

Supervisor James Schmitt opened the Workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pawling at 7:00 PM March 6, 2019 at Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were Councilmen McCarthy, DeRosa, McGrath, Johnson and approximately 32 interested citizens.

PAWLING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Board entertained a presentation by Mario Mejorado and Henry Brunow of the Pawling Community Foundation. Earl Slocum from the PCF was also present. Items discussed were clearing trails at Lakeside Park, the proposed dog park and moving/using the dirt pile. Since there is economic value in the dirt pile in the amount of approximately \$80,000.00, the PCF felt it should be used at the park. Also discussed was the possibility of creating athletic fields in the area near the barns, which could be far less expensive than the fields proposed on the great lawn. Fund raising was discussed, and the fact that the field proposed for the great lawn would cost approximately \$500,000.00. The PCF is raising funds in the amount of approximately \$25,000.00 per year. Following discussion, it was agreed that there would be further discussion on plans for the parks and everyone needs to work together to decide on a plan.

ASSEMBLYMAN KIERAN LALOR

The Board entertained a presentation by Assemblyman Kieran Lalor. Assemblyman Lalor reported on the New York State budget as it related to Villages and Towns. He explained some of the grants and funding available to municipalities. He is working on legislation to put a moratorium on new mandates and rolling back existing mandates on municipalities. He talked about eliminating prevailing wage on projects under \$100,000.00. He said he would be happy to help and support the Board with finding grant funding or anything else they need.

The Board thanked Assemblyman Lalor for making the presentation and said they appreciated his time.

RESOLUTIONS

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

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

JOHNSON

Councilman Johnson said the high school golf team is looking for permission to utilize the golf course. He would tell them to contact Shawn Cunningham and coordinate with him.

MCCARTHY

Councilman McCarthy said community bulk pickup day will be April 6th. Also, he received a letter in regard to the ten speed limit requests that were submitted. The County was quick, they approved Quaker Hill from Route 22 to the top as 45 miles per hour and North Quaker Hill as 45 miles per hour. About two weeks ago, he received a letter from the State saying the other eight requests were too many at one time and to pick priorities and resubmit them. He will resubmit two at a time.

MCGRATH

Councilman McGrath said to coincide with bulk pickup day, he would like to have a community wide volunteer initiative to pick up garbage along some roads. He is still working out which roads to focus on. Also, he and Supervisor Schmitt met with Millennium Strategies, which is a grant research company. The meeting was very exciting and he hoped the other Board members could take a look at the packet they have been given and see if the Board can work with them in the future to try to nail down some of the grants that are out there.

DEROSA

Councilman DeRosa said regarding the transfer station, a public hearing has been scheduled for next week for the local law titled "Transfer Station; Recycling", which will add provisions authorizing Town Constables and Transfer Station Attendants to enforce the Town Code and rules and regulations of the Transfer Station. Councilman DeRosa said regarding the Whaley Lake Dam, water is spilling over the spillway, which began on Friday. The lake is still rising one half to three quarters of an inch per day. He understood that people were still concerned about the level of the lake and he asked them to please wait until it reaches its natural height. The highest water level is usually in May or June. The Town was told by NYS DEC and all of the engineers that the lake would return to its normal level. He attended a meeting at the dam with the engineers today and everything is looking okay. He said a dry hydrant has now been installed at the old marina for fighting fires, which was installed by the Fire Department and is a big advantage to the residents of Holmes. He was contacted by Jennifer Coccozza, Deputy Commissioner of Dutchess County Planning regarding the Greenway Pact, which the Town of Pawling had adopted in August of 2000. Dutchess County Planning, a couple of years ago, did an update to the Greenway Pact including seven new principles. Ms. Coccozza will send Councilman DeRosa copies for the Board members and Dutchess County Planning would then like to come and make a presentation to the Board. Councilman DeRosa said this past Saturday, he attended a fund raiser at Lakeside Park for the Akindale Farm, and Chris Andrews would like to make a presentation to the Town. He told Ms. Andrews to contact the Board to schedule a presentation.

