

May 3, 2016 – Workshop Meeting

The workshop Meeting of the Gardiner Town Board was held this evening at 7 PM at the Gardiner Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Majestic, Councilwoman Walls and Councilmen Dukler & Hinson. Councilman Reynolds was absent. There were approximately 13± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May 5 begins the road detour on Route 44/55
- May 7 is the Riverkeepers Clean Sweep from 9 am to 1 pm
- May 8 a reminder that it is Mother's Day
- May 14 Gardiner Cupcake Festival at Wrights Farm

RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC METER SWITCH

Harrison Barritt, Michele Hurtz and Westin Blaylock made a presentation to the Town Board regarding utility company's use of smart meters. Their presentation covered the impact these meters have on health and safety of customers using the meter. Three (3) town in Ulster County have adopted a resolution against the new meters. They are urging the Town of Gardiner to adopt a resolution allowing for customers to choose to keep their old meters. A sample resolution was given to the Board for their consideration.

STREET LIGHT REQUEST

A request has been made for a street light at the intersection of Rout 32 and Dubois Road. There is a sharp curve in the road at this intersection. Board members are looking for supporting documentation as to the need for this light as well as how this will affect property owners in the area. Cost for a light there is \$216 per year.

COMMISSION VACANCIES

Vacancies on various town commissions are as follows:

ECC – 1 vacancy

Parks and Recreation 2 vacancies – Councilman Dukler and Councilwoman Walls will be conducting interviews shortly.

OSC – 5 vacancies and 2 alternate positions

POND AT MAJESTIC PARK

Resident Linda Geary spoke to the Town Board about the pond located at Majestic Park. It is overgrown and choking with algae, lily pads and is deteriorating rapidly. Supervisor Majestic suggested the possibility of creating hydro-electric for the pole barn. This would require dredging, an Article 15 permit and full SEQR review. It is also a good place for a hydrant for the fire department. Superintendent Stiscia has information on the requirements to install a hydrant. Councilman Dukler commented that a consolidated funding application may be available for this type of project. Mr. Dukler will act as liaison for the Parks & Recreation on this.

JUSTICE COURT CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Board is in receipt of a letter from the Town Justices regarding the hours of the court clerks. They are proposing delegating the working hours evenly between the two (2) clerks each two (2) days per week in addition to court for each of their specific judge. The court office would be closed one (1) day per week. Board members questioned what role they have in approving this. Councilwoman Walls offered to follow up with the judges for more clarification.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT TERM

Superintendent Stiscia is requesting the Town Board to consider change the term of office for the Superintendent of Highways from a two (2) year term to a four (4) year term. Mr. Stiscia stated that it is distracting to campaign every two (2) years and takes him away from his everyday duties. Councilwoman Walls believes there are good reasons for this positions term to be changed as well as the Supervisor. Councilman Hinson is not in agreement while Councilman Dukler is.

TRANSFER STATION

The recycling coordinator's last day at the transfer station was April 28. At this point, until the Town hires a replacement, there is consist coverage for Wednesday with sporadic coverage for Friday & Saturday. Supervisor Majestic and her assistant Donna will fill in. Interviews need to be done as soon as possible. Supervisor Majestic would like to hire someone within the next two (2) weeks. The management plan will evolve after hiring. Interviews will be scheduled AAP from what has already been received and a special meeting will be scheduled for the week of May 24th. The moratorium will continue through May 25.

POST OFFICE STRIPPING AND PARKING

The postmaster at the Gardiner Post Office has requested stripping at each driveway before and after the post office building and parking signs. After speaking with NYSDOT, Supervisor Majestic stated that the Town Board must adopt a resolution, send it to NYS DOT, who will then review the site and consider approval. If approval is granted they will implement the stripping and signage. Ms Majestic also spoke to them about the guardrail at the bridge over the Wallkill River and the hazardous situation to pedestrians and bicyclists.

BUDGET PREPARATION

Supervisor Majestic reminded Board members that next month begins the budget process. Asked the Board to think about budget concerns.

MASS GATHERING PERMIT APPLICATION

The Town Board is in receipt of a Mass Gathering Permit Application for the Sunflower Festival to take place in August. A representative for the festival will attend next week's meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Robert Hagopian – spoke to the Town Board asking their consideration as an engineer for the Town of Gardiner. Mr. Hagopian was informed that he is on the list of engineers for the Town. Secondly Mr. Hagopian offered to do an initial report for the park pond.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilwoman Walls, seconded by Councilman Dukler and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher
Town Clerk