

**Wawayanda Town Board Meeting 07/22/2009**

July 22, 2009

A Regular monthly workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Wawayanda was called to order at 7:03 P.M., on Tuesday, July 22, 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
	Denise Quinn	Councilwoman
	Teresa Pierce	Town Clerk
Attendance not required:	Richard Guertin	Attorney for the Town

Also Present: Michael Green - Highway Superintendent; Cathy Cole - Tax Collector; Penny Tuohey - Deputy Highway Superintendent; Mary Markiewicz & Barbara Parson - Planning Board Members; Gladys Hall - Historian; and five other individuals.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**2009 BUDGET AMENDMENT: Supervisor Razzano** explained that due to decreased Town Revenues from Mortgage Tax, Planning & Building Department fees, and other miscellaneous fees, we are looking at a short-fall of approximately of \$150,000. Rather than ignore the situation, he felt that there was a need to reduce the working hours of employees and make other necessary cut backs.

A proposal was submitted to each Councilperson for their review.

**Michael Green**, Highway Superintendent, expressed his concerns with the fact that he had not been notified about the agenda for tonight's meeting until late this afternoon, and therefore, he did not have adequate time to prepare. He stated that he should have been consulted about what was being contemplated.

In respect to employees, he was told that there would be a 2.5 hrs. reduction for each highway employee; the seasonal employee would be cut 2.5 hrs. per week; the second seasonal position would not be filled; the Deputy Highway Superintendent would be cut 5 hrs. per week, and one MEO would be eliminated. In addition, the wood chipper, budgeted at \$30,000, would not be purchased.

Mr. Green was not happy with what he was told, and requested additional time, to allow him to review his budget to see if there was anywhere else he could cut before a decision was made to cut back on employee hours.

**Cathy Cole**, Tax Collector, questioned the Supervisor as to whether or not the Board would consider changing Town Hall hours of operations to a four day work week like the Towns of Chester and Greenville.

**Supervisor Razzano** responded that he did not see this as a cost saving measure.

**Councilman Cole** questioned Supervisor Razzano as to whether or not he had an opportunity to speak to all Department heads before tonight's meeting.

**Supervisor Razzano** replied that he only had an opportunity to speak to a few of them.

**Councilman Cole** felt that everyone should have been consulted prior to this evening, and requested that the Board wait until the August Business meeting to take action.

On the contrary, **Supervisor Razzano, Councilwoman Quinn, and Councilman Krajewski** all

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concluded that action should be taken this evening because the longer we wait the more serious the situation could become.

In addition to the proposal for cuts in the Highway Department, **Supervisor Razzano** provided a proposal affecting Town Hall employees and budgeted items, as follows:

	<b>New Hours</b>	<b>Budgeted Hrs Reduction</b>	<b>22 Week Savings W/S.S</b>	<b>Medical Dental</b>
Bldg. Sr. Clerk	9am-4pm	2.5 hours	\$1,210.00	
Sec. To Planning Board	9am-4pm	2.5 hours	1,210.00	
Admin Asst. to Supervisor	9am -4pm	6.5 hours	3,146.00	
Sec to Supervisor	9am-4pm	6.5 hours	2,860.00	
Clerk to Town Justice	9am-4pm	3.5 hours	1,694.00	
Clerk to Town Justice	9am-4pm	3.5 hours	1,694.00	
Deputy Town Clerk	8am-4pm	5 hours	2,420.00	
Assessor's Clerk (25 hrs wk)	9am-3pm	5 hours	2,420.00	\$6,940.40
P/T Clerk	15	5 hours	1,870.00	
Building Inspector III		2.5 hours	1,400.00	
Building Inspector III		2.5 hours	1,400.00	
1-Unfilled P/T Park			12,480.00	
7520A	Historical Property Garage Repair		3,500.00	
		<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$37,304.00</b>	<b>\$6,940.40</b>

**Combined Total: \$44,244.40**

Generally, with the Town Hall being opened 9 AM to 4 PM, if an employee takes ½ hr. for lunch, she will be working 32.5 hrs. per week.

**Councilman Krajewski** stated that the proposal appeared to be a workable plan, and that the biggest line item is payroll.

**Highway Superintendent Green** was invited by **Supervisor Razzano** to join the Board at the table to go over figures, and to see how reductions can be made without drastic cuts and the need to let one man go.

Additional discussion took place amongst the Board members and members of the audience discussing other possible ways of making up the deficit, rather than cutting employee hours.

**Supervisor Razzano** concluded that, with a few exceptions, the Town Hall Offices will now be open from 9AM-4PM. Work hours have been reduced on an average anywhere from 2 ½ - 6 ½ hours per week. We will be keeping all ten Highway MEO's. There will be a reduction of 2 ½ hours per week for the Deputy Highway Superintendent and the other employees of the Highway Department. In respect to their work schedule, that will be determined by Highway Superintendent Green.

**MOTION** by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilwoman Quinn**, to adopt the proposal in regard to Town Hall employees, as presented, and to adopt an amended proposal in regard to the Highway Department, as discussed and agreed upon, and to direct the department heads to implement the new schedule beginning Monday, July 27, 2009.

**ALL IN FAVOR -CARRIED**

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**TAX COLLECTOR/INTEREST AND PENALTIES:**

**Catherine Cole**, Tax Collector, submitted a memo to the Town Board, along with a copy of a check in the amount of \$10,900.00 which she submitted to the Town Supervisor. The check represented interest and penalties collected for the 2009 tax season.

Ms. Cole also presented her deposit book, so that the Board could check it for accuracy.

**RESIGNATION OF DEPUTY SUPERVISOR COLE:** **David S. Cole** stated that, effective July 22, 2009, he will be resigning as Deputy Supervisor, and that he will be remaining in the office of Councilman and will continue with that responsibility.

**MOTION** by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Penaluna**, to regretfully accept the resignation of David S. Cole from the position of Deputy Supervisor.

**ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED**

**MOTION** by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Penaluna**, to appoint **Edward Krajewski** to the position of Deputy Supervisor.

**ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**MOTION** by **Councilman Cole**, seconded by **Councilman Penaluna**, to enter into **Executive Session** to discuss the employment history of a specific individual.

**ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** No action taken.

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

**ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED**

**ASSESSOR'S CLERK/JOB CLASSIFICATION:** **Supervisor Razzano** stated that with the reduction of the Assessor Clerk's hours, her job classification would need to be changed to that of a three-quarter time employee.

**MOTION** by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilwoman Quinn**, to reclassify the Assessor Clerk's position as a three-quarter time employee, with the applicable benefits.

**ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS & QUESTIONS:** There were none.

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

**ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED**

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:00 P.M.**

**PREPARED BY KATHRYN SHERLOCK  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

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