shop once again to review the status of accomplishing these goals. The Board will schedule another workshop to review these goal in a few months.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons that the bills from the Highway Abstract # 3 and the bills from General Abstract # 3 be paid. Motion was carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,