

Supervisor James Schmitt opened the Regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pawling at 7:00 PM January 9, 2019 at Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were Councilmen Johnson, McCarthy, DeRosa, McGrath and approximately 45 interested citizens.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS SHARED SERVICES PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION WITH THE VILLAGE OF PAWLING & PAWLING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Peter Cris, President of the Pawling Chamber of Commerce was present, along with Village of Pawling Mayor Robert Liffland, Village of Pawling Trustees Dan Peters, John Burweiger, Lauri Taylor, Village Clerk Jennifer Osborn and Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Ward.

The Board entertained a presentation by Mr. Cris regarding approving a resolution to explore and initiate a comprehensive plan for economic development to include the Town, Village, Holmes and Whaley Lake. He is joined this evening by members of the Village Board, the Chamber's Executive Board and members of the Chamber of Commerce, which consists of 168 business, not for profit organizations and individuals. He explained that a stakeholder meeting was held in 2010, which included property owners, real estate brokers, businesses, the Chamber, the Village and the Town. At that time, all agreed to proceed and participate in developing a plan for economic development. He and the Town Supervisor interviewed a professional planner with extensive credentials and an impressive portfolio. In 2012, a proposal was submitted to the Town, Village and the Chamber. That proposal was never executed because the funds were not available to move forward. He explained that in the past two years, Pawling has experienced a growth in businesses and a newly formed Chamber Merchant's Committee has introduced new ideas. This energy and creativity also represents the participation with the popular Farmer's Market. Mayor Liffland suggested the plan for 2012 be revisited and updated. In November of 2018, he met with the Mayor, members of the Village Board and Supervisor Schmitt and at that time, it was agreed to have the 2012 plan updated. The preliminary plan represents a starting point to proceed together to explore a comprehensive plan for economic development. Funds are not now available to proceed with this mission. A resolution passed by the Town Board tonight, and having the support of the Village Board and Chamber would start the process for an economic development analysis. The process would begin by attempting to secure funding as shared services, getting grants from Dutchess County, New York State and other sources. The Pawling Chamber has as its mission to encourage and support positive growth for its businesses, members as well as the Pawling Community. The Chamber, Village and Town working together would service a mission to increase and maximize the commercial and real estate tax base working with property owners, existing businesses and prospective builders and developers. This mission would proceed with the understanding and respect of all that is historical, environmental assets, which are numerous, and as we all know are valuable components for successful, quality growth. These assets, in addition to its rural infrastructure, make Pawling a desirable destination for businesses and visitors. The Chamber developed a brochure years ago and it began with the following, "Where history lives on, let the future unfold". He asked the Board to begin the process tonight with a resolution to preserve Pawling's assets and carefully nurture its growth now and for its future. This is the power of positive thinking that lives on in Pawling.

Supervisor Schmitt asked if all of Pawling would be looked at.

Mr. Cris said that is correct, this study would evaluate all of the business, in addition to evaluating vacant buildings, and working with property owners to see how those spaces can be filled with acceptable, quality services to serve this community as well as surrounding communities in order to make Pawling an attraction and a destination. In doing so, Pawling would prosper as well as surrounding communities.

Supervisor Schmitt said this past weekend, he, Councilmen Johnson and McGrath attended the swearing in ceremony of the new State Senator, who was sworn in by Gov. Cuomo. They spoke about economic growth in New York State and promoting business and how this is their initiative. He felt applying for a grant from the State might be perfect timing. A meeting has been scheduled with the new Senator, Supervisor Schmitt and Mayor Liffland to discuss this project.

Councilman DeRosa said the Implementation Committee has previously looked at different areas in the Town where the commercial base could be expanded. This was studied for about a year and a half and many ideas were discussed. Route 22 north was not looked at during this process but Route 22 south was looked at, which is why the residential area near Rooney Motors was changed to commercial. He attended a meeting a few weeks ago with

representatives of Dutchess County who talked about the fact that grant monies are available. Also discussed was expanding the sewer district from the Castagna project south. He expressed concern about the Route 22 north proposal from residential to commercial because nothing has been decided on this area yet. He was happy the Town was getting together with the Village and the Chamber to study economic development.

