

**SPECIAL MEETING-BOARD OF TRUSTEES-JULY 2, 2002-6:30 P.M.**

**PRESENT: ERNEST W MARTIN, MAYOR; TRUSTEES – THOMAS KINISKY, JOHN MURPHY, JOHN TREACY**

**ABSENT: RAYMOND WALKER, TRUSTEE**

**ALSO PRESENT: SUPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS, RUSSELL LAQUIDARA**

Mayor Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Mayor Martin explained the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the purchase of the Russell property, North Hudson Avenue and to pass the resolution to borrow \$130,000.

Mayor Martin explained during the June meeting the Attorney was authorized to write a letter to J. Gregory Connors, he then read the letter that Attorney Reynolds sent to Mr. Connors explaining the procedure necessary for the Village to purchase this property.

Trustee Kinisky questioned if the purpose of the meeting was only to vote on the Bonding Resolution.

Mayor Martin requested a motion regarding the Bonding Resolution.

**MOTION** to adopt a Bond Resolution of the Village of Stillwater, Saratoga County, New York authorizing the issuance of \$135,000 Serial Bonds to finance the cost of the acquisition of vacant land located at North Hudson Avenue, Stillwater, New York, moved by Trustee Kinisky, seconded by Trustee Treacy.

Discussion: Trustee Murphy stated he has several issues to raise. He spoke to several people, they wanted to know the reason for the purchase, he explained it would provide a home for the steamer, however, the land is in excess of three acres and it is not necessary to have that amount of land to build a home for the steamer. Trustee Murphy continued explaining that after reviewing the material provided by the Clerk-Treasurer he is not sure it is legal, since we do not have a real plan for this property. He had a discussion with at least one individual that is very interested in the property. Trustee Kinisky stated he would be very happy to discuss this situation in executive session, however the Mayor stated there would be no executive session. Trustee Murphy continued with his concerns and stated he could not have a meaningful conversation if other members of the Board would not talk freely.

Mayor Martin explained he spoke to a Village businessperson regarding the possible purchase of the property in question several months ago. The Mayor contacted SEDC to talk to the businessperson. He did not hear anything further. He recently heard from an SEDC Representative that they spoke to businessperson, Mayor Martin again spoke to the businessperson and he is still interested in pursuing this option.

Trustee Murphy had a recent conversation with the same businessperson as a result of the water problems and he found out that this person is still very interested in purchasing this property.

Trustee Kinisky questioned what do we do if OSHA comes in and shuts down the Fire Department. There is a study in the Clerk's Office to suggest we need additional space. Trustee Murphy said he was Fire Commissioner for many years and was not aware of this study, there has never been a conversation regarding this issue. Trustee Kinisky stated there is no other available land in the Village. Trustee Murphy did not necessarily agree and mentioned several vacant parcels in the Village. Trustee Kinisky would have no problem if this resolution was passed and a petition was presented for a permissive referendum. Trustee Murphy feels Board is rushing into something without enough discussion.

Trustee Kinisky stated he feels that if the Board many years ago had purchased the property in front it would have been very beneficial to the Village. As far as taking it off the tax roll, he feels it would not be assessed significantly enough to make an impact. Trustee Murphy stated based on the information from the New York Conference of Mayors he is not comfortable with this purchase and bonding this amount of money at this time without further discussion.

Trustee Kinisky questioned if Trustee Murphy stated he was against the proposed purchase on the Website StillwaterNY.net. Trustee Murphy explained what he wrote on line and why he chose to respond, he stated he would prefer that people actually read his posting rather than comment on them based on someone else's interpretation.

Trustee Treacy stated at the last meeting he brought up the information from NYCOM and felt as if he was dismissed by other Board members. Trustee Murphy had received this information just before the meeting and had not had time to review carefully.

Mayor Martin expressed concerns regarding the amount of debt the Village currently has and the amount of debt that we are already committed to pursue. The many projects that are about to be started and will need to be bonded. Mayor Martin stated he feels we just can't do everything. Trustee Murphy stated he personally feels bad that the Board authorized Trustee Kinisky to pursue this project without first reviewing all of the information and having serious discussions of the impact of the purchase.

Roll call vote: Trustee Kinisky – yes  
Trustee Treacy – abstain  
Trustee Murphy – no

Mayor Martin chose not to vote.

After a review of the NYCOM Handbook it was decided that a resolution must be adopted by at least a two-thirds vote of the voting strength of the Village Board. (At least 3 members of the Board must vote in favor).

Resolution defeated.

Questions from the press were answered.

Mayor Martin will contact the Attorney regarding the results of the vote to see if there would be any legal problems.

Randy Rathbun spoke to the Board about building a home in the Village and accessing that home via Clinton Court. He was advised that he would need to install a meter pit, it was suggested that a cul-de-sac might need to be installed. He will contact Building Code Officer when he is ready to proceed. This will probably be late fall or early winter.

Trustee Murphy advised that the Town has reconnected to the Village water. Trustee Murphy explained that last week a private meeting was held at the Town and it was decided to connect to the City of Mechanicville. The valve was shut off from the Village on Thursday June 27<sup>th</sup> and the City valve was opened to provide Town residents with City water. The Town did not notify the village before this was done. Trustee Murphy spoke to Councilwoman Ronda regarding the contract that exists between the two municipalities mainly the contract to purchase the first 130,000 gallons of water per day from the Village. Councilwoman Ronda spoke to the Town Attorney regarding this situation. The Town returned to Village water on Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, during the connection to the City of Mechanicville the water was tested and positive coliform test results were found. The Health Department is talking to the Town about various ways to rectify the problems that exist. The Town is reluctant to do any of the things that have been suggested. Trustee Murphy would like the Board to consider charging the Town for water they would have purchased if they had not connected to the City.

Supt. Laquidara advised that the drainage problem at the McClements property, Lake Street, has been addressed, will not know results until a significant rain happens. He stated the generator quote is good for another 30 days. The problems we have had with power at the water plant are due to the transformers being too small. NYSEG will be fixing the problem next week. Water plant will be shut down for 5 hours.

**MOTION** to adjourn was made by Trustee Kinisky, seconded by Trustee Murphy.  
Motion carried 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Margo L. Partak  
Clerk-Treasurer