

Supervisor James Schmitt opened the Workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pawling at 6:20 PM May 6, 2020 via Facebook due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The meeting was broadcast live. The public was able to submit comments in writing regarding agenda items only until noon Wednesday, May 6th, however no comments from the public were received for this meeting. Present were Councilmen Johnson, McCarthy, DeRosa and Councilwoman Snow.

Supervisor Schmitt explained there was an issue with streaming the meeting on Facebook, which was why the meeting began late, 6:20 PM instead of 6:00 PM. He also read the following statement:

In accordance with Executive Order 202.1, this meeting is not open to the public. We will be streaming the meeting on Facebook Live starting at 6 PM on the Town of Pawling Facebook page. You can also hear the meeting via podcast afterwards.

MINUTES

The motion to accept the minutes of April 8, 2020 was made by Supervisor Schmitt, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board reviewed the resolutions and commented on them. Discussion was as follows:

Councilman Johnson said regarding resolution 2020092, the special event fees, the Board can revisit these fees any time and make changes if necessary. Regarding resolution 2020093, he was excited to appoint Z3 Consultants to work with the Building Department and get it up to date. Regarding 2020094 regarding budget amendments, he said Supervisor Schmitt and Bookkeeper Christine Mitchell did a great job and the public will be happy to know how we will be able to weather the Covid 19 strain on the budget.

Councilman McCarthy agreed with everything Councilman Johnson said. Regarding resolution 2020092, the special event fees have been looked at long enough and this is a starting point. They can be changed at any time. Regarding 2020093, appointing Z3 Consulting, the Board needs to move forward with this. The budget adjustments are what they are.

Councilman DeRosa said regarding 2020092, the special event fees, the fees can always be adjusted later if it is found they need to be revised. Regarding 2020093, appointing Z3 Consultants, he is in favor of this. He had a couple of questions on this resolution. In the resolution, it doesn't really say that Mr. Beck will be a building inspector and he didn't know if that needed to be in the resolution. He felt that due to the additional paperwork, the Board should begin to look for a part time clerk and a part time building inspector, in addition to the building inspector and clerk in the department now. He would like to get an estimate of how much time Mr. Beck feels will be needed for a building inspector, beside the hours Mr. Beck is putting in. He suggested putting a cap on the number of hours that are spent in the building department for Mr. Beck and a building inspector.

Councilwoman Snow agreed with Councilmen Johnson, McCarthy and DeRosa's comments. She asked Supervisor Schmitt to talk about the funding for the building department project and why this is being done.

Supervisor Schmitt said changes have been made in other offices over the past few years and the building department is next on the list. The Board has been discussing whether or not the town needed a full time building inspector. Many candidates have been interviewed over the past year but there were not a lot of people applying for the job. Also, the salaries in Pawling were not in line with other municipalities. So the Board hired a consulting group, Z3 Consulting, to look at this department and put together the job duties of the department. They found there is not a need for a full time building inspector, and other things that could be done to have the department run more efficiently. Z3 Consultants does consulting for other municipalities, and some building departments are outsourced to them. Z3 Consultants gave the Board an estimate for this and there is money in the building department budget to go ahead with this project. Mr. Beck's estimate for the beginning of the project will be 6 to 8 hours per week and Mr. Beck's time will be used on special projects, such as planning, zoning, etc. He has given an estimate for a

building inspector from his office to do inspections for Pawling at approximately 12 hours per week.

Councilman DeRosa asked if that included environmental and zoning issues. A lot of the complaints are handled through the building department. He felt these things could take up ten to twenty hours per week and it could be a good amount of money.

Supervisor Schmitt said he spoke to Mr. Beck yesterday and he feels this is a small building department and he can get it under control quickly, and certainly the department will run more efficiently.

Councilman DeRosa asked if a limit could be put in the resolution, possibly ten hours for the building inspector and ten hours for Mr. Beck, but at least there would be a cap and it could be reviewed and adjusted in three months if needed.

Councilman Johnson said he spoke at length with Mr. Beck and his interest is to serve the town long term. Mr. Beck feels the underutilization of the computer program alone could drastically reduce man hours. Building inspector salaries in surrounding towns are double what Pawling has been paying. The Board will need to increase the budget but he felt additional fees would be generated. He did not want to tie Mr. Beck's hands.

Supervisor Schmitt said Mr. Beck is estimating 6 to 8 hours for himself and twelve hours for the building inspector. Pawling only averages approximately two hundred permits per year, and they plan to streamline inspections to save time.

Councilman DeRosa said his estimate of twenty hours per week is within the guidelines. He was a building inspector for seven years and he felt the zoning and environmental issues were the ones that would take more time. People need to have access to a building inspector, which is what the town had with a full time building inspector. There are a lot of things to do beside just inspections. He wanted to utilize Mr. Beck to the best of his ability.

Councilman McCarthy asked if the resolution could be adopted tonight and the Board could adopt another resolution limiting the hours next week or next month. He felt a cap could be put on this once Mr. Beck begins, and he can then advise the Board as to what would be needed.