Supervisor Schmitt said Mr. Cris is talking about doing a one-time comprehensive study of everything because in the past, parts have been left out.

Councilman DeRosa said a master plan is a living document and is always changing. In the end, he felt the plan would have to be segregated because the Village and Town zoning is different. The study and the information could be used as a conglomerate but in the end, it will need to be two separate documents.

Mr. Cris said that is down the road a little bit, what we are talking about is a comprehensive plan and the starting point is an analysis to look at the comprehensive plan for the Town and Village. They will look at what is here now, look at who is Pawling, what is Pawling and where is Pawling. It will be an objective view by professionals to say this is who you are. Then it is a matter of what is here now, which includes retail and businesses and who they are. That would be part of the process.

Councilman DeRosa asked if a buildout analysis would be done as part of this process.

Mr. Cris said yes, that would be part two. The first part is the examination of retail and businesses. Then, after the community reviews that, the decision will be if they want to move forward with the buildout, which is a separate component of economic development planning.

Councilman DeRosa asked for an estimated cost for the Village and Town.

Mr. Cris said he did not want to represent the consultant and he felt the consultant should discuss that issue with the Boards. He felt if everyone was in agreement and a resolution is passed, he would bring someone in to discuss this.

Councilman DeRosa said he wasn't sure if he was ready to commit to a binding resolution.

Councilman McGrath asked about a time line.

Mr. Cris said for the first phase, which would be retail and businesses would be three to four months. This would include reviews of master plans for both the Town and Village. Economic development begins with bringing people in to Pawling and tourism.

Councilman DeRosa said he is all for the concept but asked if the end result would be a document where the master plan could be changed or would another study have to be done to change the master plan so the zoning could be updated. There has been some question about the Town's master plan, and a meeting with the Town Attorney today revealed that the 1991 and 2012 master plans are in effect now. All of the work done on the 2010 master plan should not be considered. He wanted to make sure the Town is not going to spend money looking at the Route 22 corridor and then re-spend money again on the Route 22 corridor north. He wanted to be clear before he voted affirmative.

Mr. Cris said the starting point for the whole process is to take a look at the master plan for the Town and the master plan for the Village. The objective is not to change everything and convert everything to commercial. The point is to make Pawling a healthy, growing community that pleases the people who live here. It presents an opportunity for growth in the future with new families and businesses and the beneficiaries will be the Town and the Village. They want to do a professional, objective analysis, along with recommendations.

Councilman Johnson thanked Peter Cris for the time he has put into this and he thanked the Village Board. Most importantly, he wanted to thank the residents he has listened to for the past three or four months talk about something that is extremely important to them, and equally as important to him. The underlying message is that residents wanted the Board to explore what possibilities already exist in the community. Mr. Cris talked specifically about preserving environmentally sensitive areas and historically sensitive areas. This study may indeed determine that there is no need to rezone any properties in certain parts of Town. He is very excited to move forward working with the Village and the Chamber. He left the swearing in of the new Senator excited because everyone likes to give money for shared services. It will save the taxpayers money and give us a very good product in the end.

Councilman Johnson introduced a resolution to ask the Board to enter into a comprehensive plan for economic development as a shared service with the Village of Pawling and the Chamber of Commerce, seconded by Supervisor Schmitt.

Councilman DeRosa said he is not clear yet, although supportive of this effort, he was not clear if there would be a second study for Route 22 north area, or if it would be included. He was concerned about the financials of doing two studies.

Councilman Johnson said it is his understanding that this encompasses the entire Town, and no, there would not be a separate study.

Supervisor Schmitt said what could come out of the study is that the professionals say they don't see any growth potential in that area.

Councilman DeRosa said he wanted to be clear that there would not be two studies and this would be one complete study and one cost.

Supervisor Schmitt said this would take the Village into consideration and residents' concerns. Professionals who do this for a living would give recommendations for a healthy, growing Village and Town.

