

TOWN OF DEERPARK BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011
Meeting was held at Town Hall, 420 Route 209, Huguenot, NY 12746

Attendance

Supervisor: Karl Brabenec

Councilmember's: Gary Spears, Arthur Trovei, David Hoovler (7:44 p.m.), David Dean

Attorneys: David Bavoso, Glen Plotsky

Alfred Fusco, Town Engineer

Ed Hughson, Highway Superintendent

Invocation: Arthur Trovei

Call to Order at 7:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance by David Dean

Additions or Changes to Agenda – None

Opening Board Comments

Supervisor Brabenec welcomed Mr. Dan Barbone and Troop 68 from the Boy Scouts of America who were there to earn their Citizenship of the Community badge. He hoped they would learn something that night.

Councilman Spears thanked Ed Hughson and their men for the job getting the roads back in shape. He knows the residents appreciate it also. He also welcomed the Boy Scouts.

Councilman Trovei also thanked Ed Hughson and the Highway Department for their good work under stressful conditions. He was glad to see the Boy Scouts and thought it was good for them to see the politics at work in their community, since they were going to be the future leaders.

Councilman Dean joined in welcoming the Boy Scouts. He also thanked Ed Hughson and his crew and can already see the improvements of their work.

Supervisor Brabenec thanked Ed Hughson and Al Fusco for attending a FEMA meeting that morning and reported that he had also attended a meeting on Friday.

Public Comment Period

David Bavoso, as Trustee of the First Presbyterian Church in Port Jervis, spoke of the *CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk* on October 18th to raise awareness of hunger in the community and around the world. There are 13 to 14 churches involved with this. The money raised would be used locally and also overseas. The walk will be from Airport Park in Matamoras, PA and into downtown Port Jervis, NY and return for a 3 mile course. The walkers look for sponsors to give money or non-perishable food items. \$72 donation would feed a family of five for a month. A poster and pamphlets will be given to the Supervisor to post in Town Hall.

Supervisor Brabenec thanked Norma Schadt and Flo Santini in putting the Town of Deerpark brochure together. The previous one was very old and with the help of Media Solstice and the UDC grant, they were able to update it with a map from the Orange County GIS Department. These are free and available.

Old Business – None

New Business

Appropriates, Budget and Payment of Bills

Councilman Hoovler arrived at 7:44 p.m.

**TOWN OF DEERPARK BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011**

Motion to pay bills:

Motion by Karl Brabenec, 2nd by Gary Spears, to pay bills that have been signed by three council members, and would announce the totals at the September 12 meeting. Bills may be viewed in the Town Clerk's office.

General Fund Abstract #18 of 2011 for a total of \$45,132.83

Highway Fund Abstract #18 of 2011 for a total of \$48,056.67

Deerpark Manor Street Lighting Abstract #9 for a total of \$357.27

VOTE: 5 AYES: Gary Spears, Arthur Trovei, David Hoovler, David Dean, Karl Brabenec

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Brabenec - 2012 Supervisor's Budget Presentation As the Budget Officer, he put together the Tentative Budget, which was presented to the Town Board for their review. They'll have a week or two to review all the facts and figures, and have opportunities to interview certain department heads to get justification for what they are asking for in their proposed budget. The October 3rd meeting of the Town Board will make any changes they deem necessary, and then they will vote and this tentative budget will become the preliminary budget, which will be sent to the New York State Comptroller's Office since the town is under Deficit Financing. The Comptroller's Office will then review it and make recommendations to the budget for further changes. A Public Hearing will be held the first meeting following Election Day, the public will have opportunity to speak out on the budget and make suggestions. The Town Board would then have another 10 days to figure out any changes if they want, and then they would adopt the budget for 2012. The Deputy Town Clerk then distributed the Tentative Budget to the Board. The Supervisor's Message was read. He stated there would be no new tax increase; there was a 2% tax levy cap; and the town's revenue decreased by two million dollars.

Motion to Table Department Heads Budget Comments

Motion by David Hoovler, 2nd by Gary Spears to table the Department Heads Budget comments until the Board had an opportunity to review the information.

Discussion: Councilman Spears agreed with David Hoovler, but wanted to honor the visit by John McCary from Goshen to speak on behalf of the Assessor's Office, as well as Ed Hughson for the Highway since they were there.

John McCary, Director of Real Property Services for Orange County and Robert Wilcox, the Deerpark Town Assessor presented the Assessor's Budget. Mr. McCary noticed a sharp pencil and thought the equipment requested was important for projections in regards to assessments. The County Contract called for \$72,570 and the budget showed \$69,305 and that was short. Also, they had a \$20,000 item in for outside consultant if necessary. The economy is driving the full value of most markets down and the equalization rates are increasing. This year the equalization was at 50%. A number of certioraris were settled. This year the town took the biggest hit. Councilman Spears asked if he was asking to add \$27,000. Discussion continued on budget specifics. He explained the 2% cap was based on the levy amount. He saw a problem of not raising the taxes at all this year, the cap prohibits a larger increase in the future. He recommended raising taxes 1% would be better, so in 2013 the town would be 2% more than what was spent in 2012. Councilman Spears agreed and added that with the lost value on the assessment, the real taxes for residents will go up to make up for the shortfall. Mr. McCary suggested their office would run some projections based on the budget, to show what the tax break would need to be to make up for the lost \$2 million. Mr. McCary expressed that Rob Wilcox was doing a great job and Councilman Spears added they were happy to get the town records updated also.

