

TOWN OF AMENIA
Town Board Special Meeting
Thursday, November 14, 2013
Amenia Town Hall

Councilwoman Hitselberger moved and seconded by Councilwoman Riemer to call the meeting to order at 7:00pm; followed by a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Councilwoman Darlene Riemer
Councilwoman Victoria Perotti
Councilwoman Gretchen Hitselberger
Councilwoman Vicki Doyle
Supervisor William Flood
Also Present
Clerk Dawn Marie Klingner
Highway Superintendent Stanley Whitehead

2014 Preliminary Budget – Public Hearing

C/Riemer motioned, seconded by C/Perotti
Motion to open the 2014 Preliminary Budget Public Hearing

The motion was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Councilwoman Riemer	Aye
Councilwoman Perotti	Aye
Councilwoman Hitselberger	Aye
Councilwoman Doyle	Aye
Supervisor Flood	Aye
Motion carried	

Budget - Public Comments:

Tom Werner asked about the lawsuit that was lost and the impact on the upcoming budget. S/Flood has spoken with the town assessor and the new large homes being built would make up the difference and the impact would be most noticed in the school tax.

Wayne Euvrard thanked all the candidates who participated in this year's election. He commented on the public hearing not being held on the first Thursday after Election Day and asked what schedule was being followed because copies of the budget were not made available until today the day of the hearing. Mr. Euvrard asked what the cap was and when he was told by S/Flood that it was 1.45% he questioned that amount. After adding the implied tax as it is shown in the presented document he believes the increase to be 2.46% or a 3.56% tax increase. Mr. Euvrard questioned several of the budget lines and reminded the Board that the budget is to be adopted by the twentieth day of November.

Evelyn O'Connell commented that at the last budget meeting she had asked the Board for a second employee to assist Shawn Howard at the ball fields. The open position was never filled when Joel Pelkey left. The recreation commission is requesting a part time person to work three days a week for four hours a day.

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C/Doyle moved, seconded by C/Riemer

Motion to close the public hearing and return to the regular meeting

The motion was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Councilwoman Riemer	Aye
Councilwoman Perotti	Aye
Councilwoman Hitselberger	Aye
Councilwoman Doyle	Aye
Supervisor Flood	Aye
Motion carried	

Public comments

Betsey McCall presented to the Board information on an Community Food Project and an upcoming coat drive.

Michael Collins addressed the Board of a concern he has presented previously regarding absent landlords allowing tenants to leave garbage on the curb, allowing weeds to over grow and specifically referencing a property owned by a planning board member.

Building Department

Supervisor Flood read aloud the monthly building department report.

Highway Department, Stanley Whitehead, Highway Superintendent

Mr. Whitehead reported that the 2008 Mack truck needed repairs. He also answered as to why there was no highway fund balance in the 2014 budget; it is due to the oil and stone road work and the completion of the Willow Lane project.

Enhancement Report

Councilwoman Doyle reported the next enhancement meeting will be November 20th; Holiday of Lights will be held on December 14th with activities throughout the afternoon.

Waste Water Report

Councilwoman Riemer reported that the Wastewater Committee met with the County regarding funding, the next meeting will be December 3rd and C/Riemer will report to the Board next meeting.

Main Street Grant Report

The reimbursements phase has begun. Work is in progress and will be complete soon.

Councilwoman Riemer expressed an interest in being part of the grant process next year, and looks forward to ensuring the improvements of downtown continue.

CAC

Councilwoman Doyle reported that Mark Doyle and Dave Reagon are working with the County to ensure the accuracy of town maps.

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Town Clerk's Report, Dawn Marie Klingner, Town Clerk

Clerk Klingner reported that the monthly payment to the Supervisor was made; minutes have been presented to the board and are pending approval; waiting for an estimate from General Code for the codification of the 2012 and 2013 laws. The Clerk reminded everyone that this weekend begins the hunting season and to ensure proper gun safety is followed. Currently advertised are open volunteer positions on the recreation commission, planning board, zoning board of appeals, ethics, workforce housing, assistant grant writer - applications are due November 20th. Tonia Shoumatoff comments that she would be interested in rejoining the Trail to Train Committee. Councilwoman Perotti read aloud an advertisement for an open clerical position in the planning and zoning department to cover for Sue Metcalf when she is on vacation.