Councilman DeRosa said all of that was done in the 1991 master plan. This process has been done before. He wanted to have a clear estimate of what the cost would be. He felt that after this process was done, more expense would be needed to update the master plan to fit the zoning, which is separate from the Village. The last two master plan updates cost over \$250,000.00. He has been involved in three master plan updates over his years of service.

Councilman Johnson said the needs have to be identified first.

Councilman McGrath said the resolution is to start the process and could be dependent on getting funding.

Councilman Johnson said the Board has a fiscal responsibility and he believed that the Senator would help the Town with funding.

Mayor Liffland agreed with the concept. It will cost money. In the Village, they are doing it themselves with the help of the County. They have someone giving time to help the Village. He felt the Town Board could help them with the master plan. He believed a professional was needed.

John Burweger said he is all for the study being done, but would like to know what the cost will be and he would like to see proposals and resumes from various people who might be participating. He felt there should be multiple people interviewed, their resumes should be looked at and their credentials should be checked and everyone should be confident that this is the right approach. He is not opposed to the idea.

Lauri Taylor said she is continuing to work with the County to market the Town and the Village and make it more attractive for people to come in.

Dan Peters said he was very excited about all of this and felt the sewer expansion was a huge part of allowing expansion. He has spoken to County representatives about expansion and they are ready, willing and able to help. The new Senator is ready to make a contribution also. He felt there was a window of opportunity to make something happen and felt they were obligated to do it. Some of these things have been sitting on a shelf for twenty or thirty years, it is time to make it happen.

Mayor Liffland said it was great working with the Town to make things happen. He wanted to see Pawling preserved.

Lauri Taylor talked about the Empire State Trail, which would be open in 2020. It will come up to where Old Route 55 and Route 292 intersect. There has been discussion about a trail head and parking there but also discussion about taxi service to the Village, with the ability to transport bicycles. Also discussed were bicycles for rent and the idea is for them to take the bicycles on the train to the rail trail in Wassaic. Discussion on this is ongoing on this.

Supervisor Schmitt said he agreed with the initial study but expressed concern with approving a blank check.

Mr. Cris said there is no cost in this phase. If everyone agrees, Town, Village and Chamber, he would bring in the consultant to propose the details.

Councilman McGrath said it would be nice for the public to see the resume of the planner.

Councilman DeRosa asked if ideas and bids would be solicited or are we going with the single planner.

John Burweger said he would recommend looking at various resumes.

Councilman Johnson said the key with this is the expert. Let's see what he brings to the table and we can make decisions based on that.

Supervisor Schmitt felt the professional would take everything in Pawling into consideration.

Supervisor Schmitt took at vote on the resolution and it passed with the following roll call vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilman Johnson – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilman McGrath “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

MINUTES

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of December 5, 2018 and December 12, 2018, seconded by Councilman DeRosa and passed with the following roll call vote:

Councilman Johnson – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilman McGrath – “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

CONSENT AGENDA

**Resolution 2019038
Payment of Bills for the Town of Pawling**

Whereas, the Town of Pawling Bookkeeper has reviewed and prepared the vouchers and has offered them for review, and

Whereas, the vouchers have been approved in accordance with the Town of Pawling policy, and

Whereas, the vouchers have been numbered 20182685 through 20190029, now therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Pawling Town Board hereby accepts the vouchers as prepared and on the recommendation of the Bookkeeper and hereby authorizes payment of said vouchers for the Town of Pawling on this date in the amount of \$355,949.79.

**Resolution 2019039
Billing for Pawling Water District #2**

Whereas, Pawling Water District #2 bills need to be approved by the Pawling Town Board, and

Whereas, the bills have been prepared and submitted in the amount of \$13,916.80 for the period of October 2018 through December 2018 by the Water District Clerk, now therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Pawling Town Board hereby accepts the billing as recommended for Pawling Water District #2.

