

TOWN BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
November 12, 2009

Present:

Supervisor Crowley
Councilman Kiernan
Councilman Tompkins
Councilwoman Gabaccia
Councilman Sacks
Highway Superintendent Proper
Accountant Michael Torchia

Supervisor Crowley opened the hearing at 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of the hearing is a continuation of the budget hearing on Tuesday November 5, 2009.

Supervisor Crowley, the board made some decisions I'm not comfortable with some of the anticipated revenue.

Karen Hallenbeck, Taconic Shores receiving sand, by giving them sand you're making a gift of public service, its illegal with New York State Laws. Bob you're on their board - under our Ethics Board you should be recusing yourself as you sit on Taconic Shores Board.

Councilman Sacks, I agree thank you.

George Filipovits, Taconic Shores pays property taxes so how are they not paying for it.

Supervisor Crowley, if you give sand to one association we have other associations.

George Filipovits, if you're paying for it with taxes I don't see a problem with it.

Karen Hallenbeck, I think you're opening up the town to a big problem.

Highway Superintendent Proper, we don't track what's taken out of there, maybe 5-6 yards.

Councilman Tompkins, I believe through their taxes they pay for their sand, private contractors are providing a service, Taconic Shores has a maintenance fee, I don't have a problem with it.

Highway Superintendent, we never denied anyone salt or sand as long as they are not using it for profit.

John Keeler, Young at Hearters last year we didn't give them money this year when we need to borrow money we're giving to them.

Lindsay LeBrecht, I will get the \$500 for the Young at Hearters but I want the \$500 eliminated from the budget and put towards the Police Department.

Leslie Wood, I would like to defend the money in the Economic Advisory Board celebrations as we have supported many organizations and I think its been economic support for the town.

Joe LaPorta, you have a hard job ahead of you but you have to cut for the sake of the tax payer.

Karen Hallenbeck, passed out copy of letter she wrote. (see attached)
Councilman Sacks, thank you for your comment.

Town Board went through revenue line by line.
Summer Park, if we charge \$15 a week for residents cap at \$75 nonresidents \$300 it will up the revenue.
Supervisor Crowley, Fines and Forfeiture, leave at \$30,000. Mortgage Tax \$110,000.

Supervisor Crowley, Town Justice clerks up to \$22,000 with two part time clerks.
Increased Assessors \$500.
Contingencies to \$20,000.
Police contractual deduct \$3,000.
Safety in section 3620.4 raise to \$1,000 for training.
Celebration money \$1,500.
Councilman Sacks, it's our stimulus fund.
Councilman Tompkins, I'd like to see a wash.
Supervisor Crowley, I'm all for celebrations but we can't afford it.
Leslie Wood, we can hope for a wash but we can't guarantee it.
Councilman Sacks and Councilwoman Gabaccia would like to see the \$1,500 stay.
Councilman Tompkins, Councilman Kiernan and Supervisor Crowley no remove it.
Celebrations went to zero.
Supervisor Crowley, the library payments will be made in four payments.
Adult recreation put to \$500.
Hospital and medical, not filling full time clerk will save \$461.00 a month.
Leave hospitalization at \$30,000.
State retirement, at \$41,000 increase in 2010. \$45,000.

Highway Superintendent came up with \$61,000 savings.
Highway Superintendent Proper, if I step down before first of the year and you promote within the department to fill out until the next general election, it will create vacancy within the highway department, instead of filling the vacancy we use part time help in the winter we can save \$21, 963 in the 5110.1 account. In brush and weeds save \$399 personal service save about \$1,838, this is replacing the full time with no benefits. Medical insurance you'll save on highway side but will go to general side about \$14,673. Removing the \$25,000 for capital reserve. Approximately 6% lower than 2009. This is the best case scenario I could come up with.
Highway Superintendent Proper gave the board his letter of resignation effective November 15, 2009. Recommended appointing William Gregory Highway Superintendent.

Supervisor Crowley made a motion to not accept his letter of resignation, seconded by Councilman Sacks.
Councilman Sacks, we're not willing to accept your letter of resignation.
Highway Superintendent, you have to accept, this is the least harming to the department and it's a way for us to recoup this year, please accept the resignation.
Councilwoman Gabaccia, it's a sad night.

Highway Superintendent, you're eliminating one full time employee for 2010, but I would like you to keep an open mind for 2011 if the Highway Superintendent comes back and asks you to reinstate the full time position.
\$10,000 in contingency.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilman Tompkins the hearing be closed. Motion carried.

