

Town Board Minutes October 4, 2006

Present: Councilmen Brien M. Hopkins, Richard K. Hawkins, Dennis J. Mead, Councilwoman Cathleen M. Dobson and Supervisor William A. Eagan.

Also Present: Town Attorney Downey, Deputy Supervisor Pluta, Code Enforcement Officers Ferguson, Lisowski and Juda.

Rev. Laun, Churchill United Methodist Church, opened the meeting with a prayer.

RESOLUTION 2006 ? 26 NYSDEC GRANT REQUEST FOR THE COMMUNITY GREENING PROJECT

RESOLUTION 2006 ? 27 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOSTON TOWN BOARD ADOPTED OCTOBER 4, 2006 AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BUILDING, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,250,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SERIAL BONDS IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,250,000 OF THE TOWN, PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW TO FINANCE SAID PURPOSE, SAID AMOUNT TO BE OFFSET BY ANY FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY AND/OR LOCAL GRANTS RECEIVED, AND DELEGATING THE POWER TO ISSUE BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SALE OF SUCH BONDS TO THE TOWN SUPERVISOR

A motion was made by Councilman Mead and seconded by Supervisor Eagan to adopt the minutes of the September 20, 2006 regular meeting.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Mead and seconded by Councilman Hawkins, upon review by the Town Board, that fund bills on the Abstract dated September 28, 2006 in the amount of \$82,505.99 be paid.

five (5) Ayes Carried

REQUESTS FROM FLOOR

Jim and Rhonda Davis, 6748 Hillcroft Drive expressed their concern about drainage and the ditch on the back of their property. Work by the previous Highway Superintendent was not completed and now there is an erosion problem and a tree on the neighbor's lot about to possibly fall over.

REQUESTS FROM FLOOR (cont.):

Supervisor Eagan stated the town recognizes the problem and is working on a solution.

At 7:40 p.m. a Public Hearing was held to hear comments regarding Community Development Block Grant Requests for 2007-2008.

Supervisor Eagan read the legal notice

There were no comments.

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and seconded by Councilman Hawkins to close the Public Hearing at 7:41 p.m.

five (5) Ayes Carried

REQUESTS FROM FLOOR (cont.):

Jim Davis asked what the town or an engineer would do to divert water from coming through his house and detailed the problems during the last few floods. He added that installing a larger pipe is the answer.

Councilman Hopkins commented that there have been many meetings on drainage issues and tearing out another culvert pipe that our engineers determined works is not the answer. The ditches must be maintained.

Superintendent Telaak acknowledged that the ditches will be cleaned out again soon.

Councilman Hawkins noted that everything we are trying to control is a constant losing battle due to the downhill slope.

Supervisor Eagan commented that we should have faith in the engineers and noted we are trying to do the best we can with the instructions we have been given. If property owners don't want the ditches they can send letters stating they hold the town harmless.

Councilman Hopkins commented that National Grid has stated that we are heading into another 100-year flood and we can only try to maintain what Mother Nature sends us. We are all working on the problem.

Frank Rosiek, 6900 Boston Cross Road, asked Councilman Hopkins where he looked and voiced concerns about flooding. He stated that he is not interested in purchasing the property next to his that contains an unsafe structure. He is only concerned about rodents and etc.

Councilman Hopkins responded that he looked at the pipe that runs in the manhole on Boston Cross Road and it looked good.

Councilman Hawkins noted that he also inspected the area and water was flowing very well. He stated that Highway Superintendent Telaak is aware of the problems near the post office and on Boston Cross Road.

A motion was made by Councilman Mead and seconded by Supervisor Eagan to approve the Use of Facility Application for Club Scout Pack 391 for October 15, 2006.

five (5) Ayes Carried

RESOLUTION 2006-25 UNPAID BILLS

A motion was made by Councilman Mead and seconded by Councilman Hawkins to accept the resignation of Bruce Chamberlain from the Conservation Advisory Council, effective immediately.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Hawkins and seconded by Councilwoman Dobson to accept the resignation of Jennifer Warnes from the Zoning Board of Appeals, effective immediately.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and seconded by Councilman Hopkins to appoint Robert Bulger to the Zoning Board of Appeals, term to expire 4/1/07.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Mead and seconded by Councilman Hopkins, on the recommendation of Code Enforcement Ferguson, to approve an application for an additional accessory building from Celia Russo, 7719 Cole Road.

five (5) Ayes Carried

Supervisor Eagan read his 2007 Preliminary Budget Summary as follows:

Since elected Supervisor in 2002 I implemented changes that helped maintain a stable tax rate and avoid status quo political budget gimmicks. As I present my fifth budget, I am proud that I have managed to keep our General Fund tax rate, for five consecutive years, lower than what the rate was when I took office.

