

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held at Town Hall, 511 Route 32, Highland Mills, New York on February 4, 2010 at 7:30PM

Present: John Burke, Supervisor
Amidee Haviland, Carlton Levine, Frank Palermo, James Skoufis, Councilmen
Absent: None
Also Present: Richard Liberth, Attorney for the Town, Maria Hunter, Village Planning Board; Roxanne Donnery, County Legislator

I. Administrative Business:

a. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion was offered by Councilman Palermo, seconded by Councilman Skoufis, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held January 21, 2010 at 7:30PM.

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

Motion was then offered by Councilman Levine, seconded by Supervisor Burke, to accept the minutes of the worksession held February 1, 2010.

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

b. Approval of Abstract:

Motion was offered by Councilman Haviland, seconded by Councilman Levine, to approve Abstract #3, Vouchers #20100183 - #20100271, totaling \$126,779.02.

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

c. Cancellation of February 15 Worksession:

Motion was offered by Councilman Skoufis, seconded by Supervisor Burke, to cancel the February 15, 2010 worksession due to the President's Day holiday observance.

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

II. Old Business

a. Association of Towns Resolutions:

Motion was offered by Supervisor Burke, seconded by Councilman Levine, to instruct the Voting Delegate or Alternate Voting Delegate to cast the following votes on behalf of the Town of Woodbury at the Annual Business Meeting of the Associations of Towns to be held on February 17, 2010:

1. Preserve and Strengthen Home Rule AYE
2. Preserve Local Democracy – At Large Elections AYE
3. Mandate Relief AYE
4. Highway and Transportation Funding AYE
5. Road Preservation Bonds AYE
6. Reform of GML 207-c Disability Benefits for Law Enforcement AYE
7. Preserve and Strengthen Local Government's Role
in the Siting of Energy Generation Facilities AYE
8. Publication of Legal Notices AYE
9. Preservation of Town Registrars of Vital Statistics AYE

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

10.	Municipal Deposits in Credit Unions and Thrift Institutions				AYE
ADOPTED	AYES	4	Burke, Haviland, Levine, Skoufis		
	NOES	1	Palermo		

b. Resolution – OCWA/Water Master Plan:

Motion was offered by Councilman Levine, seconded by Councilman Palermo, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Village of Woodbury owns operates and maintains a municipal water system in which the Board of Trustees continues to make significant investments to its water supply infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Water Authority (herein referred to as “OCWA”) is governed by a five member board appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Legislature: and

WHEREAS, the OCWA is empowered to meet its responsibility, both through the development and operation of water infrastructure, and through study, coordination and planning for water supply within the County; and

WHEREAS, the current State law that defines the OCWA grants all the powers that organization is claiming are needed to effectively manage our water and support the “smart growth” areas identified within the Orange County Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the OCWA has published a Water Master Plan and proposed Orange County Comprehensive Plan Amendment dated July 2009, which includes, among its key water supply initiatives geared at addressing the County’s water supply inadequacies and the County’s overall water supply needs, the development of new water sources, the enhancement of existing sources, source water/watershed protection and interconnections between water districts; and

WHEREAS, the OCWA’s Water Master Plan states “interconnections would help to establish regional supplies that the Water Authority could own outright, develop and turn over to participating municipalities or plan and design for construction by participating municipalities, depending upon the institutional framework selected by the Authority”; and

WHEREAS, the OCWA’s authority under enabling State law includes the power to “acquire by purchase, gift, grant, transfer, contract or lease or by condemnation pursuant to the eminent domain procedure law within the district, lease as lessee, hold, and use any real or personal property or any interest therein, as the authority may deem necessary, convenient or desirable to carry out the purposes [of the OCWA]”; and

WHEREAS, the membership of OCWA’s board presently lacks municipal representation from Orange County’s villages, towns and cities; and

WHEREAS, the County of Orange proposes to adopt the Water Master Plan as a component of the County’s Comprehensive Plan giving further credence to its findings and imposing County mandated planning considerations on future water capital project plans of the County’s municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the OCWA is proposing the override of Home Rule within Orange County in their Water Master Plan and place the absolute control of our water under the control of one elected official, our County Executive, which would eliminate the oversight by our regionally elected officials, our County Legislators; and

WHEREAS, the Water Master Plan, combined with the existing countywide water district established within the current OCWA law, will enable the County Executive, Edward Diana, to levy taxes to support any capital project that he deems appropriate without oversight by any of our other elected officials.

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town of Woodbury Town Board urges members of our County Legislature and local elected officials to:

1. Direct the county to work to eliminate the existence of the countywide water district within the OCWA's law
2. Reestablish the OCWA as an independent organization with legislative oversight
3. Change the governance of the OCWA to a Board of Commissioners whose members will be selected by the municipal leadership of the county's cities, towns and villages and approved by the County Legislature
4. Reestablish the role of this organization as a resource for county municipalities, to facilitate their ability to protect and deliver this important natural resource
5. Vote **NO** on any proposed Water Master Plan that does not protect Home Rule.

and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk of Woodbury shall send a copy of this resolution to all County Legislators, State and local elected officials who represent our residents.

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

c. Pledge – Combat Climate Change:

Motion was offered by Councilman Skoufis, seconded by Councilman Levine, to adopt the following pledge:

WHEREAS, the Town of Woodbury believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments which is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms and ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, and to build livable, energy-independent and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts; and

WHEREAS, we believe that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Woodbury, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate will

1. Pledge to Combat Climate Change by Becoming a Climate Smart Community:
 - a. Set goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to predicted climatic changes.
 - b. Establish a committee of local officials and community members to review the issues and propose a plan of action.
 - c. Designate a committee chairman who will oversee climate change initiatives and publicly report on progress.
 - d. Work cooperatively with similar committees in neighboring communities to ensure that efforts complement and reinforce one another.
 - e. Open an EPA Energy Star Portfolio for all town municipal buildings.
2. Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Move to Action
 - a. Gather data, inventory greenhouse gas emissions, and establish baselines for local government operations and community sectors.