**Resolution 2019040
Facility Use Requests – Waiver / Fees**

Whereas, the Town of Pawling operates facilities that from time to time will be used by the public for events other than the Town’s own usage, and

Whereas, the Director of Recreation will periodically receive requests to waive the fees, and

Whereas, the Town Board sets the fees for the use of facilities, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the following fees / waiver(s) have been authorized by the Town Board:

Shorehaven Civic Assoc. HWLCA Building 1/19/19, 5/18/19, 8/17/19
Wendel Weber

MOTION: Councilman Johnson

SECOND: Supervisor Schmitt

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilman Johnson – “AYE” Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”
Councilman McCarthy – “AYE” Councilman McGrath “AYE”
Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

NON CONSENT AGENDA

**Resolution 2019041
Approval of Waiver for Transfer Station Permit**

Whereas, the Town of Pawling has established new rules for the 2019 operation and use of the Pawling Transfer Station, and

Whereas, commercial vehicles are prohibited from obtaining permits to the Transfer Station without first seeking a waiver from the Town Board of the Town of Pawling, and

Whereas, recipients of a waiver are only permitted to dump household waste at the Transfer Station, therefore, be it,

Resolved, that the following individuals are hereby approved for a waiver to obtain a 2019 Transfer Station Permit by the Town Board of the Town of Pawling:

Rene Rivera Michael Gerosa Ivan Cabrera Steve Parrino Joe Zarecki
Steve Webster Soledad O’Brien Rob Liffland

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilman Johnson

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilman Johnson – “AYE” Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”
Councilman McCarthy – “AYE” Councilman McGrath “AYE”
Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

**Resolution 2019042
Automotive Mechanic Vacancy Appointment**

Whereas, a vacancy for Automotive Mechanic has occurred in the Highway Department, and,

Whereas, after interviewing several candidates, the Highway Superintendent would like to fill that position with Paul Drensek, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Town Board approves Paul Drensek to be a full time Automotive Mechanic with the Highway Department and will be compensated at the salary established within the approved Town of Pawling 2019 budget.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilman Johnson

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilman Johnson – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilman McGrath “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

**Resolution 2019043
Authorizing Dissolution of Enterprise Fund for Town Summer Camp**

Whereas, the Town Board has historically approved a budget to fund an Enterprise Fund for the operation of the Town Summer Camp; and

Whereas, historically, the funds in the Enterprise Fund have been insufficient to sustain the Town Summer Camp without support from the General Fund, and as a result, the funding for the 2019 summer camp budget was included in the 2019 General Fund; and

Whereas, the Enterprise Fund is no longer of any use and on advice from the Town’s accounting consultant, the Town Bookkeeper has recommended the dissolution of this fund and the Town Board wishes to accept the recommendation of the Town Bookkeeper;

Now, therefore, it is resolved that the Enterprise Fund be dissolved, and be it

Further Resolved, that the Town Supervisor is authorized and directed to execute any and all documentation necessary to give effect to this resolution.

MOTION: Supervisor Schmitt
SECOND: Councilman Johnson

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilman Johnson – “AYE”

Councilman DeRosa – “AYE”

Councilman McCarthy – “AYE”

Councilman McGrath “AYE”

Supervisor Schmitt – “AYE”

DISCUSSION/TOWN BOARD MEMBERS

JOHNSON

Councilman Johnson thanked everyone for coming to all of these meetings, voicing their opinions and he asked them to continue to do so. He is always available. He felt this analysis would answer a lot of questions that should be answered instead of just focusing on one spot.

MCCARTHY

Councilman McCarthy did check on the rate we pay to get rid of garbage and he urged people to recycle because it saves a lot of money.

DEROSA

Councilman DeRosa said today is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and recognized the Town Constables, Fire Department and all first responders for the job they do. Regarding the Whaley Lake Dam, the Town Engineer submitted the paperwork for substantial completion to NYS DEC and responded to NYS DEC comments. The Town is waiting to get acceptance of the substantial completion document so they can begin filling the lake, six inches at a time. The lake now is approximately two feet higher than it is naturally supposed to be because of all of the runoff.

Councilman DeRosa also discussed with the Town Attorney finalization of the lot line adjustment for the dam and she is working on that. Councilman DeRosa said he and Councilman McGrath spoke with the Town Attorney and asked her to get the special events and air BnB local laws moving.

