

**TOWN OF DEERPARK
TOWN BOARD MEETING
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015**

Invocation by Councilman Trovei (Participation Optional)

Attendance

Supervisor: Gary Spears

Councilmember's: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei

Engineer: Alfred Fusco, Jr.

Call to Order at 7:37 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance by Councilman Schock

Presentations/Communications

Brenda Blair, resident of Deerpark for 71 years and lives on Neversink Drive. She has watched that road for many years and she wanted to address the longstanding concern she has regarding County 80 (Neversink Drive/Horn Road) for the safety of the residents and adjoining areas that have built up so much. She met with Supervisor Spears on September 29th and expressed her concern and gave him a letter that she hoped they all had a copy of. She then read the letter. (A copy is attached to the official minutes.) She asked for a Resolution to lower the speed from 55 to 45 mph. She provided petitions for signatures supporting her request. A TE-9 form must be submitted. She will return in two weeks and trusts the Board will adopt a resolution to that effect.

Supervisor Spears mentioned it had been done before and Flo Santini also said it was done three times before. Mr. Spears said he spoke with Police Chief Sztynдор and he will put up a speed control device. They will record some speeds and the county will probably do a road count.

Public Comments – None

Bob Vicaretti, resident living at the end of Shinhollow Road. He was asked by neighbors to speak about the bridge that is out on Shinhollow Road. His goal was to ask where they were at with the bridge that has been out. Supervisor Spears said they applied for money through the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) program to replace the bridge. In the meantime they instructed Al (Town Engineer) to look into a temporary fix so it can be fixed before the snow and ice. They were looking at both plating it with steel or pouring a concrete reinforced lateral on top of it and placing a weight limit on it. They would like to get the school busses over it and the heavier vehicles would need to use the detour set up now. Mr. Vicaretti said two weeks ago a FedEx truck made a delivery and he had to back up to Neversink Drive. Al Fusco explained the grant saying there are actually two of them. One is a disaster relief aid as they felt the problems were due to the past hurricanes. Also it is a regular CDBG and they are confident the recommendations made by the committee are before the County Executive now. They usually hear in October, so they should know in October and then get the money next year when the federal money comes through. That's why the Supervisor indicated we may look at some temporary structures. The Orange County Transportation Council announced the NYSDOT has some money for bridges that are off system. They will apply for other money to fix the bridge. The Board asked him to look at some other solutions. Mr. Vicaretti said he didn't know what to tell people asking and there was no activity and it looked like it was forgotten. Mr. Fusco said some of these things take some time. They reflected on the temporary fix on Big Pond and they got \$341, 308.73. Supervisor Spears said when they go through all the proper channels, they came through for them.

Mike Hummelgee spoke about the speed limit on Neversink Drive and referred to all the traffic on the road.

Supervisor Spears said there was a stop sign at the end of Shinhollow and Joanne Vicaretti said there was, but a truck turned and took it down. Mr. Spears will tell the Highway Superintendent.

Sarah Cook lives off of Peenpack Trail and wanted to speak about a group she and a friend started called "Mommy and Me". This is for moms with kids under the age of five. This would be a way to meet other mothers and they want to put out flyers. She said they met the previous month at the Sparrowbush Playground and it was great. Now that it is colder, she inquired from

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Flo about reserving the Senior Center for a couple of hours this coming Sunday. The timing could be flexible. She mentioned she would raise it with the board and Ms. Cook said she thought it would help if she was there if they had questions.

Supervisor Spears said they have a form to fill out for facilities use. However, it does require insurance, the town doesn't pick up liability for groups. He didn't know how many people were in her group and if that would be a drawback to her. He also mentioned that the Senior Center is not child proofed with outlet covers, there are chemicals under the sink, etc. She said it was an informal group now and she will follow up with Flo. She also wanted to comment that there could be additional traffic on the Neversink Drive because of those using GPS because it directs people to use it.

Motion to Approve August 3, August 17 and September 21, 2015 Board Minutes

Motion by Ken Smith, 2nd by Alan Schock to approve the August 3, August 17 and September 21, 2015 Board Minutes.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

New Business

Motion to Add Budget Modification to the Agenda

Motion by David Dean, 2nd by Ken Smith to add the Budget Modification to the Agenda.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to Approve Hiring P/T Police Officer Nickolous Passamano

Motion by Ken Smith, 2nd by Arthur Trovei to approve the hiring of P/T Police Officer Nickolous Passamano.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Spears drew the boards attention to the two pages of budget modifications to approve, given to him that day by the Town Accountant, Robert Schultz.

