

## Wawayanda Town Board Meeting 10/16/07

October 16, 2007

A regular monthly workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Wawayanda was called to order at 7:30 P.M., on Tuesday, October 16, 2007, at the Town Hall, Ridgebury Hill Road, Slate Hill, New York.

Those present were:	John R. Razzano	Supervisor
	David S. Cole	Councilman/Deputy Supervisor
	Edward Krajewski	Councilman
	Gail M. Soro	Councilwoman
	Richard Penaluna III	Councilman
	Teresa Pierce	Town Clerk
Attendance Not Required:	Richard Guertin	Attorney for the Town

Also Present: Michael Green - Highway Superintendent; Catherine Cole - Tax Collector; Mary Markiewicz - Planning Board Member; and 6 other individuals.

### PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

**Supervisor Razzano** acknowledged that **Elaine Flynn** and **Bill Longcore**, Senior Liaisons for the Slate Hill Pacers, were in the audience, and explained that he was actually not expecting them this evening because the message that he received was to the effect that someone would be calling him. Added that they are always welcome, and invited them to the podium to discuss a proposal which they had in mind.

**SENIOR CENTER/PROPOSED ADDITION:** **Bill Longcore** stated that the reason he and Mrs. Flynn came to the meeting was to ask the Town Board to consider the possibility of constructing an addition to the current Senior Center building. He referred to paperwork that he distributed to each board member, and referenced a section of information provided by the Board of Elections. According to their research, the Town of Wawayanda has 855 households representing 1203 seniors who are registered to vote; 426 households are age 65+, and the remaining households are age 55-65. Added that the number of seniors not registered to vote is unknown.

**Elaine Flynn** stated that at the last meeting of the Pacers, there were 101 members in attendance for a soup and sandwich luncheon. At that luncheon she had overheard two comments that she wanted to share. One was, "I'm so tired of eating alone that I just don't want to eat anymore", and the other was "I hate to go home, I hate to see the time end here".

**Mrs. Flynn** explained that the current membership is approximately 115, and the average attendance at a business meeting is 75. There are 12 social meetings a month, and at the meeting held on October 15<sup>th</sup> there were 101 members in attendance. She then questioned the board if anyone knew of another organization that held a bigger interest, and no one could think of one. A discussion took place regarding the seasonal deck that had gone out to bid back in January 2004 and because the bids had come in too high, that project was never pursued.

**Supervisor Razzano** responded that it was a good thing that it never was built because it would have been a waste of taxpayer money.

**Mrs. Flynn** explained that their main objective is to accommodate the seniors who are currently enrolled, and in taking into consideration that the senior population is growing, she appealed to the board to get the ball rolling because they need to plan for the future.

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Both **Mr. Longcore** and **Mrs. Flynn** expressed their desire to have this project completed in the near future so that they may have an opportunity to enjoy it.

**Mr. Longcore** mentioned that he had spoken with Jack Grifo, Building Inspection, and was informed that a sprinkler system would be a requirement, and as far as the square footage is concerned there is currently 1296 sq ft and they are looking for an additional 1188 sq ft.

**Mr. Longcore** provided a wish list that the Pacers requested during a recent business meeting, and read it aloud as follows: A TV & sitting area; computers; dancing; exercise; craft area; an area to host larger events and special occasion meals; activity center; and additional meeting room space.

**Mr. Longcore** also spoke about a conversation that he had with **Russell Budd**, Grant Writer, who had taken the time to explain the Grant process, and it was brought to his attention that because this was a senior project there are grants available on both state and federal levels. He has indicated that the project is eligible for 90% funding with the remaining 10% being services provided by the town, such as the excavation.

Further discussion took place and board members agreed that the matter requires serious consideration, and that this will definitely be looked into.

**Supervisor Razzano** advised that the first item that should be determined is the actual size of the addition. He then stated that he had already spoken with Bryce Flynn about a possible location for an addition. The only problem which is foreseen is the parking accommodations.

Added that he will contact a few Architects in an effort to obtain plans.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE:** Jack Grifo submitted a request for authorization for himself and Tom Lyons to attend the Tri-County Code Enforcement Officials Educational Conference which is being held on December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Holiday Inn in Middletown.. The cost is \$160.00 per person for the two days of conference, and 12 hours of service credits will be awarded for attending, which are a requirement to maintain State certifications.

**MOTION** by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Krajewski**, to authorize the attendance of Jack Grifo and Tom Lyons at the Tri-County Code Enforcement Officials Educational Conference.

**ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED**

**2008 TENTATIVE BUDGET:** The Board reviewed the proposed budget, prepared by Supervisor Razzano in his position as Budget Officer.

**Supervisor Razzano** discussed two new initiatives for **Capital Reserve Funds**. One is for the acquisition of **Highway Equipment**, so \$50,000 is being proposed to be set aside for the replacement of trucks and other major equipment, and the other is a **Buildings Fund**. Due to Town Hall office space becoming limited, and there being a need for improvement to other town facilities, \$25,000 is being designated for a Capital Reserve Buildings Fund.

**Supervisor Razzano** proceeded to review specific line items of the proposed budget, as follows:

**1) Board of Assessment Review:** At current time there is no stipend for the five members of the board. Taking into consideration that they are required to attend a training course, and although they only meet once a year, the Board agreed that there should be some reimbursement for their time. \$500.00 has been added to the budget to allot for a stipend of \$100.00 per member.

