

Supervisor James Schmitt opened the Workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pawling at 7:00 PM April 3, 2019 at Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were Councilmen McCarthy, DeRosa, McGrath, Johnson and approximately 25 interested citizens.

MILLENNIUM STRATEGIES

The Board entertained a presentation by Dave Jenkins of Millennium Strategies. Mr. Jenkins presented a packet of information to Board members and explained that Millennium Strategies is a consulting firm that provides grant research and grant writing services in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. They are based in White Plains so they are close by. Their service model is built around meeting with town representatives and really getting to know the town on a personal level. They will look at all departments and what priorities are and aligning those with grants that exist on federal, state and foundation levels. There are two individuals of their staff of fifteen who only review and break out new grant opportunities. They write 1200 applications per year and 30% of those are foundation based. Their return on investment has been 45 to 1 across the Board. On the lower end, the return on investment was 7 to 1. Now is a good time of year to be looking at grants. They write grants for parks and recreation, sewer and water, protection of environment, economic development, among other projects areas. He explained that there are some projects where grant administration would be included in the grant. The core of their service is based in grant research and grant writing. The administration of the grant is up to the Town. Their contract is usually a twelve month contract. The contract could include the Library, Fire District and Village, which could be done as a shared service for possible cost savings. They do not work on a contingency basis, in their view that is unethical per the State regulations that exist. Their fee is the same no matter how many grants are awarded. In New York, they have 8 municipal clients and they have received 14 million dollars in grants. Mr. Jenkins thanked the Board for entertaining his presentation.

The Board thanked Mr. Jenkins for his time.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board discussed the proposed resolutions. Following discussion, it was agreed that the resolutions would be placed on the April 10, 2019 Town Board meeting agenda. Following discussion, the Board took the following action:

Resolution 2019063 Acceptance of Town Website Proposal from BAS

Whereas, the current provider of the Town of Pawling's website CivicCMS is no longer able to meet the Town's website hosting needs, and

Whereas, Business Automation Systems (BAS) submitted a proposal and made a presentation to members of the Town Board and the Town Clerk to host the Town's website, and

Whereas, the Town of Pawling already uses BAS for several other programs, and

Whereas, BAS is able to meet and service the specific needs of the Town of Pawling's website, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Town Board hereby approves the Town Supervisor to sign the contract with BAS to host the Town of Pawling website.

MOTION: Councilman Johnson

SECOND: Councilman DeRosa

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Councilman Johnson – "AYE"

Councilman DeRosa – "AYE"

Councilman McCarthy – "AYE"

Councilman McGrath "AYE"

Supervisor Schmitt – "AYE"

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

MCCARTHY

Councilman McCarthy thanked the Pawling Fire Department for spending seven hours at the train accident last week. It was a long time to be outside at an accident site.

MCGRATH

Councilman McGrath said the head of the Eastern Dutchess Road Runners reached out to him today. They usually host the Ryan McElroy 5K run on Father's Day at the fire house and they wondered if anything is needed to be approved by the Town.

Councilman Johnson said the Board should figure out what needs to be done to allow them to do it.

DEROSA

Councilman DeRosa said regarding the Whaley Lake Dam, there was a dock that floated into the spillway area and got stuck once the ice that came off the lake. He thanked Billy Colbert and his crew for getting the dock off of the spillway. Councilman DeRosa said he has been working with Wendel Weber, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds to use the barrier that was used for swimming lanes at Lakeside Park to be used at the spillway to keep people off of the spillway. Councilman DeRosa said the dam has to be finished so that the completed documents can be sent to NYS DEC in order for the Town to receive grant monies from NYS DEC in the amount of one million dollars. NYS DEC is waiting for the final documents before they release the money. The construction company will be back in the middle of April to do the topsoil and touch ups on the dam and the final documents should be given to the Town at that point, and hopefully the money can be collected. Councilman DeRosa said he attended a Town of Pawling Planning Board workshop meeting, a training session by Town Attorney Michael Liguori, on Monday which was very informative.

SCHMITT

Supervisor Schmitt said some residents are concerned about the water level of Whaley Lake. He met with a number of residents at the lake with Vinny DiMarco. He said he recently learned that NYS DEC will allow the water level of the spillway to be increased six inches. He suggested waiting a while longer to see if the water level rises.

Councilman DeRosa said the Town was guaranteed that the lake would be at the historic level that it was before. He has heard a lot of different complaints. The lake can go up a little higher in the next couple of months. He has seen this as he has been on the lake since he was ten years old. It is great that NYS DEC agreed to allow the lake to be raised six inches without further engineer but in order to do that, you would have to lower the lake. He felt that if that was going to be done, the lake should be given time to get to its natural levels and he suggested to do this in the fall if the Board sees fit to do it.

