

**TOWN OF DEERPARK
TOWN BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

Meeting was held at Town Hall, 420 Route 209, Huguenot, New York 12746

Attendance:

Supervisor: Gary Flieger

Councilmember's: Liam O'Neill, Gary Spears, Viola Sinsabaugh and Karl Brabenec

Call to Order 7:33PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Gary Flieger: Before we get started Flo just brought us out this piece of legislation about the DWI penalty, thank you for that; and I want to bring to the board's attention that I do have a message on my machine that Mr. Solfaro has called, he would like to have some input, I don't know how the board feels about it, but for him to have input with this sitting board that's in place now is going to be pretty hard, we're going to be putting things in place and the next board may not like it, it's going to be pretty much meaningless in my opinion. **Viola Sinsabaugh:** I think we should let the new board handle it.

Liam O'Neill: I don't think we're going to get anything done in 5 weeks anyway so I agree with letting the new board handle it. **Gary Flieger:** That is my opinion as well, I will give Glen a call in the morning to let him know my opinion on this and have him get back to Mr. Solfaro and let him know what's going on. **Viola Sinsabaugh:** I also think and update to all new board members is essential on what has transpired so far.

Gary Spears: Something that came up tonight when I was reviewing this, and I didn't bring it up before because I had no idea who was going to win any of the elections, in the town board contractual there's \$2,500, I'm assuming that's a line they use for training, it's line 1010.4, I'm thinking that if there's four new people going to the newly elected school, they've got to stay over night two nights, and then if we go in February to the Association of Towns and stay over two nights, I don't think that's going to be enough money. **Gary Flieger:** It's not enough money if you go to the Association of Towns, this is enough to cover the newly elected ones to go upstate, if you want to include the Association of Towns you could have that as high as \$10,000. We sent two people last year, Flo and Jane and I think we were at \$1,500 or something in that area.

Gary Spears: I don't want to go there, I was thinking, this is just for the town board members, if three or four people go to the Association of Towns and you limit them to... **Gary Flieger:** \$1,500 included them pairing up into the same room, two to a room, scrimping on the meals and the whole nine yards came to about \$1,500, \$750 to \$800 per person.

Gary Spears: Well I went down last year and I paid my on hotel, but the town paid my registration and then I ate at the hospitality room, I gave them a \$20 tip so it didn't cost me much; I'm thinking if we go from \$2,500 to \$5,000 we ought to be able to take care of that, because I don't want to spend a lot of money but I do want to go, and I think all the new people should go, at least one time. **Viola Sinsabaugh:** I think one other thing you might want to consider, you don't have to do it, but you're all men going, you've got four council people, if you doubled up, two in a room would save the town money, you don't have to eat at the fancy places. **Gary Flieger:** If you take it up to \$5,000 I don't think you'll be messing with the tax rate, I would be in favor of that.

Motion to increase line 1010.4

Motion made by Gary Spears, 2nd by Karl Brabenec, to set line 1010.4 Contractual, for training for Town Board, we increase it from \$2,500 up to \$5,000.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Viola Sinsabaugh, Karl Brabenec, Liam O'Neill, Gary Spears and Gary Flieger

MOTION CARRIED

Gary Flieger: I will notify Rob of that in the morning and he will make the changes to the budget accordingly and send them out to you.

Karl Brabenec: Just for a short discussion, I know we had the Comptroller's Office come back and they said that they're projecting that as of March of next year that we could have about \$380,000 to \$390,000 in unreserved balance next year.

Gary Spears: So the question is do we want to drop the tax rate another percent or two? If \$25,000 equals 1%, we're at 3.49%, maybe the other \$2,500 is going to bring us to 3.55%, if we took \$50,000 of that and put it back in we could bring the tax rate down to somewhere around 1.51.6. In my opinion, since we went up last year so drastically, it would be a good thing for the people if we only went up with a small amount. With the 1 ½ projected the County is going to go down a wee bit, it may bring our tax rate to the people of Deerpark at only 1% at that point if the County goes down.

