

A special meeting was held by the Town Board of the Town of Ballston on Wednesday evening, December 12, 2012 at the Town Hall on Charlton Road.

PRESENT: Patricia Southworth ----- Supervisor
Mary Beth Hynes ----- Councilwoman
Timothy Szczepaniak ----- Councilman
William Goslin ----- Councilman
Carol Shemo ----- Clerk
Murry Brower ----- Counsel

Supervisor Southworth called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

DISCUSSION – WATER DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION

Councilwoman Hynes thanked Town Engineer, Mr. Vopelak, for coming this evening to explain water consolidation and answering the Board’s questions concerning the process for applying for the Greenway Grant.

Councilwoman Stewart entered the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Vopelak said he would talk about the Town water districts, what is involved in water district consolidation and the things that cannot be done with the consolidation process. Mr. Vopelak used a map of the water districts and their extensions to show where they are located and to give background information on the establishment of these districts and extensions. He stated that the Town had consolidated districts that were without debt in the past. The reasons for consolidating districts and extensions are to make government more efficient and for the taxpayers in these water districts and extensions to pay their fair share of the cost. In the consolidation process the Town Board has to decide what they want to do and how they wish to proceed. He reviewed the overview of the steps in the consolidation process as detailed by the Office of the NYS Comptroller.

Councilwoman Hynes said the Board needs to decide the proposal they will take to the public. Water District No. 2 seems like the logical place to start; it is the largest district with all its extensions. She asked about the consolidation process with the districts closer to the Village of Ballston Spa and neighboring towns.

Mr. Vopelak replied usually the smaller districts want to be part of a larger district for better water pressure and to spread the cost if there is a catastrophe. How are these districts doing now? It should be noted that a district does not have to be connected to another district in order to be consolidated.

Councilman Goslin added that we had the pump station constructed, water tower painted and the water tower at the Industrial Park will need painting soon. He would like to see these expenses shared by the districts and extensions. The Board should find the fairest way to consolidate districts and extensions so the financial aspects of how it works are easily understood and administered. We need to make it simpler for the Board and residents to understand.

Supervisor Southworth stated that for years Water District No. 2 has footed the bills for expenses. This was not a fair and equitable process. The NYS auditor had concerns with this district bearing too heavy a burden on their taxpayers. Now we have started to spread the expenses for billing, front office, pump station and the water towers over all the districts and extensions since everyone is benefitting.

Councilwoman Hynes asked Water Superintendent Whalen if he sees the wisdom of consolidation.

Mr. Whalen replied that it would make administration of the water department more efficient and less labor intensive.

Councilwoman Hynes asked if the Town would be able to complete work on the proposed Scotchbush Water District so the Town would complete the water loop and spread the cost over all districts.

Mr. Vopelak answered that the Town could do this.

Supervisor Southworth asked about the Oak Street and Mourningkill Proposed Districts. Could they be included as part of the same district and the costs shared with the rest of the district?

Mr. Vopelak stated these districts could be part of the consolidation.

Councilman Szczepaniak asked about the timeframe for the consolidation.

Mr. Vopelak stated there is an October 31st deadline to get approved for the next year. The Greenway Grant has rolling applications.

Councilwoman Hynes asked if they could include the remote reading of meters in the grant. This would increase the efficiency of the water billing and sending out the meter reading cards.

Mr. Vopelak replied that this would greatly increase efficiency and could be included in this grant; also there have been grants available in the past for the installation of the meter reading system.

Councilman Goslin said to keep it simple and follow two rules: keep the debt with the extension and extensions benefiting from the capital improvements consider spreading the debt to include them.

Supervisor Southworth asked the Board if they are willing to spread the debt to those new extensions since they are benefitting from what they are connected to; it seems fair and it was done in the past. New houses are being built and the connection fees are put into a pot and they are building up a lot of money, yet they are not paying toward the original debt. The Mourningkill Drive Subdivision has an established water district, BH-BL Water District No.2 Ext 22, but we have not accepted the water line. It could be made part of Water District No.2 Ext #7 and be responsible for paying toward the debt.

Supervisor Southworth asked Mr. Vopelak what he would need from the Town Board to proceed with the grant for water consolidation.

Mr. Vopelak asked the Board to give him a direction on what they want to do with consolidation. He will give the Board a proposal with rates and do the map and the chart.

