

Supervisor James Schmitt opened the Workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pawling at 7:00 PM February 6, 2019 at the Holmes Whaley Lake Civic Association building, 239 Route 292, Holmes, New York. Present were Councilmen McCarthy, DeRosa, McGrath and approximately 22 interested citizens. Councilman Johnson was absent.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board discussed the proposed resolutions. Following discussion, it was agreed that the resolutions would be placed on the February 13, 2019 Town Board meeting agenda.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

MCCARTHY

Councilman McCarthy said he met with Councilman DeRosa and Vinny DiMarco at the Whaley Lake Dam and he was impressed to see that the lake level is coming up. He stated that everything is going well at the transfer station.

MCGRATH

Councilman McGrath said he has been over at Lakeside Park doing some volunteer work clearing brush.

DEROSA

Councilman DeRosa gave an update on the Whaley Lake Dam. The water is up about 26 inches from when the lake started filling up. There are approximately another 20 inches to go before the water is at the top of the spillway. Mr. DiMarco has been keeping a close eye on the dam and the water level. There is a safety issue with people going onto the dam. He felt that there needed to be signs so signs have been ordered saying "Danger", "Authorized Personnel Only" and "No Trespassing". He expressed concern that people could go over the spillway in a kayak and go down into the dam basin. He suggested putting lines and buoys along the spillway as a warning for people.

Mr. DiMarco welcomed the Board to Whaley Lake and he appreciated the Board coming to Holmes. He explained water calculations of the lake, which were calculated by Joe Zarecki. He said we need to allow the lake to fill up and if adjustments need to be made, we may be able to do it. He said the water level will vary. He also stated that people trespassing on the dam is a safety issue. Just today, someone was in the spillway, which is very dangerous. He felt measures needed to be taken to deter people from going to the dam. He felt putting up the signs was a start.

Councilman DeRosa said there is a water problem in the Town Hall basement. This problem comes up every year. Two weeks ago, employees who work in the basement had to be sent home with pay because there was a bad odor. He felt this problem needed to be addressed. He felt a lot of the work could be addressed in house. He felt the water problem needed to be corrected and then the interior could be addressed, and fixing the water problem was the first step.

Councilman McGrath asked if there was anywhere to move the employees.

Councilman McCarthy said moving the employees to the Legion building was discussed last year but there would be a problem getting the internet in that building.

Supervisor Schmitt suggested air quality, mold and asbestos testing be done.

Following discussion, Councilman DeRosa said it has to be dealt with.

Councilman DeRosa said he is a Board Member of the Dutchess County Planning Federation and he attended a meeting on January 22nd. There will be a class for new board members on April 30th, which will be a Planning Board overview and SEQRA basics. Councilman DeRosa said he attended a meeting of the Pedestrian Task Force, where they discussed paths making it easy for people to walk around the Village of Pawling. He suggested the Town donate the Town owned property along Dutcher Avenue to the Village so they could create a parking lot. Additional parking is needed for the Village and this could be a good addition for the Village. Councilman

DeRosa said 685 full price transfer station permits have been sold so far for 2019. The Town Attorney has suggested the zoning laws be changed regarding the transfer station and the Board has copies of the proposed law. He asked everyone to review the proposed law and hoped it could be discussed at the next meeting. Councilman DeRosa said next week, the Town Board will be appointing a new member to the Planning Board. He thanked all of the applicants for applying, saying their information will be kept on file for future positions.