- b. Develop quantifiable interim greenhouse gas emission targets consistent with emission reduction goals and propose a schedule and financing strategy to meet them.
 - c. Encourage stakeholder and public input and develop an action plan.
- 3. Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operations - Adopt a goal of reducing electricity use by 15 percent from projected levels no later than 2015.
 - a. **Existing Public Facilities.** Inventory current building electricity usage and identify opportunities for conservation and efficiency retrofits. Consider actions such as purchasing energy efficient equipment and appliances, such as ENERGY STAR®; improving lighting, heating, and cooling efficiency; setting thermostats for maximum energy conservation; decreasing plug load from office equipment; and increasing pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems.
 - b. **New Public Buildings.** Achieve at least minimum U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards (LEED Certified) for all new local government buildings.
 - c. **Infrastructure.** Incorporate energy efficient technologies and operations and maintenance practices into municipal street lighting, traffic signals, and water and wastewater treatment facilities where possible.
 - d. **Vehicle Fleet and Commuting.** Improve the average fuel efficiency of local government fleet vehicles. Discourage vehicle idling and encourage bicycling, car-pooling and public transit for employees. Consider reducing the number of vehicles; converting fleet vehicles to sustainable alternative fuels; and using electric vehicles where possible.
- 4. Encourage Renewable Energy for Local Government Operations:
 - a. Supply as much of the local government's power, heat and hot water needs as possible from solar, wind, and small hydro through purchase or direct generation.
- 5. Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate Smart Solid Waste Management Practices
 - b. Expand the "reduce, reuse and recycle" approach to waste management in local government operations and in the whole community.
 - c. Reduce the amount of solid waste generated -- promote backyard composting, implement volume-based pricing and educate residents on how to prevent waste.
 - d. Promote reuse by organizing community-wide yard sales, and providing a space for drop-off or trade of reusable goods.
 - e. Provide recycling receptacles in local government buildings and outdoor spaces, require duplex printing in government offices, and compost food scraps and green waste.
- 6. Plan for Adaptation to Unavoidable Climate Change
 - a. Evaluate risks from unavoidable climate change, set adaptation goals and plan for adaptation. Identify climate change impacts (such as flooding, drought, and extreme temperatures) that could affect the community.
 - b. Identify areas such as water supply and sewer infrastructure that may be at risk due to sea-level rise and future changes in climate.
 - c. Factor risks into long-term investments and decision-making.
 - d. Execute climate change adaptation and preparedness measures through local government planning, development and operations, giving priority to the highest risk areas.

7. Support a Green Innovation Economy
 - a. Identify opportunities to incorporate climate protection, sustainability and environmental goods and service industries into economic development plans.
 - b. Encourage workforce development training and school curricula that support the emerging green collar job sector, including renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as climate smart solid waste management practices.
 - c. Procure climate smart goods and services for local government operations and support modernizing of local and national electricity grids.
8. Inform and Inspire the Public
 - a. Lead by example.
 - b. Highlight local government commitment to reducing energy use, saving tax dollars, and adapting to changing conditions.
 - c. Demonstrate the benefits of energy savings, energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects by holding local meetings; working with the Monroe-Woodbury Central School District to develop climate change curricula and programs; engaging faith-based communities in climate protection; and regularly communicating community climate protection goals and progress to constituents.
9. Commit to an Evolving Process
 - a. Acknowledge that research and policy on climate protection are constantly improving and evolving.
 - b. Be willing to consider new ideas and commit to update plans and policies as needed.
 - c. Compare successes, cooperate and collaborate with neighboring communities to redirect less-effective actions and amplify positive results.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Burke, Levine, Palermo, Skoufis
 NOES 1 Haviland

d. Create EPA Energy Star Portfolio:

Motion was offered by Councilman Skoufis, seconded by Councilman Palermo, to authorize Councilman Skoufis, on behalf of the Town Board, to open and maintain an EPA Energy Star Portfolio for all town municipal buildings.

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

III. New Business:

a. Boy Scout Proclamation:

The Town Board signed a proclamation recognizing the efforts of Timothy K Grupp, Adam Wichlinski and Kevin Binko as they receive the honor of Eagle Scout at a ceremony scheduled for March 27, 2010.

IV. Public Comment:

Legislator Donnery spoke about a proposal that she and Blooming Grove Supervisor (and former Legislator) Frank Fornario Jr. proposed to the County Legislature last year. They were proposing that an Office of Accountability be started. They believed that more oversight into local government was needed and would give people an opportunity to speak up without fear of retaliation. They believed this would create trust amongst the people. She informed the Board that this proposal was voted down during the Legislatures session this afternoon. She also wanted to let the people of Woodbury know

that she will always be supportive of our Town. At the end of the meeting she handed out a flyer regarding the Orange County Water Master Plan Forum which will be held on February 10, 2010.

V. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss or comments received a motion was offered by Councilman Haviland and seconded by Councilman Palermo to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.

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

Michele Zwicker, Deputy Town Clerk

A closed session with Attorney Liberth was held after adjournment.

NOTE – CORRECTION/ADDITION:

The following was accidently omitted from the minutes and should be part of Old Business after the action taken to enroll in the EPA Energy Star profolio.

Motion was offered by Councilman Skoufis, seconded by Councilman Levine, to authorize the Supervisor to sign and any all documents relating to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to apply for solar energy panels to be installed on the Highway Garage.

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