

TOWN BOARD
MARCH 15, 2011

PRESENT:

Supervisor Crowley
Councilwoman Gabaccia
Councilman Sacks
Councilman Tompkins
Councilman Kiernan
Highway Superintendent Gregory
Attorney Rappleyea

Supervisor Crowley opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with 29 people present.

Supervisor Crowley thanked the Copake Fire Companies, Highway Department Police Department, NYSEG, Emergency Management, Columbia County DOT, Red Cross, Taconic Hills, Sheriffs, State Police, Town Clerk, Regina Krajewski, Phylis Shadic, Councilman Tompkins, Kiernan and Sacks, Councilwoman Gabaccia, Joe LaPorta, Jeff Nayer for all there help during the ice storm last week.

The board and audience thanked Supervisor Crowley for all he's work during the storm

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilman Tompkins to accept the minutes of February 10, 2011 with the following correction:
On pg, 5 add Accountant Torchia, on accounts receivable for highway garage in 2010 is \$56,000 part of that is sales tax and money receive from Resident Deputy, Rescue Squad, Police, for their gas. Motion carried.

Monthly Revenue and Appropriation Analysis Report was handed out to all Department Heads and Town Board.

Councilwoman Gabaccia and Councilman Tompkins gave a report on the Solar project;
Councilwoman Gabaccia, it was a pleasure working with Councilman Tompkins on this and were ready to move forward. There were a lot of question about this, we sat down and wrote some questions and answers as follows:

HOW MUCH DO THE SYSTEMS COST AND HOW MUCH GRANT MONEY HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROVED?

The Town Hall system was initially budgeted at \$158,300 with grant monies awarded amounting to \$123,00 leaving the town with an additional outlay of \$35,100.

The park building was initially budgeted at \$152,423 with \$140,000 in grant monies awarded leaving a gap of \$12,423.

Since the initial awards Hudson Valley Clean Energy has been able to reduce the cost to the Town of Copake by an additional \$17,000.

The Town is likely to have to make an initial outlay of \$29,000 to complete the two projects. We also will be able to have a viewing area set up within Parks and Recs so people can see the savings generated by the panels.

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO ACCEPT THSES GRANTS EVEN WITH A \$30,000 INITIAL OUTLAY BY THE Town?

It is unheard of for a town to have received two grants of this magnitude. \$263,200 of what really is your tax money will be coming back to Copake. In addition to theses grant monies you will have the electrical savings to each building once the panels are operational. In the case of the Town Hall, that savings will be \$5000 - \$6000 and with Parks and Recs only slightly less. To decline these grants would be pennywise, but pound foolish.

IS IT TRUE THAT IN ADDITON TO THE ELECTRICAL SAVINGS THE SOLAR PANELS WILL GENERATE INCOME FOR THE TOWN?

Yes, its first year of operation the Park Building is likely to generate \$14,000 through the State of NY's SREC program. It will continue to generate annual income through its lifetime. This program initiated by Governor Cuomo will be passed by the NY State Legislature this year. Many states as NJ already have proven the SREC program to be very successful. The Town Hall Building will be eligible for the SREC program after three years at which point it will be producing approximately \$14,000/year.

These revenues are in addition to savings on our electric bills.

HOW DOSE SREC WORK?

These credits which are sold via broker to utilities needing to hit NY State alternative energy production quotes are based not upon excess, but by what our solar panels actually produce. An average market price per SREC credit is \$500. For example, with the Park Building Producing 26,408kWh, we would

generating approximately 26.4 credits (26.4X \$500/CREDIT= \$13,200). And HVCE with its newest design just increased the likely production levels of our Town Hall. With the first year, the Park Building will have paid the \$12,000 even if we do not obtain additional grant money.

WILL THERE BE ADDITIONAL GRANT MONIES TO DEFRAY THE \$29,000 OUTLAY UNTIL WE RECOUP THOSE FUNDS?

Yes Councilperson Gabaccia and Tompkins are pursuing a minimum of 3 grants which range in value from \$2,000 from Berkshire/Taconic Foundation to \$50,000 grant from corporate sponsor. The intension in seeking the \$50,000 plus the dedication of SREC funds to an account solely devoted to alternative energy is to establish a fund dedicated to pursuing energy wise solutions for our town. Two small examples would be solar panels for the Highway Garage and energy efficient heating system. This can all get reinvested back to the Town. Councilman Tompkins, appropriation funding bill, we ended up getting funding over \$37,000 we were a year to late because the House of Representatives changed, and they got rid of appropriation. We received it and then it was taken away.