The regular meeting followed.

Action Items:

Supervisor Crowley – Talk to Attorney about the donation of land, Copake Memorial Park, fencing.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilman Kiernan the Minutes from October 9, 2009 be accepted as written. Motion carried.

Correspondence

1. Lisa DeRocha – Letter of resignation, Custodian.
2. William Kane – Letter of resignation, Assessors effective December 31, 2009.
3. Planning Board – Reference to Motor Vehicle Storage permits, Lawrence Howard Attorney did not recommend including Motor Vehicle Storage Permits in Town Zoning alone.
4. Park Commission – Permission to spend \$350 for the light parade.
5. Silver Star Families of America – Proclamation for Silver Star Banner Day.

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Copake has always honored the sacrifice of the men and women in the Armed Forces and,

WHEREAS, The Silver Star Families of America was formed to make sure we remember the blood sacrifice of our wounded and ill by designing and manufacturing a Silver Star (service) Banner and Flag and,

WHEREAS, to date the Silver Star Families of America has freely given thousands of Silver Star (service) Banners to the wounded and their families, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Silver Star Families of America have worked tirelessly to provide the wounded of this town and Country with Silver Star (service) Banners, Flags and care packages, and

WHEREAS, The Silver Star Families of America’s sole mission is that every time someone sees a Silver Star (service) Banner in a window or a Silver Star (service) Flag flying, that people remember the (sacrificed) for this Town, State and Nation and,

WHEREAS the people and Supervisor of Copake wish that the sacrifice of so many in our Armed forces never be forgotten.

NOW THEREFORE, I Reginald Crowley Supervisor of the Town of Copake do hereby proclaim my appreciation of the Silver Star Families of America and honor their commitment to our wounded Armed Forces members. I hereby declare May 1st “SILVER STAR BANNER DAY” the permanent and official day to honor the wounded and ill Soldiers of the Town of Copake

Resolution # 19	Supervisor Crowley	Yes
Dated November 12, 2009	Councilwoman Gabaccia	Yes
	Councilman Sacks	Yes
	Councilman Tompkins	Yes
	Councilman Kiernan	Yes

6. Planning Board – Letter ddressed to William Gilbert notifying him his message requesting upgrade of Catamount Road was forwarded to Highway Superintendent.
7. Jubilee Masonry Contractors – Estimate for Church Museum chimney repair.
8. DeRocha Seamless Gutters – Estimate to install gutters on Town Hall.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Tompkins to accept the bid of \$1,250 for chimney repair at the church museum form Michael De Ruzzio Contruction Co.. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia to accept the bid of \$1,615.00 from DeRocha Seamless Gutters for gutters on Town Hall. Motion carried.

Public Forum

John Keeler – In September Councilman Sacks made a recommendation that assignments be given out and reported at the next meeting, you were going to address the Craryville store, letters to the State Police and Sheriffs, and also talk to Sue Crane, these items should be addressed at the beginning of the meeting. Has there been any report on Cascino?

Supervisor Crowley, no, made calls to Attorney General and have not heard back.
Councilman Sacks, action items could be put on the agenda.

Ralph Platt, last year we were told there will be no Little League signs at the park and there were political signs .You need to make a decision.

Councilman Sacks, you want to eliminate all signs.

Councilman Tompkins, I have no problem with signs at the park it's a gathering place.

George Filipovits, we discussed this last year that if we could have Little League signs up during the season the proceeds will be going to help the kids.

Joe LaPorta, you would have to change your zoning, I don't believe any signs should be there.

Marcia Becker, it's just a matter of the signs regulation the town has, if you're denied you can go to the Zoning Board for an appeal.

Ralph Platt, we would just like a decision, are signs allowed in the park or not.

Councilman Sacks, Marcia makes a good point its inappropriate for us to go against our own zoning.

Supervisor Crowley, asked Jeff Nayer what the process would be for signs.

Jeff, they would go to building inspector apply for sign be rejected and come before zoning.

John Keeler, in Hyde Park the Little League collected over \$600.00 for their signs and it looked like a professional field.

Supervisor Crowley, when land was donated it was written that no signs were to be on the fences; will talk to Attorney to look into this.

New Business

Supervisor Crowley, signed contract with Columbia Green Humane Society for 2010.

The board accepted Highway Superintendent Proper resignation effective November 15, 2009.

A motion was made by Councilman Tompkins seconded by Councilman Kiernan per recommendation of Highway Superintendent Proper, to appoint William Gregory Highway Superintendent effective November 15, 2009, with his term ending December 31, 2009. Motion carried.