**2) Recreation Committee:** A request has been received from the committee to purchase a PA (Public Address) System and a Portable Sign to announce upcoming events. Because of these equipment needs, and because of the increased recreational activities that have taken place in the past year, Board members agreed to increase their appropriation to \$10,000.

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3) **Michael Green**, Highway Superintendent, stated that every year he comes before the board requesting an increase in salary, and to date he has not received one. He referred to the salaries of the Highway Superintendents from the towns of Mt Hope, Minisink, and Chester, and stated that he believes that he is one of the lowest paid Highway Superintendents in the area.

**Mr. Green** stated that with regard to **Emergency Management**, he has done this with no compensation throughout the years, and believes he should be getting a stipend for this service. In response to **Councilman Cole's** question of exactly how much he was looking for, **Mr. Green** replied that he would like his salary to be equal with what the other towns are paying.

4) **Saratoga Associates:** Currently, there is a contract balance of \$12,000.00.

5) **MS4** - This was a non-budgeted expense for 2007. We needed to rent a GPS system, and we have not yet been billed. It is estimated that the bill will be in the range of \$9,000. An appropriation has been made in anticipation of this expense in 2008.

6) **Engineer** - \$40,000 had been appropriated for Engineering. **Councilman Cole** recommended that \$10,000 be added to that amount.

7) **Edward Pisacane**, Water & Sewer Department Part-Time Employee: Mr. Pisacane has requested a \$1.00 per hour increase, as well as the 3% standard raise. He based this request on the fact that when he started with the town he was limited as to what he could make, and now those restraints have expired. Believes that his workload has increased, and that he is doing more than what he was originally hired to do.

A brief discussion took place. Board members did not see a problem with the request.

8) **Highway Department:** The Highway budget, as presented by Highway Superintendent Green, is up by \$134,00 from last year. **Supervisor Razzano** explained that last year \$100,000 was taken out of the General Fund surplus to reduce the amount to be raised by taxes for the Highway Department. This year, **Howard Goldstein**, Bookkeeper for the Town, has informed him that there are three Highway accounts that had a surplus as of December 31, 2006, as follows: DR - \$180,000, DM - \$32,000, and DS - \$58,000. Added that a portion of this money can be used to decrease the Highway Department budget. - In the meantime, Supervisor Razzano said that he will confer with Mr. Green to see if any cuts can be made.

In general discussion, **Councilwoman Soro** posed the following questions to the Supervisor:

- Court Attorney**, (page 2) - Questioned the significant jump with regard to the salary for the Court Attorney.

She was informed that the amount is an estimated figure provided by the Court Office.

- Public Works Administration** (page 4) - Asked if that was the salary for Highway Superintendent Green, and was informed it was for Jeff Mills, the Water & Sewer Operator.

- Historical Properties** (page 10) - Asked if monies had been budgeted to take care of the problems they are having at the Museum. - •**Supervisor Razzano** stated that monies had been allotted for improvements, and the Board proceeded to discuss the idea of hiring a part-time temporary employee to handle the small jobs that need to be done at the Pines Museum, School House and any other tasks that Buzz Flynn may need addressed at Shannen Park.

- Shannen Park/Additional Employee:** **Councilwoman Soro** stated that since additional work needs to be done at Shannen Park, and that it is impossible for one full-time employee to do this on his own, was there any consideration given to hiring another part-time employee in addition to Don Davis.

The other Board members were unsure of what work needed to be done, so **Councilwoman Soro** explained that it is her understanding that there is backhoe work to be done. She then

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expressed that one employee cannot be expected to handle this and all of the other tasks during the day. She then said that she is just repeating a conversation that she had with Mr. Flynn. She then added that Mr. Flynn informed her that requests have come from other Board members to have work done in the park and that he cannot do it alone.

**Supervisor Razzano** polled the board members, and asked if anyone had requested a task be done at the park, and the response from Councilman Cole, Councilman Krajewski, and Councilman Penaluna was that they have not personally asked any such thing of Mr. Flynn. **Councilwoman Soro** also commented that Mr. Flynn was concerned about vouchers that have been signed by the Supervisor's office rather than by him, thereby making him unaware of the balance in his budget.

**Supervisor Razzano** asked "What vouchers in particular?"

**Councilwoman Soro** stated that she could not recollect and suggested that the Town Clerk pull all the vouchers for the Park's Department. Further discussion took place.

**Councilman Cole** questioned the line item on page 11 for Drainage, and was informed that was our contribution for the Wallkill River Flood Control Project.

No further discussion on the budget. Changes that were discussed will be incorporated into the Preliminary Budget which will be presented at a Public Hearing on November 8th.

**OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

**Sharon Melvin** sent a 'Thank You' card which expressed gratitude to all Board Members and to Town Employees for the show of support in respect to her father's passing.

**JOSEPH CRITELLI/RESIGNATION FROM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:**

**Joseph Critelli** submitted a letter to the Supervisor and Town Board advising that he is resigning from the Zoning Board of Appeals and that, to date, this is the second resignation that he has submitted.

**MOTION** by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Krajewski**, to regretfully accept Joseph Critelli's resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED**

**NO OTHER BUSINESS OR COMMENTS.**

**MOTION** by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Krajewski**, to adjourn the meeting..

**ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED**

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:27 P.M.**

**PREPARED BY KATHRYN SHERLOCK**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

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**Teresa E. Pierce, Town Clerk/RMC**