

Minutes of the Town Board Worksession held at Town Hall on June 14, 2010

Present: John Burke, Supervisor
Amidee Haviland, Carlton Levine, Frank Palermo and James Skoufis, Councilmen
Absent: None
Also Present: Robert Kwiatkowski, Police Chief; Maria Hunter, Village Planning Board

5. Discussion – NYCOMCO Radio Contract:

Chief Kwiatkowski stated the Board approved a lease three years ago for equipment that would be used in connection with the upgraded system being done by the County. The lease was for five years and would begin once the new system was in place. Due to negotiations with the FCC and infrastructure that was upgraded by Nextel as part of the County contract, the lease is now ready to begin. However, the equipment listed on the original lease has been deemed obsolete due to the infrastructure installed by Nextel. The lease proposed this evening is updated and is only slightly higher than the one executed three years ago (\$75). Dave DeJong, Consultant with NYCOMCO, noted that Nextel will be paying a part of the lease for the five years since the new equipment is more expensive than what was originally proposed. It was noted the contract is broken into two separate leases due to the provisions of the Woodbury Common BID (which they pay nine months of). There was a discussion regarding the reliability of the system, noting that parts were down during the storms over the past two years, and Mr. DeJong stated improvements have been made to generator connections to reduce the possibility of this happening again. It was noted that after the five year lease is up and renegotiated, Nextel would no longer be paying a portion of it. Mr. DeJong reviewed the technical aspects of the contract and explained the lease will begin thirty days after the install.

Motion was then offered by Councilman Palermo, seconded by Councilman Skoufis, to authorize the Supervisor to sign the five year leases with NYCOMCO, one totaling \$3155 per month and one for \$1950 per month for the Police Department.

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

1. Discussion – Information Technology Policy:

Supervisor Burke stated correspondence was received from the labor attorney regarding his opinion of the proposed policy in connection with the unions. In summary, he felt there are aspects that must be negotiated with the PBA as representatives of the police and dispatcher units. Since the UPSEU agreement has a management rights clause which permits the Town to unilaterally adopt rules and regulations, he felt the Town may have the ability to implement the policy without bargaining. He also stated he believes “unilateral implementation of the proposed policy will lead to a demand for bargaining from one or both unions representing Town employees” and that “a refusal to engage in bargaining would likely lead to proceedings before PERB”. Councilman Skoufis stated he feels that the Police/Dispatchers should be exempt from the policy, since they are already secure, but the other employees/departments should be required to follow the policy. Supervisor Burke disagreed noting his interpretation of the correspondence from the attorney stated, under the heading “conclusion”, that it would need to be negotiated. Councilman Levine and Palermo agreed with Supervisor Burke’s interpretation. Councilman Levine added he feels the advice from the attorney is very clear and that no more time should be spent on this issue. Councilman Skoufis stated by ignoring this issue there is now negligence on behalf of the Town Board if there is any breach of security, which he will be absolved from. Councilman Palermo noted the Board is following the advice of this attorney on this issue, adding that if liability is needed, nothing absolves a member of the Board from it. He then added that he feels there are other ways to handle the issue of security, noting that Supervisor Burke could speak with departments if and when an issue arises. Councilman Levine stated he agrees, adding that the proposed

policy does not require much that is not already being done. He does not feel that additional costs should be incurred to negotiation the issue or to pay for PERB. Councilman Palermo noted that Supervisor Burke and Councilman Levine have a lot of experience in the field of negotiations and believes their opinions should be relied upon. He then suggested Councilman Skoufis contact the labor attorney to find out how to word the proposed policy in a way that would not require negotiations.

2. Discussion – Town Board Internship Program:

Councilman Skoufis stated he has worked with the Monroe-Woodbury School District to create an internship program that could aide seniors in obtaining their comprehensive diplomas. The Board reviewed the proposal and discussed some of the duties that the student would be responsible for to receive the credit towards their degree. Motion was then offered by Councilman Skoufis, seconded by Councilman Levine, to establish a “Town Board Internship” program for senior students applying for a Comprehensive Diploma.

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

3. Discussion – Energy Audit Program:

Councilman Skoufis stated the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority established a program that will provide energy audits to help to make informed electrical energy decisions and implement energy-efficiency strategies. The audits will help identify economically viable improvements that yield substantial annual energy savings. The cost to the Town is \$100 per building. Councilman Haviland suggested that a list of buildings be established before the Board approves moving forward.

4. Discussion – Engineering Services for Estrada Road Bridge Repairs:

Supervisor Burke stated he met with representatives from the State and FEMA regarding the Estrada Road bridge and it appears that the Town may receive some financial assistance in the repairs. The Board interviewed three engineering firms that submitted proposals and he recommends that Fusco Engineering and Landscaping be contracted with. He believes they submitted the most ambitious plan and proposal. They were also the most reasonable in cost. The Board agreed and action will be taken at the June 17 meeting to contract with Fusco for engineering services.

EXTRA ITEM – National Buying Cooperatives:

Supervisor Burke stated correspondence was received from the Associations of Towns requesting that municipalities join a letter writing campaign to the Governor requesting that he intervene to provide governments, and public schools, the option of cooperative purchasing contracts let by other states and local governments. The Senate has accepted this proposal, which they refer to as “piggyback”, but the Assembly has not. He asked the Board members to review the sample letter provided by the Associations of Towns and determine if they would like him to send one and if they would like to co-sign the letter as well.

EXTRA ITEM – Central Valley Pond Basketball Court:

Supervisor Burke stated the existing basketball court was damaged due to the storage of equipment and materials throughout the construction and the contractor has offered a \$2000 credit to compensate the Town for this damage. As requested, the contractor provided a proposal to enlarge the court and replace the existing gooseneck poles and backboards with adjustable poles and backboards. The cost of this work is \$18,400 less the \$2000 credit. The Board reviewed the proposal and it was decided that Riddick Associates would be contacted to determine if a change order is required to approve the work be done since it was not part of the original specifications.

EXTRA ITEM – Consolidation of Government:

Councilman Skoufis stated the Village has responded to the Board regarding the amendments made to the resolution requesting home rule legislation. There was a minor amendment made and he feels the Board should move forward by adopting the resolution instead of continuing discussion on it. Supervisor Burke stated the Board is doing its due diligence on this issue, noting that over 2000 residents voted to create the Village. Councilman Levine stated he would like a few weeks to review the amended resolution before considering its adoption.

Adjournment:

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

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

Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk