

Supervisor David P. Kelly opened the Workshop Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pawling at 7:00 PM December 2, 2015 at Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were Councilmen Montemarano, Johnson, DeRosa, Upham and approximately 12 interested citizens.

PAWLING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PRESENTATION
FINAL REPORT ON 2015 PARKS & RECREATIONAL NEEDS

Michael Cerny, Co-Chair of the Pawling Community Foundation was present, along with Board members Betsy Brockway, Nancy Tanner, Ed Hauser and Earl Slocum.

Mr. Cerny explained the background of the Pawling Community Foundation, saying the Foundation goes back approximately 23 years, the board consists of about 18 local residents and the concept was to raise private funds to use for the public good here in Pawling. The mission of the PCF is as follows: "The Pawling Community Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life for all Pawling residents by developing community resources and public spaces by furthering the community's economic vitality and by supporting the arts, cultural activities, tourism and recreation." The largest of their projects is the Village Green. The PCF over a number of years raised over two million dollars to build the green completely with private funds and it was done in conjunction with the Village of Pawling. This was a hugely successful project. This project showed that Pawling residents can raise substantial private funds for projects to promote the public good. He talked about other PFC projects. They were looking for public projects and they kept hearing about parks and recreation in Pawling and what could be done with Murrow Park. Supervisor Kelly approached the PFC toward the end of last year and asked if they would sponsor a survey to get input from local residents as to what they wanted from the Town's parks and recreation facilities. The PFC agreed to do the survey and reached out to Betsy Brockway to move forward with the survey, and they were grateful she agreed. The idea was to get ideas from the public, present their findings to the Town Board so they could identify what the public feels needs to be done first. The Board has a lot of other things they need to take into consideration in making their decisions. The PFC found this as a way to work with the Town to identify a group of projects and decide if one is appropriate for their group to fundraise either on their own or work with a myriad of organizations in Town to get these items done without public monies.

Betsy Brockway gave the Board a highlight of the findings in the final report. She explained that they had a diverse group who attended the meetings they held and they got a lot of great ideas. She said the main thing that people wanted to see was something done with the buildings at Lakeside Park, particularly The Inn and taking down The Donaldson Center. Another recommendation was to have an arts center in The Barns. The second priority was for playing fields in the great lawn, with good drainage, no holes, possibly a place to store equipment, some seating and bathrooms. It would be great if there was a possibility for playing fields to be developed in other areas of the park. The fields would be for football, lacrosse and soccer. The other thing that people suggested was a paved connector trail to Murrow Park, which may increase the use of Murrow Park. Other suggestions were a nature center at Murrow Park with nature programs and the Oblong Conservancy or FROGS could be interested in getting involved with a nature center. She said the list of all of the ideas are in the final report. Overall, the community felt if there was an opportunity to offer new recreation programs, more cultural, educational, arts type of programs, those types of programs are what they would like to see. She felt there was a lack of communication without a newspaper and there needed to be more communication about the assets the Town has and the availability of the programs and parks. People are willing to volunteer their time and donate in kind services. People care about the parks and understand the balancing act the Board has in this economic time of struggle. She suggested an Ad Hoc committee to study different issues. She felt people wanted to be updated on how things are going moving ahead and she suggested the Board use the Town's website and recreation newsletter to keep people informed.

Mr. Cerny said there are a lot of new residents in town over the past ten years and they do not know what is available to them. He said they had a lot of participation in this process and they felt they got a good cross section of folks. The public wants to be updated on progress. There are people and local organizations willing to pitch in and wanting to be informed. He has submitted a list of volunteers with the report. Ultimately none of this effort can go forward unless and until the Town Board makes a determination as to what they feel are priority things they want to move forward with. The Village Green moved forward when the Village Board got behind it. This report identifies a short list of projects the public would like to see. The PCF will go over the report and looking at the different projects and see how they can potentially do

something here. Their organization looks forward to consulting with the Town in the hopes that they can do a public private partnership and get some things done.

Supervisor Kelly asked the Board to review the report, digest it and it can be discussed after the first of the year. He thanked the PCF for their support on this project and said he valued Mrs. Brockway's leadership in getting this done by the end of the year.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board discussed the proposed resolutions. Following discussion, it was agreed that the resolutions would be placed on the December 9, 2015 Town Board meeting agenda.

TAX CAP/TAX FREEZE AUDIT

Supervisor Kelly said this week, the Town underwent a tax cap/tax freeze audit by the NYS Comptroller's Office and he received verbal confirmation today that there are no further services needed, the Town of Pawling has met all of the standards, as it has since the program has gone into action. Pawling is eligible for the tax freeze/tax rebate checks and he thanked the Board because they have kept the budget under the tax cap and his office has met all of the reporting obligations.

INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT STREAMLINING DUTCHESS COUNTY GML 239 REFERRALS

Councilman DeRosa said the Board received an email on November 6, 2015 from Dutchess County Planning & Development Commissioner Eoin Wrafter saying that the County has undertaken an initiative to streamline the local referral (GML §239). If the Town wanted to opt in, they would be required to contact the County and sign an IMA.

Supervisor Kelly felt that this was something that could be referred to the Planning Board and have them give the Town Board their take on the law and if the Town Board should agree to the concept.

Councilman DeRosa made a motion to refer the proposed initiative to the Planning Board and get their comments on it, seconded by Supervisor Kelly, motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

ROONEY MOTORS PETITION FOR ZONE CHANGE

Supervisor Kelly said the Board received a petition from Marvin & Marvin to rezone the Rooney Motors property on Route 22 from a residential zone to a Highway Business zone.

Supervisor Kelly made a motion to refer this matter to the Planning Board, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

PWD #2/ IN VIOLATION OF LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLE

Supervisor Kelly said he and Councilman Johnson will meet with VRI because they missed doing a test for lead and copper samples at PWD #2 and the Town was notified by the Health Department that this test was not done.

POTENTIAL NEW WATER & SEWER RATES

Supervisor Kelly said he wanted to make the Board aware that the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission is reviewing potential new water and sewer rates. He will forward the proposed rates to the Board. These rates are brought on by the Village and PJSC as they are looking to increase the sewer treatment plant from 230,000 to 750,000 gallons and the Village is looking at doing a purification system as well, so there will be some increased costs there also. He brings it up because the Town purchases the water for Pawling Water District #1 from the Village so the Town will have to raise the rates for its customers. He highlighted what some of the costs would be for residents. He will request a presentation to the Town Board on these proposed increased fees at some point in the future.

FRONT DOOR AT TOWN HALL

Supervisor Kelly said he and the Chief Constable had some trouble getting the doors open over the weekend and he is asking that the doors be looked at for repair/replacement.

JOHNSON

Councilman Johnson said the golf course is now closed and with the weather, the course was crowded on Thanksgiving and the Friday after. He will be focusing on an E Commerce program Melissa Smith is looking at purchasing for the recreation department, where people can sign up for programs, pay for programs and it will be more user friendly for busy families. He met with John Daley as he became concerned about roads. If you think about it, we can pave a half a mile of road per year, that is 102 years to pave all of the roads in town. This has been an ongoing issue since he has been on the Board. He has some ideas for seeking outside funding and will work with the Supervisor and Highway Superintendent on that.

MONTEMARANO

Councilman Montemarano said over the winter he will do a tree assessment with Wendel Weber, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds, to look at removal, pruning and new plantings that can be done in the spring. He will ask the Town Clerk to do a posting on the Town website for volunteer positions and applications with a little narrative.

DEROSA

Councilman DeRosa said he and JoAnne Daley will take Brian Kehoe, Senior Planner from Dutchess County Planning on a tour of the Route 22 corridor south of the Village so he can get a feel of what's going on in Pawling with the Castagna development and planning in general. On September 24th, he met with John Daley and Artie Aspen from the Excelsior Service Division of Local Government Services, along with other highway superintendents to see a presentation regarding high level business requirements for municipal highway departments. The presentation was to see an accounting program the State is setting up so that they can calculate materials and see what they cost and analyze the tasks the towns and counties do and find out how to do things more cost effectively.

UPHAM

Councilman Upham asked Councilman DeRosa what was going on with the Implementation Committee.

Councilman DeRosa agreed to update Councilman Upham.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Hauser said he wanted to fill the Board in on his role as a member of the Dutchess County Planning Board. They are currently in the process of an initiative to purchase development rights from farms throughout Dutchess County. There are six farms being looked at. They will partner with the Dutchess Land Conservancy who will then make application to the State of New York, who will provide most of the funding. The County has 1.3 million dollars they can use to fill out the funding. With this program, the rights to the farm are acquired and the farm continues for agricultural purposes and the community gets the benefits of fulfilling some of the requirements in the master plan for rural open space. He would like to update the Board once in a while and keep them posted on this.

Peter Cris, President of the Chamber of Commerce said the program Mr. Hauser speaks of is a great one, he has been reading a lot about it. He applauded Mr. Cerny and Mrs. Brockway and the entire PCF for the work they initiated on the study on town parks and recreation. The common element he hears is communication, which is why the Chamber started Pawling Matters ten years ago, to get the word out about what is going on in the community. Despite not having a newspaper, the word still has to go out and they try their best. He informed the Board that Pawling Public Radio will be doing their first remote broadcast of the tree lighting ceremony on Friday and he invited everyone to come to the event.

Lori Johnson, acting on behalf of Pawling Public Radio, said she was recently asked to be on their board and said there is a lot of community information on their website. She said the tower is going up soon and everyone will be able to listen to PPR at 103.7.

Nancy Tanner thanked Mrs. Brockway for her work on the PCF report and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

Supervisor Kelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk