

TOWN OF COPAKE  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
October 9, 2008

At the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Copake the following were present: Supervisor Crowley, Councilwoman Gabaccia, Councilman Sacks, Councilman Tompkins, and Councilman Kiernan.

Supervisor Crowley opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with 42 people present.

Councilman Sacks made a motion to accept the minutes of September 13, 2008 with an amendment on page 7 *effected by Sal Cascino, not effective*, seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia with an addition on page 4 *when asked about break in at park the answer was no. Supervisor Crowley said there was a break in*. Motion was carried.

The following correspondence was read:

1. Historical Society – An estimate to redo the floors in the museum.
2. Charter Cable - New Contract franchise up in March of 2009. Supervisor Crowley suggested to ask for volunteers to work on committee.
3. Copake Sunoco – Applied for renewal of liquor license.
4. John D. Meyers – Columbia County Volunteer Fire Association – Asked for clothing bin at town hall.
5. Community Rescue Squad – Thanking the board for allowing them the time to present their powerpoint presentation.
6. Charles Dodson – Events calendar page on website is now being scammed over 2000 times per month; we have removed the form to allow public entries onto this page. They should be sent to cdodson@fairpoint.net.
7. Officer in Charge Lopez – Requesting hiring of part-time Police Officer Christopher Gardina.
8. ZEO Edward Ferratto – Requesting replacement of white vehicle as soon as possible so the departments can carry out town business.
9. Camphill Village – Letter thanking highway crew for doing such a great job maintaining our roads and keeping Camphill Village accessible. Also, request for 15 mph speed limit from Bluestone Office to last house on Camphill Road, Orchard House. Also install a slow sign before the Bluestone Office.
10. Columbia Green Humane Society – 2009 contract for housing of dogs.
11. John Keeler – Article from Poughkeepsie journal about municipality doing a four day work week.

Public Comment:

Karen Hallenbeck asked that the town not allow the clothing bin. Where do we stand with the lights.

Town Clerk Hotaling said we're waiting for NYSEG to install 250 watt bulbs, they said that should prevent the glare.

John Keeler addressed the public about article in Poughkeepsie Journal, three towns have gone to four day work week. (see attached)

When Mark Molinaro was here several months ago he surveyed the audience as to what they would like to see for the town. I would like to know who has the chart and what action has been taken.

What is done about the streams with flooding?

Is money going to be put in budget for gate at garage?

Is money going to be put in budget for youth program?

Councilman Sacks said the chart is in the hands of the Comprehensive Planning, the other three will work on.

Supervisor Crowley said the money is not in budget now but planning for next year. The youth program - we gave them \$500.00 from the Friday Night Blast. I feel they can raise their own money, will appreciate it more.

Fran Miller asked if that's how you treat seniors. Supervisor Crowley said no.

We supply building for the youth, with Friday Night Blast the youth was not there when it came time to clean up. Councilman Sacks said the EAB has been handed the responsibility as to where the funds from celebrations will go; it's a theory and we're working on it.

Councilman Kiernan said Larry, Danny and him are working on the stream issue with DEC.

Jeff Nayer said as far as the youth, we supply building, DJ and chaperones, they need to let us know what they are looking for.

Karen Hallenbeck said she gave the youth representative her phone numbers and said she would help, she hasn't heard from them.

Diane Shadic asked what was doing with the General Store.

Supervisor Crowley said there was report of rats, ZEO Ferratto called the Health Department. They checked the store - the garbage that was out back was not food, saw no signs of rats or infestation. Diane Shadic said why wait? Write a letter. Supervisor Crowley asked the ZEO to write letter.

Diana Wilson said she was surprised that only 2 members from Planning Board were at Saturday's meeting in reference to Housing Resources.

Councilwoman Gabaccia said the two members of the Planning Board with the most knowledge about Housing Resources would have been Marcia Becker and

Chris Grant. They were unable to attend due to prior commitments. Marcia Becker did request a postponement of meeting but we went ahead.

Supervisor Crowley said when we set date he e-mailed Marcia asked to have someone there, she said she would be out of town, I asked about Chris Grant I didn't hear back till ads were in paper. I e-mailed her back and didn't hear back. When I received e-mail about postponement, ads were already in paper. Supervisor Crowley said when Marcia returns he will meet with her and get some answers.

Diana Wilson asked why her foils were sent to Attorney.

Supervisor Crowley said, I was under the understanding all foils go to Town Clerk.