In my first budget I lowered the General Fund rate by 7%. Various newspapers report that this is not the case in many other towns. Holland recently announced a projected tax increase of 300% and Hamburg a projected tax increase of nearly 8%.

The 2007 budget that I filed with the Town Clerk calls for a minimal increase in both the General and Highway Funds. Both funds have been increased by one penny per thousand, which equates to an approximate 1.5% increase. Some major contributing factors to this slight budget increase, particularly in our Highway Fund, are rising fuel costs, labor agreements and utilities. Due to high petroleum costs the cost of paving has also increased. Expenses associated with various pending projects such as drainage issues, the new State Police Barrack and providing matching funds for grants must be considered when determining the tax rate.

I commend Highway Superintendent Telaak on his accomplishments. As a result of his leadership many expenses that once ran unchecked have been brought under control. Reckless highway spending habits are a thing of the past.

Our General Fund must meet the rising cost of utilities and fuel. After reducing our insurance costs by \$10,000, implementing new spending controls and realizing a \$7,900 savings due to a County takeover of the election process, control over mandated expenses are nearly impossible. One example is the recent increase in our refuse service contract with Waste Management. In spite of seeking other bids we could not avoid an increase of \$56 per year. This translates into an annual charge of \$177 per household, up from \$121 per household in 2006.

I cannot promise to provide favorable tax rates in the next few years due to an Erie County threat to charge us for Sheriff Patrols and full maintenance of county roads. These issues are still on the table. I assure you that this Town Board will defend our community from any County attempt to pass their financial problems to us.

In closing, I thank each Department Head for their effort in controlling expenses. Nearly every department budget shows potential for a balanced fund at the end of 2006. I extend a very special thank you to Kathy Selby, our Budget Director. Her financial experience and knowledge of the budget process is truly an asset to our town.

A motion was made by Councilman Hawkins and seconded by Councilwoman Dobson that the 2007 Tentative Town Budget be approved as follows:

Appropriated

Appropriations Est. Revenues Fund Balance Raised by Taxation

General	1,611,888	- 974,298	450,000	187,590
Highway	237,650	- 443,500	100,000	694,150
Fire	695,000	0	10,000	685,000
Light	20,000	0	0	20,000
Ambulance	80,000	0	10,000	70,000
Refuse/Garbage	531,000	0	9,204	521,796
Water #1	79,909	0	10,000	69,909
Water #2	58,785	0	10,000	48,785
Water #1, ext.1	6,422	0	0	6,422
Water #2, ext 2	34,872	0	0	34,872
Water #3	187,304	0	0	187,304

five (5) Ayes Carried

The 2007 Tentative budgets grand totals are as follows: Appropriations \$4,542,830, Estimated Revenue \$-1,417,798, Appropriated Fund Balance \$599,204, Raised by Taxes \$2,525,828.

A motion was made by Councilman Mead and seconded by Councilwoman Dobson that the 2007 schedule of proposed salaries for the elected Town Officials be approved as follows:

Supervisor \$28,300

Councilman (4) \$ 7,770

Town Clerk \$41,200

Town Justice (2)\$13,690

Superintendent of Highways \$47,300

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Mead and seconded by Councilman Hawkins to schedule a Public Hearing on November 1, 2006 at 7:45 P.M. to hear public comments regarding the 2007 tentative budget.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Hopkins and seconded by Supervisor Eagan, on the recommendation of the Code Enforcement Officers, to approve the Mobile Home Park License for the Boston Hills Homes and Estates retro active from 7/1/06 to 6/30/07.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Mead and seconded by Councilman Dobson, on the recommendation of the Code Enforcement Officers, to decline approval of the Mobile Home Park License Application for Sprague Mobile Home Park.

five (5) Ayes Carried

DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS / ACTIONS

Supervisor Eagan reported a Household Hazardous Waste drop off will be held on October 14th, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Erie County Highway Department, East Concord.

Town Clerk Shenk announced that school taxes are due October 16th and the Town Clerk's office will be open October 12th & 13th until 8:00 pm and the 16th until 9:00 pm.

Highway Superintendent Telaak announced that brush pick-up is continuing for the next few weeks.

Highway Superintendent Telaak announced that Rice Road will be paved on October 10th and 11th weather permitting.

Highway Superintendent reported that a leaf box is being built.

Councilman Mead announced that a grant for the Court Office was received in the amount of \$5,700 to purchase a recorder/deck and computer.

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Councilwoman Dobson announced that there is a vacancy on the Conservation Advisory Council and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Councilman Hawkins read a letter of appreciation to Superintendent Telaak and the Highway Department from the Hamburg Central School District.

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and seconded by Councilman Hawkins to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

five (5) Ayes Carried

DAVID J. SHENK, TOWN CLERK