

## Town Board Meeting

August 9, 2014

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

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons to waive the reading of the minutes of the July 10, 2014 Town Board Meeting and accept the minutes as written. Motion was carried.

### Announcements:

Copake Falls Day will be Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 am.

Thanks to Leslie Wood for purchasing the replacement banners for all of the Hamlets of Copake.

The Sheriff's Department will be increasing their patrols throughout the Town due to the number of complaints of speeders.

Presentation: Holly from the Cancer Services Program of Columbia Greene County did a short presentation on the services offered to residents of Columbia and Greene Counties from ages 40-64 who are uninsured or under insured. This program is funded by the New York State Health Department.

### Correspondence:

From the Department of the Army – a copy of a letter to Kipp Edick requesting additional information regarding Permit Application Number NAN-2014-00699-USH installation of a seasonal boat dock and boat hoist.

From NYSDEC – notice of amendments of the final Freshwater Wetlands Maps of Columbia County originally filed on March 6, 1985.

From Rus Davis, Member of the Board of Directors, Community Rescue Squad – a letter asking the Town to donate any surplus computers to the Rescue Squad to be used for their members continuing education courses.

From The Law Office of Philip A. Wellner, PLLC – a letter stating irregularities that took place during hearings conducted by the Board of Assessment Review for the 2014 tax year.

From Michael Langton – a letter expressing his concerns about the traffic in the circle in the center of Copake.

From George Reiter – a letter expressing his concerns with site distance and speed limit in the area of the intersection of Snyder Pond Road and Columbia County Route 7A where he recently was struck by a car while attempting to turn left onto Snyder Pond Road off of County Route 7A.

From Victor Mojica – an email regarding his concerns with a neighbor who is parking her car on the Pine Street which is a private road.

From Kirk Kneller, Brad Peck Insurance – a donation of \$621.00 which represents the total gross entry fees from Community Day 5K. Mr. Kneller would like this money to be used for the Summer Park Program so the kids can go on a field trip.

Public Forum: None

Department Head Report:

Bob Haight, Chairman, Copake Planning Board – reported the Planning Board made a resolution regarding Catamount and now it is up to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Terry Sullivan, Ethic Board Member – reported that they have revised the Policy Procedural Manual and reported that there are vacancies on their Board.

Councilperson Miller-Simmons reported that the Summer Youth Program rapped up on Friday with 60 children attending. Many parents expressed how much their children looked forward every year to the program and parents schedule their summer vacations around the program because their children do not want to miss any of the program. The Summer Program runs an event or a field trip every week for the children. Councilperson Miller-Simmons added that Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Miller and the Councilors work really hard for the program and go above and beyond what is expected of them.

Councilperson Mettler reported that Ag & Farmland Protection Committee is reviewing the first draft of their report and should have a document to the Board at the October Meeting.

Supervisor Nayer reported that the Park & Recreation Commission did not have quorum again this month for a meeting.

Bob Haight, Chairman, LURC reported that they are trying wrap up their assignment and have a document to the Board also by their October Meeting.

Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney reported that the Conservation Advisory Committee did not have quorum this month for a meeting and a meeting is scheduled for September.

Roberta Roll, Chairperson Hamlet Revitalization Taskforce read the following report:

The Copake Revitalization Task Force continues to meet regularly, twice a month. In line with our mission, we have been expanding various initiatives and pursuing new projects to revitalize the hamlet. The BikeCopake initiative, which was so successful last year is being continued and augmented. Recently, we were involved in bringing the Hudson Valley Rail Ride into the hamlet for the first time. Over one thousand riders participate in this event. Many of them came through the hamlet, and although most of them did not stop during the ride, they got a chance to see the town - what we have to offer and the beauty of our area. They now have the opportunity to return and explore Copake. We would like to give special thanks to Rus Davis for helping with traffic control for several hours that day. On Sept. 20th, we will have our second annual Roe Jan Ramble, which, this year, will be sponsored not only by Copake, but Ancram and Hillsdale as well. We will also partner with the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association; money raised by the cyclists through the online campaign site First Giving, will go toward funding the HVRT extension from Copake Falls to Hillsdale.

