

Supervisor David P. Kelly opened the Workshop Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pawling at 7:00 PM December 7, 2016 at Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were Councilmen DeRosa, Johnson, Montemarano, Upham and approximately 15 interested citizens. Supervisor Kelly acknowledged the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pearl Harbor and asked Councilman Upham to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Supervisor Kelly at 7:03 PM to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Councilman Upham, motion passed unanimously.

The motion to return to the regular order of business was made by Supervisor Kelly at 7:33 PM, seconded by Councilman Upham, motion passed unanimously.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

The Board discussed the proposed resolutions. Following discussion, it was agreed that the resolutions would be placed on the December 14, 2016 Town Board meeting agenda.

### **2017 TRANSFER STATION FEES**

Following discussion, Councilman Johnson made a motion to hold the transfer station fees the same as last year, seconded by Supervisor Kelly, motion passed unanimously.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **TRANSFER STATION ATTENDANT**

The Board discussed hiring an attendant to monitor the transfer station in the first quarter. The Board agreed to hire an attendant and Supervisor Kelly said he would work with John Daley, Highway Superintendent to draft employment specifications for this position.

#### **SICK TIME USE**

Supervisor Kelly made a motion to grant a waiver request to an employee to use sick time for the Family Medical Leave Act as requested verses using their vacation time first, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

### **REPORTS**

#### **KELLY**

Supervisor Kelly said the water operator for PWD #2 has been changed from VRI to Environmental Consultants (EC). There are a couple of issues that need to be discussed regarding the water district and Councilman Johnson would contact Kenny Sabia from EC to address those. Supervisor Kelly said the Town Bookkeeper will be retiring in the first quarter of 2017 and he is looking at making changes in that office. He is proposing a couple of part time clerks and one person contracted to oversee the department. He will discuss this with the Board within the first quarter of the year. Supervisor Kelly said he has been working with the Court Clerk and Justices on a new court bench, which will be fully functional for many years. The Town Court was awarded a grant a few years ago and the funds need to be spent. Supervisor Kelly said he has been working with Comcast on the franchise agreement. There is another increase from Comcast happening on December 20<sup>th</sup> of this year, which is their second increase of the year. Supervisor Kelly said he met with the HOA Board from Cedar Valley to discuss sewer and water billing. Regarding the Holmes Mill Dam, NYS DEC did a site visit and is requiring an Emergency Access Plan (EAP) for that dam, and he will be working on getting that done. Regarding EOH, he met with the Executive Board and Dave Warren, Deputy Director of NYC DEP and Mr. Warren understood that Dutchess and Putnam are in compliance and they are supposed to come up with 40 million dollars for projects that need to be done. Regarding the construction projects at town hall and the legion building, he and Councilman Montemarano met with Curt Johnson from Zarecki & Associates and a member from Quest, the asbestos abatement testing company and progress is being made. He was in Albany yesterday at the Association of Towns to talk about resolutions and lobbying efforts for 2017. Supervisor Kelly said the roof at

the Murrow Park Lyons building needs repair now. He asked Councilman Montemarano to work on some emergency repairs as soon as possible.

### **JOHNSON**

Councilman Johnson said he is looking forward to working with Kenny Sabia at PWD #2. He will be working with Kenny Sabia on getting the emergency generators to work on the pumps, not just the facility. He looks forward to getting people compliant with meters. He will be working with Jessica Peterson to get the bid out for the food service provider in January for the golf course.

### **MONTEMARANO**

Councilman Montemarano thanked Al Thomsen and Steve Parrino and their staff for all of the work they did at the Legion/Senior building. It came out very nice, and there was no charge, it was done by volunteers. He will be looking at the roof and air conditioning at the Lathrop building at Lakeside Park.

### **DEROSA**

Councilman DeRosa said the bids came back on the Whaley Lake Dam Road/Phase II and he hoped the Board would get recommendations from the Town Engineer by the next meeting so the bid can be awarded. Councilman DeRosa said he is working with the Planning and Zoning Departments on signs. He should have a plan at the next meeting on how this can be coordinated.

### **UPHAM**

Councilman Upham said he has spoken with Jessica Peterson on a couple of things and he thanked her for her help. She was very helpful.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Harvey Matcovsky, resident of Holmes, New York directed the Board's attention to an article in Pawling Matters, which was very complimentary to the Pawling School Board, and the School Board appreciates it. Regarding the Facebook page of the Pawling Tax Cut group, there are people, including Board trustees that have been critical of some of the leaders of that group. Mr. Matcovsky stated that the Pawling School Auditors and CPA presented the School District's certified financials and members of the tax group spent time having a dialogue with the auditor and assistant superintendent of finance. He did not see any of the critics of the tax group at that meeting. Regarding increases in school taxes, there is no question that school taxes are very high and they have gone up. If anyone wants to know why there has been a 20% increase in 2010, 2011 and 2012, they can ask Town Attorney Terry Stewart, who was a member of the School Board at that time. Also, he can't figure out the justification for health benefits, Pawling is the only town in Dutchess County aside from East Fishkill in Dutchess County that offers them.

Glenn Carey said he was not at the School Board meeting last week because he was taking care of a 97 year old friend who had a partial hip replacement. He has been keeping in touch with other School Board members who don't necessarily share Mr. Matcovsky's view of the budget of the school and he would not explain himself any further on that fact. He would ask that the Town Board seriously consider sending a mailing to the community about the budget and about the process that took place. He thought the mailing the Board did explaining why the Town of Pawling is not covering County roads any more was good. This was done at the request of the Town Highway Superintendent, the Board accepted that the Town was not being properly reimbursed. He would have thought that Pawling Tax Cut would have given a shout out to the Town Board for doing that but no mention of it at all. They mention the increase in spending but they don't provide the tax rate of what is happening with the taxes this year. Again, they are manipulating their message, they are letting people know what they want them to know and how they want it conveyed. They are really not educating people of the true nature of the Town budget and taxes. He felt it was important that the Town Board take an active role because the Town Board tried to be willing participants and work along with the Pawling Tax Cut people and basically after the budget process was over, they kicked the Board in the gut. It is really sad, it is unfortunate and he knows that a lot of people feel that way. People are being misled on Facebook. He has spoken to some of them today and he will be meeting with some of them to

share tax information. He hoped the Town Board would send something out because without a newspaper, the only information residents are getting is from Pawling Tax Cut and it is not correct information.

Supervisor Kelly said the mailing that was done cost approximately \$3,000.00 of taxpayer dollars. He said Mr. Carey alluded to the Pawling Tax Cut post regarding the budget, the summary sheet he produces for the budget shows a difference in the amount raised by taxes from 2016 to 2017 to be \$1,035.00, which he did promote in his budget address.

Drew Montgomery from the Village of Pawling asked if anything had progressed on the goose situation.

Councilman Johnson said he has made no more progress since the last meeting.

Mr. Montgomery said he has looked up some other things aside from the goose busters. There are other systems that can be added to that, such as a beacon system that sits in the lake and disturbs the geese. He did not feel hunting the geese would work.

Helen Grosso said she was curious and confused about saving money for materials for the highway because the Town would not have to use materials they were paid for by the County. Doesn't the County pay for that service for the Town Highway Department so they don't have to. Is the Town going to be missing a fee from the County for those services? Does that mean the Town would need less labor and over time when it snows?

Supervisor Kelly said this was explained, that there was a possibility that the Town's runs will be done faster and they will be able to maintain town roads faster. Regarding materials, the County reimburses for labor and for the vehicles themselves and those costs go back into repairs. This was not a business venture, it was not a profitable business. The potential is there for the Town to lose money because the County has changed the way they want to pay the towns.

Mrs. Grosso said the Town of Pawling is not alone, there are other towns in Dutchess County that have done this too. She wondered if the Town of Pawling would be communicating with them to form a coalition to try to force the issue. She was at the School Board meeting and there was concern that school busses might have a problem. Would the School then complain to the County, is it going to cost the school system more for some reason and what recourse do we have. She got the impression school was cancelled on Monday because they weren't sure the roads would get done. That is not a reflection on the Town, it is on the County.

Supervisor Kelly said he had a conversation with Dr. Ward, School Superintendent on Monday and that was not the case. The closing of school was a timing issue of the storm on Monday. He is in conversation with the County Executive on this issue.

Councilman Johnson said it sounds like Mrs. Grosso is second guessing the Board's decision. In the direction we are currently headed this winter, the Town could potentially lose \$100,000.00 in the highway budget and not properly maintain those roads. It has to be on the County's shoulders. The Board is protecting not having an overage in its budget and Mrs. Grosso is second guessing the Board's decision for doing that. He could not understand her reasoning.

Mrs. Grosso said she is not second guessing, she is just hoping the County will do its job because everyone is very worried about it. And that is nothing the Board can be responsible for.

Councilman DeRosa said aside from possibly overspending the Town's budget, the issue is also not treating the roads properly and having someone get hurt on them and putting a resident in a liable situation, which could be worse.

John Daley, Highway Superintendent said personally regarding the whole County deal with snow and ice removal, he pays County taxes and he did not want Town taxes to go up so he is paying the County twice.

Peter Cris, president of the Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Town, Village and participants of the tree lighting this past Friday. It was an outstanding success. The greatest number of families attended. The Chamber is looking for additional funding to help pay for the tree lighting. He announced that the US Small Business Administration is coming to Pawling as a result of conversations with the County Executive. The presentation will be January 26<sup>th</sup> and hopefully it will be held at the Lathrop building at Lakeside Park.

Supervisor Kelly made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

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Town Clerk