Councilman Sacks, you guys have done a fantastic job, I would like to add that it prudent that the towns look into alternative energy for the future and you have done that.

Supervisor Crowley, sent a letter to Assemblyman asking for support, if passes Assembly it will go to senate and I will be seeing our Senator Sat. night.

Lindsey Lebrecht, I would like to thank you for all you done on the Solar. Why is there a 3 year delay on the Town Hall?

Councilman Gabaccia, its based upon funding and for the Tow Hall the first 3 years credits has to go back to NYSERD fund, and Park building is Federal funding.

Joe LaPorta, when do we start, and what is time frame of it being operational and will it be done this year? Where are we getting the \$29,000

Councilwoman Gabaccia, start date is April 9th, we do need to start immediately, I'm not sure of time frame educated guess would be a couple of months.

Supervisor Crowley, we got word that Mr. Cassino has signed agreement to pay back the \$21,000 this year in four installments, if were taking \$29,000 out we could put Mr. Cassino money in unexpended to pay back and then set up fund for alternative energy.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, were taking a no interest loan from ourselves to go forward with the solar. We need to start setting goals. I would like to task our Conservation Advisory Committee with doing an inventory of are carbon footprint , because base on that grants and look for area we could reduce are carbon footprint and make us less dependent on foreign oil, and Copake a more sub stable community.

Jeff Nayer, I don't think it a great idea to bank on the Cassino money as he hasn't paid on any thing yet. Dose the \$14,000 come back to us as credit?

Councilwoman Gabaccia, it comes back as money.

Jeff Nayer, I'd like to make a suggestion we set up a capital repair account as the building are getting older.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, I agree with you this money should go into a capital fund.

George Filapovites, I think this is a no brainier, tell me where to put \$30,000 for 2 years and get my money back and make money for the next 40 years.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, we will be consulting with architect, pro bono, in terms of what is the best way to expand the building will devise a plan. Will be looking 20 years ahead.

Councilman Kiernan, every 4x5 foot panel will generate 4.4 kilowatts.

Morris Ordovery, will insurance change to cover the panels?

Councilwoman Gabaccia will ask our insurance agent.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Copake Park Commission – approval from the board to offer Zumba classes at the park building, the fee will cover the cost of the instructor and include a small contribution to the park commission.

Councilman Sacks, I want us to be careful about a commercial business in the building.

Supervisor Crowley, the Park Commission will be running it as a fund raiser.

Attorney Rappleyea, it sounds right as they will be running it themselves.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Tompkins to allow the Park Commission to have a Zumba class at the park building as a fund raiser. Motion carried.

2. Coulmbia County Fire Coordinator –letter commending the Craryville Fire Company and mutual aid companies from Copake, Hillsdale Ancram and Taghkanic on a fire March 6th in Craryville.

3. Charles Dodson – letter requesting purchase of new computer for GIS work. To upgrade the old system will be about \$700, a new computer about \$500.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Tompkins to authorize Charles Dodson to purchase a new computer for the GIS. Motion carried.

4. Dancer’s Marine – renewal of seasonal liquor license.

5. Health Care Consortium – received a grant for resident of Copake and Ancram to get assistance for medications. Copies will be at the Town Hall.

6. Assessor Surprise – appointment of Margaret Anderson as Assessor’s Clerk.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Tompkins to appoint Margaret Anderson Assessor’s Clerk. Motion carried.

7. Mike Bradway – permission to have Tru Green apply the annual pesticide at the park. Approval for part time work for the summer. Permission to bid repair of the tennis courts.

Mike will get bids for tennis court.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Kiernan to authorize Mike Bradway to hire Tru Green for applying pesticides at Park. Motion carried.

8. Berkshire Community Radio – apply for grants, asking for community support.

9. ZEO Ed Ferratto – Joe LaPorta sates that the Motor Vehicle Storage permits are regulated by Town Law. Asking the Town Board to claify this.

Attorney Rappelyea will look into this.

10. Copake Planning Board – Mariner Towers of Pittsfield MA is planning on locating a telecommunications tower in West Coapke. Ask approval to hire consultant as it deems necessary.

Supervisor Crowley, will they be giving you an escrow? Marcia yes, but we aren’t there yet.

