

COPAKE TOWN BOARD MEETING
REGULAR MEETING JULY 10, 2008

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Copake held at Town Hall Copake, NY on July 10, 2008.

Present: Reginald Crowley ---- Supervisor
 Linda Gabaccia ----- Councilwoman
 Bob Sacks ---- Councilman
 Walter Kiernan ---- Councilman
Absent Daniel Tompkins ----- Councilman

Supervisor Crowley opened the meeting at 7:30 pm with 37 people present.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilman Kiernan the minutes of May 8, 2008, be approved. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Sacks the minutes of June 14, 2008, be approved including a correction of the spelling of Wayne Mill was corrected to Miller and Jim Jeffers was corrected to Jeffries. Motion carried.

The following correspondence was read:

1. From Pace University – Letter thanking the board for sponsoring the Land Use Law Centers training program.
2. From Harvey Weber – Letter asking to approve an ad for 3 new members on the Committee on Aging and Environmental.
3. From Shirley Knox – Letter on concerns at Town Park.
Councilwoman Gabaccia said that if anyone leaves a meeting feeling shunned I think we failed to listen to her and its important we listen to people.
Supervisor Crowley said he attended the last park commission meeting and they're working on some of the concerns.
4. From Marcia Becker – Letter recommending appointment of Lisa DeConti as Planning Board Administrative Assistant.
5. From Susan Kibler – Letter of resignation from Senior Committee.

Councilwoman Gabaccia read the following letter:

To Supervisor Reginald Crowley:

In recognition of numerous citizens reports of the dumping of C & D throughout the Town of Copake in direct violation of Copake Town Law Section 149-2

And in further acknowledgement of the numerous citizen's complaints we have received regarding both this matter and what appears to be the continuing violations of the temporary restraining order against Copake Valley Farms LLC/Salvatore Cascino

We hereby request in accordance with New York Town Law Article 4 Section 62 Subsection 2, a copy of which is attached for your review, that within ten days you should schedule a special meeting to address these matters and the enforcement issues they raise and to give the public an opportunity to enter into the public record their concerns.

Sincerely yours,
Linda S. Gabaccia
Robert Sacks.

Councilman Sacks e-mail he sent to the Town Board and Chairman of the Ethics Committee.

There was case in the Ethics Committee about changing the town minutes. We are moving into the fifth month of the case, and I am wondering if a conclusion has been reached. If it has been reached, is there any reason that the Town Board doesn't know of this decision?

Supervisor Crowley replied, he reviewed a letter from Mr. Kibler. According to the Ethics Law, all proceedings in front of Ethics Board are confidential and at end of meeting I will be asking for executive session, and I have copies of decision for each Councilperson.

Councilwoman Gabaccia said this came up for discussion at the Ethics meeting this week, in turns of notification, they felt that the Supervisor would immediately forward to the Councilpersons. In the future, I think each letter should be going to each individual member of the board through Vana.

Supervisor Crowley said he believed that the ethics law says the Ethics Board shall inform the Town Board.

Harvey Weber introduced David Pfaff, a student at Taconic Hills School who addressed the board as representative for students from Taconic Hills. The following is a list of concerns and wants from the students.

1. Dances
2. Skateboard tournaments
3. kids craft fair
4. fishing tournaments
5. fashion shows
6. pony rides
7. country night

8. scavenger hunt
9. murder mystery
10. plays/musical
11. community day for kids and teens
12. talent shows
13. teenage band concerts
14. movie nights
15. monthly themes

A motion was made by Supervisor Crowley seconded by Councilman Sacks to appoint David Pfaff to set up a youth committee to work with different boards. Motion carried.

Sue Kibbler announced the Roe Jan Library will be holding a BBQ and beach night at Taconic Shores beach August 7, 2008.

Karen Hallenbeck asked if the light at the town hall could be turned down as its an eye sore.

Supervisor Crowley asked Town Clerk to call NYSEG about the light.

John Keeler asked the board for first date of payment in legal fees for Cascino and dollars spent to date and have report by next meeting, also how many part time, under 40 hour employees does the town have. Does town determine hours, health insurance paid based on hours worked and do they pay into their health insurance. We have tried to get town garage secured and so far nothing has happened, we have witnessed people coming in stealing the metal, brass and copper.

Roberta Roll said the town bulletin board is in terrible shape, who is in charge of it. Supervisor Crowley said the revitalization committee put it up, we will look into who owns it.

Ms. Roll said that last month there was discussion about green building and starting here in town hall, what is being done.

Supervisor Crowley said they replaced light bulbs; Councilman Tompkins is forming committee for alternative energy.

Ms. Roll said by turning up air conditioner and maybe opening windows is a good start.

Diana Wilson asked to define role of liaison.

Supervisor Crowley said the liaison to any committee should be at the committee 's dispose, a resource for the committee.

Councilman Sacks said he has not seen a written responsibility for the liaison and it's a good thing for us to have.

Ms. Wilson said would a liaison be involved in insider discussions outside of committee meeting?

