

October 7, 2014 – 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 Zatz and Councilmen Dukler, Hinson, Reynolds and Wiegand along with 12± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

10/13-10/15 – Auction of old library/firehouse building

10/18 Shawangunk Valley Fire Dept. Chicken BBQ

10/21 – Shawangunk Valley Fire Dept. Budget Meeting

10/22- Gardiner Fire Dept. Budget Meeting 9originally scheduled for 10/15)

10/25 AARP Annual Craft Fair, St. Charles Church Hall

Various events with Office of the Aging throughout the month of October. Check Town website for a listing.

TOWN HALL BALLFIELD PARKING GRANT – SEOR REVIEW & NEG DEC

The Town has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to create parking along Route 44/55 at the Town Hall ball field. This project will also extend the sidewalks to the parking area and the construction of a bus stop shelter. Board members reviewed the short form SEQR and determined there is no significant environmental impact from this project and declared a Negative Declaration on motion of Councilman Dukler, seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried.

Board members also discussed the cost of the project and what happens if there are any overages.

Supervisor Zatz stated that this is just the beginning stages of this project and he does not have any answers to these particular questions yet.

Board members agreed that the Planning Board should have some involvement and as a courtesy will have them review the plans.

The following Resolution was adopted by the Board allowing for the Supervisor to move forward with the acceptance of the grant and the start of construction of the project.

Resolution No. 123-In the Matter of the Acceptance of State and Municipal Facilities (“SAM”) Grant for the Construction of Parking Area & Sidewalks at the Gardiner Town Hall

Offered by Councilman Dukler

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Gardiner has applied for and received an award of a grant under the State and Municipal Facilities Program (“SAM”) for the construction of a parking area and sidewalks at the Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Gardiner has caused to be prepared an Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) pursuant to the mandates of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (ECL Article 8 and 6 NYCRR Part 617); and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is desirous of accepting the Grant and proceeding with the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has duly considered the contents of the EAF and completed Parts 2 and 3 thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has identified the relevant areas of environmental inquiry and taken a hard look at them;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS BY THE TOWN BOARD OF GARDINER, ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK:

THAT THE Town Board of the Town of Gardiner hereby determines that the acceptance of the SAM Grant and the implementation of the construction of a parking area and sidewalks at the Town Hall is in the public interest; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that due to the present development associated with Town Hall and given that the parking and sidewalks will be immediately adjacent to a State Highway, the Project will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts;

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Negative Declaration under SEQRA is adopted and the Town Supervisor is hereby directed to prepare and file the same; and
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SAM Grant is hereby accepted; and
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supervisor, Town Clerk and Attorney for the Town are directed to take such actions as are necessary and appropriate to implement this resolution and construct the project.

Seconded by Councilman Reynolds and carried.

OLD SIDEWALK PROJECT

Supervisor Zatz commented that the NYS DOT is once again requesting easement releases from all property owners along the sidewalks on Route 44/55. A remaining balance of \$126,000 to be reimbursed to the Town for the project will be held up until this requirement is met.

BUDGET 2015

Supervisor Zatz reviewed the timeline for the 2015 budget process. Councilman Wiegand created a calendar/timeline for the Board members to follow during the budget discussions. Mr. Wiegand would like to stay beneath the 2% budget cap and will contact Association of Towns to get the information on how to calculate the increases.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Supervisor Zatz stated that the employee handbook is being updated. It will be set up into three (3) parts – Compensation & Benefits, Performance & Conduct and Safety. Copies of the draft of Part I has been distributed to the Town Board for their review.

LAND LEASE

Supervisor Zatz is interested in leasing the land at the transfer station to perhaps a farmer for agricultural use or recreational use. He is looking for authorization to research this. Board members are in agreement with researching.

VIDEO TAPING MEETINGS

Councilman Dukler has been working with a company to move forward with the video taping of Town meetings. They have found that the amplifier for the system is not the correct one and microphones, cameras and additional amplifiers are still needed. Councilman Hinson thought that this was not going to be considered at all while other Board members thought that it was just being stalled at this point. A motion was made by Supervisor Zatz, second by Councilman Dukler and carried to move towards videotaping the meetings. A second motion was made by Councilman Dukler, seconded by Supervisor Zatz and carried by an additional aye vote of Councilman Reynolds, giving authorization to purchase an amplifier for \$150.00. Councilman Hinson and Wiegand voted nay.

RIVERSIDE TRUST LITIGATION

The Board discussed the Riverside Trust litigation. This property is a high value property located at the end of Phillies Bridge Road. The Trust is grieving for a lower assessment. It has proven to be very costly for the Town to defend. Although the Town has won the initial suit Riverside Trust is now appealing the decision. The Town Board offered a settlement and it was rejected. Board members are concerned with the cost to litigate and defend.

WATER MONITORING PROGRAM

Supervisor Zatz announced that the program is in full swing with nine (9) transducers measuring water levels.

MOHONK PRESERVE ANNUAL DONATION

The Town has received a check in the amount of \$5,000 annual donation in lieu of taxes from Mohonk Preserve. Supervisor Zatz also commented that a \$500 donation was received from Kenneth Meier as a donation for the park/summer recreation program.

ANTI-FRACKING

Councilman Dukler is looking into creating an Anti-Fracking resolution and local law.

VARIOUS BUDGET FUNDING ISSUES

The New Paltz/Gardiner Senior Citizens have asked for an increase in the Town's budget line for their organization from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

Councilman Hinson announced that local veterans groups are looking for funding for flags to be placed on veterans' grave sites.

Councilman Wiegand stated that the draft infrastructure plan will be completed by the adoption of the 2015 budget. He also suggested that the Town Board may want to discuss cutting back on the number of members and establishing terms for the Environmental Conservation Commission and the Open Space Commission.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Scott Bittner – questioned the \$100,000 cost of the legal expense defending the Riverside Trust lawsuit. Jack Habersberger – asked if the 2% tax cap was on the levy or the budget. Commented about the Riverside Trust and suggested that the residents of the Town have the option to voice their opinion as to whether or not to continue to defend the suit. Board members supported allowing residents to speak their opinion on what the Town Board should do and tentatively scheduled this for a November meeting. Mary Beth Majestic – asked if there was a minimum bid on the old library/firehouse building and asked what the basis of bid rejection is. She also suggested that the money received by the bid be given to the fire department.

Linda Geary – asked about the town land inventory and if any was parkland. Continued advising that if it is designated parkland that it cannot be sold without action from the County Legislature. She also support an anti fracking law.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilman Dukler and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher
Town Clerk