

Minutes of the Town Board Worksession held at Town Hall on May 3, 2010 7:30PM

Present: John Burke, Supervisor
Amidee Haviland, Carlton Levine, Frank Palermo and James Skoufis, Councilmen
Absent: None
Also Present: Richard Liberth, Attorney for the Town; Laura Breslin, Assessor; Sandra Capriglione,
Village Zoning Board

1. Approval of Abstract:

Motion was offered by Councilman Palermo, seconded by Supervisor Burke, to approve Abstract 9, Voucher #20100760, totaling \$430.00.

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

2. Discussion – Refuse Tax Reimbursement Request:

Supervisor Burke stated a letter was received from the owner of a property located at 632 Route 32 with regards to being charged for four units of refuse collection. This property, as well as any property with more than two units, should not be on the Refuse District rolls and the owner is requesting a refund. In the letter it states the property has been charged incorrectly for 20+ years. Councilman Haviland stated he is concerned that this issue had not been caught by the Town and asked how many other properties are being charged incorrectly. Assessor Breslin stated she switched programs in the office when she was hired and thought that all the errors that existed were corrected with the switch. She will have her staff review the files again to be sure there are no other properties in the district that should not be. Supervisor Burke noted that the budget of the Refuse District is tight since it is a contractual item. Clerk Potvin reminded the Board that notification is mailed to all properties in the special districts annually regarding the public hearing on the adoption of the rolls, which is when they have the opportunity to have corrections made, if there are any. Supervisor Burke stated the first action required is to remove the property from the roll, which will require the Assessor to make an amendment to the filed 2010 Tentative Roll. The second item to entertain is the request for reimbursement. The total paid for the 2010 taxes was \$1305.34. Motion was offered by Councilman Levine, seconded by Councilman Skoufis, to amend the 2010 Tentative Assessment Roll to remove Section 218, Block 2, Lot 3 from the Refuse District and to reimburse the amount paid on the 2010 property taxes, which were based on the 2009 Assessment Roll. Councilman Palermo stated he does not feel that the entire amount should be reimbursed since the property owner has some responsibility in verifying/reviewing his tax bill. Motion was then offered by Councilman Skoufis, seconded by Councilman Haviland, to amend the motion to have the reimbursement to be prorated from the date the letter was received (reimbursement will be made for eight months totaling \$870.24).

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

3. Discussion – Information Technology Policy:

The draft policy, with changes discussed at the April 12 worksession, was reviewed. Additional word changes and additions were discussed based on the review by Councilman Skoufis' Technology Committee and further review by Town Board members. After the draft policy was discussed, Councilman Haviland stated he believes the Town will eventually need to employ a part-time employee to serve as information technology technician. Clerk Potvin asked how this document would be distributed to the employees (Councilman Palermo suggested as an appendix in the Employee Handbook) and she inquired about the unions recognizing it. Supervisor Burke stated he does have a concern about the unions, especially if they inquire as to what generated the need for this policy.

Councilman Haviland suggested that the three unions review the policy prior to the Board adopting it. Councilman Levine stated he would like the labor attorney to review the policy before the unions do. Clerk Potvin stated she will amend the draft based on the discussions held this evening and then send it out to each Board member for review. If acceptable, she will then forward it to the labor attorney for comment/review.

4. Discussion – 2008/2009 Audit:

Supervisor Burke stated this issue will be tabled as he did not receive the information yet for discussion.

5. Presentation – Assessor’s Office:

Assessor Breslin gave an update to the Board on the changes she has made to modernize the office to be more efficiently run since she was hired.

9PM - Executive Session:

Motion was offered by Councilman Levine, seconded by Councilman Palermo, to enter into an executive session pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officers Law to discuss one item relating to outstanding/pending litigation with regards to tax certioraris.

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

There were no minutes of the executive session recorded.

7. Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, motion was offered by Supervisor Burke, seconded by Councilman Palermo to exit executive session and adjourn the meeting at 10PM.

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

Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk