

Supervisor David P. Kelly opened the Workshop Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pawling at 7:00 PM March 1, 2017 at Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were Councilmen Upham, Johnson, Montemarano and approximately 11 interested citizens. Councilman DeRosa was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Supervisor Kelly at 7:01 PM to discuss litigation, seconded by Councilman Upham, motion passed unanimously.

The motion to return to the regular order of business was made by Supervisor Kelly at 7:40 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 March 8, 2017 Town Board meeting agenda.

FURTHER BUSINESS

TRANSFER STATION

Supervisor Kelly said John Daley, Highway Superintendent and Councilman DeRosa met with a gentleman regarding putting a scale at the transfer station.

Mr. Daley said he didn't bring anything with him this evening. During the meeting, the scale was discussed, and many other issues such as traffic flow, employees, etc.

Supervisor Kelly said this is an ongoing conversation and efforts will continue to be ongoing.

SEWER RATES

Supervisor Kelly said in the Prospect Street area, there are residents that are members of the sewer district but they are on private wells. The Sewer Commission has asked that the Town Board look at how to upgrade their contributions to the sewer district as they are now paying the minimum payment. All other sewer rates are based on water consumption but there aren't meters on these homes. The Village wants to force the Town to put meters on the houses. He has been working with the Town Attorney and there can be a legislation change to increase their contribution. By next meeting, he is hoping to have the language to present to the Board. There are approximately 24 houses in this predicament.

Following discussion, Supervisor Kelly said he would investigate whether or not this is the Town's jurisdiction/responsibility.

CEDAR VALLEY

Supervisor Kelly said he is still working with Cedar Valley on their water/sewer. It looks like what is exiting the sewer line is still greater than 1.5 of the billing rate. So more water is being processed and this needs further research.

GOLF CLUB MANAGER

Councilman Johnson said the current employee who manages the golf course has submitted her resignation giving two weeks' notice. He has asked that an ad be prepared so that someone can be hired and trained.

2016 CDBG

Councilman Montemarano said everyone received a packet for the 2016 CDBG proposed sidewalks. He asked that they look it over and it can be discussed next meeting.

2020 CENSUS

Councilman Montemarano said he received a packet for the 2020 Census. He did the last Census and he will be working on the upcoming one.

DEWEY LANE BRIDGE

John Daley, Highway Superintendent said the monies he requested from the BridgeNY Funding Program for the Dewey Lane Bridge was denied. The cost of replacing the bridge would be approximately \$200,000.00. The Town can wait until the next round of funding and resubmit for more money as stated in the March 2, 2017 Zarecki & Associates letter, which he submitted to the Board. He would make a recommendation to the Board following further research.

DARYL'S HOUSE

Supervisor Kelly made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to retain Special Counsel for the purpose of various items related to Daryl's House matters, seconded by Councilman Upham, motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

KELLY

WHALEY LAKE DAM

Supervisor Kelly said the bid packets are out for the Whaley Lake Dam as of February 21st. There have been a multitude of bidders who picked up packets. There is a mandatory site meeting on March 7th. There will be a two week timeline for the engineer's review once the bids come back. There should be a recommendation from Fuss & O'Neill the first week in April. If the Board authorizes the bid to move forward, he would like the job to begin the third week in April. He hoped the lake could be dewatered the last week in April or the first week in May. On March 23rd, the Board will know what the bid numbers are. The Town has 2.35 million dollars available cash for this project. If the bids come back over that, the Board can go to permissive referendum for additional funding, where the residents would have to petition the Board to stop action and stop the funding or the Board can go out for a district vote, which would take a lot more time, approximately 120 days. The permissive referendum would be the fastest way to obtain additional monies if needed. This is something for the Board to consider. If the bids come in too high, the Board may want to consider different avenues. Regarding crossing the spillway, Vinny DiMarco's bridge design is at the engineer's for review and approval. Mr. DiMarco's excavator will need to be moved so he is getting prices on moving it.

Supervisor Kelly made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to expend the funds to construct a temporary bridge over the spillway and to make any necessary means to have the donation of an excavator moved from private property to the site and from the site back to the private property, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Kelly made a motion to accept the donation of the use of the excavator from Vincent DiMarco and the construction of the bridge as well, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

HAMLET AT PAWLING

Supervisor Kelly said the Town has received its first PILOT payment from The Hamlet at Pawling in the amount of approximately \$4,500.00.

ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS

Supervisor Kelly said he attended the Association of Towns Conference with other Town employees. It was a very good conference and he attended many classes.

COMCAST

Supervisor Kelly said he has been working on the Comcast Franchise Agreement. There are still outstanding issues he needs to discuss with Comcast.

BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

Supervisor Kelly said Mrs. Helen Grosso has questioned the final budget and she has given specifics on some lines in the budget she had questions about. He felt this deserved a public explanation. He was accused of tampering with the budget and making mistakes in the budget. That is not true. The minutes of the meetings are on line and everything is there. In the minutes of the November 9, 2016 meeting, which was the meeting prior to the adoption of the budget, the Board made changes to the budget, which were budget neutral. The night the budget was passed, there were additions to the budget regarding the golf course and the budget was then adopted. So there was no duplication, no mistake in the budget. The numbers get misconstrued by a lot of people so public explanation was the best way to answer this. Last night, he attended a function regarding the new newspaper and following the presentation, there was a question and answer period. One gentleman was called upon and he asked if the newspaper was going to do investigative reporting and went on a tangent about how the Town budget is an excel spreadsheet and you can't read it, use it, on and on and on. The gentleman cited things about Pawlingtaxcut.org and Supervisor Kelly felt he needed to stop it. The gentleman was stopped from speaking by the individuals running the meeting and the meeting continued on. Supervisor Kelly offered to meet with the man to explain facts to him but he was not interested in learning the facts. These are the things he feels that are breaking down the community. He has met with Mrs. Grosso and other people and made himself available to give people facts. The Board is transparent. Documents are on line and budgets are available. He is not willing to offer his time any further to people who flip the facts around and use the facts against him or against the Board. As of last night and that public display, he is done.