The Board felt Councilman DeRosa's suggestion made sense.

Vinny DiMarco felt the lake should be allowed to behave naturally without taking the action to change the elevation of the water right now. The Town has permission to adjust the lake level by six inches so that is an option. He felt action should not be taken at this time.

SCHMITT

Supervisor Schmitt said he spoke with Senator Harckham and gave him a list of priorities of things to push for Pawling. One of the things on the list was the sewer line down Route 22 and the Senator said he would take that to the Governor's Office and see if he could move some things along for Pawling. Senator Harckham will be in Pawling on April 16th at a Pawling Chamber of Commerce meeting to discuss development and infrastructure.

TRAILS

Supervisor Schmitt said he and Councilman McGrath met with representatives of The Oblong Land Conservancy and the Pawling Community Foundation about the trails at Lakeside Park. Following discussion, Supervisor Schmitt said he would allow the Oblong and the PCF to create

a map of all of the existing trails at Lakeside Park and what they are used for. Once the map is complete, they will bring it to the Town for comments and changes.

AIR QUALITY TESTING FOR TOWN HALL

Wendel Weber, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds said the Town had Quest Environmental Services do air testing for the entire Town Hall and he emailed the Board the 109 page report. Basically everything was good with the air quality. They made suggestions for the water issues in the lower level of the building.

Councilman DeRosa said they said everything they tested for was within acceptable guidelines. He was trying to investigate the drainage outside the building, including the handicapped entrance on the side of the building. He also suggested asbestos testing for the entire Town Hall building. No matter what is done with the Town Hall building, the asbestos needs to be abated if any is discovered. There is also a water problem that needs to be resolved.

MOVING GUARD HOUSE @ LAKESIDE PARK

Wendel Weber, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds said Jessica Dickinson, Recreation Director would like to move the guard house over by the water front this year. Also, the guard house at Murrow Park is in bad condition and he is suggesting taking it down and putting up two signs, one that says Murrow Park at Murrow Park and one that says Lakeside Park at Lakeside Park, Town of Pawling which will be green and white, approximately 48x36. There haven't been signs at the parks for five or six years.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Coleen Snow, resident from Mohawk Trail, asked if there was a salary for Millennium Strategies.

Supervisor Schmitt said the retainer for services for a twelve month period would be \$36,000.00.

Mrs. Snow asked when the purchase of the new trucks would be discussed.

Supervisor Schmitt said the Board is weighing its options and continues to discuss the purchase of trucks or equipment.

Helen Grosso, resident from Tracy Road said it was nice to see the possibilities for grants. She asked about the grant for the truck for the transfer station.

Supervisor Schmitt said he wasn't sure but he believed the Town was moving forward with that grant but it would not be as quickly as the Town had hoped.

Mrs. Grosso said she has been exchanging emails with everyone regarding the health insurance, which Supervisor Schmitt has said he is working on. She asked what Supervisor Schmitt meant when he said there would be a time for the changes to be discussed in public.

Supervisor Schmitt said the Board would discuss it in public at a meeting. He felt the Board would make those changes before the budget process.

Mrs. Grosso asked what Supervisor Schmitt meant when he said the changes being considered have to do with keeping Pawling jobs competitive and attractive. She felt full time employees certainly should have health benefits, she doesn't argue that at all.

Supervisor Schmitt said what he meant was that the Town wants to be able to attract the most qualified people, the best people for Pawling. He did not want to get to a point where everything is stripped away from employees to maybe make a difference of a few percent in your taxes, but then turn around and lose people to other municipalities because the compensation is better. That is something the Board is weighing in this process, they have to look at how this affects Pawling moving forward, the cost of it but also the Board does not want to lose out on the people who are available to them.

Mrs. Grosso said she couldn't agree more and comparing to other communities is the only logical way to proceed.

Supervisor Schmitt said there is not just one town that is specific to Pawling and the Board is looking at that.

Councilman DeRosa said he wanted to protect the full time employees because the work they do and the service they give to the community is invaluable. They make his job here as

Town Councilman easier and he wants to live up to the Town's commitment to the employees because they are living up to the commitment to the residents of Pawling.

Mrs. Grosso said she couldn't agree more. Her email had nothing to do with full time employees.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM in memory of a fellow classmate of his from 1975, John Patterson who succumbed to cancer. He was perhaps the most talented athlete to ever graduate from Pawling High School, he played football for Syracuse, he was drafted by the Buffalo Bills. His heart and his kindness were as great as his abilities and he asked we keep him in mind as we adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Schmitt, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk