

COPAKE TOWN BOARD
AUGUST 27, 2011

PRESENT

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

Supervisor Crowley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with 30 people present.

Supervisor Crowley gave an up date on hurricane Irene, numbers and advice on to prepare for the coming storm.

Supervisor Bassin from Ancram and Supervisor Pulcher from Stockport gave a presentation on County Manager.

In 2010 Supervisor Roy Brown started a process to look into a full time County Manager Position.

The County has a \$150 million budget, employees about 1,000 people.

The County Manager Subcommittee believes establishing and filling a County Manager position in 2011 is the fastest and least disruptive way to dramatically improve the day-to day management of Columbia County government, and by doing that, to secure the efficiencies and cost savings which will benefit the residents and taxpayers of the County.

A copy of The Case For A County Manager is in the Town Clerks office and on Counties web-site.

A resolution was put together that said we support the idea of a full time manager, that resolution was defeated at the last Supervisors meeting.

It doesn't mean its over will bring it back again and again until we find the right mix of rationale and Supervisors support.

Supervisor Crowley, one of the biggest hold back is whether its appointed or elected, another is the major function of a County Manager is physical oversight, and we just hired a comptroller. There is talk about merging instead of hiring a new position.

Supervisor Bassin, it came up about consolidating some of the senior jobs. One was to consolidate County Manager and Comptroller another idea was

consolidate Comptroller and Treasurer it would take a referendum. As far as elected it would be a referendum in every town and it must pass in every town.

A question and answer period followed.

George Filapovites, it sounds like you will continue with this idea until you get enough people to agree with your train of thought, instead of accepting if the people say no, I don't see why your wasting your time to bring it up four or five times. I do think it should be an elected position as I'm totally for the people to make the decision.

Can we afford another position now with the way the economy is?

Jeanne Mettler, I'm in support of County Manager, the point that should be raised is that County government is too complex to continue with structure as it is. You need someone who is a professional. This person should not be elected, as he should be non political.

Bob Sacks, I think it's a good idea for the County, I feel towns could also use a day to day manager to take care of and save money for the town and prevent things from falling through the cracks.

Kurt Kneller, is there any data from other towns that have a manager that show long term savings?

Supervisor Bassin, we've talked to other towns that have managers and they all say they've saved money.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, I think this addresses some of the things we're experiencing here. At a later date we should look at it, it's raised in our Comp Plan.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, could you address how the salary was reached?

Supervisor Bassin, the group survey what other County Managers were paid. The range was from \$90,000 to \$150,000. We want to be able to pay enough to attract the right person.

Jeff Nayer, I would like to see you have an idea on the salary and stay within that budget. We bought Ockawaumic and were going to take a big loss on this.

Carol Gansowski, shouldn't you plan it before you fund it?

Supervisor Bassin, most certain.

Supervisor Crowley, sat down with Highway Superintendent, Councilwoman Gabaccia and someone who proposed leasing the tanks at the highway garage. The person you lease the tanks from would supply the gasoline at state bid price, and you pay for leasing of tanks. They pay for all liabilities.

Highway Superintendent Gregory, the town received five (5) bids for the fuel tanks and equipment. We opened the following bids on August 5, 2011.

American Petroleum Equipment & Construction Inc.	\$82,855
Conklin Services & Construction	\$85,659
Northeast Petroleum Tech. Inc	\$94,470
Shaker Flats Equipment	\$99,470
E &FS LLC	\$103,720

Councilwoman Gabaccia, we will need to pass a resolution to go out to bid for the leasing option and also to replace the diesel.

Supervisor Crowley, do you want to re-bid the bids we already have?

Highway Superintendent Gregory, could we throw them out and re-advertise?

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Tompkins to put out bids for the installation of new petroleum equipment. Bid consideration will be for three variations petroleum equipment purchases or lease. A bid will be awarded at a special meeting of the Town Board on September 16, 2011 at 6 p.m. at the Copake Town Hall. Motion carried.

Kurt Kneller, Town insurance agent, Deputy Supervisor LaPorta stopped by the office with discrepancies in the health insurance on highway side and general to the amount of \$18,000 we tried to figure out where the discrepancy was. When the highway went union Supervisor Crowley came and we discussed different options that went very well. We needed to set up new rates and in the process the error was the dental policy which was not included in the process. The Town Clerk opt to go on MVP gold which saved the town \$4,000, you have another retired employee who should be switched over.