For many months we have been in conversation and collaboration with Columbia Memorial Hospital on opening a Rapid Care Facility in Copake. We are making progress, and as the project moves forward, we will keep you informed. We are also working on several arts initiatives. The arts have been a catalyst for revitalization in many towns in the area and across the nation, and our own Comprehensive Plan includes the arts as a way to revitalize the hamlet.

#### New Business:

A motion was made by Councilperson Mettler and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons that per the recommendation of Highway Superintendent Gregory, the Board approves waiving the six month waiting period to receive health benefits for the newly hired Highway Employee who left another municipality to come to work for the Town of Copake. Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler that do to the status of the Data Collection Project, the 2000 Ford be declared as surplus equipment and authorize this vehicle to be placed on Auction International Website for sale. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Nayer advised that Highway Superintendent Gregory has requested permission to purchase a new dump body for their 2001 International 4700 six wheeler for a price of \$9,795.00. Supervisor Nayer reported there currently is \$9,300.00 in the Highway Equipment line item and we can move the rest needed for this purchase.

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler that per the recommendation of Highway Superintendent Gregory, to authorize the purchase of a new Everest dump body for the Highway Department's 2001 International 4700 six wheeler. Motion was carried.

Councilperson Mettler spoke about her personal experiences both in a car and on a bicycle at the County Route 7A and Snyder Pond Road Intersection. Councilperson Mettler agreed with Mr. Reiter that this intersection does need our attention, whether it be more signage or a further reduction in the speed limit. Councilperson Mettler recommended that this matter be referred to the Taskforce and they can refer this to the Bike Committee if they want and see what ideas they come up with. Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney added that we can request another reduction in the speed limit and it is documented that before any of us were in office that the County had promised at least two "share the road" signs be installed at the completion of the Brown's Dam and County Route 7A rehabilitation project that have not been installed yet. Councilperson Miller-Simmons also added that Copake is a Farming Community and we have these same problems on Farm Road except instead of Bicycles it is tractors and farm equipment, we have had signs put up tractor crossing and children at play and people still pass tractors on the left while they are trying to make a left turn even with the tractor directional light on. Supervisor Nayer advised that they have the same situation with drivers not paying attention to the Equestrian signs. The Board agreed to forward this matter onto the Taskforce and to the Ag & Farmland Committee for their input.

#### Old Business:

Supervisor Nayer reported that we have received one letter of interest for the Ethics Board and we have re advertised the rest of the vacancies with an August 21<sup>st</sup> deadline.

The Board discussed the Fracking Moratorium Law and has asked Town Attorney Dow to draft a permanent Local Law relating to prohibiting Fracking in the Town of Copake prior to next month's meeting.

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and was seconded by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney to schedule a Public Hearing at 6:45 pm on a Local Law permanently prohibiting Fracking in the Town of Copake. Motion was carried.

Appointments:

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons to appoint Harvey Weber as the Town of Copake's representative to the Office for the Aging. Motion was carried.

Budget Transfers:

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Mettler to authorize Supervisor Nayer to make the following transfers:

From	
A1620.47 (Operation of Plants)-----	\$5,000.00
A1680.2 (Equipment)-----	\$2,500.00
A1680.47 (Misc.)-----	\$1,000.00
A5132.4 (Garage)-----	\$5,000.00
A6410.474 (Community Day)-----	\$2,000.00
	\$15,500.00
To	
A5410 (Sidewalks)-----	\$15,500.00

Motion was carried.

Sales Tax check received for \$150,000.00 some and it was up 9% from last year second quarter. Supervisor Nayer reported that the 2015 budget process has begun with the budget estimate work sheets have been put in every Department Heads mailbox. The Town's Medical Carrier said we are looking at a \$35,000.00 increase in medical insurance premiums. Supervisor Nayer also advised the Town will be switching bottled water providers and it will save the Town about \$20.00 per month.

