

March 5, 2013 – Workshop Meeting

The Gardiner Town Board met this evening at 6:15 PM in Executive Session at the Gardiner Town Hall for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and the employment history of a particular person. Supervisor Zatz, Councilmen Koenig, Mele, Reynolds and Wiegand were all present.

REGULAR SESSION

At 7:30 PM the Regular Session of the Gardiner Town Board meeting was called to order. There were approximately 20± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 23 – Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Majestic Park, Noon sharp. Sponsored by the Gardiner Day Committee

March 29 – Town Hall offices are closed in observance of Good Friday.

April 19 – Women Helping Women Dance, New Paltz VFW. Sponsored by the Gardiner Day Committee with all proceeds donated to the Kingston Battered Women Shelter.

LEGISLATOR TRACEY BARTELS

Ulster County Legislator Tracey Bartels was present this evening to discuss the Safety Net Program. Ms Bartels explained that Safety Net is designed as temporary assistance for needy families. Families are eligible for a lifetime benefit of five (5) years. 47 states have Safety Net. 29% of the funding comes from the state level while the remaining 71% is the local share. Ulster County is the only County that assesses the local share to the municipalities. Ulster County will likely take over the local share within the next three (3) years. Legislator Bartels also reviewed and explained cuts with the County, budgeting and savings for the Town

NORTH STREET PARKING AND WALK TO THE RIVER

Councilman Koenig discussed with the Board his concern on neighbor notification for town projects, specifically the proposed parking lot on North Street and the Walk to the River on Sand Hill Road. Board members discussed at great length Town Board/Planning Board process on these types of projects. Councilman Reynolds stated that he believes the Walk to the River project will be opposed by adjacent residents not to mention that parking will be quite a challenge. Councilman Wiegand doesn't feel that more parking is needed in the hamlet and he is opposed to the parking lot at this time. Councilman Koenig made a motion to require these two (2) specific projects to go through the Planning Board process and to have a notification process set in place so adjacent property owners are made aware of the proposed project. Councilman Mele seconded the motion. Supervisor Zatz voted nay, however the motion did pass with additional ayes votes from Councilmen Reynolds and Wiegand.

FORMER LIBRARY/FIREHOUSE BUILDING

The Town Board discussed once again the fate of the old firehouse/library building located on Station Square. Councilmen Wiegand, Reynolds and Supervisor Zatz all voted to sell the building as they feel that the building is a hazard and has limited value to the Town. Councilmen Mele and Koenig however disagree with this and believe that the building is still viable for business use and it is a prime piece of property right in the hamlet. They voted nay. The motion passed. Since this is public property the motion is subject to a permissive referendum. A petition to stop the sale of the property and have the voters of the Town decide at a special election if it should be sold or not can be presented to the Town within 30 days.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS

Supervisor Zatz distributed health insurance comparisons for the 4/1/2013 renewal. Town Board members will review the comparisons and discuss them at next week's meeting. Along with the health benefits, dental benefits and vision care will also be addressed.

PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE

The Town's property & casualty insurance is scheduled to renew on April 1, 2013. Robert Stubbs, our agent with Marshall & Sterling, sent via e-mail, a proposal for the renewal for the Town Board to review. Mr. Stubbs will be present at next week's meeting to discuss the proposal.

CELL TOWER UPDATE

Councilman Mele explained the executive session from earlier this evening. Board members have been encouraging the current cell tower contractor to advise the Town on what their next steps are so that a decision can be made on how to move forward and possibly address other options.

SIDEWALK UPDATE

The bid award package is currently with NYS DOT for review.

ROUTE 299 CAMPGROUND

Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) is moving ahead with the campground project. It was reported that they received forty (40) bids for the project.

RAIL TRAIL CROSSINGS

There appears to be heavy traffic crossing the Rail Trail on Sand Hill Road at the construction site of a new home. Ulster County Dept. of Highways & Bridges has issued a cease and desist order specifically because the contractor did not obtain any permits for the driveway entrance. Building Inspector Hank Vance is addressing the situation.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Jack Habersberger – commented on the Delta Dental plan that he has.

Linda Geary – spoke about the rail trail crossing issue.

Mike Kruglinski – also commented on the rail trail crossing issue.

Eugene Ruoff – asked what the Planning Board process would be for the Town Board projects addressed earlier. He understood that the Town Board was adopting the same requirements for notification as the Planning Board has.

Margaret LaMark – received a letter from the Town about personal property use for the cell tower. Has there been any interest and where.

Councilman Mele – stated that yes there was interest, but no action by the Town Board will take place at this time.

Linda Geary – asked if there has been any discussion to make the ball field town parkland.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Koenig, seconded by Council Wiegand and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher, Town Clerk