General Fund
Budget Modifications October 5, 2015

Increases:		Notes
Expenditures:		
1110.4D Peace Officer – Contractual	\$ 100	
1220.2 Supervisor – Equipment	500	File cabinet, laminator
1355.2 Assessor – Equipment	350	File cabinet
1355.4A Board of Assessment & Review	400	Extra meetings
1640.4 Central garage – Contractual	5,500	Damage repair – Reimbursed by Insurance
1920.4 Muni Association dues	925	Increase in dues
2989.4 D.A.R.E. – Contractual	2,700	Not previously budgeted
3120.2 Police – Equipment	1,000	
5132.2 Garage – Equipment	1,500	
7110.4 Parks – Contractual	3,500	Paid out of Reserve account
7310.4 Youth Programs – Contractual	15,020	Portion not covered by fees
7510.4 Historian – Contractual	500	Covered by grants
7550.4 Celebrations – Contractual	<u>685</u>	9/11 memorial service. Offset by donations
Total Increase in Expenditures	32,680	
Revenues:		
1560 Safety Inspection Fees	22,995	Exceeded budget
2680 Insurance Recoveries	5,500	Reimbursement for damage to town jeep
Appropriated Fund Balance – Reserve	<u>4,185</u>	
Total Increase in Revenue	32,680	

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Decreases:

Expenditures:

1990	Contingency	_____	-	
	Total Decrease in Expenditures	_____	-	

Net Increase (Decrease) in Budget	_____	\$ _____	-	
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Highway Fund
Budget Modifications October 5, 2015

Increases:

Expenditures:

5142.4	Snow Removal – Contractual	\$ 47,000		Notes
	Total Increase in Expenditures	_____	-	
		47,000		

Increases:

Revenues:

Appropriated Fund Balance	_____	47,000		
Total Increase in Revenues	_____	47,000		

Net Increase (Decrease) in Budget	_____	\$ _____	-	
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Motion to Approve Budget Modifications

Motion by Ken Smith, 2nd by Alan Schock to approve the budget modifications submitted by the Town Accountant.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, David Dean, Arthur Trovei, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Supervisor Spears asked the board to look through the changes desired that anyone wants to make to the Tentative Budget for 2016. They need to pass the Preliminary Budget, give it to the Town Accountant who will finalize the changes and then they can send it to the State Comptroller and the general public. He offered to read through the changes made. The changes in salaries are 2% increase for elected officials and other increases are contractual. Other increases for hourly employees who don't get any benefits he would like to propose a dollar an hour increase for them and their 2%. He reminded the board that in the past few years that they've been fighting budget problems, they really haven't compensated those people. He said that they're working themselves out of a jam, they should actually do that now. He then opened it for discussion.

Other changes involved the Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Supervisor Spears recommended committing to them the \$42,000 they asked for and hopefully Port Jervis and Matamoras will follow and get them out of their hole. He recommended doing that in quarterly payments so they can keep track of the progress. That would work out to \$10,500 each quarter for a total yearly \$42,000. They would have their attorney draw up a contract with them so they know what money they are getting and when they are getting it and what is expected of them.

Councilman Dean asked for a regular report from the Ambulance Corps showing the steps they are taking to put themselves in the black. Not only that, but also a concerted effort pursuing help from both Port Jervis and Matamoras. He thinks they should specify ways they spend their money and he hoped they would use some of their money to collect money owed them.

Councilman Trovei said that perhaps they should give the first quarterly payment, but subsequent ones be contingent on a review process.

Supervisor Spears will talk with the Town Attorney and restrict their giving depending on how the board feels they are doing.

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Supervisor Spears accidentally put money in this year's budget for the National Parks Service to do extra patrols (page 5). They don't receive that money, so they need to take it out of the expenditure. It doesn't mean they won't do the patrols along the Hawks Nest, it just means they won't get reimbursed by the National Parks Service. Nothing will really change from last year when they did the patrols.

They don't have a design for the new Police Building and they took \$100,000 out of the capital reserve fund because they have \$300,000 in there and they have the \$97,000 from before and their accountant didn't think they should take money from the tax base to build that fund up. It is better for the town financially when they get their total cost to borrow some. They have very little money borrowed. He took that money out. They are in great financial shape right now in moving forward with their financial plans.