JOHNSON

Councilman Johnson said he met with Supervisor Kelly and Kenny Sabia from Environmental Consultants regarding PWD #2 to discuss various upgrades and improvements to the district to make sure the Town is fully compliant. He is meeting with Melissa Smith, Recreation Director next week to discuss ideas for the park, beachfront, etc. He is awaiting a response from NYS DEC regarding the geese problem at Lakeside Park. Councilman Johnson said regarding Supervisor Kelly's comments, he seconded his opinion. This is really our own fake news network and he no longer listens to it either.

MONTEMARANO

Councilman Montemarano said he is still waiting for the bid packet for the Legion building entranceway. It should be done soon. He is working on the Lathrop roof and Lyons Club building roof.

UPHAM

Councilman Upham said he supported the action Supervisor Kelly took last night. He met with the tax group a few months ago and offered to discuss facts and the silence has been deafening. There is a lot of false news and misinformation to make people confused.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vinny DiMarco said regarding the accusation of tampering with the budget, that is a heavy accusation. He knows that the business this Board performs is one hundred percent legitimate and clear. There is fake news that is out there which is unnecessary and a lot of people are losing faith in the fake news. It is an honor to live in this Town. His complaint is not the Town tax, it is the school tax, which the Town Board can do nothing about. Regarding the dam, the progress is good. He felt the bid would exceed the funding and felt the district residents should have a voice and he would prefer a vote for approval of additional funding if needed. He will be there when the Town is ready with the bridge and machine.

Alfred Greve suggested staging to cross the spillway. He would contact Supervisor Kelly regarding this idea. Regarding Supervisor Kelly's comments, the school tax is the real problem and people are upset about the taxes and he felt people's actions toward the Town Board was fallout from that.

Helen Grosso said she was a little surprised at the Supervisor's comments. She asked specifically that this not be done during a meeting. It was not her intention to do anything public. She has questions about the final budget, the way it is laid out. It is not the content at all that she is questioning, it is the presentation and she would still like to do that. She asked for a meeting so she could have her questions answered.

Supervisor Kelly said it will all depend on how Mrs. Grosso presents the information. She has done this before and spun the information, she is the voice and face of Pawling Tax Cut.org as it is her signature on the filing at Dutchess County. Supervisor Kelly said he has lost confidence that there can be a formal, good, effective conversation and it doesn't get spun the opposite way. Her group has given negativity to this town and turned people who wanted to move here away. He cited an incident where Mrs. Grosso told a woman about the high taxes in Pawling and she thanked Mrs. Grosso for giving her that information and she would not make the mistake of moving to Pawling.

Mrs. Grosso said her group is putting a very positive spin on this and the School Board has achieved a reduction last year and again this year and her group is telling people about that. She brought suit against the School Board because they were collecting surplus and putting in reserve funds inappropriately. It is a big year this year.

Councilman Johnson said the School Board is simply giving back tax money the School Board has overtaxed the community on. That is the story they need to tell.

Mrs. Grosso said the only thing the group said about the Town is that the budget went up \$200,000.00 this year but the taxes didn't go up.

Councilman Johnson said the Town taxes went down .02%. The Board can still provide services to the residents at the same or less cost. He understood that Pawlingtaxcut.org thinks the Board should sell the golf course, close the parks and maybe not even plow the roads to save money.

Mrs. Grosso said no one has said that. People are speaking up and there is nothing wrong with that. She is not accusing Supervisor Kelly but would simply like to point out a few things in the budget to him.

Supervisor Kelly said the cost of doing business increases. He would meet with Mrs. Grosso but he has a lot of things on his plate and if a meeting does not happen right away, it's because he is busy.

Judy Pisano said she has heard that expenses at transfer station would cost approximately half a million to a million dollars to keep it open. She has done some research and gotten some numbers for the items needed. She went over her numbers with the Board and she wondered if anyone has applied for any grants. Fees can be charged for many items that people drop off at the transfer station, which could raise money. She suggested charging an additional fee for commercial vehicles. She felt if additional fees were charged, a new truck could be paid off in five years. She is just trying to help.

Supervisor Kelly said he did not think Mrs. Pisano was looking at all aspects of the equipment she was getting prices for. There are a lot of regulations the Town has to comply with, such as prevailing wage regulations, among other hidden costs Mrs. Pisano might not be aware of.

John Daley, Highway Superintendent said regarding the scale at the transfer station, in addition to the scale, there would also need to be a concrete pad, electricity, staff and a different traffic flow at the transfer station.

Drew Montgomery said regarding the Comcast franchise agreement, he is a customer of both Comcast and Optimum. His Optimum bill has gone down and they provide much better service, while the Comcast bill continues to go up. He asked if there was a chance of bringing in someone else.

Supervisor Kelly said it is not cost effective for another company to come in.

Supervisor Kelly made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 PM, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk