

The Gardiner Town Board met this date at the Gardiner Town Hall at 7:00 PM for the purposes of the workshop meeting and the 2011 budget public hearing. Present were Supervisor Katz, Councilmen Mele & Wiegand and Councilwoman Lemmon. There were approximately 46± audience members.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

November 10 – Open Space Commission and Wallkill Valley Land Trust co-sponsored community meeting regarding Gardiner farms. Gardiner Reformed Church CEB 6:30 PM.

November 13 – Friends of the Gardiner Library Jewelry Sale

November 21 – Gardiner Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast and Food Drive 8:00 AM to Noon.

December 3 – Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. 7:00 PM.

December 12 – Gardiner Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast served by Santa. 8:00 AM to Noon.

### **HISTORIC FIREHOUSE/FORMER LIBRARY**

Supervisor Katz has received a letter from the Gardiner Fire District stating that they regretfully decline the option of leasing the historic firehouse/former Library.

### **ONE WAY STREET APPROVAL**

The Town has received approval from NYS DOT to make Station Square a one way street.

### **RESERVE FUND TRANSFER – POLE BARN**

**Resolution No. 135** – Park Building Transfer of Funds - Offered by Councilwoman Lemmon RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Gardiner hereby authorizes the Supervisor to transfer and expend \$5,000 from Fund 13, Park Capital Reserve, to the Town of Gardiner General Fund for the purposes of finishing the wiring & lighting at the newly constructed pole building at George Majestic Memorial Park.

Seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried. Councilman Mele abstained.

### **SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING – LOCAL LAW AMENDING DOG CONTROL LAW**

Board members are in receipt of a local law to amend the Town's dog control law allowing for the licensing of dogs through the municipality. A public hearing was scheduled for December 7 at 7:00 PM.

### **ZONING PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUATION**

Supervisor Katz read a letter from building inspector Hank Vance regarding a well test that was done in the hamlet at the intersection of Second St. and Milk St. The test ran for four (4) days uninterrupted without any notification to adjacent property owners. This test created a shortage with several wells over the weekend, causing a couple of businesses to close. Due to this incident, Supervisor Katz believes at this time the amendment should not be considered.

### **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

On motion of Councilwoman Lemmon, seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried, the public hearing was closed at 7:20 PM. A second motion was made by Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilman Mele and carried, to reject the proposed amendment to the zoning law.

### **PUBLIC HEARING – BUDGET 2011**

Supervisor Katz reviewed the proposed preliminary budget for 2011. Town services have been kept at a minimum. Major increases to the budget derive from a health insurance increase of 29.9% and the retirement system town contribution increase of \$41,000. Mr. Katz addressed the Library Budget. He stated that there has been some misinformation about the Town's support of the Library. The Town

Board has asked the Library to pay their share of the retirement of \$14,175 and for the town services provided to the Library in bookkeeping, banking, reports etc. costing approximately \$5,000. The Library has an unexpended balance of \$75,000, which could be used to cover the additional expenses to them. Mr. Katz also commented that there were no salary increases for Town employees for a second year.

At 7:30 PM the Town Clerk read the legal notice and the public hearing was opened for questions and comments.

**Councilman Wiegand** – asked the outcome on the request to the Highway Dept. and the Park & Recreation to reduce their budgets. Supervisor Katz stated that decreases were not feasible.

**Glen Gidaly** – Vice President of the Library Board. Stated that he and other members of the Library Board would like to work with the Town Board to come up with solutions to resolve the issues.

**Robert Schofield** – Attorney for the Library Board. He also stated that the Library Board would like to brain storm with the Town Board to come up with ideas. Because the Library budget can only be increased by referendum, these unfunded mandates from the Town Board to the Library will result in the Library having to do more with less. The Town can come up with additional revenue where the Library cannot. Mr. Schofield commented that the Library employees also will not receive salary increases this year.

**Paul Colucci** – if the Library has \$75, 000 in unexpended funds, why can't the additional \$20,000 come from these funds.

**Councilwoman Lemmon** – the voters took the decision of the Library budget away from the Town Board. They make the decision as to how the budget is distributed. The Town Board has no right to make that decision.

**Councilman Mele** – while he agrees with Ms Lemmon, Councilman Mele believes it is the Town Board's duty to use an alternate source of funding to keep the budget down. Spoke at length on how this can be done with the unexpended balance in the Library Fund.

**Councilman Wiegand** – the Town is taking \$150,000 from their unexpended funds, no reason why the Library can't do the same.

**David Sterman** – stated it is appropriate for the unexpended balance to be used.

**Robert Schofield** – agrees that the unexpended may be used as a possible source for funding. The issue is timing. The Library just does not have enough time to accommodate for the change. If they had known about the change earlier in the year, they would have been able to plan for it.

