

Tonight's meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM at the Gardiner Town Hall by Supervisor Katz. Present were Councilmen Wiegand, Koenig and Mele and Councilwoman Lemmon. There were approximately 24± audience members. .

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Sponsored by the Gardiner Day Committee:

March 27 – Easter Egg Hunt - Majestic Memorial Park - Noon Sharp. Pre-register at the Gardiner Town Hall. Cost \$1.

April 3 – Easter Plant Sale Gardiner Fire Dept. 8 am to 3 pm

April 10 – tentative re-schedule date of the Gardiner Day Committee annual Spaghetti Dinner

May 1 – 50's 60's Dance to be held at the Gold Fox Restaurant

SUMMER RECREATION SIGN UP

The 2010 Summer Recreation sign up is announced as follows: Gardiner Residents - Friday April 23

4 pm to 6 pm and Saturday April 24 11 am to 1 pm. Open enrollment Friday April 30 4 pm to 6 pm and Saturday May 1 11 am to 1 pm.

2010 CENSUS

As a reminder, forms for the 2010 census have been mailed. Supervisor Katz encouraged everyone to complete them and return by April 1.

ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE - SHARED SERVICES

Vincent Martello, Asst. to the Ulster County Executive and David Bolles, Deputy Commissioner of Ulster County Public Works were present this evening to discuss with the Town Board the proposed Shared Services Plan and grant application. Mr. Martello prepared a Shared Services overview document that was distributed to the Board members and reviewed in detail. Mr. Martello believes that there will be a cost savings – a win/win situation for both the Town & County. Ulster County received a grant to study shared services and worked with Patterns for Progress and several representatives from Towns & the County to look at key areas of government that may benefit from such a project. They found that significant savings could be realized in highway services. The County Executive decided to pursue combining winter services with the Towns. A Town will not be required to participate, but if they would like to a commitment must be signed by mid-May to accommodate for budgeting. Mr. Bolles addressed the cost savings to the Towns. Depending on who participates, \$750,000 to \$1 Million per year can be saved just for winter maintenance. Each Town would have a personalized agreement according to what roads/miles will be taken over. The County is proposing \$4700/mile for winter maintenance, which is negotiable. There are approximately 22 miles of County roads in Gardiner. The Board will review and discuss this for a decision at a later time.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Greg Finger was present to discuss the Open Space Institute (OSI) application on behalf of Kiernan Farm for grant funding, to purchase the development rights of this farm. This is a 50% matching grant. OSI has requested that the Town of Gardiner become a funding partner. The Town of Gardiner Open Space Commission is recommending this as well. Representative Laura Wong-Pan has volunteered to negotiate a contract/agreement. The next step will be from the Kiernan's, to agree to move forward and obtain a full appraisal. The process to fund is long and arduous. Councilman Wiegand was concerned on how to get a fair and balanced appraisal. Mr. Finger suggested that the Town Board work closely with OSI to be sure of this. Supervisor Katz will schedule a meeting between the Town Board and OSI.

CELL TOWER UPDATE

Supervisor Katz stated that the court decision has been reviewed by two separate law firms. Councilman Mele believes that the value of an appeal is not necessarily in the best interest of the Town. Two (2) suggestions were made – take the opinion and the problems highlighted, correct the problems to come up with a solution for cell service or have an attorney review the problems, create a checklist to correct and then submit an application that would stand up to scrutiny. Councilman Wiegand needs to get a general consensus from the Board to move forward or not. He made a motion that the Town Board restate its intention to build a cell tower on Town property. This cell tower should be high enough to significantly improve the cell service in Gardiner, thereby, improving the communications of emergency service providers and the general public, while providing a steady stream of income to the Town. A second motion was made by Councilman Koenig and carried. Councilwoman Lemmon voted nay.

The next step is to contact attorney Rod Futerfas to create a checklist. Paul Colucci suggested breaking away from JNS Enterprises completely, allowing for the Town to keep all the revenue generated by the cell tower. He suggested building it ourselves and meeting with the opposing group to work out a reasonable option. There was a lengthy discussion about options, shorter towers, emergency need, the RFP process and what would be the best path to follow. Supervisor Katz believes 1.) go ahead with a checklist 2.) set up meetings with the opposing group and listen to other options as long as they are practical options. On motion of Councilman Mele, seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried, the Supervisor is authorized to engage Rod Futerfas to compile a checklist based on the Article 78 proceeding and get his opinion on how to move forward. He is to provide a written document that will include cost information. A second motion was made by Councilwoman Lemmon, seconded by Councilman Mele and carried, to schedule a meeting with all interested persons to discuss other options and to have a meeting facilitator present. Councilman Koenig voted nay.

VIDEO RECORDING OF MEETINGS

Councilman Koenig discussed with the Board the video recording of Town Board meetings. The Town received a \$3,000 grant to be used toward recording and broadcasting. The broadcast on the internet must be both visually and audibly clear. There are three (3) possibilities for broadcasting – 1. podcast recording, 2. create a power point including documents or 3. record video with audio. Mr. Koenig stated that this is still a work in progress and will have more information perhaps next week.

MINUTES

Minutes of November 5, November 10, December 8, 2009 were approve as written on motion of Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilwoman Lemmon and carried. Councilmen Koenig & Mele abstained. Minutes of January 5, 2010 were approved as written on motion of Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilman Koenig and carried. Councilwoman Lemmon abstained.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

John Habersberger – asked about the status of the old library building. Councilman Wiegand stated that it would be addressed at next weeks meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Koenig, seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher
Town Clerk