

TOWN OF COPAKE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 13, 2008

At regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Copake the following were present:

Supervisor Crowley, Councilwoman Gabaccia, Councilman Sacks, Councilman Tompkins, Councilman Kiernan, and Attorney Thiemann.

Supervisor Crowley read a list of the following towns that have a state of emergency, no travel allowed.

Taconic State Parkway closed from exit 23 to the Dutchess County line.

If in need of shelter or food call Columbia County Emergency operations center 828-1212.

Supervisor Crowley opened the meeting at 9:00 am with 18 people present.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilman Tompkins to approve the minutes of November 13, 2008 with an amendment on page 6 and 7 – “NYSERDA” not NYSEG. Motion carried.

The following correspondence was read:

1. Don Hegeman, Councilman, Town of Chatham – Charter Communications Franchise Renewal/Request for PST Technical Inspection. Ask board to write letter requesting inspection of Charter Cable system.
2. Charles Dodson – Reminder we remain on Senator Saland’s member item folder for 2009, for three town grant writer’s grant. Each Councilman will send letter to Senator Saland reminding him how important this is to the town.
3. Comprehensive Planning Committee – Resignation of Stuart Carduner and John Bruise. Temporary leave of absence from Skip Pilch. The Committee will present board with recommendation as to a consulting firm on December 13, 2008.
4. Stuart Cardunar – Resignation from Conservation Resource Committee and Comprehensive Planning Committee.
5. Unified Court System – Advising the town has been awarded a grant under the Justice Court Assistance Program for carpeting in the court room.

Supervisor Crowley thanked the Judges and court clerks for all their work, the town will receive \$8,857.00.
Councilwoman Gabaccia thanked Margaret Hosier for all her work in initiating the grant.

6. George Hoffman - Letter of resignation as Court Officer effective December 31, 2008

7. Charles Dodson – Resignation from E.A.B effective December 31, 2008.

8. James VanDeusen, Fire Coordinator – NIMS person of contact for town.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Kiernan to appoint Robert Lopez as person of contact for NIMS POC.

Public Forum

Lisa DeRocha during the power outage on Monday the Copake PD were out checking houses.

Supervisor Crowley thanked the highway crew and County crew for their helps during the storm.

Councilman Tompkins asked if the highway will be offering help to other towns.

New Business:

Motor Vehicle Storage Permits.

Ed Ferratto said last year he disapproved a couple of the permits and the board was to get together and review the sites. No one has gotten back to him, I still feel they are not in compliance.

Supervisor Crowley said he recalled Del's an issue of a gate, Performance Auto a fence, what was issue at Jims. Ed said there are a few issues the fact a year has gone by and they are not in compliance I need to know what it is I'm looking for. He asked the board what it is they are looking for him to do for them to get their permits.

Councilman Sacks said the rules and regulations still stands and we need to bring them into legal compliance.

Ed Ferratto said H&D, Vinnies Auto and Davis seem to be in order.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Kiernan to approve Davis Auto Motor Vehicle storage permit and H&D junk yard permit for the year 2009. Motion carried.

Supervisor Crowley asked Ed Ferratto to inspect Jim's Auto Body, Performance Auto and Del's Auto and give report to town board to take up at year end meeting.

John Keeler asked the board to look at the files on the permits.

Councilman Tompkins presented the board with Emergency Management Team for review.

Councilman Sacks said we need to look at the standard operation procedure.

Recommends that in case of emergency town hall to be opened.

Supervisor Crowley suggested going over plan and getting back to Councilman Tompkins with any suggestions.

Supervisor Crowley met with Congresswoman Gilibrand and a gentleman with ATT cell service. In beginning stages.

Councilman Tompkins said IGA and Copake Sunoco will open up at night for supplies in case of emergency.

Marcia Peteroy said Columbia County Lodging will be offering lodging.

