

TOWN BOARD
August 13, 2009

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

Action Items: Board members are to report back at next meeting or earlier.

Supervisor Crowley - Information from County on tax relieve notice of payment Plan in bills

Deputy Supervisor – Get pole numbers of street lights that aren't working report Report to NYSES.

Councilman Gabaccia – Annual Policy Manual revision records, call NYSERD \$100.00

Deputy Supervisor LaPorta opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with 36 people present.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Sacks the minutes of July 9, 2009 be accepted as written. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

1. Special meeting department heads Wednesday August 19th at 7:30 p.m.
2. Jeanne Mettler, Chair Comprehensive Planning Committee, Focus group for town leaders August 20th at 7:30 p.m.
3. Supervisor Crowley, Mr. Greeley Ford of AT&T that AT&T has approved sites for cell towers in Copake and Ancram.
4. Department of State addressed to Dr. Mark Sposato Taconic Hills, announcing there application for local government efficiency grant was successful. The Turf and Grounds Multi-Municipal Maintenance Collaboration Project will receive funding in the amount of \$47,990.
5. Friends of Shakespeare, thank you for use of space at Community Day to advertise their fair.
6. Planning Board, recommends that the Town Board approve name of Primrose Drive for a travel way and common driveway in Copake.

A motion was made by Councilman Tompkins seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia the Town Board approves the name of Primrose Drive for a travel way and common driveway located on the southeast side of Anthony Street

Extension in Copake near the village of Hillsdale and the entrance to Herrington's Inc. Motion carried.

7. Assemblyman Molinaro, Asking for support for the Property Tax Circuit Breaker Bill.
8. NYS Emergency Management Office, payment in the amount of \$98,965.29.

PUBLIC FORUM

Harvey Weber presented to the board accounts receivable in the amount of \$497,846 of taxes that have not been paid - propose payment plan for the people. Tax Collector Hotaling -the towns warrant is paid in January the amount left open from the town when turned over in June is the county's responsibility. Fran Miller suggested the Supervisor advocate for payment plan.

A motion was made by Councilman Tompkins seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia ask Supervisor to get information on tax relieve from County and report back at next meeting. Motion carried.

Councilman Sacks went through minutes, we need to create a mechanism in minutes that what we committed to do gets done.

Morris Ordover - the EAB has action items at top of minutes and are read back at next meeting with reports.

A motion was made by Councilman Tompkins seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia to add action items at the top of the minutes. Motion carried.

Wayne Miller said there is number of street lights in town that aren't working properly.

Deputy Supervisor will ride around at night get the pole numbers and call NYSEG.

John Keeler talked with other towns and their business records do not leave the town hall.

Harvey Weber policy manual reads annual audit CPA certified audit ever 3 years

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Sacks that we amend the Policy Manual that all financial and town records are to remain in the town hall. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Deputy Supervisor said there is a book out by the state on the outdoor wood burning wood units, Taconic Shores has banned them. 35 towns have banned the use of them and 28 towns have regulated them.

Per Attorney moratorium for three months on them and have the Planning Board come up with regulations, in order to do that you need to pass a law first.

September 12, 2009 meeting there will be a public hearing at 8:30 a.m. on this law about wood burning stoves.

Morris Ordovery said the law itself would be the moratorium. Deputy Supervisor correct. This would be for new installation.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Sacks mentioned that Supervisor Crowley last week mentioned the Sheriffs did not have manpower to cover Copake. He called Sheriffs office was told they cover 24/7 there isn't a man power issue they cover all of Columbia County. Offered service of Enhanced Enforcement Control, extra men if we pay. Talked with Doug McGivney of Kinderhook asked if they have police force he said are you crazy we can't afford police force, talked with Supervisor Baer of Hillsdale asked same question- its not feasible or profitable excellent coverage from State and County. As we go through this budget process lets hold in mind that four or five Supervisors said its not necessary.

Ted Voelker lived in Copake 25 years feels safe - other towns manage to be safe without police force, what is terrifying about Copake that we need our own police force.