On Page 8, Park Improvements was \$18,500...they got a review from the insurance company and they have 3 or 4 pieces of Playground Equipment that need to be either reset or remove, new mulch put in and chains on the swing set, pulleys are worn and they hope to get a slide. He wants to give the Veterans Memorial Park in one of their parks, \$10,000. Dicks Concrete donated two complete loads of blocks for the Memorial Park. They're doing great work.

He went down every line and went with the actual money spent last year compared with the percentage of money that was spent this year and compared what was spent this year and made adjustments so they would have a balanced budget. It was a good guesstimate as budgets should be. He explained some of the other changes made due to information they received, such as police pensions from the state. They took \$10,000 out of the fuel budget because fuel price has come down. One increase they will see is in the mechanic—they hired a full time certified mechanic in the Highway Garage. He said there has been an increased work load in Flo's office and some of the extra stipends that she needs were increased to \$3,000 from \$2,000 or \$2,500. The Senior Shuttle budgeted amount of \$12,000 will be a hair short, so they raised that to \$13,500 to make sure they don't run into trouble. It is still a huge savings of about \$40,000 a year.

There was \$70,000 in contractual expenses and they spent \$76,000 and only budgeted \$70,000 (page 3). The reason was the one time purchase this year of the camera system and a one-time purchase of the safety precautions for the fuel meters, so they are a little high this year and they'll be making a budget transfer on that before the end of the year. But, still with the changes they've talked about, they should be in good shape.

Supervisor Spears said that with all the adjustments the Accountant made and with the adjustments the board made, they will have a tax decrease of 3.01%. It is not a large amount, but they are able to give back a little bit to the people.

Motion to Approve the Line Item Discussions

Motion by David Dean, 2nd by Ken Smith to approve the line item discussions collectively.

VOTE: 5 AYES (Roll Call): Alan Schock, Ken Smith, Arthur Trovei, David Dean, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

The Preliminary Budget for 2016 will not be sent to the State Comptroller's Office after first going to the Rob Schultz, Town Accountant to make sure everything they spoke about adds up. It will go to the Town Clerk's office and then to the Comptroller and it will be released to the public.

Appropriations, Budget, and Payment of Bills – Budget Officer's Report

Motion to Pay Bills

Motion by Ken Smith, 2nd by Al Schock to pay bills that have been signed by three council members and may be viewed in the Town Clerk's Office:

General Fund Abstract #18 of 2015 in the amount of \$218,913.59

Highway Fund Abstract #18 of 2015 in the amount of \$35,567.21

Special Revenue Reserve Fund Abstract #11 of 2015 in the amount of \$1,331.50

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, Arthur Trovei, David Dean, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

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Closing Board Comments

Councilman Trovei commented on how the previous board had passed a 120% increase before he came on the board. He is proud of the hard work done to keep the line. He thought the Supervisor did a good job and he added it had been a long six years to get to this point to bring them out of this hole. Town employees and everybody here had to suck it up to get this done. He appreciated everybody.

Councilman Dean wanted to echo what was said and emphasize the cooperation and hard work that the employees in the Town Hall, consultants and said everybody has gone over and above to get this done and the leadership under Mr. Spears find themselves in the position to return some money. It's a good sign when something like this can happen. They are confident that Rob Schultz will verify that this won't hurt them at all. This is not a dire situation. This is just the right thing to do at this time. It's not their money, but it's the taxpayers money. He thanked the Supervisor and told him he did a good job.

Councilman Smith thanked Gary for his hard work. He knew the meetings they have had, several of the town's people appreciate it and what they are doing is almost unheard of. They challenge other communities to do the same thing. He thanked him very much.

Councilman Schock said that as a newbie he hoped he could come back studious and figure it all out because there is still a learning curve. He usually spends what is in his budget to use and pray the Lord will provide in the future. He has taken care of budgets for him. But, somebody has to do it and he appreciates it here.

Supervisor Spears said the last thing he has to say is that he knows the guys have all studied this last two weeks and helped him with their recommendations and they have a real good budget for the town's folks and also a little bit of refund and they were able to bump up their hourly employees, which he thought was important. He also thanked the work their town attorney Glen Plotsky has done through the years, plus Al Fusco and the grants he has worked hard to get and a special kudo for the Big Pond Road grant; that was a long time coming and a lot of work. He thanked them both again. He said the employees in the town work very hard and throughout the town and highway and the police do a really good job too. He thanked everyone and hopefully they can keep moving the town forward.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Motion by Ken Smith, 2nd by Al Schock to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Alan Schock, Ken Smith, Arthur Trovei, David Dean, Gary Spears

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Florence T. Santini
Town Clerk