

TOWN BOARD MEETING
February 16, 2006 - 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Reagon at 7:00 p.m.

Salute to the Flag was conducted.

Emergency Exits were pointed out by the Supervisor.

Roll Call:

Councilwoman Perotti	Present
Councilman Euvrard	Absent
Councilwoman Doyle	Present
Councilman Russell	Present
Supervisor Reagon	Present

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

1. Bill Carroll had comments on the town budget but was asked by the supervisor to hold the comments until Rae D'Achille (budget preparer) was present.

AMENIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ann Linden informed the board about the "Finding Aids" document that has been created to help people locate historical information, especially genealogical information. Because the information is scattered in various sites around the town and county, a Finding Aids document is needed to quickly locate information. Ann made 3 requests of the town board:

1. can the Finding Aids document be put on the town website?
2. can the Amenia Historical Society have a page on the website?
3. can the Schoolhouse Association have a page on the website?

The town board agreed unanimously and enthusiastically to all three requests.

AMENIA HILLS

Rob DeGiorgio approached the town board to discuss the expansion of the water district as it will affect the Amenia Hills development. The applicant's attorney Michael Sirignano asked for the town board to set a direction for the project as they enter the engineering phase. Does the town board agree with the current proposal for a booster pump and a capital reserve fund for future

improvement/replacement of the water tank? Or, would the town board prefer a different approach?

Town Attorney Michael Hayes reported on his discussions with John Lazaroni regarding a comparison of booster pump vs. new water tank. In either case, SEQRA review must be done. SEQRA review of the two options would be very similar except that the water storage tank would require looking into the potential visual impact.

Councilman Russell reported that the water district committee preferred the water storage tank because it would provide some benefit for the entire water district while the booster pump would be a benefit to only a few homes. Additionally, the current water tank is quite old and may be a candidate for replacement anyway. Councilwoman Doyle prefers the tank because it has fewer moving parts and would be easier to maintain. By consensus, the town board agreed that they prefer the water storage tank solution.

SALT SHED

Stan Whitehead introduced Jeff Williams of Cover-all Systems who explained the type of salt shed that his company offers, that is, a galvanized steel frame with a stretched fabric cover. There was a lengthy and detailed discussion of the salt shed and the site. The bottom line is that it will be extremely difficult to clear the many hurdles present (including preparation of engineering specifications, competitive bid process, town procurement policy, site determination and preparation, soil testing, SEQRA review, etc.) in order to get receipts for a new salt shed by March 31, the grant deadline.

BORDEN PARK

Supervisor Reagon announced that a member item from State Senator Vincent Liebell for \$10,000 is available for beatification and enhanced parking for Borden Park. Perhaps the town can use this seed money as an opportunity to make Borden Park more accessible to the people of Wassaic. There are already trails and a trout stream at the site. The town will try to attract more money from sources such as the Borden Company which is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2007. There will be a meeting on February 23 at town hall to discuss this topic.

OLD AMENIA LANDFILL: DEC PRELIMINARY REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN

Copies of this document are available at town hall. The public hearing that was held on Monday was taped and is being

shown periodically on cable channel 22. Public comments can be sent to DEC until March 6.

EMERGENCY SHELTER POWER SOURCE PROJECT

Webutuck School district has applied for a grant to purchase a power generator that is needed in case the school is used as an emergency shelter. The school district has requested that the Town of Amenia be a co-applicant on this request to the NYS Department of State Shared Municipal Services Incentive Grant 2005-06. Supervisor Reagon read the resolution:

RESOLUTION 3 OF 2006: TOWN IS CO-APPLICANT ON EMERGENCY SHELTER GENERATOR GRANT APPLICATION

MOTION: S/Reagon

SECOND: C/Doyle

ROLL CALL: C/Perotti - AYE C/Doyle - AYE
C/Euvrard - absent C/Russell - AYE
S/Reagon - AYE

MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

ELECTION DISTRICT BOUNDARY LINES

Supervisor Reagon reported that the project to redraw the election district boundary lines in the Town had been completed. The project was undertaken because voting district 4 was much larger than district 1, and citizens in district 4 often had to wait in long lines to vote. The new districts each contain about 570 people. (No change will be made to districts 2 and 3.) Supervisor Reagon then read the resolution which detailed the new district boundary lines.

