

PUBLIC HEARING-REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING-BOARD OF TRUSTEES-APRIL 13, 2004-7:00 P.M.

**PRESENT: ERNEST W MARTIN, MAYOR; TRUSTEES - JOHN MURPHY, MICHAEL HANEHAN, MARTIN RICCARDI
ABSENT: RAYMOND WALKER, TRUSTEE**

ALSO PRESENT: FIRE CHIEF, JEFF MAHAR; SUPT OF PUBLIC WORKS, TERRY FINNEY

**PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED 2004/05 BUDGET**

Mayor Martin read the notice of Public Hearing. He explained that there would be a \$.50 (fifty cent) raise in the tax rate, making the new rate \$3.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The following residents attended: J. Champlin, T Campbell, K Lilac, K. Lilac, E. Hurd, D. Smith, R. Rivers, E. Fanning Gazette and L Hornbeck Times Union

MOTION to open the floor to the public and press made by Trustee Riccardi, seconded by Trustee Murphy.

Motion carried 3-0

Comments from the public:

James Champlin: spoke regarding increase in taxes, he feels it is unwise to vote a raise for the Trustees and Mayor in a year that there is a need to increase the tax rate. He also questioned the news article that mentioned merging the Village and the Town, is this what would happen if the taxes are not raised?

Mayor Martin explained the reasons for the tax increase.

Trustee Murphy explained the quote that was in the paper with regard to merging the Village and Town of Stillwater. The Board has had no discussion regarding this; it is just one Trustee responding to a question from a reporter.

Mr. Champlin requested Board consider not increasing their salaries in this budget.

Everett Hurd: Mr. Hurd questioned the various increases, i.e. health insurance costs. He questioned why the Town was not required to pay the entire amount due for the time they were connected to the City of Mechanicville water system; he also questioned why the water rate has not gone back to the lower rate.

It was explained that on the advice of the Attorney the settlement was made to accept half. The rates have not decreased due to the fact that we are waiting to see what happens with regard to Hillside purchasing water from the Village.

Timothy Campbell: Questioned if it might be a good idea to consider consolidation since the Village has no room for growth to increase the tax base to cover increasing costs.

Mayor Martin gave a brief explanation of tax rates in other villages in the area.

Schuylerville: \$8.81 per thousand
Waterford: \$129.25 per thousand

A resident asked if these municipalities are paying both Town & Village taxes, it was explained they are.

Dale Smith & Robert Rivers both continued to question this issue of consolidation.

Katherine Lilac: stated the Village is sending the wrong message increasing taxes and increasing salaries in the same year.

Mayor Martin stated he would consider giving his raise back to the taxpayers.

James Champlin stated he feels it is time to hold consolidation talks again.

MOTION to close the floor to the public and press made by Trustee Hanehan, seconded by Trustee Riccardi.

Motion carried 3-0

Mayor Martin called the Reorganization Meeting to order at 7:40 P.M. and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Mayor Martin called for a moment of silence for the recent passing of former Trustee John Treacy and his wife.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Court requesting permission to us Boardroom June 14, 2004 for Justice Court rather than June 21, 2004.

Letter from William F. Reynolds, thanking the Board for the opportunity to serve for the last several years.

Letter from Van R. Campbell regarding the proposed changes to the fine money that would be returned to municipalities. Could cost Towns and Villages significant revenue. Mayor Martin advised he has sent letters to Senator Bruno and Assemblyman McDonald's office regarding his opposition.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Stillwater Board of Trustees request the following proposed bills be deleted from the New York State Senate S6056 and Assembly A9556 before passage of the proposed budget. Moved by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Riccardi.

Roll call vote: Trustee Murphy – yes
Trustee Riccardi – yes
Trustee Hanehan – yes
Mayor Martin – yes

Motion carried 4-0

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Deputy Mayor	John Murphy
Dept. of Public Works	Michael Hanehan
Water	John Murphy *
	Raymond Walker
Sewer	Michael Hanehan*
	Martin Riccardi
Fire Department	Raymond Walker
Building & Sidewalks	Martin Riccardi
Parks & Playgrounds	Michael Hanehan
Grants	John Murphy
Newsletter/Webpage	John Murphy
Emergency coordinator	Ernest Martin*
	Jef Mahar

REORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTIONS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Daily Gazette and the Express be the official newspapers for the Village of Stillwater

BE IT RESOLVED that the Ballston Spa National Bank be designated as the official depository for all Village funds for the fiscal year 2004-2005

BE IT RESOLVED that the regular Village of Stillwater Board of Trustee Meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 P.M. in the Village Boardroom. If changes are needed the press will be notified.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to make payments in advance for utility services, postage, federal express and united parcel fees with all bills presented at the next regular scheduled board meeting for audit.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees authorizes reimbursement to employees and officers of the Village who use their own personal vehicle while performing their official duties on behalf of the Village of Stillwater at a rate of \$.32 per mile.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor will have the sole authority for calling special meetings and will notify the public and press at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting if possible, further each trustee shall be notified via telephone by the Mayor or the Clerk and a notice of such meeting shall be displayed in the office of the Village Clerk

BE IT RESOLVED that Linda Sanders be appointed Historian and Linda Palmieri be appointed Deputy Historian.

MOTION to adopt the Reorganizational Resolutions made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Riccardi.

Discussion was held regarding the Mayor having the sole authority to call a special meeting.

Motion carried 3-0

BE IT RESOLVED that Margo L. Partak be appointed Clerk/Treasurer for the next fiscal year and Beth Riccardi be appointed Deputy Clerk.

