

## COPAKE TOWN BOARD MEETING

January 10, 2008

At the regular meeting of the Copake Town Board the following were present: Supervisor Crowley, Councilperson Gabaccia, Councilperson Sacks, Councilperson Tompkins, Councilperson Kiernan, and Highway Superintendent Proper.

Supervisor Crowley opened the meeting at 7:30 pm with 68 people present.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sacks seconded by Councilperson Tompkins to amend the minutes of 1/4/2008, organizational meeting, to read the police salary as \$14.32 per hour. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sacks seconded by Councilperson Tompkins to dispense with the reading of the minutes of December 21, 2007, and January 4, 2008, and accept them as written. Motion carried.

Captain Bartlett from, Columbia County Sheriffs, informed the board that the Sheriffs Department will be available 24/7 for the Town. He also requested that the board allow the Sheriffs Department to have a satellite office at the Copake Police Department. It will be more efficiency to the town.

Councilperson Sacks asked if he could put the request in writing for them to go over.

The following correspondence was read:

1. From Randi Shadic Fire Chief Copake Fire District – A letter of appreciation for the surplus vehicle. The vehicle does not meet their needs and may pose a high maintenance and is therefore respectfully being refused at this time.
2. From Hudson River Valley Greenway - Letter announcing meeting will be held January 16, 2008 at the Henry A. Wallace Center at 10:00 a.m.
3. From Association of Towns - Training school February 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton New York.
4. From Planning Board - Letter asking for approval for Marcia Becker to attend the training classes in New York.
5. From Young at Hearters - A thank you for the town's appropriation to the organization and asked to be considered in the 2008 budget.
6. From Zoning Board – at its regular meeting the board voted to affirm the understanding of the meaning of sections of Copake Zoning Board Code 232.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sacks seconded by Councilperson Gabaccia to give permission to Marcia Becker to attend the Association of Town. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Proper asked for permission to research County and State bids for purchase of new truck also to declare 1993 GMC surplus equipment.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sacks seconded by Councilperson Kiernan to authorize Highway Superintendent Proper to research State and County bids for purchase of new truck. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sacks seconded by Councilperson Tompkins to authorize Highway Superintendent Proper to declare 1993 GMC surplus equipment. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Proper reported the side walks have been fixed.

Judge Herman reported Judge Spencer held first court Monday night, working well together.

Officer Lopez reported he's been working on restoring AED program. Asked for permission to purchase batteries for AED Unit., adjusted police schedule which will help the budget.

Resignation of Officer Stella need not appoint another Sergeant.

Supervisor Crowley asked about certification program.

Officer Lopez said he could do it himself.

Councilperson Sacks asked what the benefits are to accreditation.

Officer Lopez replied there are no requirements for accreditation, it's a prestige thing.

Supervisor Crowley said the town hall should have an AED unit and everyone trained on it.

Planning Board – Marcia Becker reported few boundary line adjustments, one minor sub division, and major subdivision still on hold.

Zoning Board of Appeals - Councilperson Sacks reported discussed section 232 and will be hearing a lot about non-conforming lots, define what that is.

Park's Commission – Mike DeRocha reported resignation of George Filipovits, floor to be done in February, post opening for commission, no circus this year, January 26th spaghetti dinner to benefit THMS.

Ethic Board – Councilperson Gabaccia reported reviewed new code, closed out two cases, one complaint still considering.

Environmental Committee – Harvey Webber reported hiring Steve Winkler for grant writing, testing of point wells and small lots in Copake Lake area. Looking at testing ground water in cemetery.

Conservation Resource Committee – Stuart Carduner reported committee on resources in town will divide up to farming, wetlands ECT. GIS is global Information System which brings all data together on a mapping system.

Charles Dodson asked if the use of GIS will be on web site.

Committee on Aging - Harvey Weber reported a letter is being sent to the school asking for extended hours for the pool. Dance May 5, 2008 with two speakers. Meeting time changed from 5:30 to 6:30 pm second Thursday of the month.

Ed Ferratto met with Ag & Markets at the General Store everything taken out  
Councilperson Sacks talked with Fairpoint Communications about bring internet into the town hall. Rate is \$29.95 month installation free and one time charge of \$29.00 for hardware.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sacks seconded by Councilperson Gabaccia to purchase internet connection for Court room and Conference room for \$29.95 a month plus fix fee for 90 day test run from installation with sign in sheets for use. Motion was carried.

Councilperson Gabaccia extended condolences to Jane Peck and family in the loss of her husband.

Will be posting hours at Town Hall to commence the beginning of February.

New copy of Policy Manual will be available January 14<sup>th</sup>. Extend the due date till end of February for the acknowledgement of Code of Ethics and Policy Manual.

Councilperson Gabaccia commended the Ethic Board for their diligence and devotion to fairness.

Councilperson Gabaccia addressed the issue of Comprehensive Planning - Shawn Nolan Director of Pace Land Use Laws, notes such committee consist of the heart of all relevant boards and committees with the addition of community members and Assemblyman Mark Molinaro referred to Pace Land Use Law as standard for all comprehensive planning. Workshop will be held most of all Comprehensive Planning goes beyond those of us sitting here in this room today.