RESOLUTION 4 OF 2006: REDRAW ELECTION DISTRICT BOUNDARIES IN TOWN

MOTION: S/Reagon

SECOND: C/Russell

ROLL CALL: C/Perotti - AYE C/Doyle - AYE
C/Euvrard - absent C/Russell - AYE
S/Reagon - AYE

MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

Councilwoman Doyle thanked the supervisor for the time and effort she put into this project. The town clerk was instructed to send a certified copy of the resolution to the Board of Elections.

CONVERTED CONDOMINIUM FEES

Councilwoman Doyle moved to schedule a public hearing on the proposed change to the local law concerning converted condominium

fees and to authorize the town clerk to publicize the public hearing in the usual fashion.

SET PUBLIC HEARING ON CHANGE TO LOCAL LAW FOR CONVERTED CONDOMINIUM FEES FOR MARCH 16

MOTION: C/Doyle
SECOND: C/Perotti
ROLL CALL: C/Perotti - AYE C/Doyle - AYE
C/Euvrard - absent C/Russell - AYE
S/Reagon - AYE
MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

VETERANS EXEMPTION

Councilwoman Doyle moved to schedule a public hearing on the proposed alternative veterans' exemption law and to authorize the town clerk to publicize the public hearing in the usual fashion.

SET PUBLIC HEARING ON ALTERNATIVE VETERANS EXEMPTION FOR MARCH 16.

MOTION: C/Doyle
SECOND: C/Russell
ROLL CALL: C/Perotti - AYE C/Doyle - AYE
C/Euvrard - absent C/Russell - AYE
S/Reagon - AYE
MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTION

Councilwoman Doyle reminded the town board that there is also a senior citizen exemption that could be reviewed, similar to the veterans exemption. The senior exemption would basically raise the maximum threshold for seniors to get an exemption. Attorney Michael Hayes will look into the matter for the next workshop meeting.

REVALUATION

John Watch from JMW will be at the March 9 workshop meeting to discuss the process of the town-wide revaluation.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW APPOINTMENTS

Supervisor Reagon announced that two applications had been received for the two openings (5-year terms) on the Board of Assessment Review:

APPOINT MEMBERS TO BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW: UNA COUTURE,
STEVE BENARDETE

MOTION: C/Doyle

SECOND: C/Perotti

ROLL CALL: C/Perotti - AYE C/Doyle - AYE
C/Euvrard - absent C/Russell - AYE
S/Reagon - AYE

MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

TECHNOLOGY GRANT

Supervisor Reagon has received a request from the building department for a new software back-up system, for about \$280. The building department must maintain their own independent records, so they cannot use the networked back-up system that is in use by the town clerk office. Mike Segelken will get two more estimates to present to the town board, since purchases over \$250 require three bids. Councilwoman Doyle will get quotes for a projector for town hall, which also could be purchased using the technology grant money.

DEBIBRILLATORS

Supervisor Reagon called Assemblyman Pat Manning's office to look into funding (perhaps a state grant) for the defibrillators that the town would like to purchase. Councilwoman Doyle will look into Sharon Hospital as another possible source of funding.

BEEKMAN PARK CONCESSION STAND

Michael Hayes reported that the town would have to give a revocable license (not a lease) so that the town would maintain control. Although this would not be subject to competitive bidding, the state comptroller's office recommends an informal request for proposals (or alternative) to ensure that the town will get fair and reasonable terms for the agreement. The town must charge a fee for this (they cannot give it away) even if a community organization, such as the Little League, wants to run the concession. A certificate of insurance indemnifying the town may be required to obtain this license. There is no way for the town to exempt themselves from liability. Funds generated would be earmarked for recreation purposes. Supervisor Reagon requested the town attorney to look into this license and the request for proposal.

SUBDIVISION FEES

Councilwoman Doyle mentioned that it is time to review our recreation subdivision fees.

COUNTY FLEET OF VEHICLES

Margaret Fettes, county legislator, reported that there is a county bond proposal to replace 57 vehicles. The Democratic caucus requested that a percent of these vehicles be hybrid, but only 3 hybrid vehicles made it into the proposal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Doyle reported that the Enhancement Committee has changed its meeting time to the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 with the next meeting scheduled for March 15 at town hall. One project they are pursuing is repair of the Welcome to Amenia signs. Roger Russell and his family have volunteered to repair the signs with money for materials coming from the committee budget. There are 10 signs in all, several of which have been taken down already.