Councilman Johnson felt no resolutions should be passed tonight. He wanted the resolution to be written correctly so Mr. Beck could bring in a building inspector with a cap if necessary. He wanted Z3 to run the building department for six months. The town does not need another full time town employee; the town does not need to pay benefits, health insurance and retirement. He felt one resolution should be passed next week including everything the Board discussed.

Following further discussion, the Board agreed to pass the resolutions next week.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

JOHNSON

Councilman Johnson said the Board received an email from Jessica Dickinson, Recreation Director, which talked about people following the rules at the parks, which we are striving to keep open for everyone to enjoy. He attended a meeting today with Councilwoman Snow, Ms. Dickinson, Wendel Weber, Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds and Chief Constable Mike Kelly. Ms. Dickinson wanted to understand whether dogs were allowed at Murrow Park, and the answer is yes, they are. People are letting their dogs run without a leash, which is not allowed and everyone needs to be respectful of that. The biggest concern was constable's coverage at the park. Chief Constable Kelly said the constables will now cover the park from 10 AM to 2 PM and 2 PM to 6 PM, and later as time goes on. It certainly appears there will be no swimming and there will be fencing installed. Ms. Dickinson wants to put approximately 100 signs in the parks telling people to obey the rules, and for public awareness. Going forward, someone will need to be controlling what will happen at the park. The Board talked about hiring parkland attendants and he believed the Board should pass a resolution authorizing the Board to create this position and begin interviewing so that four to six people could be available to patrol the parks. If the position was created, constables may not be needed so many hours. These attendants would work with Jessica Dickinson and Wendel Weber and could be used in addition to the constables for larger events.

SNOW

Councilwoman Snow said the town is very fortunate that Lakeside Park is open because many parks have closed. It should be understood that these are not the Town of Pawling's Boards

rules, these are the governor's rules due to the pandemic. If children are playing on the basketball courts, there is concern for contamination. If parents can keep children informed, hopefully the parks can remain open by people adhering to the guidelines. She asked if dog parks are open.

Supervisor Schmitt said dog parks are not open, per the governor's directive.

Councilwoman Snow felt there would need to be more help over the summer and the Board will need to see how it goes. The additional help may be needed only for the summer.

Councilman Johnson said the park does have video surveillance and there have been some pictures of people causing damage. People need to be respectful of the town's property.

Supervisor Schmitt said Councilman McCarthy has dropped off the meeting due to a loss of internet at his home.

DEROSA

Councilman DeRosa felt the parkland attendants would be a valuable asset to the constables, Wendel Weber and Jessica Dickinson, especially at the beach area. Councilman DeRosa said on a sad note, the town lost Mike Montemarano this month, who was a Town Board member here in Pawling. Councilman Montemarano was a great guy and helped Councilman DeRosa tremendously when he came on the Town Board almost nine years ago. He was a gentleman. Because Councilman Montemarano came here and spent time on the Town Board, Pawling is definitely a better place. Councilman Montemarano was always in the park doing small jobs. He wanted to close the meeting in memory of Councilman Montemarano. Councilman DeRosa said he was at the dam today and the water is running over the wood structure five inches now. The valve was opened to release a little water out of the pool. There is only so much water that is going over the weir board in the draw down chamber, about three inches. He wanted to let the Board know what was measured and he would keep an eye on it daily to make sure no flooding occurs downstream. The real story will be in August, what the water level will be once we get to the dry weather and evaporation occurs. Councilman DeRosa said the golf course is in excellent shape and Shawn, Doug and Ben are doing an excellent job. He urged everyone to get out on the course and play golf.

SCHMITT

Supervisor Schmitt said dog parks are definitely closed, as well as playgrounds within the park. This is something that is handed down and these are orders we need to be followed. There are a lot of calls coming into town hall about ATV's on the roadways and they have been in the park. The town doesn't have any enforcement on the roadways but the State Police and Sheriff's Office does, and they will be increasing patrols in these areas. Supervisor Schmitt said during this time, this has been a lot of work and the Town is doing a great job, the Board members, employees, Town Clerk and Town Attorney. We are working with a bare bones staff and limited to the amount of hours we can be in the building, and be in the building together. It is difficult to do your work when you can't see everyone face to face and he thanked everyone for all of their work. He has two calls a week with the county and supervisors and mayors. He has been involved in calls with neighboring counties to see what everyone else is doing. He wanted to make sure that a plan is in place so that when he is given the green light to open, we are ready to go. We are fortunate we don't have the numbers of Covid 19 that Westchester has. He has been working with the Bookkeeper on potential budget shortfalls, department by department. They are trying to project where the shortfalls might be and making adjustments now. Supervisor Schmitt said he likes these zoom/Facebook live meetings and he would like to continue live streaming meetings even when we can hold regular meetings in town hall, and he is working on that. He looked forward to coming out of this and attending some great events in Pawling.

Councilman DeRosa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM, and for everyone to have good thoughts about Mike Montemarano and his family, his wife and two boys, Councilman Johnson seconded Councilman DeRosa's comments and the adjournment, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk