

Wawayanda Town Board Meeting 10/20/09

A Regular monthly workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Wawayanda was called to order at 7:00 P.M., on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at the Town Hall, Ridgebury Hill Road, Slate Hill, New York.

Those present were:	John R. Razzano	Supervisor
	David S. Cole	Councilman
	Edward Krajewski	Councilman
	Richard Penaluna III	Councilman
	Teresa Pierce	Town Clerk
Absent:	Denise Quinn	Councilwoman
Attendance not Required:	Richard Guertin	Attorney for the Town

Also Present: Michael Green - Highway Superintendent; Cathy Cole - Tax Collector; Laura Slowik & Susan Hutchings - Assistant Budget Officers; Penny Tuohey - Deputy Highway Superintendent; Gladys Hall - Historian, and 10 other individuals.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Supervisor Razzano advised that Councilwoman Quinn was absent due to the unexpected death of her stepmother.

WORKSHOP ON THE 2010 TENTATIVE BUDGET: Supervisor Razzano discussed a few highlights of the 2010 Tentative Budget, and noted that \$185,000 has been used from the surplus fund to offset increases in numbers. He advised that there will be no salary increases for Town employees in the upcoming year. Overall, it is anticipated that the amount to be raised by taxes for the General Fund will remain essentially the same as in 2009.

Supervisor Razzano specifically brought attention to the fact that the retirement calculation of \$11,776.00 over this year's appropriation, actually ended up to be on the low side. Notification had been received from the New York State Retirement System which advised of a 75% increase which amounts to roughly \$60,000, thereby bringing the total to approximately \$147,000 for 2010.

He also noted that after the Tentative Budget had been presented, he found it necessary to add an additional \$32,900 to the budget to cover the following:

- 1) \$945.00 for the Ameriflex Program.
- 2) The New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) recently sent notification advising that the Town is required to reimburse five retired individuals \$93.50 per month for a twelve month period when Medicare Part B is the primary insurance. This amount totals to \$5,784.00.
- 3) \$4,500 to cover the MTA Payroll Tax.
- 4) Reinstatement of Hours for Town Hall Employees - In the Supervisor's Office, the Secretary and Administrative Assistant will be reinstated 2 ½ hours per week on an as needed basis only, and 2 ½ hours a week will be given back to the Assessor's Clerk.

Michael Green, Highway Superintendent was invited to the table to participate in the discussion.

Supervisor Razzano noted that \$40,000 has been taken out of general repair, and questioned the fact that the Wood Chipper had been added back into the Highway budget.

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Highway Superintendent Green explained that they have been making their own parts because they are no longer manufactured, and believes that this practice could pose a major liability.

Supervisor Razzano asked if there is a possibility that the wood chipper could be put on hold.

John VanBenshoten explained that they utilize this piece of machinery all winter long, and that they are actually looking into a larger version than the one we currently have.

Additional discussion took place about this item, and it was determined that the \$28,000 allowance for the wood chipper would be cut out of the budget.

Supervisor Razzano was confident that if during the year something was to happen to the wood chipper and it would have to be replaced, he would be able to come up with funds to cover the cost.

Supervisor Razzano stated that in regard to the reinstatement of hours, he has budgeted for the nine highway men at 40 hours per week, based upon not replacing the one retiree, and cutting out the summer help.

Supervisor Razzano asked **Highway Superintendent Green**, “When will the men be going back to a five day work week?”

Superintendent Green responded that this is, in fact, the last week of summer hours.

A discussion took place about the possibility of next year, splitting the staff so that there would be coverage in that department five days a week.

Highway Superintendent Green stated that he believes that the four day work week has actually saved money. He did not see why it needed to be changed.

Supervisor Razzano spoke of the amount of money paid out in overtime and inquired about the storm procedure. He commented that the Deputy Highway Superintendent worked 163 hours of overtime in 2008. For 2009 she is already at 112 hours, and the year is not over yet. He could not understand why the Deputy has put in 40 hours more than any of the drivers.

Superintendent Green explained how the call back list works, and said that there are times when the drivers are unreachable and the Deputy comes in and either covers the office or goes out to clean up intersections. Explained that coverage is needed in the office in case of an accident because it is easier for someone to call from a land line rather than a cell phone. Elaborated that, in fact, there are dead areas in the town where the radios in the trucks do not work because there just is no signal.

Supervisor Razzano spoke about the amount of money the town expends every year for salt and sand for the roads, and discussed the possibility of mining and screening the sand from our gravel pit across the road from Town Hall.

Highway Superintendent Green commented that the screener is no longer useable. Additional discussion took place about the condition of the mine, the possibility of mining in the future, and the renting of a screener as opposed to purchasing one.

Councilman Cole spoke about instances when Highway trucks were left idling in the parking lot, and suggested that maybe the older trucks that are not equipped with a computer chip to shut them down after 5 minutes, should be shut off prior to the driver exiting the vehicle, in an effort to save on gas. Also, he asked if it would be possible to have the Highway and Park department coordinate the gas delivery to cut down on delivery surcharges.

Supervisor Razzano spoke about the possibility of shutting down the heat, turning off all lights, and shutting off all ceiling fans at the end of the day in the Highway Garage, and said that this practice has been implemented in the Town Hall which has resulted in quite a substantial savings.

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The Board discussed the fact that the Town is paying for three **dumpsters** on the Town Hall/Highway Garage site, and questioned whether or not there was really a need for this. It was determined that only two dumpsters were needed, so Supervisor Razzano will have his office call Interstate Waste to have one removed.