SCHMITT

Supervisor Schmitt said he attended a meeting of the Executive Board of the Chamber of Commerce this morning and congratulated Diana Tomassetti for being named Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce. He said it was a very informative meeting on what the Chamber is doing for the community. Supervisor Schmitt said the Lathrop building at Lakeside Park is coming along and when it is finished, the public will be invited to see it. He said he was contacted by Friends of the Great Swamp (FROGS) and they have funding to purchase land, which they would protect. They propose purchasing 225 acres of town owned property on the west side of Route 22. They need to make the purchase by the end of March so he hoped that could be moved along quickly. FROGS invited the Board to a special education program on March 3rd at the Patterson Library. Supervisor Schmitt said he and Councilman McGrath did some hiking at Lakeside Park and they would like to open some of the trails if everyone agrees. Supervisor Schmitt said town hall is being updated and two large 82 inch screens have been installed in the meeting room. He explained that the School Board has asked for comments regarding hiring the new School Superintendent so he and Recreation Director Jessica Dickinson have given comments to the School Board. He said a lot of people were interviewed for the Planning and Zoning Boards and a candidate has been chosen and will be appointed at next week's Town Board meeting. A candidate will be chosen for the Zoning Board soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kyle Brine, resident from 17 Blue Bird Inn Road, said he is a professional trail worker, and the Appalachian Trail is one of the greatest trails in America and we are lucky to have the section in Pawling. He was alarmed to hear of the possibility of the area of the highway being rezoned for commercial uses. He was speaking on behalf of some concerned citizens of Pawling. He asked who the members were who would make up the economic development study group. Will this group include representatives from environmental groups and community associations? When will the public be informed about the scope of the work to be performed by the economic development study group? Does the rezone committee still exist? What is the status of the petitions from the individuals requesting a zoning change from residential to commercial along Route 22? What does the Town Board plan to do with the petitions? Will there be a request for proposal to encourage a competitive bidding process. He thanked the Board for their time.

Councilman DeRosa said there have been no decisions made. As far as the petitions, they are just sitting and the Town has not made a decision one way or the other. There has been no action by the original committee that was looking at the rezoning on Route 22. His understanding was that the Town Board was waiting for a presentation by the planner that Peter Cris was bringing in on the commercial development study for the Village and the Town. The commercial development study is not the same as a master plan, it is just an overview of what may be needed for the Town and Village. It has nothing to do with changing zoning and possibly rezoning the area north of Route 22. He doesn't know of anything that has been formulated.

Councilman McGrath said the resolution was made with the understanding that funding would be pursued before anything was done and we are still in that process.

Councilman DeRosa said the economic development study, in his view, has nothing to do with the proposed Route 22 rezoning.

Joe Marotta, resident from Whaley Lake, asked for an update on the funding for the Whaley Lake Dam and if any more grant monies can be applied for.

Supervisor Schmitt said the Town has a million dollars coming from NYS DEC. He is working with the newly elected Senator and he will be helping solicit the new Congressman to see what grant monies could be applied for.

Alfred Greve, resident from Holmes, said he ventured down to the spillway to look at the construction. It is a hazardous area. He suggested in addition to the lines and buoys there be some kind of netting to stop people from falling down the 13 foot drop off. He said the spillway is the same height it was originally and he asked if the spillway could be raised.

Councilman DeRosa said people must wait until the water gets up to the spillway to see what the water level is, and the water level will change with the height of the spillway. The spillway height is the same height as the old spillway when it was originally studied years ago on the dam. If the engineers figured out the size of the spillway correctly, the water level should be the same as what it was. There is no plan now to raise the spillway but if something happens in the future, maybe something can be done. That will be up to the engineers and NYS DEC.

Mr. Greve asked for a final cost accounting of the Whaley Lake Dam and an accounting on an annual basis so residents can see how the debt is being paid down.

Steve Martens, resident of 48 Lakeview Drive, thanked the Town Board for the work on the dam. He said it looks great. The water is coming up. He had a surveyor survey the elevation and it was 704.8 on the rock. Once the lake fills up, we will know what it will be.

Karen Burka, resident from South White Rock Road, expressed concern that brush is being dumped on Bundy Hill Road and also Reservoir Road. She hoped the Highway Department would pick up trash along the road. She asked for signs to be posted "saying no dumping" and she asked about a fine for people dumping.

Councilman McCarthy said the Highway Superintendent is working on getting signs and the Town does have a fine they can charge for people dumping. But they have to know who is dumping.

The motion to adjourn was made by Councilman DeRosa at 8:15 PM, seconded by Councilman McCarthy, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk