

TOWN BOARD BUSINESS MEETING  
March 8, 2007 - 7:00 PM  
TOWN HALL

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	Present
Councilwoman Doyle	Present
Councilman Russell	Absent
Supervisor Reagon	Present

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- Tom Werner read a brief statement asserting that the open positions in the Recreation department were judged on qualifications and a desire to work with the Rec Commission.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

MECHANIC STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT

Supervisor Reagon noted that an RFP (Request For Proposals) was needed for the Mechanic Street Sidewalk project. The project includes removing and replacing the sidewalk on the west side of Mechanic Street from the trail head to Route 343, including landscaping and project management. April 2 is the deadline for proposals:

AUTHORIZE PUBLICATION OF RFP FOR MECHANIC STREET PROJECT

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

MOTION CARRIED 4 TO 0.

SOUND OF MUSIC COMMENDATION

Supervisor Reagon read Resolution # 7 of 2007 commending Tabitha Thomas, Nancy Gagne, and the cast and crew of *The Sound of Music* for outstanding performances:

RESOLUTION # 7 OF 2007: THE SOUND OF MUSIC COMMENDATION

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

MOTION CARRIED 4 TO 0.

OUTDOOR WOOD-BURNING FURNACES: SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR NEW LOCAL LAW

Supervisor Reagon reported that the Attorney for the Town had drafted a proposed Local Law to regulate the operation of outdoor wood-burning furnaces. The most significant feature of the law is a no-burn period from May 1 to October 1. Details about set-backs and smokestack heights have not been included in this first draft of the law, but can be added later as amendments.

The objective is to pass a law in time to have a no-burn period in effect for this summer of 2007.

RESOLUTION # 12 OF 2007: SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW ON OUTDOOR WOOD-BURNING FURNACES FOR APRIL 12 AT 6:00

MOTION: C/Perotti

SECOND: C/Doyle

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

MOTION CARRIED 4 TO 0.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

TRANSPORTATION FOR AMENIA - NORTH EAST COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT

Jenny Hansell, executive director of North East Community Center, made a presentation about the various services available to Amenia residents. A new mini-van has recently been purchased; to arrange a ride call 845-373-7742. Although the service is available to anyone, senior citizens have priority. The van is currently based in Millerton because most of the volunteer drivers are from there.

WASSAIC LIGHTING DISTRICT BUDGET INCREASE

Supervisor Reagon attempted to explain the confusion that resulted in the budget line for Wassaic Lighting District increasing from \$6,000 in 2006 to \$16,000 in the 2007 budget. Due to a mix-up on the NYSEG billing system, for the months of October, November, and December 2006 the Amenia lights were being charged to the Wassaic account. This gave the impression that the new vintage lights in Wassaic had caused a large increase. (In fact, the new ornamental lights cost only \$65 to \$70 a month.) So, when the budget for 2007 was prepared, the amount specified was based on the erroneous bills for the last 3 months of 2006. By the time the error was discovered, the budget had been adopted and the lighting bills for Wassaic Lighting District had already been set. Since it is illegal to give a rebate on taxes, the money collected (via the property tax bill) could not be returned.

Supervisor Reagon outlined three possible options:

1. Have the 2008 budget show a fund balance in the Wassaic Lighting District line, equal to the amount overpaid in 2007.
2. Abolish the lighting district(s) altogether. In this case, the cost of lighting would be part of the general operating budget and the cost would be borne by all taxpayers.
3. A combination of #1 and #2 above. That is, keep the lighting district for at least one more year until the people of Wassaic "get back" their money (by means of lower water bills in 2008 taxes). After that, the lighting district(s) could be abolished if 50% of actual district residences (not businesses) sign a petition. There are 143 entities in the Wassaic Lighting District.

Councilwoman Doyle mentioned that the Wassaic lights burn all night long. Perhaps timers or electric eye shut-offs could be installed as we have in Fountain Square.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEETING

Supervisor Reagon reported that the supervisors of Pine Plains, North East, Millerton, Millbrook, Washington, Stanford, and Amenia were now meeting

regularly on the first Monday of the month at 1:00. On April 25 there will be a big meeting to discuss shared emergency services for the towns.

#### GRANTS UPDATE

The following grants were discussed briefly:

- Quality Communities Grant
- Mechanic Street Sidewalk
- New grants for recreation trails from NYS Parks
- CDBG - Community Development Block Grant
- Berkshire Taconic Grant
- NYS Archives Grant
- NYS Council on the Arts

#### ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS MEETING AND TRAINING

Town Board members mentioned some of the training sessions they had attended.

#### HEALTH INSURANCE

Supervisor Reagon informed the Board that Town health insurance premiums were going up 18% this year. If Donna Mills can get us a new plan, it could save money for both the Town and the employees. \$25,000 has been budgeted.

#### RECREATION MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR POSITION

Supervisor Reagon explained that the Town must create a new position for recreation maintenance director before we can appoint someone.

#### OLD AMENIA LANDFILL CLEANUP

Supervisor Reagon gave a status report on this project: 2 of the 4 finalists have been interviewed with the last 2 interviews set for next Friday.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

##### RECREATION COMMISSION

Pete Clair reported on the large variety of classes and activities planned for spring and summer.

##### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

##### BUILDING INSPECTOR - MIKE SEGELKEN

Mike Segelken reported.

##### TOWN BOARD COMMENTS

- Councilman Euvrard asked if the Town had a job description for Scott Beyer. Supervisor Reagon said 'no', but we will get one.
- Councilwoman Doyle announced Town Clean-up day on April 14 and Planting Day on May 26. Wassaic has 7 barrels. When should they be planted?

##### SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Supervisor Reagon said that the Public Hearing for the water district expansion would be opened and adjourned next week, since there was no new information on well 4A.

##### PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Caroline McEnroe spoke about the Comprehensive Plan and DDSO.

- Glenn Caldarelli spoke about the Comprehensive Plan and DDSO.
- Neila Cardus spoke about the Comprehensive Plan and DDSO.
- Eliot Soroka spoke about the Comprehensive Plan.
- Tim Osborne spoke about the Comprehensive Plan and DDSO.
- Arlene Iuliano spoke about the Comprehensive Plan and DDSO.
- Evelyn O'Connell spoke about the Comprehensive Plan, the sewer and commercial development.
- Jeanne Rebillard spoke about the Comprehensive Plan and the possibility for a Town vote on it.
- Bill Carroll spoke about the Comprehensive Plan, DDSO, and the mix-up in the NYSEG billing.
- Sally Leafe spoke about the Comprehensive Plan and DDSO.
- Jim Kemenash spoke about the Comprehensive Plan and DDSO.
- Jack Gregory spoke about the Comprehensive Plan and commercial development on Route 22.

ADJOURN

The motion to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gail Hermosilla,  
Amenia Town Clerk

Approved by Town Board: 6/21/07  
Draft to Town Board: 5/15/07 (email); paper to Wayne

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Gail home PC:\C:\Gail\Town Clerk\ minutes\2007-03-08, bus. mtg.doc, 5/14/07