Viola Sinsabaugh: There is something that I have learned over the years, what is projected and what is, winds up to be two different things, really two different things. The one thing that this board did over previous years was keep a very low tax rate, that's what put us in the problem that we were in, please, I'm not going to be here, I'm just going to be paying the taxes at that time, I want you to think about this, do you want to do the same thing and say something does not work out properly so then the following year you're going to have to do an upward. **Gary Spears:** I think we're being very conservative based on a 3.9 projection only using 50 of it, but the way I'm looking at it, last year we hit the people with 120 so I'd rather keep it as low as possible, give another year or two to see where we're going with grant money and sales tax revenue, mortgage tax revenue, and next year it might hopefully only be 2 or 3%.

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Liam O'Neill: We could go in at a negative 5% rate right now, we could drop taxes by 5% and end up with 0 reserve, which is what we've had basically for the last five years, but given the fact that we've got this huge amount in the black I would say dropping another \$50,000 is still definitely within the range of zero. Gary Flieger: This is based on September when things were zeroed out on this, I've been looking at the numbers quite closely, they have improved, they haven't deteriorated, this is a very strong number that he has here, so with that I have no problems taking 50 off of it knowing that it is strong at this point, and I can't see anything going down hill in the last month, so I have no problem with 50 and if you wanted to do more I'd have no problem with it. Gary Spears: I would take Vi's opinion after the 50 and I think we need to be careful. Gary Flieger: I understand I would like to see you go in with more, one of the things that this board has to understand, when you work with this, yes we have a fund balance now, what I would love to see this board do is take that fund balance and move it over into an untouchable account so that no supervisor can grab a hold of it other than to flat line taxes and what I'm saying here is in the economy we have a roller coaster we have ups and downs and this is what really hurts everybody with their mortgages and everything else, when we hit these dips and we hit the high spots, in the high spots we're making a lot of money in the low spots we tax heavily, and then in the high spots we even make more; so what we need to do is to end up taking this 500 and set it there so when we're in a dip you can dump it in there, and this is what's happened with many of the towns that surround us, is they have this reserve there to flat line it so that when they dip down they can reach over there grab \$500,000 through it in the budget to flat line things so that you don't have a 20%, 50% increase in taxes. We didn't have it and that's what killed us in the last year, what our problem is we have never set rules in place where we set up a fund balance for that purpose, that allowed previous supervisor's to reach in this \$750,000 bucket that was full and overflowing and use it for what they wanted to use it for, there should be a set number, I would love to see a set number there. Gary Spears: Well it's hard to do that now because it's all projections. Gary Flieger: I understand that, I'm more or less voicing this to the next board that they should be looking to try and set this fund up to flat line taxes. Liam O'Neill: And along with that another fund for the Highway Garage. Viola Sinsabaugh: Also, remember that over the years, and in the eight years that I was here, there was such a minimal amount and that's what killed us when we could have had possibly a reserve somewhere, so don't get yourself in that same whole again.

Motion to increase appropriated fund balance for 2010

Motion made by Karl Brabenec, 2nd by Gary Spears, that the appropriated fund balance for 2010 be changed from \$95,000 to \$145,000.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Viola Sinsabaugh, Karl Brabenec, Liam O'Neill, Gary Spears and Gary Flieger

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to adopt the 2010 Budget

Motion made by Karl Brabenec, 2nd by Gary Spears, to adopt the 2010 Budget with the amendments.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Viola Sinsabaugh, Karl Brabenec, Liam O'Neill, Gary Spears and Gary Flieger

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Wildeman: Spoke about TD Bank and trying to pay off part of loan.

Motion to adjourn 9:00PM

Motion made by Karl Brabenec, 2nd by Gary Spears, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: 5 AYES: Viola Sinsabaugh, Karl Brabenec, Liam O'Neill, Gary Spears and Gary Flieger

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by,

Florence T. Santini
Town Clerk