Highway Superintendent Green commented that the roof on the **salt barn** still needs to be repaired.

Councilman Cole questioned the following:

1) The amount budgeted for the Town Attorney was \$23, 000. He wondered whether or not this was a realistic amount.

Susan Hutchings, Assistant Budget Officer, explained that part of the expense for the Town Attorney's services are paid out of the special trust and agency accounts.

2) Account #1620.1 (page 5) Personal Services. - He wanted to know who gets paid from this account.

Laura Slowik, Assistant Budget Officer, answered that Mike Miedema gets paid from this line item. Also, some of Jeffrey Mills' salary comes from this account, as payment for services rendered at the park.

3) Account #1995.4 Engineering (page 5) - He wondered if the budgeted amount is sufficient to cover the services.

4) Recreation Committee, budget account 7020.4A is down 50% from last year.

Supervisor Razzano stated that he believes that the amount that is budgeted should be enough if we are prudent with the expenses for various sponsored events. Added that this year's Town Picnic was fully funded by donations, and he would like to see donations raised for the Town Picnic in 2010.

Councilman Penaluna asked if money had been appropriated towards the Capital Reserve Accounts for 2010, and was advised that \$25,000 had been appropriated for each of the three accounts, which is 50% of what had been appropriated for 2009.

Councilman Cole also had questions pertaining to budget line items for the Water & Sewer Districts. His questions were addressed by Supervisor Razzano, Laura Slowik, and Susan Hutchings.

The salary for **Tax Collector** will remain the same as the year before, and the salary for the Deputy will be cut by \$1,000.00 considering that was the unexpended amount for this year.

** Please note that **Councilman Cole** recused himself and left the room during this discussion.

The salary for the **Town Clerk** has been cut by \$2,500.00 from the current year. This was because the current Town Clerk is retiring and her replacement will not have the twenty plus years of experience as she had..

Board members agreed to accept the Tentative Budget as the Preliminary Budget, with the incorporated changes and adjustments that had been discussed and agreed upon.

MOTION by **Councilman Cole**, seconded by **Supervisor Razzano**, to set a public hearing on the 2009 Preliminary Budget for Thursday, November 5th, 2009 at 7:00 P.M., or soon thereafter.

ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

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MOTION by **Councilman Cole**, seconded by **Councilman Krajewski**, to go into Executive Session to discuss a specific personnel matter.

ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SESSION: No action taken.

MOTION by **Councilman Cole**, seconded by **Councilman Penaluna**, to close Executive Session and re-open the regular meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

EDWIN REMEY/SICK TIME EXTENSION:

Supervisor Razzano referred to the memo submitted by **Michael Green**, Highway Superintendent, advising that as of October 13, 2009 the donated sick time for Edwin Remey has been depleted, and that Joseph Sondey would like to donate 10 additional sick days from his accumulated sick time.

Councilman Krajewski stated that the Board has discussed this matter at great length, and has agreed that as much as they would like to approve the additional time, they rightfully cannot do so, considering that this is the taxpayers' money that they would be expending.

Additional discussion took place. Board members provided their reasons for the decision, and responded to questions and concerns voiced by Highway Superintendent Green.

ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR WATER & SEWER DISTRICTS: The assessment rolls for the various municipal water and sewer districts has been prepared and received by the Town Clerk.

MOTION by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Cole**, to set a Public Hearing for November 5, 2009, on the Assessment Rolls for the various Town of Wawayanda water and sewer districts.

ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

PROPOSED ATV LAW: Board members had been provided with copies of the proposed ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle) Local Law.

Supervisor Razzano advised that the proposed Law is in its final format. The next step is to schedule the public hearing.

MOTION by **Councilman Cole**, seconded by **Councilman Krajewski**, to schedule the Public Hearing on the proposed ATV Law to take place on November 5, 2009, at 7:00 P.M., or soon thereafter.

ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

Supervisor Razzano mentioned that Rosanna DeRogatis, who served as the Town of Wawayanda Tax Collector from 1988 - 1992, had passed away at the age of 85 in the state of Florida.

Supervisor Razzano also mentioned that Leonard "Joe" Dombroski, who is the husband of former Councilwoman Lorretta Dombrowski, passed away this morning, also at the age of 85.

Our condolences go out to both families.

SENIOR BUILDING EXPANSION: Notification has been received that the Town is the recipient of a \$110,000.00 grant for the expansion of the existing Senior Building.
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Prior to the funds being awarded, a public hearing is required and scheduled for October 21st, 2009, at the Goshen School. **Supervisor Razzano** explained that even though we are grateful for the award, it also comes with a very aggressive work schedule. One of the problems with a County Grant is that the project would have to be completed within a year. Added that it is his understanding that they would allow for a small extension, if needed.

Supervisor Razzano elaborated further and said that the grant is actually in the amount of \$200,000 with \$110,000 being allotted for the Senior Building. At this time the funds

are being held up in Albany do to budget problems with the State. He reminded the Board that we still have \$50,000 which had been awarded by Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther, some time ago.

Additional discussion took place.

Councilman Penaluna inquired about the status of the road to connect the old section of the park to the newer section, and was advised by Supervisor Razzano that Pat Hines is actively working on this.

Councilman Cole spoke about the Ice Skating Rink and the possibility of having it refurbished.

No other comments or questions.

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

ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:30 P.M.

PREPARED BY: KATHRYN SHERLOCK

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Teresa E. Pierce, Town Clerk/RMC