MCGRATH

Councilman McGrath said he was really excited about Mr. Cris's presentation and excited to work with the Village on bringing more growth to Pawling in a wise manor. He felt bringing the sewer down to south Route 22 is vital for economic development. He is looking forward to discussing that further. Councilman McGrath said his family has expressed interest in volunteering to clean up the waterfall area at Lakeside Park. It was an important part of the park to his grandparents, who passed away. They want to clear brush, plant bulbs and perennials. He wondered how he should go about getting the Board's blessing.

Supervisor Schmitt said Councilman McGrath would need to go through Wendel Weber, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds. He was sure it wouldn't be difficult to get the okay to get in there.

Councilman DeRosa said Councilman McGrath should fill out the volunteer insurance forms before they begin work at the park.

SCHMITT

Supervisor Schmitt said he, Councilman McGrath and Councilman Johnson spent Sunday with the newly sworn in Senator and Governor Cuomo. It was exciting to hear them talk about one of their big initiatives, which is economic growth in the communities around here. They know how important it is. He was looking forward to meeting with the Senator next week to see what, if any, grant monies are available. Supervisor Schmitt said a lot of work has been done at the Lathrop building. There has been new paint throughout, new flooring is going in, new ceiling tiles and new lighting. Once the work is complete, an open house will be scheduled for residents to come and see the progress.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Board entertained a presentation by Jessica Dickinson, Recreation Director. Ms. Dickinson thanked everyone for their support and said she is always available to the community to hear their comments. She gave the Board an update on new and existing programs, saying she has expanded on existing programs while introducing new ones since October 1st when she took over as the new Recreation Director. She has re-prioritized the community's needs based on discussions with people, emails and increasing social media presence. She thanked Wendel Weber, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds and his crew for all of their help with the improvements at the Lathrop building. She said the Triathlon date has been changed to July 20th, with a youth Triathlon on July 19th. There will be a lot going on in 2019 and she looked forward to it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vinny DiMarco, resident from 1136 Route 292, thanked the Board for setting up the meeting with the Village Board tonight and thanked the Village Board for attending. He felt some very positive things would come out of this meeting. He thanked Peter Cris for an excellent presentation and he felt the taxpayers of Pawling would benefit from this. He thanked Councilman DeRosa for meeting him at the lake last Sunday to measure the water level, which is 38 inches below the 704.80 and hopefully, the lake will be filled once the approval is obtained from NYS DEC. He thanked Councilman Johnson for doing the paperwork regarding the lake that goes on behind the scene. He appreciates all the Board does.

Jill Norgren, resident of Holmes, said she is a Board member from The Pawling Record newspaper. She asked the Board to think about getting some stories to the newspaper. Regarding the discussion on beginning the new study, she asked that the Town's master plans and resumes of the consultants be places on the Town's website so people can look at them.

John Burweiger, Board member from The Pawling Record asked the Board to consider using the newspaper for some publications. He thought there was an agreement for the Town to use the

newspaper in lieu of a newsletter. The Pawling Record needs help and anything the Board can do would be greatly appreciated.

Philip van Buren from the Oblong Land Conservancy with offices at 517 Route 22 in Pawling, expressed appreciation on behalf of his organization for their willingness to consider a broader scope of studying the question of any rezoning in the future of Pawling. He expressed concern about who would be doing the work on this, would there be comprehensive participation. Professionals are not unbiased, they are not neutral, and they are not omniscient. The real question is who is the client, who will be directing the study. Who will be deciding what needs to be studied. He urged the Board to give this careful thought about the parts of Pawling's voice in this process, will they have the opportunity to express their needs as they see them. Important things may or may not get looked at depending on which voices are included and which are excluded. The Hurds Corners people are concerned about their groundwater so would that be studied? He felt there needed to be many voices from many parts of the Pawling community involved in directing this professional and deciding what gets studied. Would there be opportunities for public comment on the scope of the study, preliminary findings, and further investigations based on the preliminary findings. He urged the Board to think very carefully about these various levels of public participation so that as they work on coming up with a plan that is good for all of Pawling, it includes the voices and interests of Pawling and seeks to forge a genuine consensus.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:15 PM, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk