

Regular Town Board Meeting

12/12/19

Members Present: Supervisor Nayer, Councilperson Miller-Simmons, Councilperson Mettler, Councilperson Gansowski and Councilperson Wolf.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Mettler to waive the reading of the minutes of November 14, 2019 Regular Board Meeting and accept the minutes as written. Motion was carried.

Announcements: Check the Town Website and the Copake Connection. Light Parade will be this Saturday. Grange open house from 3 to 5 on Saturday.

Supervisor Nayer congratulated the candidates Jeanne, Terry, Stosh, Hilarie, Bill and Lynn on winning. I believe this was one of the cleanest campaigns in a long time.

Correspondence:

From : Rick Keaveney, Canaan Town Supervisor – a letter explaining the breakdown on what it will cost each Town for the shared service of the C.E.O. vehicle for 2020.

From Michael DiPeri – an email resigning from the Copake ZBA effective December 9th.

From Veronique Fabio, Secretary Copake ZBA – a letter advising the Town Board of the ZBA's recommendation to appoint Neil Klein as a permanent member of the ZBA and Michael DiPeri as an alternate member.

From Bob Haight, Chairmen of the Copake Planning Board – a letter recommending the reappointment of John Urban to the Copake Planning Board.

From Lynn Hotaling, Sole Assessor – a memo requesting the appointment of Lorraine Strohmer as Clerk to the Assessor for 2020.

From Kevin Egan, Director, Government Affairs – three letters notifying changes in their programming.

From Stephen Hoppe, Chairman, Copake Board of Assessment Review – a letter requesting the reappointment of Deb Cohen and the appointment of Maureen McGoldrick to the Copake Board of Assessment Review.

Department Head/Committees Report: None

Public Forum: None

New Business:

Highway Superintendent Gregory advised the Board that during the last storm we had one of the pickup trucks with a sander break down and that left only one pickup with a sander, Superintendent Gregory is

requesting to purchase a new sander so all three pickups will have sanders. Superintendent Gregory got three quotes for a new sander and D & E Repairs, LLC was the lowest bid at \$3,995.00 and they are local.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler to authorize Superintendent Gregory to purchase a new Fisher Steel – Caster 7’ 1.5 yard electric sander with a work light kit from D & E Repairs, LLC for a quoted price of \$3,995.00. Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler to authorize Supervisor Nayer to enter into a contract with the Office for the Aging to continue using the Copake Town Hall for their Senior Lunches. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Nayer reviewed a letter from N.Y.S.D.O.T. advising that it will now be up to the local Municipality to hire a licensed engineer to complete and pay for the study on the road of the proposed speed limit instead of the State being responsible for this study. Supervisor Nayer stated it could cost thousands of dollars for these studies.

Supervisor Nayer reported that there was an interest to submit an application to the Planning Board for a new Cell Tower. The Town’s Cell Tower Law is over eighteen years old and probably needs to revamp to bring it up to date. Attorney Dow advised the Board that there may be Federal Laws relating to Cell Towers that may supersede Town Law. Councilperson Mettler questioned if the Town could have a moratorium on Cell Tower applications until the Town has a chance to look into rewriting the Cell Tower Law? Town Attorney Dow said that the Town could not do a moratorium at this time, at the Federal level they want to roll out this latest technology. The Board tabled this matter until the Attorney has a chance to research this matter further. Chairman Haight questioned if someone submits an application to the Planning Board should it be accepted? Attorney Dow said yes you will have to accept it.

Yearend Meeting will be Friday, December 27, 2019 at 9:00am.

Organizational Meeting will be Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 5:00pm.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and was seconded by Councilperson Wolf to approve settlement of the 2017 tax certiorari proceeding filed by Rasweiler Angus Farms, Index Number 11731-17, at the indicated Revised Assessments, and to authorize the Town's attorney to execute the Settlement Agreements accordingly.

Parcel Number	Original Assessment	Reduction	Revised Assessment
144.-1-34	\$2,558,900	\$218,400	\$2,340,500
155.-1-2	\$1,724,300	\$149,500	\$1,574,800
144.-1-6	\$1,974,000	\$65,900	\$1,908,100
144.-1-33	\$381,000	\$0	\$381,000
144.-1-27.200	\$118,100	\$0	\$118,100

Total reduction is due to reduction in assessment of structures; assessed land value has not changed. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Nayer explained to the Board that he was advised by the Canaan Supervisor that NYSEDA is requiring a charging station be installed as part of the requirements for receiving the \$35,000.00 used for the CEO Vehicle and each Town is responsible for a quarter of the cost of the charging station which would be \$2,042.00.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons to approve the \$2,042.00 for the purchase of the charging station. Motion was carried.

Budget:

Supervisor Nayer advised that the cost of the repairs for the Park Building Generator was \$632.50. Roe Jan Museum Building, the tree is removed, chimney repaired, gas line is fixed and just waiting on the roof repairs as soon as we get some good weather. We are just waiting for the Clock Company to make the repairs to the Memorial Clock.