Town board authorized the Planning Board to set up escrow account with Mariner Towers for cell tower, therefore any services render will be taken out of the escrow.

11. Diana Jamison – interest in helping with the revision to the Coapke Policy Manuel.

12. Bill Gregory – quote for the security and life monitoring for the Town of Coapke.

Janet Doughty – asked where the letter came from about installing alarm at the museum? Supervisor Crowley, President Clair Vantassel, Historical Society.
Janet - I'm director of the museum and that should come from me. We also have a building and grounds committee. It doesn't come from the Historical Society.

Jason L. Shaw from Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna LLP representative for President Estates Inc. Its sole purpose is to maintain three roads and Copake Lake lakefront used by 26 homeowners who are members of the Corporation. Pursuant to 116 of the transportation Corporation Law, Presidents Estates request that the Town of Copake consent to formation of a sewage-works transportation corporation to be called Presidents Estates Treatment Corporation ("PETC). PETC would be a corporation wholly owned by President Estates. A brief history of the Presidents Estates Subdivision for the Board's background information is attached.

We would like to get the board's consent by next month, we ask the board to have its engineer take a look at plans and make any comments ASAP. DEC says we aren't going to issue the permit to the Corporation to operate the system until we incorporate all the comments from the town in our consideration, they don't want to issue permit and have town come back and say you didn't consider this, or this needs to be changed. We hope to have it under construction by May.

Supervisor Crowley, Attorney Rappleyea and Attorney Shaw will work together with Engineer and set an amount for escrow, and have an answer by the April meeting so we can make a decision on the matter. Attorney Rappleyea suggested a \$5,000 escrow amount.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, we need to have something in place for tracking escrow and bonds as the board changes.

Supervisor Crowley, the first step, we agree to use Mr. Clarks firms. I will get in touch with him and have him call our Attorney. If the Attorney could get us some information by April 1st, we could get moving on this.

Peg Anderson from the American Legion Post 1160 presented the board with a flag and stand for the conference room.

PUBLIC FORUM

Flora Berquist, Copake Methodist Church has a soup kitchen on Tuesday night at the church house.

Jeff Nayer, thanked Councilman Tompkins and Councilwoman Gabaccia for the work on the solar for the Town Hall and Park Building.

Marcia Becker, what's the resolution on the Building Inspector?
Supervisor Crowley, Ralph is back on part time now, will be back to full time in April.

Marcia Becker, Planning Board .4 account is minus, will that be taking care of with a budget transfer?

Supervisor Crowley, the money will be transferred back.

Joe LaPorta, when we had budget work shop all departments were putting in there .4 mileage, when we decided to get the car there was about \$6,000 taken out of the department heads for mileage. Now what is happening when someone uses the vehicle the gas is taken out of there .4 accounts but we took the money out. I suggest we maintain the vehicle for the departments which is around \$1,500 and pay it from the general and transfer to highway. Next year you can put the money back in there .4, if you choose to do so. Board agreed.

ACTION ITEMS

Councilwoman Gabaccia, Economic Advisory Board will be talking to Alice Belt about a park by the fire pond.

Letter sent to State Police on substation.

Councilman Sacks, Economic Advisory Board has taken ownership about the park.

Will present plaque to Randi Shadic at the April fire meeting.

Supervisor Crowley, spoke to Sheriff Harrison, the deputy will be getting fuel at the county highway garage.

Sheriff is proposing putting a sub-station at the soon vacant Hillsdale Town Hall 24/7. How its going to be manned 24/7 I have to find out. Will it be manned with Deputies strictly assigned to our area or deputies that report there and patrolling the county, I'm not sure. As soon as I get more information I will pass it on.

Councilman Sacks, I would like to thank Councilman Tompkins for pointing out the void of coverage in are area.

Supervisor Crowley, I would like to thank Supervisor Baird for he's help.

Attorney Rappleyea, in the code it mention Key Bank as depository, its not a Local Law, so we don't have to change the law just a resolution. I recommended you get recommendation from accountant.

Investment Procurment Policy could be updated.

Supervisor Crowley, the board can look it over and address in April.