Councilman Sacks said all the meetings are public meetings and if its not executive session I would think a Town Board member or any member can discuss what happened.

Ms. Wilson said she is talking about a particular discussion with Mr. O'Neill, with Planning Board member and Councilwoman Gabaccia and Supervisor Crowley, is that where a liaison is present or not present?

Councilwoman Gabaccia said the meeting that was scheduled with Mr. O'Neill was to my understanding and Marcia Becker's understanding as to when they were coming back on the agenda, and the escrow funds.

Ms. Wilson said why was liaison there?

Marcia Becker said she asked Councilwoman Gabaccia to attend.

Councilwoman Gabaccia said she frequently attends meetings, we were trying to find out when they would be back on agenda, I certainly think that is a concern the Town Board should know when that is going to happen given the concerns of the escrow funds. I think the person you should be questioning here is Supervisor Crowley because it is my understanding that what I gather was Mr. O'Neill had questions for him on what side of the fence he was on regarding the project.

Supervisor Crowley said it was an update and until he's met his financial obligation its still in limbo.

Mr. Wilson said she dose not understand why a liaison was invited to the meeting.

Supervisor Crowley said they will define that.

Councilwoman Gabaccia said the place for that is policy manual.

Supervisor Crowley said he will be getting in touch with Mr. Kibler to discuss the policy manual.

George Filipovits said town employees do not pay for the medical and with prices rising when we have budget meeting we need as many people here as possible that do pay medical, as everyone should pay their fair share.

Morris Ordoover asked if there is an up date on Cascino?

Councilwoman Gabaccia read the following:

An update on Copake Valley Farms and Salvatore Cascino. I have seen photographic documentation from citizens watch group which indicates that Mr. Cascino, in direct violation of the temporary Restraining order against him, did in fact truck in from another location at least three loads of unknown material. This information has been forwarded to the Attorney for the Town, Carl Whitbeck. I would like to make a motion

that this Board request that Mr. Whitbeck pursue additional contempt charges against Mr. Cascino for violating the Temporary Restraining Order put in place by Honorable Judge Nichols.

Councilman Sacks so moved the motion Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded. Motion carried. Councilman Kiernan abstained.

Mr. Bloomfield asked how he could acquire the former West Copake Firehouse; he would like to convert into a small handicap building.

Councilman Sacks said the Supervisor received a letter at last Town Board meeting from Mr. Bloomfield inquiring on the purchase of the building, and Attorney will look into it.

Supervisor Crowley said he has not gotten back to him on details yet, he did say the steps would be first the board must decide if they want to sell. If so, the board would have to have property appraised.

Councilman Sacks said we're not against it; we have to take the Highway Superintendent's advice as he stores equipment in there.

Supervisor Crowley said one of the suggestions was the money from the sale could go to a storage shed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Kiernan to appoint Lisa DeConti Administrative Assistant to the Planning Board. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Gabaccia said Conservation Resource Committee advertised with no response. They would like to take two members from Comprehensive Planning Committee. The Conservation Resource Committee have asked to appoint Bill Kiernan, Skip Plich and Dan Haas.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Sacks to appoint Dan Haas, Skip Pilch and Bill Kiernan to the Conservation Resource Committee. Motion carried.

Councilman Sacks said George Filipovits at last meeting asked if our Building Inspector is certified. Supervisor Crowley said our ZEO is certified; the ZEO said he's not a building inspector for Town. We need our Attorney to look into this.

Supervisor Crowley said our Building Inspector is taking the class next week.

Ralph Platt reported Parks n Rec's:

1. In talking stages about adding new members. Councilman Sacks said consider sub committees.
2. Flyers will be hand delivered to residents around the park to notify them of events coming to park.

3. Carnival will be noisy.
4. Addressing problem with dumpster.

Harvey Weber reported:

Senior Committee – Dance October 18th, swimming Taconic Shores, Christmas walk December 20th.

Environmental Committee – Representative for DEC came to Taconic Shores checking water. Spoke to him about coming back to check fish for Mercury in Shores and Copake Lake.

Charles Dodson, Economic Advisory Board:

1. Major thank you to volunteers for Copake Community Day, special thanks to Chris Quinby.

Supervisor Crowley said a special thanks to the Highway Crew and Police for their hard work on Community Day.

Jeff Nayer said he thinks the Knox's letter was more concern about the Tractor noise at 6:30 in the morning.

Councilperson Sacks asked to put the Comprehensive Planning Committee on agenda next month for a 15 minute presentation.

Assessor Kane reported :

1. They have two people interested in Assessor opening.
2. Looking at reval would like a public input on it.

ZEO Officer Ferratto reported very busy with complaints.

Supervisor Crowley reported:

1. From Suzette Booy Real Property - Town taxable value is \$422,996,091.
2. Training for Election Inspectors will be August 13th at 10:00 am.
3. Will be using the same voting machines in November with one new handicap machine.

A motion was made by Supervisor Crowley seconded by Councilman Sacks to go into executive session for personnel reasons. Motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Sacks the bills from the general abstract and highway abstract #7 be paid. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