Attorney Thiemann recommended all foils go through him.

A motion was made by Councilman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Tompkins all future foil requests go to Town Attorney. Motion carried.

Arnold Anderson asked if the board would reconsider them meeting on Friday nights at the town hall.

Councilman Sacks said this is a public building, and if you're willing to sit here without heat and air conditioner, it's a reasonable request.

Supervisor Crowley read budget transfer.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilman Tompkins to authorize Supervisor Crowley to do the following budget transfers:

<b>From Account #</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>To Account #</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Total</b>
1410.4	Town Clerk	1620.4	Buildings	\$2,000.00	
1420.4	Attorney	1620.4	Buildings	5,000.00	
1910.4	Unallocated Ins.	1620.4	Buildings	5,000.00	
					\$12,000.00
1910.4	Unallocated Ins.	1670.4	Central Printing	3,500.00	
5010.1	Supt. of Hwy.	1670.4	Central Printing	6,500.00	
					10,000.00
5010.	Supt. of Hwy.	1680.2	Central Data Equip.	6,500.00	
					6,500.00
3620.4	Safety Inspection	6772.4	Meals on Wheels	500.00	
8010.4	Zoning officer	6772.4	Meals on Wheels	500.00	
					1,000.00

5010.1	Supt of Hwy.	7140.4	Playgrounds	5,000.00	
Unexpended Bal		7140.4	Playgrounds	5,000.00	
					10,000.00
Unexpended Bal.		7310.4	Recreation	3,600.00	
					3,600.00
7140.2	Playground Equip.	7550.4	Celebrations	1,500.00	
8010.4	Zoning Officer	7550.4	Celebrations	1,000.00	
					2,500.00
Unexpended Bal.		7550.41	Comm. Day	3,400.00	
6326.11	Environmental Committee	7550.41	Comm. Day	1,900.00	
					5,300.00
TOTAL TRANSFERS				\$50,900.00	\$50,900.00
Motion carried.					

Jeff Nayer looked into programmable thermostats at a price of \$146.98. Mr. Nayer will donate his time to install the three and the price is his cost.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Tompkins to purchase 7 day programmable thermostats. Motion carried.

Supervisor Crowley said there was discussion on building cleaning. Larry suggested we hire one for all three or hire a cleaning service. Councilman Tompkins said a background check would be needed for police. Councilman Sacks said we've been happy with services we have and at reasonable rate. Councilman Tompkins said he doesn't see an advantage, does not support.

Supervisor Crowley said per Highway Superintendent, we've always fertilized maple tree in front of museum and asked for a motion. A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Tompkins to fertilize the maple tree by church museum. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Proper asked the board to surplus the white car to put out to bid.

A motion was made by Councilman Tompkins seconded by Councilperson Kiernan to declare white car surplus and put out for bid. Motion carried.

John Keeler asked about other trucks that are at garage.

Supervisor Crowley said he would talk to Larry.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Sacks to hold the public hearing on the 2009 budget Thursday, November 13, 2008, at 7:00 P.M. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Crowley, seconded by Councilman Tompkins any purchases over \$150.00 requires board approval till the end of year, effective immediately. Motion carried.

Supervisor Crowley made a motion that all contacts with Attorney goes through the Supervisor. There were times that he called Attorney and someone else had called on the same matter, therefore the town is charged double. I can always be located; if not in town it becomes the duty of the Deputy Supervisor.

Councilman Sacks said its wrong, it's not democratic, if I have a problem and need to speak about Cascino case and I need to call Gif Whitbeck, I do not want to go through you, I want to call him directly.

Councilman Sacks said he will give a courtesy call that he is about to call lawyer. Supervisor Crowley asked the Town Clerk to keep a log on calls the Town Board makes to Attorneys.

Councilman Tompkins seconded the motion. Motion carried. Councilwoman Gabaccia and Councilman Sacks voted no.

Attorney Thiemann contacted two appraisers for West Copake Firehouse.

1. Empire State Appraisals at \$1,500.00
2. Conkra Appraisal Associates at three individual parcels and complete for \$800.00.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilman Tompkins to hire Conkra Appraisal Associates for appraisal of the West Copake Fire House as a whole and three individual parcels that make up the whole at a cost of \$800.00. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Tompkins seconded by Councilman Kiernan to sign contract with Columbia Green Humane Society for 2009. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Crowley asked about the clothing bin.

