

October 6, 2015 – Workshop Meeting

The workshop meeting of the Gardiner Town Board was held this evening at the Gardiner Town Hall at 7:00 PM. Supervisor Zatz presided with Councilmen Dukler, Hinson, Wiegand and Reynolds present. There was also 25± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oct 12 – Town Hall office closed in observance of Columbus Day.

Oct 13 – Ohioville Acres public hearing for Community Sewage Disposal System 7:00 PM

Oct 20 – Gardiner Fire Dept. public hearing for budget 7:30 PM

Oct 20 – Shawangunk Valley Fire Dept. public hearing for budget 7:00 PM

Oct 24 – Reformed Church of Shawangunk Fall Festival 3:00 PM

5TH GARDINER OPEN STUDIO TOUR

Several local artists are participating in the 5th annual GOST (Gardiner Open Studio Tour) to be held Oct 10, 11 & 12, 10:00 am TO 5:00 pm.

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Gardiner Library is seeking applications for a Library Trustee vacancy. Interviews will be conducted by the Town Board. If interested please apply by email at supervisor.tog@gmail.com.

Supervisor Zatz explained that the Town Hall flags are flying at half staff in honor of the victims of the Umpqua Community College shooting on the order of President Obama and for Town resident Maya Gold.

GARDINER/NEW PALTZ SENIORS

Joe Trapani of the Gardiner/New Paltz Seniors was present along with several members of the organizations requesting an increase in their annual budget to \$3,000. The decrease to the funding last year has limited the activities provided for its members. Board members discussed this with the members present and agreed to take their request into consideration during budget discussions.

GARDINER DAY COMMITTEE

Three (3) members of the Gardiner Day Committee presented to the Town Board a plea for funding for their committee. Carol Lohrman did an account on the history of Gardiner Day. Jaynie Marie Aristeo reviewed all the events in the Town sponsored by Gardiner Day. Stewart Glenn did an accounting of funding raised and used by the committee. He cited that local businesses and individuals have donated and helped to keep Gardiner Day alive. Being a small town there is just so much that can be donated. Mr. Glenn also recognized two (2) adjoining towns' celebration budgets. A portion of this budget goes to help fund their "Day" festivities. At this time the Gardiner Day Committee is requesting a \$5,000 budget line for 2016.

PILGRIM PIPELINE

Resolution No. 98 - Pilgrim Pipeline - Offered by Councilman Wiegand

WHEREAS, Pilgrim Pipeline Company is proposing to build a bi-directional pipeline in close proximity to the NY State Thruway, through Rockland, Orange, Ulster, Greene, and Albany

counties that would transport crude oil and refined petroleum products between Albany, New York and Linden, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline will carry oil from the Bakken Shale region of North Dakota extracted through a process of hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” which has been found to contaminate clean water resources, create toxic air emissions and radioactive waste, and release large quantities of methane gas into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, data collected by the Capline Pipeline in Louisiana, which tested crude from 86 locations worldwide, indicates that crude oil from Bakken Shale has a far higher vapor pressure than crude from dozens of other locations, making it much more likely to throw off combustible gases; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued a safety alert on January 2, 2014, to the general public, emergency first responders, and shippers and carriers regarding the particular flammability of Bakken crude oil; and

WHEREAS, the Pipeline will carry a large volume of Bakken crude oil through residential areas in adjacent communities, which will place residents in harm’s way should an explosion or spill occur; and

WHEREAS, according to PHMSA, pipeline operators reported 1,880 crude oil spills nationwide between 2003 and 2013, or nearly one spill every other day, resulting in over 44 million gallons of oil being spilled; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of these spills were the result of corrosion, equipment failure, incorrect operation or material and weld failures; and

WHEREAS, according to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, PHMSA only has 135 inspectors to oversee 2.6 million miles of pipeline, and only a fifth of that pipeline system has been inspected by PHMSA or its state partners since 2006; and

WHEREAS, any rupture or compromise of the Pipeline, even without an explosion or fire, will require extraordinary cleanup efforts, could force residents from their homes, and place a large number of residents in close proximity to hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, most residents living near the proposed pipeline depend on ground water and public community water systems for potable water supplies, the integrity and safety of which may be jeopardized by the Pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the Pilgrim Pipeline is proposed to be laid in areas containing sensitive aquifers upon which residents depend for drinking water; and,

WHEREAS, the Pilgrim pipeline also threatens important surface water resources along its path; and,

WHEREAS, the **Town of Gardiner** finds that the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline potentially threatens the health, safety, and welfare of residents and businesses living or working in the Mid-Hudson region; could decrease the values of homes located along its route and in surrounding neighborhoods; and could negatively impact future development in this region; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan calls for becoming less energy and fossil fuel intensive while strengthening the regional economy, expanding renewable energy generation exponentially across the Region, and improving the resilience of the energy delivery system; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Pilgrim Pipeline to support and expand markets for fossil fuels is directly contrary to these clean energy goals; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the **Town Board** of the **Town of Gardiner**:

1. Calls upon the New York State Thruway Authority to reject use of its right-of-way for the purpose of transporting oil or gas by pipeline; and further calls upon the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) to deny an exception to its Accommodation Plan for said purpose; and
2. Urges Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature to oppose construction of the Pilgrim Pipeline in New York State; and
3. Calls for a full environmental review of the project and its myriad potential environmental and climate-related impacts, as required by the State Environmental Quality Review Act and National Environmental Protection Act, and that a complete and comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement be undertaken, with full opportunity for participation by local governments, other involved and interested agencies and the public; and
4. Directs the Town Clerk to forward copies of this resolution to the NYS Thruway Authority Chairwoman Joan Mahoney, NYS DOT Commissioner Matthew Driscoll, U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and U.S. Representative Chris Gibson, Governor Andrew Cuomo, N.Y. Public Service Commission Chairwoman Audrey Zibelman, N.Y. Assembly Member Kevin Cahill, N.Y. Senator John J. Bonacic, and NYS DEC Acting Commissioner Marc Gerstman.

Seconded by Councilman Reynolds and carried.

UCRRA AGREEMENT

Board members discussed among themselves the proposed Solid Waste Management Agreement with UCRRA. Councilman Dukler asked Supervisor Zatz if there has been discussion of alternate options among the Board of Supervisors for trash haulage. Mr. Zatz stated there are many discussions but no decisions. Four (4) towns still have not signed on. Councilman Reynolds stated that the Town should speak to the experts in recycling to assist in the decision making. He also suggested increasing the Town fees. Councilman Wiegand made a motion authorizing the Supervisor to sign the agreement. Councilman Hinson seconded the motion. Carried by aye vote from all.

LOCAL LAWS OPEN SPACE COMMISSION & PARKLAND

Councilman Wiegand is suggesting to amend the Open Space Law by decreasing the members to five (5) with two (2) alternates. The second local law he would like to amend is the receipt of parkland from developers of major subdivisions. Each law must have a public hearing. On motion of Supervisor Zatz, seconded by Councilman Dukler and carried, public hearings were scheduled for December 1 beginning at 7:00 PM.

NEW YORK STATE SOLAR FARM

On motion of Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilman Dukler and carried, the Town Board scheduled a public hearing for a special use permit for a solar farm to be located on Route 44/55. The public hearing is scheduled for November 10 at 7:00 PM.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Town Hall – Councilman Hinson has received an estimate for all the exterior work totaling \$30,000. This estimate will be included with the Justice Court grant application. Other repairs will be held off until spring.

Salt Shed – Councilman Wiegand has received new numbers for the repair of the salt shed. The new estimate is \$425,000. If we were to go forward with a totally new building the cost would be between \$500,000 and \$600,000. If the Town were to go with a standalone building with a fabric roof the cost would be \$450,000. Councilman Wiegand would like to move forward with the next step which is the bidding process.

Transfer Station – Councilman Reynolds asked what the status of the RFP was for the recycling center building. It was the understanding of the Board that he would be working with Morris Associates to create the RFP document.

RESERVE FUNDS

Councilman Wiegand met with attorney Mitch Jaiven regarding the Town's reserve funds. There are two (2) kinds of funds – repair reserves and capital reserves. Repair reserve funds require a public hearing to release the funds for use and the capital reserve funds are subject to permissive referendum. There is a total of \$500,000 in the reserve funds.

GRANTS

Supervisor Zatz has received information about a \$630,000 grant for barrier mitigation projects for tributaries of the Hudson River. The Clove Rd. Bridge is a project that may be eligible. Mr. Zatz spoke to Glenn Hoaglund about his offer to use the Mohonk Preserve's grant writer for this application. Supervisor Zatz will obtain letters of support from the Towns of Rochester and Marbletown and from Mohonk Preserve. A motion was made by Councilman Hinson, seconded by Councilman Dukler and carried, authorizing Supervisor Zatz to work with Superintendent of Highways Brian Stiscia on the application.

SENATOR JOHN J BONACIC FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Supervisor Zatz is in receipt of a letter from Senator Bonacic informing him of available funding through the State & Municipal Facilities Capital Program. The maximum grant amount is \$100,000. Senator Bonacic is asking that Mr. Zatz identify any needs that the Town may have that meet the eligibility requirements and complete the application. Requests must be submitted by November 1. Supervisor Zatz believes that the replacement of the park pavilion and/or the shed at the park would be a good project. Councilman Dukler, Hinson and Wiegand like the salt shed project. Supervisor Zatz asked Councilman Hinson and Superintendent of Highways Brian Stiscia to work together to form a project for the grant.

CELL TOWER

John Arthur of Wireless Edge has been in contact with the Town and plans to move forward with an application to construct a cell tower at the Highway Garage on South Mountain Road.

2016 BUDGET SCHEDULE

The tentative budget has been distributed to the Board. Two (2) meetings have been scheduled October 20 at 4 PM and October 27 at 7 PM. Both meetings will be held at the Town Hall. Board members would like all department heads to be invited to the October 20 meeting to review their budget requests.

Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for November 5 at 7 PM.

LOCAL LAW - TAX CAP OVERRIDE

Board members discussed the tax cap override and agreed to draft a local law and schedule a public hearing for this local law for November 5 at 7 PM. The Town Clerk was authorized to distribute copies of the local law to each Board member as required by the law.

REVALUATION

Board members received a brief update on the revaluation. So far 1577 parcels have been inspected. They are currently on track to have the majority of the properties reviewed by the end of the year.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Jack Habersberger – commented that a pipeline is the safest way to transport oil.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilman Dukler and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher
Town Clerk