

Supervisor James Schmitt opened the Workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pawling at 7:00 PM November 6, 2019 at Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were Councilmen McCarthy, DeRosa, McGrath, Johnson and approximately 30 interested citizens.

### **PRESENTATION ON TOWNSGIVING**

The Board entertained a presentation by Jessica Dickinson, Recreation Director on the Townsgiving event on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Dickinson said the event will consist of a 10 K run and a feast at 3 PM. She said there will be something for everyone and she urged everyone to purchase tickets and attend the event.

### **BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

The Board entertained presentations by Jessica Dickinson, Recreation Director, Jay Dickinson, Highway Superintendent and Wendel Weber, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds.

Ms. Dickinson presented the Board with documentation on her current budget and gave an overview of the proposed 2020 budget and programs. She felt she had done very positive things in the past year and shifted the entire dynamic of the Recreation Department. She is grateful and appreciates all of the support she has been given. She asked that her staff be given a 5% increase in pay and/or additional hours. She asked that Lori Covell be made full time. She felt it was important to recognize the efforts of the Recreation Department. She reported on senior programs, teen center, camp, the possibility of perimeter fencing for the waterfront and enhancements to the waterfront bathrooms.

Mr. Dickinson reviewed his budget with the Board. He said he was pleased with his request for the budget. He said more manpower is needed for the Highway Department and he has spoken to Board members about this. He gave the board an update on what has been done this year, including snow events, street sweeping, East of Hudson/MS4 requirements, mowing, and major blacktop projects. He is in the process of beginning winter operations. He said he is now using straight salt for the roads and this has been successful. He announced that he has two senior men leaving at the end of November, Dave and Bill Akin, and he thanked them for their service. He thanked his crew, foreman and secretary for all they do.

Mr. Weber presented the Board with documentation on the 2020 proposed budget for the Buildings & Grounds Department and gave the Board an overview of projects and equipment. He said he would need to replace the plow truck and the pavilion at the park needs a new roof. He talked about winter projects, the parks and golf course.

### **PUBLIC HEARING/2020 BUDGET**

Supervisor Schmitt made a motion to open the public hearing on the budget, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

Roy Carter, resident of 17 Hurds Corner Road, read a letter from the Hurds Corner Civic Association, Mark Chipkin and Robert Reilly, President and Vice President asking if there is a line in the current proposed 2020 budget to pursue planning a commercial zone in the greenway from the Pawling Village to the Dover line along Route 22.

Councilman Johnson said there is no ongoing current discussion. It could come up again if grant monies are found for this.

Councilman DeRosa said there is no line item in this budget for this particular item.

Harvey Matcovsky said he understood that transfer station stickers are down by approximately 200, and he wondered if related costs have also gone down. It is his understanding that the transfer station is self-sustaining and paid for by the users. He asked if there were any changes in planning for the transfer station for next year. He asked if there would be a reduction in services. He felt the Board should create a capital fund.

Councilman Johnson said the tonnage is down due to enforcement. The transfer station already has a capital fund setup, which equipment has been purchased with.

Councilman DeRosa said he would talk about the transfer station later. All commercial dumping has been eliminated, which is why tonnage is down and sticker sales are down by approximately 20 to 40. There would be no reduction in services.

Eleanor Smith, resident of 144 Hurds Corner Road said she wanted to see planning money used for the study of commercial zoning on Route 22 north. She owns property which abuts the Dover line and her taxes are high, and she would like to see something come in to offset the taxes. She can't sell her property because the taxes are too high.

Bill Dietz, resident of 27 Meadow Lane, said he would like to show appreciation to Jessica Dickinson, Wendel Weber and Jay Dickinson for their presentations. He said with regard to the equipment, he felt safety had to be number one to make sure employees are safe. He read a statement regarding the golf course, saying the golf amenity revenue budget of \$235,000.00 is insufficient to cover the major indirect costs associated with operating the golf amenity. He stated that the golf course is partially subsidized by the A fund in the budget, which he felt was unfair since the golf course is utilized by less than 10% of the taxpayers.

Helen Grosso, resident of 14 Tracy Road, said it was nice to hear the three presentations on recreation, highway and buildings & grounds but said she would have liked to ask questions. Mrs. Grosso said the Town of Pawling offers health coverage to elected officials, which a lot of towns do not. On the summary page of the budget, under employee contributions, she asked what the \$61,433.00 was. She asked where the contribution from other employees is shown in the budget.

Supervisor Schmitt said that is the 30% contribution that was implemented for the elected officials taking the plan.

Andrew Forman, Town Bookkeeper said health insurance employee contributions are shown as a benefit line in separate places. He said the health insurance is estimated to go up 7% in 2020.

Mrs. Grosso said she hoped the Board has not dropped the ball on looking into comparable coverage, not necessarily New York State coverage. That is a way to offer the same coverage and not pay as much.

Supervisor Schmitt said he is meeting next week with another healthcare provider, and he is looking at this in steps. He is looking at alternate plans and contributions constantly.