Deputy LaPorta you need a referendum to disband police.

Deputy Supervisor recommended they allow the Supervisor to get the paper work ready for loan and if need to borrow money you wouldn't need to wait 6-8 weeks.

Councilman Sacks said Supervisor Baer told him you don't need referendum to disband the police force the board can do that.

Jeff Nayer talked to Association of Towns you need referendum to disband.

Jeff Nayer the Police gave you 17% cut off budget they were willing to do their part.

Linda Gabaccia asked to have numbers from accountant by Monday.

Councilman Sacks Charter Communications, nothing is going to happen for six months.

Karen Hallenbeck said the six months is up September 10th we have to renew or move forward with them, been in contact with Tom Cohen looking into having meeting telecast, franchise fee its approximately \$1,000 off.

Councilman Sacks talked to public service commission - contract automatically renews until we're ready to sign, reluctant to sign till they come out of their bankruptcy which will probably be in the next two months.

Deputy Supervisor LaPorta needs to set Public Hearing for adoption of motor vehicle storage law at 8:45 a.m. on September 12, 2009.

Councilman Sacks have a problem with that as we have not heard from Planning Board.

Deputy Supervisor per Attorney the Planning Board is not involved its a local law that is on the books and if you are modifying law it does not have to go to them its up to the Town Board.

Councilman Sacks don't we want their opinion.

Councilwoman Gabaccia said the Planning Board will be looking at it in their September meeting.

Deputy Supervisor, The people need time to comply with changes before their permit runs out in January. If the Planning Board would like to give their input they can at the public hearing. Could the Planning Board have their input to the board before public hearing? Marcia Becker replied yes.

Schedule a public hearing Saturday September 12, 2009 at 8:45 a.m. for motor vehicle storage.

Deputy Supervisor, meet with Austerlitz, Chatham, and Hillsdale Supervisor, Austerlitz ZEO, and the State about combining the Building Inspector and ZEO jobs with 4 towns, federal grant will pay 90% of initial cost for set up. Three people certified to do Zoning Enforcement and Planning. Would be stationed in Austerlitz go out form there with lap tops. Deadline for grant October 15th.

Intermunicipal Agreement the monies raised from cost of permits for our town would come back to town.

All four towns would have to agree.

Copies will be made put in Councilman's boxes.

Ted Voelker said it sounds like a good idea having towns come together.

Deputy Supervisor contract with Hudson Valley Clean Energy was asked by Supervisor to sign after reading over said I would not sign. If the town goes through with this we will get back about 69% of electricity used by building. If we don't get grant money we have to lay out \$35,000 need contract changed so we aren't held responsible.

Councilman Tompkins we have four rounds to submit. I was under impression we don't move forward till we secure all the money.

Jeff Nayer, I was under the impression that they pay 100% if so we need to ask for our \$1,000 back. A customer of mine had problems with this.

Councilwoman Gabaccia wait till be hear from them. Will check with NYSERD to see if the town was reimbursed \$100 for programmable thermostats.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ombudsman – Working on one complaint about Parks minutes and accounting from Community Days.

Planning Board – One minor sub-division, three Zoning Board referrals.

Zoning Board – Referred three to Planning.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Tompkins received e-mail form Susan Winchell, I do not support eminent domain and in support of Susan Winchell. Resolution in support of her.

A motion was made by Councilman Tompkins seconded by Councilman Kiernan that the Town Board support Susan Winchell in her fight with Columbia County on eminent domain Councilwoman Gabaccia amended the motion to also read obvious case of selective enforcement and urge Supervisor to vote no, Motion carried.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, Carl Whitbeck will be at September meeting to update the town on Mr. Cascino.

A motion was made by Councilman Kiernan seconded by Councilman Sacks the bills from general # 8 and highway # 8 be paid . Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Tompkins seconded by Councilman Kiernan to go into executive session on a personnel matter. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Tompkins seconded by Councilman Kiernan to return to regular meeting. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,