

March 28, 2016 – Special Meeting

The Town of Gardiner Town Board met in special session this evening at 6:00 PM at the Gardiner Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Majestic, Councilwoman Walls and Councilmen Dukler, Hinson & Reynolds. There were 2 audience members.

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL – UNION EMPLOYEES

Supervisor Majestic & Councilwoman Walls met with union representative Steve Wiegand and shop steward Matt Aube to discuss the changes made to the health insurance policy renewal. Mr. Wiegand & Mr. Aube were informed that the deductible was increased but the out-of-pocket expense was decreased.

TRANSFER STATION

Councilman Reynolds & Councilman Dukler had a three-way phone conversation with attorney Paul Kellar regarding the recommendations made by the Town's insurance company for the transfer station suspending the sale of items to the public. Mr. Kellar suggested investigating the actual exclusions of coverage. Councilman Dukler spoke with Bob Stubbs who stated that our insurance policy in force would cover the town's liability, however he did recommend that specific items of sale....mattresses, strollers and car seats and various other baby items need to be addressed immediately. The insurance company can have either an additional addendum of exclusions added or they may choose not to renew our policy. Mr. Stubbs suggested that we step back and review the transfer station policy. Perhaps a moratorium is in order. Councilman Reynolds is opposed to stopping the taking and selling of any items. Councilwoman Walls brought up her previous proposal of a master plan for the transfer station and handed a draft plan to each board member. Supervisor Majestic has reviewed the expenses for 2013-2016 and has found that haulage expenses have decreased. Ms Majestic does not feel that the revenue collected from recycling sales for 2014 and 2015 totaling approximately \$16,000 is worth the potential liability. Supervisor Majestic also has concerns with combustible items. She is suggesting at this time a moratorium on all giving and/or selling of any items collected at the transfer station. Councilwoman Walls believes there is a need for a concentrated time to focus on a management plan and it is not unusual for a moratorium for a specific use on a limited time basis. Councilman Reynolds feels there will be a big uproar from the community if a moratorium is put in place. Recycling Coordinator Wendy Toman commented that there is a lot of information to be digested and she feels the Town is jumping the gun. The goal is to protect the fiscal state of the Town while limiting our own liability.

At this point the Town Board moved forward with a motion made by Councilwoman Walls, seconded by Councilman Reynolds and carried, authorizing the Town Board to set forth a management plan for the transfer station within 60 days.

A second motion was made by Councilwoman Walls to enact a moratorium to help with time to Ms Toman to do the management plan. There was no second and this motion fails.

A third motion was made by Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilman Dukler and carried, establishing a moratorium on accepting items to be given and/or sold for 60 days while the management plan is being developed. Councilman Reynolds voted nay. Motion passes.

Supervisor Majestic will announce the moratorium on the website, Facebook and in the press. Board members discussed an ad-hoc committee to create the management plan. All thought that was a good idea and Councilmen Dukler and Reynolds will head this up.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

The Town Board adopted the two (2) following motions: A motion was made by Councilwoman Walls, seconded by Councilman Dukler and carried, stating that although the current Town Board does not recognize the MOA signed by the previous Town Supervisor on March 31, 2015 as a legal and binding document, the Town Board would like to accommodate the well being of our union employees. It was agreed upon at the March 23rd union meeting that the union would read and consider a revised Memorandum of Agreement produced by the Town of Gardiner to be sent to the union for their review.

A second motion made by Councilwoman Walls, seconded by Councilman Dukler and carried, states that although the current Town Board does not recognize the MOA signed by the previous Town Supervisor on March 31, 2015 as a legal and binding document, the Town Board would like to accommodate the well being of our union employees. Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to sign checks reimbursing union employees for verified medical expenses related to health insurance expenses covered by the 2015/2016 health insurance plan. Expenses must have occurred during the health insurance year which began on April 1, 2015 and expires on March 31, 2016 and may not exceed \$7,500. The deadline to submit all covered expenses is April 30, 2016.

INTERVIEWS

Interviews were scheduled for April 5 at 6 PM for positions on both the Environmental Conservation Commission and the Parks and Rec Commission. There are four letters of interest.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Supervisor Majestic, seconded by Councilman Dukler and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher
Town Clerk