Old Business

Councilman Sacks, Cable reluctant to sign contract while in bankruptcy, it will automatically renew for 6 months. I have proposal you can look it over.

Supervisor Crowley, Motor Vehicle Storage letter from Planning Board.

Attorney recommended not putting in Zoning.

Marcia, he recommended to amend the Town Law and make zoning match the law.

Supervisor Crowley, would we be better passing as town law and when we do revision on Comprehensive Plan incorporate it.

Joe LaPorta, if you put this into law its better than what you have and would bring more people on board. Pass it now and look at changes in Zoning. If you don't do something you're back to zero. You need to get the permits out.

Supervisor Crowley, you could always amend the law.
Councilman Sacks the Planning and Zoning sent a strong letter against it.
Marcia Becker, we know it's really messed up, it's been recommended to us to change 156.
Councilman Sacks, so we should not pass this right away, it will be resolved in a few months.
Supervisor Crowley, we're going to need some guide lines.

Supervisor Crowley, meet Monday with AT&T, Supervisor Dias and Supervisor Baird.
JRS Towers cannot act until we sign agreement of management. Copies will be put in the board members' boxes.
Look it over and get back to me ASAP.

Lindsay LeBrecht, we have an ordinance in place for cell towers.

Accountant Torchia, the amount to be raised by taxes is \$1,097,044. Tax rate 2.576.
General fund .55 per 1,000 highway 1.79 per 1,000.
15% raise without deficit reduction.
Total rate per 1,000 including special district is 3.31.

Town Clerk Hotaling read Local Law # 2

Councilman Tompkins, I would make a motion to accept this law and ask the Planning Board, ZEO, Task Force and Zoning Board to sit down and come up with recommendation that Attorney Howard recommended.
Councilman Kiernan seconded it.
Councilman Sacks, I'm against it, give them some time to work out an appropriate law, you're looking at passing a law that you will resign in a few months.
Councilwoman Gabaccia, it's been an on going problem for years wait till six months.

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

RESOLVED, that we the Town Board of the Town of Copake do hereby enact Local Law # 2, A local Law amending Chapter 156, Junkyards and Motor Vehicle Storage Areas of the Town Code of the Town of Copake, Columbia County. (see attached)

Dated November 12, 2009	Supervisor Crowley	Yes
Resolution # 20	Councilman Tompkins	Yes
	Councilman Kiernan	Yes
	Councilwoman Gabaccia	No
	Councilman Sacks	No

Krista Goodacre, a lady would like to do a yoga class at the park.
Supervisor Crowley, it should be in your policy that if they are going to draw a salary, operate a business it is not allowed.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, I don't want to see the park commercialized.
Supervisor Crowley, put it in your guidelines when you rent the building.

Councilman Tompkins, Solar Company will be doing a study on highway garage and ambulance building.

Accountant Torchia, rate 3.33 per 1, 000 including special districts. Last year was 3.5.

Karen Hallenbeck, asked what the total increase is.
Supervisor Crowley, we held the line that's without the budget deficit.

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

RESOLVED, that we the members of the Town Board of the Town of Copake do hereby adopt the budget beginning the first day of January 1, 2010. (see attached)

Dated at Copake New York	Supervisor Crowley	Yes
Resolution # 21	Councilwoman Gabaccia	Yes
	Councilman Sacks	Yes
	Councilman Tompkins	Yes
	Councilman Kiernan	Yes

Supervisor Crowley, we need to decide what we want to give the Rescue Squad. They requested \$298,600 this year. That's with considering \$100,000 for new ambulance. Recommendation when we meet with supervisors and squad was we give 15% above last year, it would bring our total to \$172,500.

Councilman Sacks, without seeing their financial statement we're prepared to just agree, I know these people they're hard working people and competent but it doesn't make them good businessmen.

Karen Hallenbeck, we made hard choices, let them make choices.

Councilman Sacks, maybe we need to get more involved.

Councilman Tompkins, the next time around we should ask for the spread sheet.

Councilman Sacks, seek out other towns and get representative from each town for Rescue Squad in 2010.

Joe LaPorta, see if you could earmark some of the money for an Attorney to look into tax district. He will speak to Jeannie.

Supervisor Crowley, we cannot earmark the money.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilman Tompkins to give the rescue squad \$175,000.00 for 2010. Motion carried.

Councilman Sacks, consider asking Accountant to look at books next year.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Kiernan the bills from general abstract # 11 and highway abstract #11 be paid. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,