

Minutes of the Town Board Work Session held at 511 Route 32, Highland Mills, New York on November 16, 2009 at 7:30PM

Present: John Burke, Supervisor
Geraldine Gianzero, Councilwoman
Amidee Haviland, Carlton Levine and James Skoufis, Councilmen

Absent: None

Also Present: Richard Liberth, Town Attorney; Robert Kwiatkowski, Police Chief; Maria Hunter, Village Planning Board; Jennifer Bradshaw, Library Director; Sigrid Barker and Dorothy Morris, Library Board; Lorelei Pitt, Budget Officer; Frank Palermo, Councilman-Elect.

1. Discussion- 2010 Holiday Schedule:

Supervisor Burke asked the Board to look over the proposed holiday schedule for 2010 for a future discussion. Councilman Skoufis asked why an employee could not use the birthday day at any other time of the year and Councilman Levine stated that it is because it is a contractual issue.

2. Discussion - Vacancies on Various Boards:

Supervisor Burke stated that there are three seats that expire at the end of the year. One seat is on the Parks Commission and the other two are on the Library Board. Supervisor Burke will have a notice on Channel 22 requesting letters of interest.

3. Discussion - 2010 Budget:

Supervisor Burke informed the Board that the budget must be adopted at the November 19 meeting. He then reviewed with the Board some budget modifications requested by the Library Board during the past few years for funds to be transferred from their fund balance for various items (such as, personnel, books, etc.). The Town Board is now asking the Library Board to do the same now and move the necessary \$27,000 from the Appropriated Fund Balance to cover the book line-item. Mrs. Barker stated the Library Board never requested funds to be removed from the Capital Reserve Fund even though budget modifications say otherwise. She believes these modifications that were requested and that she signed for should have been from the Appropriated Fund Balance. Maria Hunter offered to have \$5000 from her Beautification Commission budget (from line-item A8510.445) reduced and given to the Library Board for their books (L7410.435). Budget Officer Pitt said she would need to look into the legality of whether an inter-fund transfer could occur in this manner. Councilwoman Gianzero said she believed that it could not be done because the money in question is specifically received for "the beautification the Town". Mrs. Hunter then offered that it be taken out of A8510.431 (Holiday Decorations) instead. Budget Officer Pitt said she would look into it.

At some point, Councilman Levine asked if it was feasible to do this since the budget has to be approved on Thursday or should the Library Budget be left as is. The Budget can be adopted and then a budget modification can be done after that. The Town Board asked Budget Officer Pitt to contact the State Board of Regents asking if it is appropriate to move the funds from the Appropriated Fund Balance into the books line-item.

It was noted that B3120.453 (Vehicle Repairs) increased from \$17,000.00 to \$21,000.00 as requested at the public hearing by Chief Kwiatkowski.

8:55PM – Executive Session:

Motion was offered by Councilman Levine, seconded by Councilwoman Gianzero, to enter into an Executive Session pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officer's Law to discuss an item of personnel relating to an employee of the Buildings and Grounds Department.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Skoufis

NOES 0

NOTE – Councilman-elect Palermo was present for the executive session.

Motion was offered by Supervisor Burke, seconded by Councilman Skoufis, to terminate from the Buildings and Grounds Department Karin Sharpstein, due to disciplinary reasons, effective October 23, 2009.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Skoufis
 NOES 0

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, a motion was offered by Supervisor Burke, seconded by Councilman Haviland, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15PM.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Skoufis
 NOES 0

Michele Zwicker, Deputy Town Clerk