

October 2, 2012 – Workshop Meeting

The workshop meeting of the Gardiner Town Board was held this date at the Gardiner Town Hall at 7:00 PM. Present were Supervisor Zatz and Councilmen Koenig, Mele, Reynolds & Wiegand. There were approximately 14 audience members.

JUSTICE COURT GRANT

RESOLUTION NO. 81-Justice Court Grant Application- Offered by Councilman Wiegand

WHEREAS, there is available grant moneys through the New York State Unified Court System to assist in the operation of the town justice courts; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Gardiner and the Justice Court of the Town of Gardiner are in agreement that this grant would benefit the operation of the Justice Court and should be applied for; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor of the Town of Gardiner is hereby authorized to sign the grant application and all subsequent documents with respect to the grant, as needed.

Seconded by Councilman Mele and carried.

APPOINTMENT OF LIBRARY TRUSTEE

On motion of Councilman Koenig, seconded by Councilman Mele and carried, Glenn Gidaly was re-appointed to another five (5) year term.

KEY BANK PRESENTATION – BONNIE BALE

Bonnie Bale a representative from Key Bank was present to discuss with the Board various bonds available to municipalities for financing. She stated that the Town of Gardiner has excellent credit and very little debt. The Town is in good financial shape. Bonding available to the Town include Bond Anticipation Notes, Serial Bonds and Statutory Installment Bonds, which Ms Bale described in detail.

2013 BUDGET

Board members scheduled a department head meeting for the 2013 Budget for October 9 from 2:30 - 4:30 PM. Additional meetings were scheduled for October 19 from 2:30 to 4:30 PM and October 23 beginning at 7:00 PM.

HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT DISCUSSION

Board members discussed with Highway Superintendent Charles Haynes the quality of the truck equipment used by Highway personnel. Safety has become a serious issue and the replacement of vehicles is necessary. In addition the highway garage is in disrepair. Board members discussed at length the cost of the repair of two (2) dump bodies and the purchase of a sander. Total cost would be approximately \$42,000 which will come from the 2012 budget. A motion was made by Councilman Mele, seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried, approving this expenditure subject to the budget transfers at next week's meeting.

Secondly two (2) new trucks will be needed to replace one that was sold for surplus equipment and one that was involved in a recent motor vehicle accident. Superintendent Haynes was authorized to prepare a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the purchase of these new vehicles. A motion was made by Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilman Mele and carried, authorizing this.

BUDGET REVIEW

Councilman Reynolds recently spoke with the coordinator of the New Paltz Transfer Station. Mr. Reynolds liked the ideas they have come up with to generate additional revenue for their Town at the

transfer station. He would like to implement some of these ideas and will create a list of ideas for the Town Board to review. Supervisor Zatz suggested creating a health care reserve fund based on the remaining funds from the HRA deductible fund.

LOCAL LAW - PROCUREMENT POLICY

The public hearing for the Local Law on the Procurement Policy was re-scheduled to November 8 on motion of Councilman Mele, seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried. Councilman Wiegand suggested the addition of definitions of purchase contracts and public works contracts in the law. Supervisor Zatz will contact the attorney to add this change.

ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Currently there are five (5) officers of the Town on the Zoning Advisory Committee with four (4) applicants awaiting interview and appointment. Board members agreed to the following format: 1.) set up the ZAC with town officials; 2.) do interviews and appoint outside members; 3.) allow for community input. Board members would like to have a chairman who can facilitate the meetings. On motion of Councilman Mele, seconded by Councilman Koenig and carried, Henry Vance, Building Inspector and Zoning Code Enforcement Officer was appointed as chairman, subject to his acceptance of the position.

Key Zoning and Planning processes to be addressed are as follows: 1.) a memo of understanding for the applicant; 2.) improve communication between the Boards i.e. written; 3.) SEQR process; 4.) communication with the applicant – a step by step process checklist; 5.) schedule meetings regularly between the Supervisor, Planning Board Chairman and ZBA Chairman.

SCENIC BYWAY GRANT

Scenic Byway has been awarded a \$1 million grant to be used to repair the three overlooks along the Byway. Funding has come from the Federal Highway Administration and the NYS DOT.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION GRANT

The Town has received a \$25,000 Farmland Preservation Grant from the Department of Ag & Markets. This grant is to be used only for the creation of a plan for Farmland Preservation.

VACANCY PROCEDURE

Councilman Wiegand asked how the Town Board would like to address vacancies on Town boards, commissions and committees. In the past they have always interviewed whether the incumbent member was interested in continuing or not. Board members agreed to always conduct interviews.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Distillery Fire -

Early last week the Tuthilltown Spirits Distillery had a fire. Neighbors of the distillery were present to express their safety concerns and their anger over the lack of due process regarding zoning and building issues with the distillery through the Town. They believe that no checks and balances occurred, there are no safety regulations in place and it is incumbent upon the Town to investigate the safety of the operation. Lives of employees and adjacent residents are at stake. After a lengthy and strong discussion, Supervisor Zatz agreed to contact the attorney for the Town for information on farm distilleries and regulatory responsibility.

Jack Habersberger – questioned the Home Relief line in the budget. He heard that the County is making changes and asked how this will impact the Town budget. He suggested calling OSHA on the distillery.

Pam O’Dell – brought to the attention of the Town Board a factually incorrect finding/decision of the ZBA recently sent to the Planning Board. The minutes of that meeting also reflect incorrect information. Asked how and when this would be corrected.

David Straus – commented on the budget and SEQR process.

Marion Kells – commented on the State audit process.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilman Koenig and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher
Town Clerk