Councilman Goslin stated the Board is looking to consolidate the water extensions starting with Water District No. 2 and create a model sharing operational and maintenance costs across the entire district with the simple rule to keep the debt where it is with the exception where fairness requires something different.

Supervisor Southworth will form a committee to work on water consolidation. She asked the present Water Committee, Councilwoman Hynes and Councilman Goslin, to work with the Town Attorney, the Water Superintendent and the Town Assessor and report back to the Town Board with a proposal.

Councilwoman Hynes thanked Mr. Vopelak for helping the Town Board understand the consolidation process.

DISCUSSION – TIMBER CREEK WATER EXTENSION PHASE II

Supervisor Southworth stated that the Timber Creek Water District Extension is off the agenda since the Town Board does not have the necessary updated documentation.

DISCUSSION – NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE FOR TEAMSTERS CONTRACT

Supervisor Southworth reported that a letter recognizing the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 294 as the Town of Ballston Highway Department Sole Collective Bargaining Agent was sent to the Teamster Union agent. The next step is to set up a negotiation committee and then to set up a schedule of meeting dates. Supervisor Southworth appointed Councilman Szczepaniak, Town Attorney Brower and herself to the negotiation committee for the labor contract.

Councilman Goslin made a motion for Councilman Szczepaniak and Councilwoman Stewart to represent the Board in the upcoming union negotiations.

Town Attorney Brower stated according to §36 of Town Law the Town Supervisor appoints the committees. He stated the committee would meet with the Teamster Union Agent, Mr. Quakenbush, and the elected Shop Steward.

Councilman Szczepaniak thanked Attorney Brower for being on the negotiation committee.

DISCUSSION – JANET V CORNERS PUDD

Councilman Goslin met with developer David Osher, Richard Doyle, Chairman of the Planning Board and Councilwoman Stewart for a discussion on the proposed Janet V Corners PUDD to alleviate some Town Board concerns. He will be adding the Rossi parcel of land so that there will be another entrance on Ballston Avenue and will add additional retail space. Mr. Osher volunteered to come before the Town Board to present these changes.

Town Attorney Brower stated this is a significant change to the proposed PUDD that was sent to the Planning Board. Mr. Osher needs to resubmit his package to the Board include new plans and map.

Councilwoman Hynes stated the Town Board's initial reaction to the change in the PUDD is that Mr. Osher has taken a positive step to address the Town Board's concerns. He has added more retail and addressed their important traffic concerns.

Councilwoman Stewart added this is more procedural matter since there was a substantial change to the PUDD.

Richard Doyle, Chairman of the Planning Board, said he will advise Mr. Osher to go to the Planning Board in January. It would not make sense to present his PUDD to the Planning Board this month with the significant change to the PUDD and then go through the Planning Board again.

DISCUSSION – PURCHASE OF A HIGHWAY VEHICLE

Councilman Goslin received quotes from Highway Superintendent Whalen for a pickup truck for \$22,588. He proposes to transfer \$30,000 from the Highway Reserve Fund to the Highway Equipment Fund.

Mr. Whalen said he presented his 10 Year Capital Plan to the Board and at the Budget Workshop the funds were put in the Highway Reserve Fund until the Board knew where they stood with the finances. Mr. Whalen said he feels the Building Department should get their vehicle first since they are using their personal vehicles.

RESOLUTION 12-236

PURCHASE A HIGHWAY PICKUP TRUCK

A motion was made by Councilman Goslin and seconded by Councilman Szczepaniak to approve the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Ballston transfer \$30,000 from the Highway Reserve Fund B to the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund and authorize

Highway Superintendent Whalen to purchase a pickup truck from Morris Ford for a sum not to exceed \$23,000.

ADOPTED	Ayes	3	Councilwoman Hynes, Councilman Szczepaniak and Councilman Goslin.
	Nays	1	Supervisor Southworth
	Abstain	1	Councilwoman Stewart

Supervisor Southworth was opposed to this resolution due to the policy and procedures set forth at a prior Town Board meeting concerning adding last minute items to the agenda. The purchase of the Highway pickup truck should come from funds in the 2013 budget.

Councilwoman Stewart abstained from voting on this resolution since she did not work on the budget.

A motion was made by Councilman Goslin and seconded by Councilwoman Hynes to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R. Shemo
Town Clerk