Supervisor Brabenec stated that Fire Department No. 3 (Huguenot) has taxes to be assessed in the amount of \$242,648.00. Since Huguenot Fire District is a Fire Prevention District contracting with the town for three years, their contract called for a 1% increase in their total tax levy. (Fire Department No. 2 is Sparrowbush and Fire Department No. 1 is Cuddebackville) The other two Fire Departments submit their budgets to the town and they have no control over them. Hypothetically, these could go over the 2% tax cap, then the town would need to override. Councilman Spears said they could be made aware of this and try to stay under it. He asked the supervisor to give them a courtesy call and he agreed to do that.

The Board discussed tabling Department Head comments until a future meeting. The Supervisor will communicate with the Department Heads in regards to the next meeting to hear from them in regards to their budget.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Gary Spears, Arthur Trovei, David Hoovler, David Dean, Karl Brabenec

MOTION TABLED

Closing Board Comments

**TOWN OF DEERPARK BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011**

Supervisor Brabeneć thanked Norma and Flo for the great brochures. He gave a brief update on the Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee: Friday was a county-wide meeting at the Orange County Emergency Management Facility in Goshen with a representative from FEMA, the County Executive was there for introductory discussions regarding the process for applying for FEMA aid. They had over \$5 million in infrastructure damage to the town. They immediately had the Town's Engineer prepare a report to submit to Orange County and FEMA. Another meeting earlier that day was attended by the Highway Superintendent and Town Engineer with the FEMA representatives. He invited *Ed Hughson, Highway Department Superintendent* and Al Fusco, Town Engineer to give a report.

Mr. Fusco was pleased with their visit of the flood sites and they liked the numbers he provided for repair, but warned that their comments don't mean they will get that money. The Town of Deerpark is the applicant and money would be reimbursed only where the Town has ownership. The individual owner of the property where streams pass through would have to apply for funds. Mr. Hughson mentioned another meeting the following day at the Wallkill Town Hall for federally funded roads, like Peenpack Trail, West Peenpack Trail and Sleepy Hollow Road. More discussion followed. A full report of their findings from the Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee will be presented at the Public Hearing on Monday, September 26th. Supervisor Brabeneć mentioned the FEA website: www.disasterassistance.gov for an online application. When he did it, they called the next day offering to inspect his house, and offered to get back to him within 10 days. There is a link on the Town's Facebook site and Town's website. There is also an 800 number. Due to the town being in a federally declared zone, everyone is eligible for low interest loans through FEMA.

Supervisor Brabeneć thanked Norma Schadt, Tippy Creegan, Kathryn Westfall, the Vicarettis, the Lions Club for putting on the Annual Deerpark Festival this past weekend. It was a fun time for everyone. He appreciated their hard work.

Councilman Spears thanked the Boy Scout Troop for coming and was happy to see a thriving group here in town. He thanked Norma for her hard work on the brochure and all she does for the town. He asked Ed Hughson to pass on to the men their appreciation for the fine job they are doing in straightening out the storm damage.

Councilman Trovei also thanked the Troop leaders and their volunteer work.

Councilman Dean announced a Hunter's Safety Course October 1 & 2 in Building No. 2, and if interested they must call 856-5090 to register for the course. He said they are filling up quickly. He also mentioned that the Assessor's Office has re-written a notification to people in regards to gathering updated information on houses and property. The confusion on whether Data Collectors could enter the premises and interior inspections of a person's home are entirely voluntary. Residents do not have to allow Data Collector's in. They should ask for their identification.

Councilman Hoovler stated to town residents they contact the Disaster Assistance website for help. He thanked the Supervisor/Budget Officer and Department Heads for all their work and input for the budget. He thanked Norma and others who participated in the recent festival, saying great job. He encouraged the Boy Scouts to aim for the Eagle Scouts badge.

Supervisor Brabeneć thanked the Boy Scouts too and offered many possible projects for the town if they were interested. The proposed budget would be available at the Town Clerk's Office and it would be put on line to review as soon as possible.

Motion to Enter Executive Session for Potential Litigation Re: Deerpark Village at 8:33 p.m.

Motion by Karl Brabeneć, 2nd by Gary Spears to enter Executive Session for Potential Litigation regarding Deerpark Village and invite in attorneys, Glen Plotsky and David Bavoso and Town Engineer, Al Fusco at 8:33 p.m.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Gary Spears, Arthur Trovei, David Hoovler, David Dean, Karl Brabeneć

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to Re-Enter Regular Session at 9:40 p.m.

Motion by Gary Spears, 2nd by David Dean to re-enter the Regular Session at 9:40 p.m.

VOTE: 4 AYES: Gary Spears, Arthur Trovei, David Dean, Karl Brabeneć

1 ABSENT: David Hoovler

MOTION CARRIED

**TOWN OF DEERPARK BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011**

Motion to Adjourn at 9:40 p.m.

Motion by Karl Brabenec, 2nd by Gary Spears to adjourn at 9:40 p.m.

VOTE: 4 AYES: Gary Spears, Arthur Trovei, David Dean, Karl Brabenec

1 ABSENT: David Hoovler

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by,

Florence T. Santini
Town Clerk