Supervisor Flood read aloud a letter from the Dutchess County Sheriff stating the 2014 fees; he reports the list of unpaid water bills has been generated and will be sent to the County. The Supervisor also read aloud a request for Wifi to be installed in the downstairs art room for Webutuck School District. The Board discussed and decided that according to the contract with the School District that internet was to be provided and that is being done by hard wire and if they want Wifi they can purchase the additional equipment.

County Legislature, Michael Kelsey gave his monthly report and answered questions from the board.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Flood congratulated Supervisor- Elect Perotti and all the newly elected. He also reported that the auditors from the NYS Comptroller's Office have completed the audit and the report will be out in the next three-four months. Some of the issues found were the employee's vacation, sick and personal time not properly documented and a record system is needed, employees were not paid properly. The new red Welcome flags throughout the center of town were purchased by the Lions Club. The board agreed to meet on Tuesday, November 19th at 730pm to discuss the 2014 budget.

Town Board Report

Councilwoman Doyle reports the talent show went well. She notes that there is a need for a professional sound system. P. Cascone has requested to have another musical event in February 2014.

Councilwoman Hitselberger provided her PSA report on Candle Safety.

Supervisor Flood presented several contracts for professional services on behalf of the Planning Board.

Supervisor Flood motioned, seconded by C/Riemer

Motion to accept Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP for Planning Board Legal Services for 2014

The motion was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Councilwoman Riemer	Aye
Councilwoman Perotti	Aye

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Councilwoman Hitselberger Nay
Councilwoman Doyle Aye
Supervisor Flood Aye
Motion carried

Supervisor Flood motioned, seconded by C/Doyle

Motion to accept George Janes & Associates

The motion was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Councilwoman Riemer Aye
Councilwoman Perotti Aye
Councilwoman Hitselberger Nay
Councilwoman Doyle Aye
Supervisor Flood Aye
Motion carried

Supervisor Flood motioned, seconded by C/Riemer

Motion to accept Taconic Site Design for Planning Board Landscape Architecture for 2014

The motion was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Councilwoman Riemer Aye
Councilwoman Perotti Aye
Councilwoman Hitselberger Nay
Councilwoman Doyle Aye
Supervisor Flood Aye
Motion carried

Supervisor Flood motioned, seconded by C/Doyle

Motion to accept Dr. Michael Klemens, LLC for Planning Board for 2014

The motion was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Councilwoman Riemer Aye
Councilwoman Perotti Nay
Councilwoman Hitselberger Nay
Councilwoman Doyle Aye
Supervisor Flood Aye
Motion carried

Supervisor Flood motioned, seconded by C/Doyle

Motion to accept Mary Ann Johnson, AIPC for Planning Board for 2014

The motion was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Councilwoman Riemer Aye
Councilwoman Perotti Aye
Councilwoman Hitselberger Nay
Councilwoman Doyle Aye
Supervisor Flood Aye
Motion carried

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Supervisor Flood motioned, seconded by

Motion to accept Rohde, Soyka & Andrews for Planning Board Engineers for 2014

The motion was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Councilwoman Riemer	Aye
Councilwoman Perotti	Aye
Councilwoman Hitselberger	Nay
Councilwoman Doyle	Aye
Supervisor Flood	Aye

Motion carried

Town Clerk minutes were tabled to the next meeting for approval.

Tonia Shoumatoff announced that the Housatonic Valley Association was approached by Wethersfield and would like to fund a flooding resilience program.

S/Flood motioned, seconded by C/Doyle

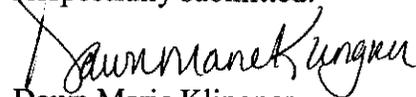
Motion to adjourn at 8:50pm

The motion was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Councilwoman Riemer	Aye
Councilwoman Perotti	Aye
Councilwoman Hitselberger	Aye
Councilwoman Doyle	Aye
Supervisor Flood	Aye

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted:



Dawn Marie Klingner
Town Clerk

The foregoing represents unapproved minutes of the Town of Amenia Town Board from a meeting held on November 14, 2013 and are not to be construed as the final official minutes until so approved.

 X Approved as read on 2/27/2014

 Approved with: deletions, corrections, and additions