Budget Transfers and amendments:

BUDGET TRANSFER 12/12/19

FROM

A8020.478 (Recodification) \$1750.00

TO

A8020.13 (PB Secretary) \$1750.00

BUDGET AMENDMENT 12/12/2019

A2680 Insurance Recovery \$13,414.54

A7520.47 Historical Properties \$13,414.54

Supervisor Nayer advised that the Town's interest rates on our bank accounts have dropped a little due to the Federal Government dropping theirs. We are still making out well, but just want to let you know that they have changed.

Supervisor Nayer advised the Board that we have an unpaid FOIL Request from work that was done for Save Craryville for \$264.00 and they have not paid it. Town Clerk Proper has sent them two bills and have advised them that we would like to have the bill paid prior to the end of the year when the 2019 books will be closed out. Supervisor Nayer questioned if we can refuse to provide any other Foil information until the outstanding bill is paid in full. Attorney Dow advised that we cannot deny them access to view information requested in a Foil but we do not have to provide copies until the outstanding bill is paid.

Appointments:

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and was seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to reappoint Deb Cohen to another five year term on the Board of Assessment Review that will expire on 9/30/2024 and appoint Maureen McGoldrick to the vacancy of the unexpired term that will expire on 9/30/2023. Motion was carried.

Planning Board Member, Z.B.A. Member and Assessor Clerk will be appointed at the Organizational Meeting. Councilperson Mettler stated that Lee Heim also sent her his recommendation for the C.E.O./Building Department Clerk which also will be handled at the Organizational Meeting.

Councilperson Reports:

Councilperson Wolf stated that he very much enjoyed working with Jeff, Kelly and Larry and learned a lot over the past few years and thanked them very much.

Councilperson Mettler attended the Copake Planning Board Meeting and the Planning Board closed the oral part of the Public Hearing for GRJH and the Public has ten days to submit written submissions on this matter.

Councilperson Mettler thanked Kelly for her eight years of dedication to the Town. She served for more years than anyone can remember as Liaison to LURC and we thank her for her patience and dedication in that role, as well as her service as Deputy Supervisor.

I thank Jeff Nayer for eight years of service to Copake and for his dedication, commitment and long hours. I have learned a lot from Jeff. He has been a careful steward of the finances of Copake and he leaves us in a strong financial position with substantial reserves. He also convinced Columbia County to finally make good on their promise to rebuild the roads in the middle of the Hamlet and for that we are all grateful.

Finally I want to thank Larry for 20 years as Town Clerk and 14 years as Deputy Town Clerk. When you open the dictionary to "public servant" you find a picture of Larry Proper. He is dedicated, he is competent, and he is kind to everyone. He has been tireless in his dedication to this Town and to all of us in this Town. For his service to this town and for his friendship, I will always be grateful.

Councilperson Gansowski and Planning Board Chairman Haight reported that Mr. Casino has a new Lawyer, Councilperson Gansowski, Chairman Haight, three members of N.Y.S. Ag & Markets and also DiDi Barrett had a meeting about the application. Councilperson Gansowski added that the Town never seen some pictures and information that were sent into us and that the information we found out that the gentleman from Ag & Markets took a ride with Mr. Casino to get the information and then there was a series of pictures of the fields that he claims he is using for his crops and it is a lie.

Councilperson Miller-Simmons, the Park Commission is asking the Town Board to apply for a \$2,500.00 grant from the Bank of Greene County to cover the cost of entertainment for the Music in the Park Program. The deadline for the application is in the middle of January. Supervisor Nayer, the Board

needs to look if there something else the money should go towards. The bands have to realize the Town only cuts checks twice a month and they may have to wait to get paid if this check is to be written out to an individual name they are going to receive a 1099. A lot of bands want cash only. Councilperson Mettler will follow up with Chairperson of the Park Commission. Also reminder to please bake cookies for the Holiday Party on Saturday.

Councilperson Gansowski reported that Superintendent Gregory submitted all the forms for the \$98,000.00 grant to replace the box culvert on Yonderview Road so hopefully we will get the funding. The ZBA has the Copake Camping Resort application for a 10 month camp ground and it came up for a vote and it end in a two to two tie vote. Attorney Dow clarified that if the ZBA does not hold another vote on the Copake Campground request within 62 days the two to two vote will become a denial for their application for a ten month camping variance. The public hearing was left open and they will have to take another vote when they have a full board. Also he thanked Jeff, Kelly, and Larry for everything they have done for the Town and thanked the voters for their support.

Supervisor Nayer stated that in his eight years it has been pleasure working with everyone.

Public Forum:

Roberta Roll asked if the Town had fixed the Tennis Court cracks. Supervisor Nayer said that when Copeland came in to fix the Skate Board Park they fixed the last crack in the Tennis Court.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons that the bills from Highway Abstract # 12 and the bills from General Abstract # 12 be paid. Motion was carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,