BE IT RESOLVED that Kenneth Patenaude be appointed Building Code Officer for the next fiscal year.

MOTION to adopt the Resolutions made by Trustee Hanahan, seconded by Trustee Riccardi.

Motion carried 3-0

BUILDING CODE OFFICER – Kenneth Patenaude

Mayor Martin read the report due to Mr. Patenaude's absence. (copy on file)

FIRE CHIEF – Jeff Mahar

The Fire Chief presented two new members for approval.

Frederick Decker – support class member

Paul Spooner – Junior member

MOTION to approve Frederick Decker and Paul Spooner as new members of the Newland-Wood Fire Department made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Riccardi.

Motion carried 3-0

Chief Mahar reminded everyone of two upcoming fundraisers for the Department.

Rock & Bowl at Hometown Lanes on Saturday

October 2003 Car Show at School on Sunday

Point of information, Mr. Fitzpatrick is a class A firefighter, he has passed all required physicals.

SUPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS – Terry Finney

Supt. Finney distributed his report of work completed for the past month. He advised he has researched the cleaning process, he feels the process we are using is incorrect, he discussed his findings with the Board. Well #5 cleaning is completed; parts that were not good were replaced with stainless steel.

Started decanting the water before taking sludge to the County, by taking the water out of the sludge we will save money.

The Mayor questioned the strong smell from the sewer plant. Supt. Finney explained.

Hillside valve is foreign we are unable to obtain parts. Would like to replace the entire valve with a new one.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Martin Riccardi – Trustee Riccardi explained he has an estimate to replace the carpet in the Boardroom at a cost of \$1,119.51

MOTION to authorize Trustee Riccardi to have the carpet replaced in the Boardroom at a cost of \$1,119.51 made by Trustee Hanehan, seconded by Trustee Murphy.
Motion carried 3-0

Trustee Michael Hanehan – Things seem to be going well with the DPW, have met with Supt. to discuss concerns.

Trustee John Murphy – Provident Development has completed Part A of the SEQR and now the Village needs to complete part B. Trustee Murphy feels the Village should not complete this portion until the engineer is completely satisfied with the information from Provident.

Trustee Murphy advised the Village has received a request from a developer in the Town to provide water for 250 building lots adjacent to Gurba Estates. Trustee Murphy would suggest Village wait until a decision is made with regard to the Stillwater Landing Project. Supt. will be meeting with Tom Brewer regarding capacity of system; he will use various amounts to see how much water could be distributed without taxing the system.

Grants – chose not to pursue a grant application to replace the water line on Ferry Lane. Residents were not cooperative.

We have received the “Water Quality Study” from the Town Engineer; the Village will be responsible to pay for the next phase.

Discussion was held regarding the status of the North Hudson Avenue force main, still need easement.

CLERK-TREASURER – Margo Partak

Clerk advised that the meter at 13 School Street is running fast would like permission to adjust the bill to reflect their normal usage of 40,000 gallons for a six month period.

MOTION authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to adjust the April water bill for account #470013 to 40,000 gallons of water used made by Trustee Hanehan, seconded by Trustee Murphy.
Motion carried 3-0

Clerk-Treasurer advised that there are two outside users that are delinquent from last year, something needs to be done, as we are unable to relevy these delinquent. It was decided to review the contract language and have a letter sent to the delinquent property owners.

MOTION to open the floor to the public and press made by Trustee Riccardi, seconded by Trustee Hanehan.
Motion carried 3-0

Mr. E. Hurd, Colonial Road questioned the scheduling to complete Colonial Road. He has concerns regarding the debris that was left in his lawn at the end of the year. He also expressed concern regarding the depth of the catch basin. Supt. Finney is aware of the problem and will get to it as soon as possible.

MOTION to close the floor to the public and press made by Trustee Hanehan, seconded by Trustee Murphy.
Motion carried 3-0

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Martin requested a motion to approve Mayor to sign an agreement with Dreyer-Boyajian Law Firm of Troy, New York.

MOTION authorizing Mayor Martin to enter into a contract agreement with Dreyer-Boyajian LLP to serve as Attorneys for the Village of Stillwater at an annual retainer of \$10,000 effective June 1, 2004 made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Riccardi.
Motion carried 3-0

2004/2005 Village of Stillwater Budget

Mayor Martin asked the Board if they were ready to act on the proposed Budget tonight or if they needed another workshop.

MOTION to delete the salary increases for the Mayor and Trustees for the 2004/2005 fiscal year made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Riccardi.
Motion carried 3-0

MOTION to approve the proposed 2004/2005 fiscal year budget as amended made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Riccardi.

Roll call vote: Trustee Murphy – yes
 Trustee Riccardi – yes
 Trustee Hanehan – yes
 Mayor Martin - yes

Motion carried 4-0

Trustee Hanehan questioned the status of hiring a fourth man.

Mayor Martin explained he put a hold on this hiring until more discussions could be held, he will meet with Supt. Finney at 7:00 a.m. in the morning.

MOTION to approve the Treasurer Report as presented made by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Hanehan.
Motion carried 3-0

MOTION to approve the minutes of March 23rd made by Trustee Hanehan, seconded by Trustee Riccardi.
Motion carried 3-0

MOTION to approve the audited claims:

A	\$ 6,297.91
F	\$15,445.79
G	\$ 5,357.69
H	\$ 3,412.88

Made by Trustee Hanehan, seconded by Trustee Murphy.
Motion carried 3-0

MOTION to adjourn made by Trustee Hanehan, seconded by Trustee Riccardi.
Motion carried 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo L. Partak
Clerk-Treasurer