Mrs. Grosso said Jessica Dickinson's programs are bringing in more revenue and suggested she could have flexibility on how her budget is used. She felt a tax collector was not needed now as it once was, with health benefits so the Board should think about plans on how things could change so they would not be wasting money on a job that is not as needed now as it once was. The Board could eliminate positions when people retire.

Supervisor Schmitt said he is looking at every department.

Mrs. Grosso asked questions on the summary page, she said there is a large difference and wondered how it was being paid for. She said the summary page is not clear. She asked why the Pawling Free Library was not in the budget.

Mr. Forman said the difference will be paid for by fund balance, revenues, and a combination of things. The budget shows you where the monies are coming from. He said the Pawling Free Library has not given the town a budget yet.

Supervisor Schmitt said the public hearing would be held open until next week.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

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

The Board took the following action:

### **Resolution 2019130 Oblong Land Conservancy Fee Waiver**

Whereas, the Oblong Land Conservancy is local, a non-profit organization, and,

Whereas, the Oblong Land Conservancy is installing 3 signs to raise public awareness to the fact that community is located in the Great Swamp Watershed, and,

Whereas, in a letter dated November 5, 2019 the Planning Board has recommended that the signage fee of \$150 be waived, therefore, be it

Resolved, the Town Board hereby authorizes the waiver of the \$150 signage fee for the Oblong Conservancy.

**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**

**JOHNSON**

**PAWLING ANIMAL CLINIC AGREEMENT**

Councilman Johnson said the Town has an agreement with the Pawling Animal Clinic to take care of dogs. It is an ongoing agreement and he is proposing an addendum to the original agreement dated May 3, 2012.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to adopt the changes as shown in the addendum and authorize the Supervisor to sign on behalf of the community, seconded by Councilman DeRosa, motion passed unanimously.

**MCCARTHY**

Councilman McCarthy said he has spoken to Nancy Tagliaferro, Town Attorney about three individuals who took their second transfer station stickers and put them on different vehicles that were not registered with the town. Ms. Tagliaferro will be writing these individuals letters to ask why those stickers were not on the correct vehicles. The transfer station will be open on Tuesdays following a Monday holiday beginning next year. Also, Ms. Tagliaferro will work on new rules and regulations to include the limitation of four tires per visit to the transfer station.

**DEROSA**

Councilman DeRosa suggested that the second transfer station permit be increased by \$5.00, which would go toward the capital fund for the transfer station. The other thing was to open the transfer station on Tuesdays following a Monday holiday.

Councilman DeRosa made a motion to accept those changes and put them on the transfer station rules, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

Councilman DeRosa said on October 30<sup>th</sup>, he attended a Dutchess County Planning Federation meeting where site plan lighting was discussed. One of the people giving the class was Michelle Gregg, who is a planner and he suggested Ms. Gregg work as a planner for the Town of Pawling. He would like approval from the Board to follow up with her.

The Board agreed.

Councilman DeRosa said the Board has to think about replacing Jennifer Strehle in the zoning department, so that position should be advertised as well as a building inspector and possibly a zoning administrator.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Harvey Matcovsky said he was pleased to hear the Board is looking at alternate plans to save money. He suggested that Medicare eligible employee supplemental plan can be purchased from AARP, which is an excellent plan at substantial savings.

Betsy Montgomery, resident from 13 Quaker Hill Road, announced the second annual pre-Thanksgiving Farmer's Market at the fire house on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Ken Baresich, resident from 1683 Route 292, asked if there was any update on the dam.

Supervisor Schmitt said he is waiting for two engineers to submit proposals on how they would fix the dam and related costs.

Mr. Baresich asked what the "small watershed protection district" was in the budget.

Mr. Forman said that is the Whaley Lake Dam district.

Ed Kelly, resident of Lakeview Drive, Whaley Lake, asked if there was a time limit for when the engineers of record are put on notice that there is a claim.

Ms. Tagliafierro said the town has done that already.

Mr. Kelly said he listened to the podcast of the September meeting where medical coverage and a lifetime package for the Board was discussed. He felt it was great dialogue and the comments that came out regarding waiting until the union contract came up, he wondered what the thought process was for that because the union contract is different from the management contract. Also, there was discussion about compensation to offset the loss of the health insurance benefit. He has been in the town for a long time and he feels like this town is in rough shape with regards to taxes. He hoped the Board would reconsider the position as far as the Board members getting lifetime benefits.

Councilman Johnson said the lifetime benefits have been eliminated.

Supervisor Schmitt said the Board increased contributions to 30% of the premium for certain elected officials, which is higher than any neighboring towns. The Board eliminated the lifetime benefits from the first day of his election. There is only one former Board member receiving the lifetime benefit.

Councilman Johnson said he wanted to adjourn the meeting remembering Rose Clarkson, who recently passed away. He started eighteen years ago and Rose gave him a flag pin and told him to wear it with pride. She was a great woman and he would like everyone to remember her.

Supervisor Schmitt said she was the Pawling Town Clerk for twenty five years.

Councilman McCarthy said he and his brother knew her well and she was the only one he never lied to. She was a fantastic person.

Councilman DeRosa said she was a good woman.

Councilman McCarthy seconded the motion to adjourn at 9 PM, motion passed unanimously.

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Town Clerk