Councilman Tompkins said in Level 1 disaster the Park Building, and then Town Hall, on Level Two it's the Taconic Hills School.

Old Business:

Supervisor Crowley looked into cars that the county surpluses, top of the list for vehicle in the spring.

Mr. Keeler asked about vehicles at highway garage, Supervisor Crowley said Highway Superintendent Proper told him many of the vehicles are junk and can't get clear title to them, he will look into it.

Supervisor Crowley suggested wait till spring, Lt. Andrews will contact him when a vehicle is available.

Attorney Theimann reported the appraisal on the West Copake Firehouse is in, the overall property value is \$50,000.00, parcel 1) .06 acres = \$3,000, parcel 2) .03 acres = \$1,500.00, parcel 3) .91 acres = \$45,500.00.

Representative of Mr. Cronk said he does wish to exercise right of reversion of parcel 2. A court order directing the transfer of the property to the town that specifies be used for community use. It is possible to dispose of if you wish, other wise we have two potential rights of reversion that if anyone wishes to exercise is

\$4,500.00. Councilman Sacks, this all initiated by a private person to purchase the property, the board's decision has a couple paths, inactivity - doing nothing, active state - sell it. I feel we need an active plan.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, we have a comprehensive planning process about to begin and might fit in the picture of that as to deciding what the town wants to do with it.

Attorney Thiemann, some one could still step in and bring action to reconvey it to them, if the town wishes to keep property and have good title they could get release from potential heirs, or bring article 15 action which I don't recommend. Supervisor Crowley suggested the Attorney speak to Mrs. Cronk to try to come to resolution as far as reversion rights.

A motion was made by Supervisor Crowley seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia to authorize Attorney Thiemann to speak with representative of Mr. Cronk. Motion carried.

Supervisor Crowley said all town roads open and passable except Pumpkin Hollow South and Spring Street, our Highway Superintendent will be speaking NYSEG and National Grid.

Town Clerk will contact police to check on the residents on Spring Street and Pumpkin Hollow South.

Councilwoman Gabaccia said NYSERDA will be at town hall Wednesday 10:00 for energy audit.

A motion was made by Councilman Tompkins seconded by Councilman Kiernan to authorize Councilwoman Gabaccia to set up energy audit with NYSERDA for the park building and highway. Motion carried.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilman Kiernan.

Local Government Efficiency Grant Resolution

WHEREAS, the Taconic Hills Central School District and Towns of Copake, Ancram and Hillsdale are seeking to reduce overall operations costs by purchasing and sharing essential facilities maintenance equipment and

WHEREAS, New York State Department of State Local Government Efficiency grant program 2008-2009 presents an opportunity to receive fiscal assistance for implementing programs that reduce overall governmental costs by sharing services and resources; and

WHEREAS, the School District and the surrounding Towns have a history of inter-municipal cooperation specifically focused on public works and other municipal improvements projects and services; and

WHEREAS, the Taconic Hills Municipal Facilities Maintenance Collaborative will jointly purchase and operate a new 75' bucket truck and three pieces of turf conditioning equipment (a vertiquake aerator, a top dresser and a broadcast spreader), and

WHEREAS, the Taconic Hills Central School District as the Lead Applicant, and the three co-applicants, the Towns of Copake, Ancram and Hillsdale, will be applying for \$240,000.00 in Local Government Efficiency grant funds to implement this project, and

WHEREAS, the Taconic Hills Central School District as the Lead Applicant, and the three co-applicants, the Towns of Copake, Ancram and Hillsdale will commit \$6,000.00 as the required 10% local share;

WHEREAS, the municipal co-applicants of Copake, Ancram and Hillsdale have agreed to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the School District in which the shares are listed in detail pending approval of this grant application; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town Of Copake authorizes the Taconic Hills Central School District to apply as the Lead Applicant to implement the Taconic Hills Municipal Facilities Maintenance Collaborative under the New York State Local Government Efficiency grant program for 2008-2009, with the towns of Copake, Ancram and Hillsdale serving as co-applicants; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Superintendent of Schools, Mark Sposato, be designated the Lead Contact Person (and his designee), to submit said application, and to execute all financial and/or administrative processes relating to the grant program.

Dated at Copake, New York
December 13, 2008
Resolution #

Supervisor Crowley	Yes
Councilwoman Gabaccia	Yes
Councilman Sacks	Yes
Councilman Tompkins	Yes
Councilman Kiernan	Yes

Supervisor Crowley said Charles Dodson, Mr. Blue, Lou Kibler and himself worked on revising the policy manual, each board member review and put on agenda next month.

Councilman Sacks said the policy manual states an audit every three years, will initiate in January.

Charles Dodson read a letter from the Comprehensive Planning Committee respectfully requesting that the board authorize them to take the steps necessary to retain River Street consulting firm. Further, we ask the board to take whatever steps necessary to secure the balance of our 2008 budget so that it will be available for payment to the consultant.

Supervisor Crowley said they budgeted \$30,000 this year; there was \$1,500 budgeted last year; contacted accountant at end of the year - the \$14,000 plus will go into unexpended balance in January. Will do budget transfer.

Councilwoman Gabaccia said I don't understand why we can't incumbent the funds now.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Sacks that we incumbent the \$14,344 now for Comprehensive Planning Committee. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Crowley seconded by Councilman Kiernan to hire River Street consulting firm. Motion carried.

Department Head:

Charles Dodson – EAB, four students from Taconic Hills School have intern with Copake businesses. Credit Cybil Howard.

Guide lines for 2009 celebration accounts will be available at the town hall and web site, will be done four times a year, January 6th, April 7th, July 7th and October 6th.

Councilman Sacks suggested collecting as many e-mails as possible from towns people.

William Kane Assessor – Finished appraisal of Camp Pontiac, they drop suit against town. Barbara Filipovits very sick.

Councilwoman Gabaccia said she will be returning next week.

Marcia Becker, Planning Board – Minor subdivision, Roe-Jan Community Library given approval. Renew membership in Planning Federations.

Lisa DeRocha, Park Building – CAT workshop coming up and Parade of Lights. Supervisor Crowley said with State of Emergency should we cancel the lights parade.

Attorney Thiemann said we would be allowed to continue as Copake is not in State of Emergency.

Councilman Sacks said if there is no safety issue and our roads are open I see no problem.

Harvey Weber, Environmental Committee – Waiting for ground water report.

Councilman Report:

Councilwoman Gabaccia thanked Margaret Hosier for getting carpeting in town hall.

Margaret Hosier thanked Councilman Sacks for his help in taking the picture.

Councilman Tompkins, Emergency Operations Plan is out, copy in Town Clerk's office. Thanked Fire Chiefs, Columbia County Sheriffs, 911, Copake Police, Robert Lopez, Larry Proper for their help.

Supervisor Crowley - copy of County budget in Town Clerk's office.

Councilwoman Gabaccia asked if it was true the Supervisors received a \$1000.00 raise.

Supervisor Crowley replied I don't know, the raises were voted on in 2007 for a four year period.

Supervisor Crowley will be meeting with Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development Ken Flood the first of the year. Will be notifying town board and Economic Advisory Board of date.

Councilman Tompkins said a couple of months ago he was with the county in regards to building the infrastructure, I was not happy with what they told him, could you, relay that information to him to speed up the revitalization of 7A and around, get more definite dates.

Supervisor Crowley said the year end meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on December 30, 2008.

Organization meeting Saturday January 3, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Councilman Tompkins asked Town Clerk Hotaling if the town hall closes on Saturday at noon and opened on Tuesday morning would it cause a problem. Town Clerk Hotaling responded a big problem for the public, Monday very busy.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilman Tompkins the bills from general abstract #12 and highway abstract # 12 be paid. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