Councilperson Sacks - the best way to succeed is to have department heads and branch out to invite more of the public.

Supervisor Crowley asked if there were restrictions on amount of citizen's participation.

Councilperson Gabaccia responded at this point there is one citizen member, and I will be willing to recommend a resolution to expand to three members.

Councilperson Tompkins said he'd like to see 3 core members on with 7 citizens - give the citizens a chance to come forward to see what they have to offer. Hillsdale had 30 members and they achieved their goal.

Supervisor Crowley suggested leaving it open for discussion on how many citizens.

Councilperson Gabaccia said start with 5 core members and select a Town Board member to be one.

Councilperson Tompkins said he personally would like to see 3 core members and see how many citizens want to participate. Assemblyman Molinaro said he would come down to assist us.

Councilperson Kiernan said we need the people of the town's input and you need only one person to oversee it.

Councilperson Gabaccia said the workshops are where the citizens become involve.

Councilperson Tompkins said when he went door to door, many citizens said they would like to participate, and I want to hear from the people.

Jeff Nayer said in the Policy Manual it says that no board member can serve on more than two boards.

Councilperson Gabaccia said the intent is to get department heads on committees, the committee was rescinded based on the notion it wasn't legal because we didn't advertise for openings. Supervisor Crowley said NYS law said that the only thing the State requires is one member of Planning Board be on it. If we keep the 5 members and get a big response from community, I would like the option to expand it to five or seven community members. Councilperson Gabaccia said she would be willing to expand it to two more citizens' members. Attorney Thiemann said expanding the committee dose not mean work won't get done.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sacks seconded by Councilperson Kiernan to amend the resolution with 5 core members and amount of citizens participation be left open. Councilperson Tompkins opposed. Motion carried.

Marcia Becker asked with the new policy manual will the Town Board appoint Jon Urban on the Planning Board.

Supervisor Crowley said one section said we would advertise for any vacancies or anticipated vacancies, if someone's term is up, that's an anticipated vacancy.

Marcia Becker said it was advertised before.

George Filtrovits asked why Town Clerk Deputy is not advertised.

Supervisor Crowley said by state law the Town Clerk can appoint her deputy.

Supervisor Crowley suggested waiting for letters of interest.

Supervisor Crowley appointed Councilperson Tompkins to interview with Councilperson Gabaccia.

Marcia Becker said the appointment of Planning Board member is crucial as we have to have a quorum.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sacks seconded by Councilperson Gabaccia to leave the appointment of Jon Urban to the Planning Board and Sue Streeter to the Park's Rec's as it stands being the recommendation came prior to the Policy Manual. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gabaccia seconded by Councilperson Sacks to appoint Morris Ordovery, Leslie Wood and Neil Klein to the Economic Advisory Board. Motion carried. Their term will expire December 31, 2010.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sacks seconded by Councilperson Gabaccia to appoint Lou Kibler alternate member to the Zoning Board. Motion carried.

Supervisor Crowley asked town clerk to advertise for dog numerator.

Supervisor Crowley asked Officer in Charge of Police Lopez to inventory the radios and meet with Highway Superintendent Proper and get back to board in February.

Supervisor Crowley said we need appointment of Budge Officer.

Councilperson Gabaccia said she expressed reservation because she saw it as a conflict but will not engage in an argument.

Supervisor Crowley appointed Lawrence Proper Budget Officer for 2008.

Supervisor Crowley said there were questions on the procedural matter of the Ethics Policy as to whether it was passed legally with the changes. Attorney Thiemann said the changes were minor. Supervisor Crowley asked the Town Clerk to proceed with sending Local Law # 4 to state to be filed.

Supervisor Crowley said during campaigning he found the citizens wanted more input in the Zoning for the town. He proposed a temporary committee of citizens with letters of interest to go for 90 days to look at zoning, read zoning, and come back to board in 90 days with recommendations.

Councilperson Gabaccia asked is this a town board committee and are we soliciting letters of interest. Supervisor Crowley replied yes.

Councilperson Sacks said he doesn't think it can be done in 90 days.

A discussion followed.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sacks seconded by Councilperson Gabaccia to hold a public forum for citizens input on Zoning with ad in papers and on the website. Motion carried.

Zoning Enforcement Officer Ferratto asked if the board would reconsider putting the white car back in use as a town vehicle.

Councilperson Gabaccia suggested a log book be used.

Supervisor Crowley said the town board will be looking into a program where seniors can work x amount of hours a week with a certain % taken off town taxes in lieu of payments.

Frank Peteroy read the attached letters to the board, Re: 1. Public Officer, Code of Ethics a comment on recusal. 2. Decision to demand resignation Ltr dtd 28 December 2007.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gabaccia seconded by Councilperson Sacks to go into executive session with Lawyer on personnel matters. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gabaccia seconded by Councilperson Sacks to return to regular meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sacks seconded by Councilperson Gabaccia the bills from general abstract # 1 and highway abstract #1 be paid. Motion carried

A motion was made by Councilperson Sacks seconded by Councilperson Gabaccia the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