**Goia Shebar**- stated that towns are banding together to push back on unfunded mandates. Has the Town of Gardiner considered joining the other towns?

**David Straus** – public libraries get their funding from taxpayers.

**Ray Smith** – Since the fire department will not be able to take over the historic firehouse/library perhaps it is time to consider the \$100,000 written offer or to move forward with the bidding process to sell the property.

**Paul Colucci** – perhaps the Library could seek donations to offset the additional \$20,000.

**Lucile Morris** – fund raising should not be used towards daily operational costs.

**Councilman Wiegand** – not an appropriate use of fund raising.

**Councilwoman Lemmon** – believes the Town Board is taking the decision of funding away from the voters.

**Councilman Mele** – the issue is being publicized as cutting services. If money is available through unexpended funds, a compromise should be reached.

**Carl Zatz** – this is a public hearing. Allow the public to make their comments. The Town Board will have their time after. Stated his opposition to the increase to the Library budget.

**Susan Hill** – requested a meeting with the Town Board and was told to come to tonight's meeting.

**Glenn Gidaly** – suggested zeroing out the line and then request the Library to use the unexpended balance. Read a statement about the Library services and the shifting of the \$20,000 to the Library.

**David Sterman** – is a patron of the Library and feels cutting services is the wrong path to take.

**John Habersberger** – addressed Councilwoman Lemmon – elected as a town representative, so the voters are represented in this decision.

**Eli Kassierer** – retired, on a fixed income and strongly supports the Library. Is willing to scrimp and save to help the Library through this budget increase. Asked what the actual dollar amount per household would be.

**Robert Schofield** – ERS is the only retirement system available for public employees.

**Jack Habersberger** – not a matter of the \$20 if it was a one time increase, but there are increases all over the budget. Cuts need to be made. All companies are cutting back on personnel benefits.

**Paul Osgood** – the suddenness of the increase was unfair. The Library would have been able to accommodate if they had more notice.

**David Sides** – read a letter sent to the Town Board from Lauren Tamran. A copy of the letter is in the budget file.

**Glenn Gidaly** – asked Councilman Mele to clarify about how Town Board heard about the unexpended balance.

**Councilman Mele** – the goal is to solve the \$20,000 expenditure, resolving that it is an actual Library cost. No one is forcing anyone to add this to a budget if it is not a viable Library expense. The issue is how to get the moneys into the budget and those who are making the decisions about the budget are taking all aspects of the decision into account to reach the final goal.

**Glenn Gidaly** – discussed fund raising. Gardiner's library has the highest percentage of users in the Hudson Valley.

**Doris Chorny** – commented that the unexpended balance was used towards the vandalism to the Library building.

**Carl Zatz** – will you be cutting the hours of the bookkeeper or asking the Library to supply their own bookkeeper.

**Paul Colucci** – next year the Library can petition the town voters to increase their budget. He does not believe this increase will impact the Library greatly.

**Supervisor Katz** - agreed to drop the bookkeeping charge for this year. It will be the Library's responsibility next year.

**Councilman Wiegand** – feels there are five (5) potential solutions – 1. Town Board can adjust the cost to the Library, 2. use their unexpended balance, 3. do fund raising, 4. sell the historic firehouse/library, 5. find an alternate revenue source. Suggested coming up with a joint proposal for the next meeting.

**Ray Smith** – agrees with Councilman Wiegand.

**Councilman Mele** – explained unexpended funds are funds leftover from previous budgets, therefore unexpended funds are approved by the voters.

**Doris Chorny** – will the Town Board consider selling the old building.

**Councilwoman Lemmon** – suggesting setting up a revenue line that the Town Board members could donate their stipend to cover the increase in the Library budget.

**Goia Shebar** – discussed fund raising and mandates to the Library. Is very unhappy with the fact that the Town is imposing additional fees on the Library.

**Ann Smith** – asked the difference in budgets between 2010 and 2011.

**Supervisor Katz** – explained the increase will be approximately 5%.

There being no other questions or comments, the Board decided to table the public hearing to the November 9, 2010 meeting. In the meantime a meeting will be held on November 8 at 10 AM here at the Town Hall between two (2) Library Board members and two (2) Town Board members to discuss this issue further.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**John Habersberger** – asked for a cell tower update.

Supervisor Katz explained that he and Councilman Mele are working on the contract and expect to have a public meeting with Wireless Edge in December.

**Todd Mathews** – asked what the plan was for camouflage for the cell tower. Perhaps this could be discussed at the public meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilman Mele and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher  
Town Clerk