The tree in the center of Wassaic seems to be leaning and needs to be looked at by an arborist.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Michael Segelken reported that he has been doing a lot of fire inspections of the multi- dwellings. The biggest problem he has found is that people take the batteries out of their smoke detectors and don't replace them.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Supervisor Reagon read the Town Clerk Monthly Status Report as prepared by Gail Herмосilla (attached).

SUPERVISOR REPORT

DEC has scheduled a meeting about the Old Amenia Landfill for Feb. 13 at 7:00. Gary Bonds was requested to tape the meeting and show it on channel 22. DEC will run the meeting, answer questions, and issue a final decision.

WATER DISTRICT REPORT

Gary Bonds reported:

- The testing of the new well is going well. The water being pumped is very clear and is being pumped into the wetland at a rate of about 60 gallons a minute. The other well nearby (70 feet away) is not being effected by this test and is not being "drawn down". Final test results will be available in a month.
- All DEC suggestions about the well test have been complied with.

MINUTES

APPROVE MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETINGS ON JAN. 10, 12, 19, 20, 2006

MOTION: C/Perotti

SECOND: C/Russell

ROLL CALL: C/Perotti - AYE C/Doyle - AYE
C/Euvrard - absent C/Russell - AYE
S/Reagon - AYE

MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

CAC - CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Councilman Russell gave the CAC report:

- Wetland inventory is continuing.
- Saturday April 15 has been set for the spring clean-up, from 10:00 to 2:00. The hamlet of Amenia will be cleaned up, so volunteers are asked to bring brooms, shovels, rakes, and gloves. Refreshments will be available at town hall. The Lions Club will be asked to clean up Delavergne Hill at the same time.
- Water testing of all area streams will be done to establish a baseline water quality for future monitoring purposes.
- Nature trail at Borden Park is under discussion.
- Next CAC meeting will be March 15 at 6:30.
- Comments were sent to DEC concerning the Old Amenia Landfill.

WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Perotti suggested amending the resolution that created the water district committee for the increased size of that committee:

INCREASE SIZE OF WATER DISTRICT COMMITTEE TO 10 MEMBERS

MOTION: C/Perotti

SECOND: C/Russell

ROLL CALL: C/Perotti - AYE C/Doyle - AYE
C/Euvrard - absent C/Russell - AYE
S/Reagon - AYE

MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS

Councilman Russell:

- Open skating is available on Sundays from 2:15 to 4:00 at Millbrook School. There are no rental skates.

Councilwoman Doyle:

- Swimming is available on Sundays at Maplebrook School starting at 5:00.

Supervisor Reagon:

- Saturday February 18 is a very important CPIC meeting at 9:00 am at Amenia Elementary School auditorium. The draft comprehensive plan plus the zoning maps will be available. Joel Russell, town CPIC consultant, will make a presentation and there will be time for questions. Everyone is urged to attend.
- Tuesday March 21 at 7:30 is Dutchess County's 10th annual National Agriculture Day breakfast at the Farm & Home Center in Millbrook. The meeting and training is for all municipal officials but especially members of the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Board of Assessment Review.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

none.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hermosilla,
Amenia Town Clerk

Approved by Town Board: March 16, 2006

C:\Town Board\minutes\2006-02-16.doc, 4/20/06

Town Clerk Monthly Status Report for January 2006
Presented February 16, 2006

Regular Monthly Activity:

Dog licenses	14	
Marriage licenses	1	
Marriage certified copies	0	
Birth certificate copies		0
Death certificate copies		5
Zoning books sold	7	
Miscellaneous copies		26
Transfer station permits		23
Bulk permits sold	7	
Transfer station coupon books	263	
Burning permits issued		?
FOILs received		3
Legal notices/public hearing sent	0	
Handicap parking permits	9	
Bids advertised		0
Documents notarized		10
Trailer Park permits	27	
Gathering permits	1	
Wagering fees		1

As a result of this activity, we gave the Supervisor \$ 6,009.70 for last month.

Other activity

Taxes

So far we have collected _____ in town property taxes. The last day to pay taxes without a penalty is Tuesday February 28. If anyone did not receive a tax bill that they were expecting, please call the Town Clerk office immediately. The property owner is responsible for paying the taxes, even if a bill is not received. We want to thank everyone who has already paid their taxes. Early payment makes our job easier and is much appreciated.

Saturday hours

The Town Clerk office will be closed this Saturday February 18, but will be open next Saturday February 24 from 9:00 till 12:00 for people who want to pay their taxes in person before the February 25 due date.

Thank you.