Supervisor Crowley, when I talked with Kurt I asked for only the medical so I take the blame for the dental part.

Kurt, it's in the best interest of the employee also that he go to the MVP gold. Supervisor Crowley, this year are premiums for health insurance weren't consistence.

Kurt, MVP billing is so erratic, they'll drop off money on some months and add the next, but if you look at annual it all the same. Why it's different on a month

to month basis I don't know. The town is still well beneath what you were paying ten years ago. You still saved over \$40,000 by changing the plan. On liability you were paying close to \$40,000 now its \$29,000 with more buildings. Supervisor Crowley, ask Kurt for quotes on above ground fuel tanks at the garage.

Deputy Supervisor LaPorta, too much money was allotted to highway for medical and they will have an unexpended balance that we can put towards next year. That's another reason the general side was short. When we do the budget for next year I will have the amount for general and highway separate.

Supervisor Crowley, \$18,000 needs to be transfered from contingency to insurance line, it's been transferred but we need to authorize it.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilman Kiernan to transfer \$18,000 from the contingency line to insurance. Motion carried.

Supervisor Crowley, September 11, 2011 Columbia County 911 memorial will be held in Kinderhook on State Farm Road at 5:30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Columbia County Planning Board – Proposed Comprehensive Plan – this proposed action has no significant county-wide or intercommunity impacts associated with it. The Town Board may take final action on this Local Law with a simply majority vote. The board acknowledges and commends all those involved in the planning and composition of a document of this magnitude, and extends its congratulations.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Tompkins to hold a public hearing on September 8, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. for proposed Town of Copake 2011 Comprehensive Plan. Motion carried.

2. John Keeler, letter requesting the following on Sal Cassino.
Amount of fees town paid from 2000 to present, amount of money town has received from Mr. Cassino, and a list of all violations presently on file against him.

Supervisor Crowley, turned letter over to Foil Officer.

3. Harvey Weber, resignation from Chair of the Environmental Committee.
4. Cipkowski Enterprises Inc. – applying for renewal of liquor license.

5. Assessor Surprise – asked to appoint Joe LaPorta to help on an as needed basis in the field.

Assessor Surprise, we advertised for data collectors for residential, I'm doing the commercials.

Councilman Sacks, we need to advertise. Joe is very knowledgeable, are policy is to advertise.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Sacks, to advertise for assistance to help Assessor in the field. Motion carried.

6. Craryville Inn Inc. – applying for renewal of liquor license.
7. Office of Real Property – Copake's equalization rate is 72%
8. Harvey Weber – resignation from Policy Committee.
9. Department of Environmental Conservation – congratulate the town on adopting the Climate Smart Communities Pledge.
10. Copake Fire District – review the list of rules and regulations regarding the proposed usage of the pond. We need to stress that the gate to the pond used by emergency vehicles can never be locked.
11. NYSEG – completed its review of the solar at the park building, letter serves as NYSEG's final acceptance for interconnection of the project to the NYSES system.
12. Grant Langdon – resolution supporting an amendment to the New York State Constitution permitting the legislature to replace the Grand Jury.

PUBLIC FORUM

Harvey Weber, presented the board with a petition with 101 signatures. We the people of Copake, NY want a referendum on the upcoming November 8, 2011 ballot. This referendum is to decide by the citizens of the Town of Copake, NY to either maintain the Copake Police Department, or to dissolve the Copake Police Department.

Carol Sacks, the library Elinor Mettler walk a thon and BBQ has been postponed.

Chris Quinby, why do we have a gate on the town's pond property?
Councilman Sacks, if it's never to be locked we should get rid of it.
Supervisor Crowley will check with Kurt on liability issues.

ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor Crowley, Lackawana lights and Performance Auto, Zoning officer has issued orders of remedy, they have 30 days.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Crowley, Saturday meeting on Columbus Day weekend.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilman Tompkins to change the Saturday meeting date October 8, 2011 to Saturday October 15, 2011 at 9:p.m. Motion carried.

Supervisor Crowley read resolution for town wide re-evaluation.

Councilman Sacks, do we know what the cost is?

Assessor Surprise, around \$75,000 over a two year period. This resolution is for the state to support us.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Tompkins seconded by Councilman Gabaccia.

WHEREAS, the Town of Copake has not had a town wide re-evaluation of properties in the town in the past several years, and

WHEREAS, the equalization rate for the town is presently at 72%

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Copake authorize the Assessor to conduct a complete town wide re-evaluation of the town and the Town Board will support and assist the Assessor's office for completion of such project. Said valuation will take effect with the tentative roll of May 1, 2014.

Resolution # 15	Supervisor Crowley	Yes
Dated August 27, 2011	Councilwoman Gabaccia	Yes
Copake, NY	Councilman Sacks	Yes
	Councilman Tompkins	Yes
	Councilman Kiernan	Yes

Supervisor Crowley read resolution from ZBA.

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

WHEREAS, the Town Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) has requested, in an effort to reduce costs, that the Town Board set a policy requiring that all applicants before the ZBA reimburse the town for all costs associated with the newspaper publication of and certified mailing of notices for public hearings.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that it shall be and hereby is the policy of the Town of Copake that all applicants before the ZBA shall be required to reimburse the town for all costs associated with the newspaper publication of and certified mailing notices of public hearings.

Resolution # 16	Supervisor Crowley	Yes
Dated August 27, 2011	Councilwoman Gabaccia	Yes
Copake, NY	Councilman Sacks	Yes
	Councilman Tompkins	Yes
	Councilman Kiernan	Yes

Town Clerk read resolution subject to permissive referendum, Dissolution of Town Police Department.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, one thing we need to factor in is the will of the people need to be behind it. I do wish before putting this on the ballot we could do some information gathering to give you some facts.

Supervisor Crowley, we could ask the police chief to give us statistics from the last two years.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, if a clear mandate is establish I'm going to feel a lot more comfortable, if it gets decided by one vote the mandate is not going to be so clear.

Morris Ordovery, you could get some data from other towns that don't have a police force to see if there crime rate is higher or lower.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, we need to have informational meetings.

RESOLUTION SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM

At the meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Copake, held at the Town Hall in said Town, County of Columbia and State of New York on the 27th day of August, 2011 there were:

PRESENT: 5

Supervisor Crowley

Councilwoman Gabaccia
Councilman Sacks
Councilman Tompkins
Councilman Kiernan

Councilman Sacks offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Town of Copake is a Town of the second class, and

WHEREAS, the economic situation has caused the Board to explore the dissolution of the Town of Copake Police Department and determine whether the voters of the Town wish to continue to fund the existence of the Police Department, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, pursuant to the provisions of Section 150 of the NYS Town Law, subject to a permissive referendum that the Town of Copake Police Department is dissolved in accordance with the local law, as attached hereto, and be it further

RESOLVED that pursuant to Sections 82 and 90 of the Town Law that within (10) days from the date of this resolution the Town Clerk shall post and publish a notice which shall set forth the date of adoption of the resolution, shall contain an abstract of such resolution concisely setting forth the purpose and effect thereof, shall specify that this resolution was adopted subject to a permissive referendum; and shall publish such notice in the official newspapers of the Town of Copake and having general circulation in the Town of Copake, and in addition thereto that the Town Clerk shall post or cause to be posted on the sign-board of the Town of Copake, a copy of such notice ten (10) days after the date of the adoption of this resolution.

Seconded by Councilman Tompkins and duly put to a vote which results as follows:

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

Dated August 27, 2011

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilman Kiernan to put the resolution on a referendum Motion carried.

Councilman Sacks, the Building Oversight Committee is in a summer slump, I'll do my best to revitalize it.

Jeff Nayer, Chief Lopez has been on conference calls for the up coming storm, two officers will be on tomorrow.

Diana Jamison, the Park Commission had e-mailed letter to board to be read in reference to funds.

Supervisor Crowley, I asked you to e-mail accountant.

Diana, I e-mailed the accountant and got no response, I went to he's office and he said he would need to do a letter to transfer the money. Since the meeting I have not heard a word.

Supervisor Crowley, I will contact him.

Supervisor Crowley read letter from Park Commission requesting the funds be returned to the commission.

Diana received last bank statement, \$3191.00 has been transferred.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Sacks, to appoint Chris Quinby and John Mengler to the Park Commission. Motion carried.

Diana, park running into a storage problem, at budget time we will request more storage at the park.

Deputy Supervisor, budget letter will be going out this week asked to have back September 20th. We have a 2% cap this year, need to set up workshop for the budget.

Councilman Sacks, there's a state funded program that uses convict labor to build sheds; it's worth looking into it.

John Keeler, there is storage space available at the highway garage that they made available a year ago for the park, and they never used it.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilman Kiernan the bills from general abstract # 8 and highway # 8 be paid. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