SCHMITT

Supervisor Schmitt said the improvements at Lakeside Park are nearing completion and there will be an open house on March 20th for the general public. He and Councilman McGrath met with Millennium Strategies regarding grant writing and he will be scheduling them to make a presentation to the Board. He asked the Board to review the information they received from Millennium Strategies before the presentation is scheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vinny DiMarco said Councilman DeRosa did a good job giving an update of the Whaley Lake Dam. The lake will continue to rise depending on rainfall. In April/May, we will know better what the elevation of the lake level will be. He felt the lake was on target with the design and the engineers did a great job with the design. He thanked Councilmen DeRosa, Johnson and McCarthy for visiting the dam often.

Councilman DeRosa went over the inspection schedule of the dam, saying it is a two year inspection process.

Philp van Buren, Director of the Oblong Land Conservancy, with offices at 517 Route 22, said as partners with the Pawling Community Foundation in the proposal to conserve nature at Lakeside and Murrow Parks, we look forward to working with you on developing this plan to improve the trail system to protect sensitive areas, and to work towards addressing the invasive species problem. However, there is another matter about which I would also like to ask about: At the last Town Board meeting, I asked a question about the Chamber of Commerce's proposed "Comprehensive Plan for Economic Development." Peter Cris stood up to speak in reply, and described a two phase study, first a survey of "Existing Conditions", and then a second phase which he referred to as the "Build Out." I did not understand what he meant by "build out," but there was no opportunity for a follow up question, so I would like to ask it now. As I understand the way the term "build out" is used in planning, it refers to the maximum development permitted under the existing zoning. And yet from the use of the confusing term "comprehensive" in the title of this study, and from Mr. Cris's description that this study will look at "all of Pawling," it seems this study proposes to look at the economic potential of areas NOT currently zoned for commerce, and implicitly proposing their rezoning to other uses. If so, we are talking not about "build out" of an existing zoning envelope, but rather, a proposal to change the Town of Pawling's zoning policy. At that point this proposal will be straying outside the realm of an economic study based on current conditions, and into the province of comprehensive planning proper - the kind of planning legally required to support any kind of zoning, the kind of long range commitment that requires extensive analysis of all the

implications and costs, as well as benefits, and the utmost care in building consensus. To survey the development potential of areas not currently zoned for commercial use, without offering voice to all the stakeholders and without consideration of the full range of costs, is precisely the opposite of real comprehensive planning. It will not produce a fair and stable outcome, and it will leave the town exposed to legal risks. This problem would not be so urgent if the Town were not still keeping pending before it the private applications of certain north Route 22 owners for rezoning their lots. Everything you have done over the past year you have explained as made necessary by these private applications. Now you are considering this Chamber of Commerce proposal as an alternative, a replacement for the process envisaged in your previous RFPs. But how do we know this new process is not intended for the very same purpose as the old, simply another attempt to provide a basis for rezoning north Route 22, and not an honest evaluation of the wisdom of doing so taking into account the interests of ALL of Pawling? If the Chamber of Commerce study were limited to current commercial zoned areas, it would offer some reassurance to those of us concerned with protecting Pawling's community character and environment. You would have our support in looking for ways to achieve Smart Growth, building up instead of sprawling out and degrading what makes our town appealing. If you are open to a true comprehensive planning process that includes all stakeholders, then the Oblong Land Conservancy would support you in that, and support the outcome of such a process. But if in this Chamber of Commerce study you are going to look at re-zoning, then this proposal will really just be an inadequate stand in for a proper comprehensive planning process. It will not help resolve any controversies about land use and economic development in Pawling. He hoped to be able to get more information about what is being proposed with this study. He felt it would behoove everyone to have a maximum of disclosure about this as soon as possible.

Marty Megan from Holmes, said he received a letter from Councilman McGrath when he was running for office, which was to all Pawling residents, not specifically to him. One of the things Councilman McGrath had in the letter was healthcare reform for the Town Board. He read excerpts from the letter relating to healthcare reform in Pawling, specifically relating to Town Board members and their benefit package. Mr. Mygan said he agreed with Councilman McGrath's comments in the letter, a lot of people do. He encouraged the Board to look at making changes.

Councilman McGrath said the Board is talking about this right now.

Supervisor Schmitt said the Board is speaking about this issue now and extensive research has been done, and he felt the public would be hearing something soon on this.

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

Town Clerk