

SPECIAL MEETING  
APRIL 16, 2011

PRESENT

Supervisor Crowley  
Councilwoman Gabaccia  
Councilman Tompkins  
Councilman Kiernan

ABSENT

Councilman Sacks

Supervisor Crowley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with 7 people present.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss removal of trees in regards to County Route 7A project.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, I have some questions regarding what I consider good government, and procedures. We have a public works that has a prior relationship to the firm involved with project. Back in 2003 there was a private meeting here with Angelo that set the stage for this. I see engineer's notes regarding this discussing the trees and the need to get the public to buy into this. When Ms. Sweeny came before us I contacted Art Baer received a reply e-mail stressing their concern is strictly public safety and liability based on expert analyses of the situation. That left me with some questions, I'm glad you're here today Mr. Robinson, I'm curious of what studies of protocol were followed to determine site distant issues. There are also two other site distant issues along the same route which aren't addressed. There were illegally meetings about this, which trees were causing the site problem, e-mail from Supervisor offering about landscaping plans. Supervisor Crowley that was a suggestion. Councilwoman Gabaccia, was he looking for a job or offering service for free. Supervisor Crowley, it was only a suggestion.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, an employee suggested to Ms. Sweeney she be nice and her trees won't be cut down, now I see the County claiming NYSDOT is making them do this, which seems to be in direct opposition of DOT's green light program. What is cost of this project dedicated to the removal of trees, and how decisions are being made at the County level?

Councilman Tompkins, there should have been some type of resolution with County and Ms. Sweeny, I think the County could of stepped forward more concerning the trees.

Supervisor Crowley, the original plan was to reimburse Ms. Sweeny for the land regarding the trees; it came to the County where there was consideration for taking the property by eminent domain. I have to give Mr. Robinson credit we tried to work with Ms. Sweeny, we had meetings the County was offering to pay around \$15,000 for the land, plant new trees and considered a privacy fence.

Dave Robinson, we've had a design for this project for about 8 years. Between 2008 and 2009 the County began acquiring properties for easements ect. Acquisition easements were obtained for purpose of safety. For each easement we obtained an appraisal was done and authorized by NYSDOT, then we made the offer. In the case of Ms. Sweeney's property acquisition was approximately 10' wide and 100' long about 1400' the value of land itself was about \$1000 the value of trees \$15,000 the total offer in the range of \$16,000 to \$17,000. We talked with land owner about the offer and there were other options. Before negotiations broke off I was at a point I was willing to purchase land remove trees, out of our own funds. I allowed the land owner to take the \$1,000 for the land, the \$16,000 for value of screening plant a new row of trees on property, install any screening the landowner wanted. The offer made back to the County, as far as planting were concern, was to replace with 30' trees. Contacted contractor, nursery businesses that would be able to do that one tree was \$10,000 so to do that would have been cost prohibited. We were still agreeable to reasonable size plantings. We weren't able to come to an agreement for the acquisition of the property, with dates and dead line moving on federal project like this we have to meet certain things. If we don't meet the dates for acquisition etc. the money is taken away. Met with DOT in November 2009 to talk about acquisitions, we had no problem with any of the other easement, acquisitions etc. we needed. The only two hold ups we had for this project was the Sweeny property and Taconic Shores. The DOT suggested if the Town was not supporting the taking of the property and removing of trees, for tree limbs that were hanging on County property line and trees on line remove them. Mr. Robinson handed out Google Maps of area. Went over the tree lines and power lines with the town board to show the poor sight distant. Discussion followed.

Supervisor Crowley, Ms Sweeney would you be agreeable to the planting of new trees or something else on your property?

Ms. Sweeney, I being represented by an attorney, the County informed me that there won't be any tree work done till we've had a chance to meet with the County and have agreement.

Supervisor Crowley that leaves us out of it. This is a multimillion dollar project the county funding is only 5%.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, a question was raised by a continuant regarding school buses being allowed to go over bridge on state route 344, she was contacted by the transportation director at Taconic Hills School that there buses are no longer allow to use the bridge. David Robinson, it's a state road I wouldn't know. Janet Doughty, when I called the transportation director at school he said the orders came from Dean Knox at the County. It's in the Town of Copake. Supervisor Crowley, will contact Dean Knox on this matter.

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

Respectfully submitted,