Attorney Rappleyea, our 30 day period for referendum just expired for purchasing highway vehicles. Once there ready to pick up we can have closing and get it done.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia to authorize the Supervisor to transfer \$6,000 from contingent A1990.47 to Youth Program A 7310.183. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Tompkins to authorize the Supervisor to transfer \$1,700 from A3120.4 Police to DA2300 highway. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Kiernan to authorize the Supervisor to transfer \$750 from A1440.4 engineer to 8020 .472 Planning. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Kiernan to appoint Jeff Nayer, Harvey Weber, Diana Jamison, Paulette Bonanno and George Filapovites to the Policy Committee. Motion carried.

Jeff Nayer asked Councilwoman Gabaccia to help with organizing the first meeting. See responded yes.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Tompkins that we proceed with the installation of solar panels at Park Building and Town Hall funds to be appropriated from unexpended balance, funds coming back from Mr. Cassino for the grant moneys will replace those funds. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Tompkins the Waste Management Plan be handled by the Town of Copake coordinated by Highway Superintendent William Gregory. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Harvey Weber, Environmental Committee, bought a film called King Corn will be showing on Saturday or Sunday in April. Thanks to Bea O'Connell.

Councilman Sacks, Building Oversight, chairman Gray Davis going through process for applying for various things.

Chris Quinby, Copake Community Day, in town in the morning live music, Farmers market, I mile and 5 k, parade at 11:30, Businesses in town will have specials, tractor pull at the park, four local bands booked. Its JUNE 18th .

Councilwoman Gabaccia, we have 2 terms expiring on the Ethics Board we need to advertise for Citizens Committee to Nominate.

Joe LaPorta, town clock will be done seconded week in April.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Bill Gregory - Highway, thanked he's men for the work and clean up during the ice storm.

May 21st Copake Clean up Day, ask board to consider taking tires.

Will continue to take tires.

Replace the sensor in town car.

Ed Ferratto, ZEO, gave the board a letter about communication.

Supervisor Crowley, gave to Attorney to go over.

Looking at people properties now that the snow is gone.

Marcia Becker, Planning Board, site plan review on Burch Hill Road, Marinor Cell Tower.

Jeff Nayer, Zoning Board, cell tower will be coming to board.

Diana Jamison, Parks'n Rec's, thank you for approving ZUMBA. Have question about park finances. Supervisor Crowley, get in touch with accountant.

Are Rules and Regulations enforceable? Yes

Heard rumor about a band stand. Haven't heard about, its just a rumor.

Joe LaPorta, the attic has an array of stuff that needs to been threw out, could we have some money so the highway could build some shelves to organize and have more storage which is needed. Supervisor Crowley, ask Joe to get a price.

COUNCILPERSONS REPORT

Supervisor Crowley, FEME approved the submission of bills from the Dec. 26th ice storm.

Meeting to audit the books. Friday March 25, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

The County Route 7 project to start end of April. The original plan for Browns Dam was to leave one lane open, notified by Dave Robinson the bridge has deteriorated even more, engineer looked at it and they determined if there working on the bridge it would not be safe to leave one lane open. Therefore they are going to close the bridge and establish a detour. Had they gone with the original plan, (open one lane), by closing bridge it will be done quicker, in 6 to 8 months. There first concern is safety.

Councilman Sacks, it will greatly impact the fire department not only getting trucks out, but getting the men in who are responding.

Supervisor Crowley, the County will be working with Emergency Management and are aware of this.

George Filipovites, I've worked on the bridge and it needs to be done.

Supervisor Crowley, the County will have a plan they will detour and keep Emergency Management in the loop right on down the line.

Highway Superintendent, will they be using town roads for detour, if so keep in mind it will have an impact on town roads. Will they insure are roads?

Supervisor Crowley, I don't know where their going to detour.

Attorney Rappleyea will check with Dave Robinson.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, in terms of getting approval for expensive over \$150, if you can wait till a meeting where it can be done in public, that where you should do it, instead of calling people privately.

Councilman Tompkins, the last storm we had was devastating; we actually passed the test on standard operation time on emergency plan, from the Supervisor right on down to emergency services, highway department and Diane with the park building.

Supervisor Crowley, I did declare a state of emergency, the biggest reason for that is to kick in emergency operations, also if you did not declare state of emergency you have no chance of getting reimbursement form FEME.

Councilman Tompkins, a concern I have is there's no shower accessibility. Supervisor Crowley, the Red Cross did say they have portable showers. Jeff Nayer, you could put showers in the park building restrooms.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks, seconded by Councilman Kiernan the bills from general abstract #3 and general abstract # 3be paid. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

