

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013

A Special Meeting of the Town Board was held on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 with the following members present: Richard Rowland, Supervisor; Daniel Pemrick, Thomas Kinsella and Daniel Cochran, Councilman. Walter E. Chandler, Councilman was absent. Also present were Town Counsel Mark Schachner, Highway Supt. Walter Barss and approximately 32 residents.

At 7:10 PM a Public Hearing was opened to hear comments on the 2014 Preliminary Town Budget. Clerk presented proof of legal publication. Supervisor Rowland gave an overview of the Towns' finances. The General Fund currently has a fund balance of around \$1.3 million and the Highway fund balance is around \$410,000. For the past several years there has not been a Town tax. Sales tax revenue has been used to offset the General Fund. The property taxes collected have been used to fund the Highway Fund. The current tax rate is \$1.48 per thousand dollars of assessment. He explained that if you increase the tax rate by one penny that would mean an additional \$7,586.95 of revenue for the Town. The proposed Preliminary Budget would increase the tax rate by 35 cents per thousand dollars of assessment. The increase would include a change in ambulance services which will cost an additional 12.4 per thousand from last year. The remaining increase would be necessary just to maintain the current services. In an effort to cut some costs, the Board has decided to offer just one trash clean up week which will be a savings of approximately \$15,000. In addition, approximately \$500,000. will be taken from the fund balances. Supervisor Rowland stated that the Town has had to take money from the fund balances since 2008. With conservative spending and better than anticipated revenue, they were able to put money back into the fund balance at the end of the year in three of those years. In trying to project the revenues and expenses for the remainder of the year, he hoped that we would end the year about \$10,000. to the good. The 2014 Preliminary Budget includes a slight increase in sales tax revenue. There are also slight increases in the budget for fuel, blacktop, gasoline, salt, etc. There are a few additional part time positions as well. A part time clerical position at Town Hall; a seasonal part-time parks maintenance position and a part-time Building Inspector. There is a significant increase in building. Several developments are currently working through the Planning Board process. In addition, there is a proposed Planned Unit Development amendment for Prestwick Chase which would mean a substantial increase in construction. Employee benefits and insurance continue to rise. Supervisor Rowland stated that since the Town changed over to NYMIR Insurance on the advice of their insurance agent, the rates have actually gone down some. The cost of paving one mile of Town road is approximately \$140,000. In order to stay on track with the Highway Improvement Program we need to pave approximately 8 miles of road. Due to increased cost, the Highway Department has only been able to do about 5 or 6 miles of road. Supervisor Rowland stated that the average home assessed at \$150,000. currently pays about \$222.00 in Highway tax. The proposed budget, if adopted, would increase the taxes to about \$274.50. Supervisor Rowland opened the hearing up for public comment. There being no public comments either pro or con, the hearing was closed at 7:20 PM.

At 7:25 PM a Public Hearing opened to hear comments on proposed Ambulance Service contracts for the year 2014. Clerk presented proof of legal publication. Supervisor Rowland stated that based on the information requested in the Request for Proposals, Town Counsel had prepared draft copies of the proposed contracts and all the Board members had received copies of them.

Tim Kemp, 39 Hemlock Drive - Mr. Kemp stated that the process has come a long way since the ambulance committee first met and that he was in favor of proceeding with the contracts as presented.

Ruth Grono, 4404 Route 9N - Mrs. Grono was curious as to why the Board was looking to make a change and asked if there had been problems with the current service. She stated that she did not even know anything about this until a few weeks ago.

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Andrea Mann, 653 North Creek Road - Mrs. Mann stated that she would like to see the Board move ahead with the 3 contracts. She felt that it was best for the community.

Ernie Mann, 653 North Creek Road - Mr. Mann stated that in terms of the process he was confused. He thought that the Board had voted at the last meeting to approve the contracts. He added that he has been to most of the meetings and has listened to both sides. The experiences that the firefighters and local doctor have had with Empire are significant. He felt that the Board was making the right decision to move forward with the contracts. He stated that it took a lot of courage to add \$100,000. to the budget.

Donna Middlebrook, 331 Porter Road - Mrs. Middlebrook stated that she was in favor of the three contracts. Due to a personal experience that she had with Empire, she would not use them again. She would just put her husband in the car and drive him herself.

Jay Ellsworth, 114 Barney Road - Mr. Ellsworth stated that the Town had 3 ambulance services many years ago and it worked well. Unfortunately the Town was put in a bad situation a few years ago and what we ended up with is not working. He hoped that the Board would go ahead and approve the 3 ambulance services.

Emily Mastrianni, 19 Copperfield Road - Ms. Mastrianni stated that she moved to Town 20 years ago. She agreed with the proposal to contract with 3 ambulance services.

There being no further public comments either pro or con, the hearing was closed at 7:32 PM. (\*\*Note -There were two letters submitted to the Board from Stanley Weeks and Jay Holcomb which were overlooked not read into the record. Board members had received copies of the letters prior to the hearing and they will be made part of the official record at the next meeting.)

In response to a few questions that were asked during the hearing, Kinsella, C. stated that the ambulance committee was formed and they spoke with First Responders and citizens from various locations of the Town. They received more negative feedback than positive. There were delays in response time, arrival at the scene with the wrong equipment, not having the right personnel, etc. Kinsella, C. stated to answer Mr. Manns' question, the Board has had several debates and discussions regarding the contracts, however New York State Law requires that a hearing has to be held. Supervisor Rowland stated that the vote at the last meeting was to file for a Municon. There has been no decision regarding the contracts. Mrs. Grono stated that the first she saw anything was in the Gazette last week. Kinsella, C. stated that there have been notices in The Pennysaver, articles in a few of the newspapers, postings on the signs at the Town Hall and Firehouses. Supervisor Rowland added that there were also notices on the Town website as well as all the minutes of the meetings. Ruby Grande asked if the committee was made up of just fireman. Kinsella, C. stated that he and Dan Cochran were the Town Board representatives. The other members were Tim Kemp, Andrea Mann, Mike Chandler, Keith Avellino and David Traver. Some from the fire services as well as members from the community at large.

Application for Liquor License – Hearth at Wayside LLC – Town Clerk advised that she received the 30 Day Notice of the intent to file for a Liquor License at the Hearth At Wayside. There is a 30 day waiting period from the time you give notice to the local municipality until the application can be filed. The applicant is asking that the Town consider waiving the 30 Advanced Notice. Kinsella, C. asked if that was something that the Town had the authority to do. Town Counsel advised that the Board had the authority to waive the time limit if they desire.

RESOLUTION # 147 - Waive Advanced Notice for Liquor License for Hearth at Wayside  
Motion: Pemrick, C.  
Seconded: Cochran, C.

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RESOLVED, That the Town Board hereby waives the 30 Day Advanced Notice of Application for Liquor License to Hearth at Wayside LLC, 104 Wilton Road, Greenfield Center, New York.

VOTE: Ayes: Rowland, Pemrick, Kinsella, Cochran

Noes: None

Absent: Chandler

On motion of Pemrick, C. and seconded by Cochran, C., the meeting was closed at 7:45 PM.

At 8:10 PM the meeting reconvened with the following members present: Richard Rowland, Supervisor; Daniel Pemrick and Thomas Kinsella, Councilman. Daniel Cochran and Walter E. Chandler were absent.

Candace Merbler, UDAG Committee Chairman and James Lee, UDAG Administrator, gave the Board a brief overview of a UDAG Loan Application that they would like to present to the Board at the next meeting. Board members in agreement to meet at 7:15 PM on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to meet with the applicant and discuss the possible loan prior to the regular Board meeting.

On motion of Pemrick, C. and seconded by Kinsella, C., the meeting was closed at 8:20 PM.

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Town Clerk