Roberta Roll, Chairperson Hamlet Revitalization Taskforce read the following request for funds to added to the 2015 Budget:

We have a request to the Board regarding hamlet planning. When the Task Force first presented the need for a hamlet planner to the Town Board, we stated that it would not cost the Town anything, but that we would fund the planning process through grants. We estimated the cost of a planner to be in the range of \$30-35,000. Many towns have spent much more than that; however, we felt that our needs could be met by the above amount. Much of the information

that a planner might need, e.g. water and soil studies, census data, public input, etc., has already been done for the Comprehensive Plan. The Task Force can gather other information and inventories that a planner might require. The Task Force members will be actively involved in creating the plan so that it meets the needs of Copake. In this way, we believe that we can obtain a high-quality plan for a reasonable cost. We applied to several agencies and successfully received \$5,000 from the Rheinstrom Foundation and \$9,000 from Greenway. This gave us a total of \$14,000. We applied to First Niagara twice and worked closely with a bank officer the second time around; however we were turned down for our application of \$5,000. We have researched and applied to other agencies, but in spite of our best and most diligent efforts during the past year, we have not found any that would fund the remaining amount.

Although we have made strides in the revitalization of the hamlet, it is imperative that we move forward with a planner at this point. Before more growth takes place, we need to have a cohesive design plan that takes into account the varied elements of commercial, residential and community growth specific to our hamlet. The Task Force can identify certain aspects, such as appropriate businesses or initiatives, but many of these require siting and specifications which we are not qualified to make. It is also important that the various elements of growth do not conflict, but occur in logical, compatible, cost-effective, and beneficial ways. The design of the downtown is a crucial element in the revitalization process, as it will facilitate vehicular as well as pedestrian traffic flow throughout the hamlet; provide for gathering spaces; and connect the downtown with surrounding areas, such as the park and Town Hall, Taconic Shores, and Rt. 22. Again, this, as well as the maps which will be produced, is an aspect which needs some professional assistance. Another important advantage of having a planner is that many companies (e.g. senior living facility) will not consider an initiative in the hamlet unless there is a full-fledged plan. In addition, most funding agencies will not fund projects unless there is a plan.

We are hoping that the Town will help to fund the cost of a hamlet planner. This is crucial to the work of the Task Force. Time is of the essence. The Greenway funds will not be available after May 2, 2015, which means that the work of the planner must be completed before that time so that we can submit for payment.

In order to ascertain the remaining cost of a planner as accurately as possible, we ask permission of the Town Board to circulate our RFP to appropriate planning agencies. We would hope to get responses by the beginning of September, to interview planners during that month and hire one by the beginning or middle of October.

We thank the Board for its support of our work for the Town.

The Board and Ms. Roll discussed budget amounts and the way the Greenway Grant will pay for the Planner.

A motion was made by Councilperson Mettler and was seconded by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney to authorize the advertisement for RFP for a Hamlet Planner to work with the Taskforce and have these RFPs returned before the next Board Meeting. Motion was carried.

Councilperson Reports:

Councilperson Mettler reminded everyone about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Roe Jan Ramble.

Public Forum:

Harvey Weber emphasized to the Board that the Winkley Water Study should be a part of the Hamlet Planning Project.

Roberta Roll questioned what portion of the medical benefits do the Town's Employees pay? Supervisor Nayer explained that anyone hired after 2011 has to pay 25% of the difference between a single and a family plan. Employees hired prior to 2011 agreed to a high deductible Health Plan so they end up paying a maximum of \$3,000.00 out of pocket. Ms. Roll also ask the status of the Casino Case? Supervisor Nayer reported that there is nothing new to report. Also Ms. Roll questioned why the Board opted to do a Local Law for Fracking instead of giving it to the LURC to right into the Zoning Revisions? The Board explained that the Town Board has been working on this matter and it would easier for the Board to act on this Law.

Bob Haight, Chairman of LURC advised that the Winkley Study has been used in their work.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons that the bills from Highway Abstract # 8 and the bills from the General Abstract # 8 be paid. Motion was carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,