Councilman Sacks said we should talk to them before making decision.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Tompkins to accept bid of \$900.00 from Country Home Service to redo floors in museum. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Sacks to appoint Christopher Gardina part time Police Officer. Motion carried.

Tabled discussion on Exemption from Real Property Taxes for veterans who served during the Cold War in order to gain more specific information on the exemption. Public hearing set for November 13, 2008, at 6:45 pm on this exemption. Supervisor Crowley asked Attorney Thiemann to prepare 2 local laws on this exemption – one as a 10% exemption and one as a 15% exemption and the board will decide at the next meeting.

#### Committee Reports:

Ralph Platt, Co-Chair, Park Commission: Haunted House – Oct. 24 & 25; Light Parade – Dec. 13. Monthly meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> Tues. of month, open to public. Oct. 28 – Special Meeting 6 – 8 pm to go over guidelines on rental of the park building. Mr. Platt questioned the money raised by Park Commission at their various events. This money is turned over to the town and then, to his understanding, is deposited in General Fund. He has asked for a report on these monies in the past but has not received one. Park Commission expects the monies raised to be turned back over to the Park by the end of year. As of first of year, if money is not returned, Mr.Platt plans to contact attorney for an investigation into these matters.

Supervisor Crowley stated he has contacted the town accountant, and once the budget process is over, they will be working on this matter of park funds.

Councilman Sacks recommended the park set up a “Friends of Copake Park” and file for 501C3 status.

Supervisor Crowley will set up a meeting with accountant and park commission.

Charles Dodson, EAB: THHS joined with EAB to set up Internship Program, sponsored by Dr. Mark Sposato. Neil Klein & Leslie Wood will start list of people who would be interested in having interns work with them.

Charter Cable: Councilman Sacks and Karen Hallenbeck will sit on committee to research cable options for the town. Councilperson Tompkins and John Keeler will work together on the electric issue.

Ed Ferratto, ZEO: Reported a letter will be sent to owner of Copake General Store regarding garbage and rat situation at their store.

Lisa DeRocha, Park Building: Upcoming events scheduled at the park building include Columbia County Play Group Mondays & Fridays 10 – 12; Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast; VFW Roast Beef Dinner.

Councilperson Sacks: Reported on his ride through town with Mr. Keeler and photos taken of zoning violations. Will schedule time with ZEO to go over them and see what actions are appropriate.

Councilperson Gabaccia: Reported on the following:

*“Two small items to report this evening. On Monday, I attended a grant writing seminar sponsored by Congresswoman Gillibrand at the FDR Library in Hyde Park. Also in attendance was Morris Ordovery, and we came back with numerous sources including Federal, State, and private foundations which we hope to begin approaching to seek grant monies for the Town of Copake. I am asking every department head to select a project they would like to complete so that Morry and I may begin a systematic approach to locating grant monies to fund those projects. We are at the end of one grant cycle and so should be fully geared up for when refunding of these programs begins in the spring. NYSERDA specifically mentioned that they have grant monies to give away, and I would like the Town Board’s go-ahead to get on their list for their photo-voltaic program. I would also like to suggest that we ask for energy audits of our municipal buildings by NYSERDA with an eye toward energy cost savings.*

*Secondly, we are still on the court docket for October 23<sup>rd</sup> regarding contempt charges against Salvatore Cascino for violations of the TRO at 13 Lackawanna Properties. Hopefully this date will stand and Judge Nichols will be able to render a decision after what has been a long wait.*

*Also, I wish to extend my apologies for missing the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding Housing Resources. I was unable to close my business that day to attend and in this economy, any busy day is a good day. Thank you.”*

Motion made by Supervisor Crowley, seconded by Councilperson Tompkins to order a NYSERDA energy audit on the Town Hall building first. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilperson Gabaccia, seconded by Councilperson Sacks that the town of Copake declare their town an *“Energy Smart Community”*. Motion carried.

Councilperson Tompkins reported the Emergency Management Plan is about 70% complete and will have it to town clerk in approximately two weeks. Will be given to board members before next meeting to go over.

Supervisor Crowley announced flu shots will be given at Copake Town Hall on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Motion made by Councilperson Kiernan to go into Executive Session regarding a security issue, seconded by Councilperson Gabaccia. Motion carried..

Motion made by Councilperson Sacks, seconded by Councilperson Tompkins bills from general abstract #10 and highway abstract # 10 be paid. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilperson Gabaccia, seconded by Councilperson Kiernan meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,