

The Workshop meeting of the Gardiner Town Board was held this date at the Gardiner Town Hall at 7 PM. Supervisor Katz resided, with Councilmen Wiegand, Koenig and Mele and Councilwoman Lemmon all present. There were approximately 36± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Gardiner Association of Business will be holding a mixer at the Minnewaska Lodge. For more information contact Leitha Ortiz-Lesh.

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Library Board Member Glenn Gidaly made a presentation about the Library. He covered the early history of the Library, the organizational aspect of the Library as well as budgeting, community support, materials circulated, the old library building, public access to their meetings, the new building and how it was paid for and the services offered. Supervisor Katz thank Mr. Gidaly for his report and commended the Library for their on-line newsletter.

SHARED SERVICES GRANT

Supervisor Katz reminded the Town Board that if we do not support the County resolution by the end of the month we will not be eligible for funds if the County is awarded the grant. Councilman Mele believes it is unfortunate that the Shared Service grant does not show a plan of how the money will be spent. He will not support this resolution. Councilwoman Lemmon stated that it could be a cost savings for the Town. Supervisor Katz said that the resolution never commits the Town to do anything. This may be a grant that is good for the Town in savings.

Resolution No. 78 – Ulster County Decentralization of Certain Highway Services

Co-Applicant Resolution Supporting Ulster County’s Submittal of an Application titled: Ulster County Decentralization of Certain Highway Services

Offered by Supervisor Katz

WHEREAS, the County of Ulster is undertaking the necessary research and development for the submittal of an application under the 2009-2010 Local Government Efficiency (LGE) Program to be titled Ulster County Decentralization of Certain Highway Services and in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000: and

WHEREAS, the decentralization of certain highway services is based upon recommendations contained in a New York State Department of State grant-funded Shared Municipal Services Study, and in particular, “Identifying Opportunities for Highway Service Cooperation in Ulster County” and is intended to increase Town highway revenues without burdening the Town with additional expenses and responsibilities which would exceed the increased revenues;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Gardiner believes that it is a laudable goal to save tax payers money through the decentralization of certain highway services and on that premise the reduction of the tax burden on the Town of Gardiner taxpayers, and on the basis that any such program will be entirely voluntary on the part of the Town of Gardiner, it supports the application of the County of Ulster to secure funding through the proposed Ulster County Decentralization of certain Highway Services.

Seconded by Councilwoman Lemmon and carried. Councilmen Koenig & Mele voted nay.

OLD LIBRARY/FIREHOUSE BUILDING

The old library/firehouse building at Station Square has been vacant now for eighteen (18) months. Councilman Wiegand said it is time to decide what to do with it. He suggested conducting an assessment and make a decision over the next two (2) or three (3) months. There are two (2) options – 1. fix it up 2. sell it.

Supervisor Katz has scheduled with a group of volunteers to do minor demolition work to see just how good/bad the building is. This evaluation will be on Saturday March 20. Councilman Mele asked if the

land could possibly be used for parking. Mary Beth Majestic, a member of the Gardiner Historical Society asked the Town Board to remember the historic aspect of the building.

CLOSING OF CERTAIN NEW YORK STATE PARKS

Resolution No.79-2010 - Opposing The New York State Governor's Budget Proposal That Would Result in the Closure of State Parks And Historic Sites And Supporting The Continuous Operations Of All State Parks And Historic Sites in Ulster County

Offered by Councilwoman Lemmon

WHEREAS, access to the state parks and historic sites are integral to Ulster County's tourism promotion efforts and are a major portion of the tourist activity that generates , according to Ulster County, \$471,000,000 within the County while supporting business enterprises that employs 8,000 individuals in the County, and

WHEREAS, such state parks and historic destinations provide Town of Gardiner residents important health and educational opportunities, and

WHEREAS, in order to meet the budget reductions proposed by the Governor, the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation would close or reduce hours at state parks and historic sites through out New York State, potentially including Minnewaska State Park, Senate House in Kingston and the Walkway over the Hudson in the Town of Lloyd, and

WHEREAS, these closings and reductions would dramatically impact the economic viability of many businesses within Town of Gardiner at a time when they are struggling to survive, and

WHEREAS, during these challenging times, the residents of Town of Gardiner deserve to have an affordable place to take their families, and

WHEREAS, the economic benefits of keeping parks and historic sites open far outweigh the savings achieved by the Governor's proposed budget cut

RESOLVED, that the Town of Gardiner does hereby oppose the closure or reduction in hours in any of the state parks located within Ulster County, and support their continued operations in order to sustain tourism, local businesses, and the health of our residents.

Seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried.

RECORDING OF MEETINGS

Councilman Koenig is requesting approval to spend a portion of the grant money received for video and audio recording of Town meetings. He is offering three (3) plans: 1. record the meetings separately and use podcasts for downloading, 2. With the podcasts a "folder" would be created for each meeting holding as many documents as possible from the meeting for their review. 3. video record the meeting with a camera at the back of the room with audio and use a free online service for viewing. A motion was made by Councilwoman Lemmon, seconded by Councilman Mele and carried, authorizing Councilman Koenig to expend up to \$1,000 of the grant.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Councilman Wiegand and the Business Development Committee has hired Linda Engler to design graphics of possible logos for the Town. Ms. Engler presented a series of options to the Town. Supervisor Katz will try to load the logos on the website and will hang them in the meeting room to allow residents to vote for their favorite.

KC FABRICATIONS

Supervisor Katz announced that KC Fabrications located on Steve's Lane has been commissioned to construct the 911 memorial that will be at Ground Zero. Sections will be completed and then transported to the City as each is finished.

MINUTES

On motion of Councilwoman Lemmon, seconded by Councilman Mele and carried, the January 12, 2010 minutes were approved as written.

SUPERVISOR MONTHLY REPORT

The February Supervisor report was accepted as presented on motion of Councilman Koenig, seconded by Councilman Mele and carried.

CLAIMS

The claims for February were approved for payment on motion of Councilwoman Lemmon, seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried. They are listed on Abstract # 2 as follows: General Fund voucher #66-105 \$17,871.16; Highway Fund voucher #43-49 \$28,393.08; Sewer District #1 voucher #3-4 \$2,046.86.79; Capital Transfer Station voucher #2-3 \$1,793.45; Library Fund voucher #9-18 \$5,850.72; Sidewalk Phase I voucher #1-2 \$10,271.56; Sidewalk Phase II voucher #1 \$70,299.69.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Resolution No. 80 – Transfer within Transfer Station Capital Project Fund – Offered by Councilwoman Lemmon

Resolved, pursuant to Section 112, Town Law, the 2010 Annual Budget, Transfer Station Capital Project Fund, is hereby amended to provide for transfers of \$5,829.88 from Acct No. 33-5720 BAN to Acct No. 33.01.1620.467 Engineer and \$5,793.66 from Acct No. 33-5720 BAN to Acct no. 33.01.1620.455 Building Contract .

Seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried.

SIDEWALK PROJECT

Councilman Mele questioned the total cost of the sidewalk project and how the grants are to be distributed.

HEALTH INSURANCE

As discussed last week, the Town is currently contracting with MVP Healthcare for a high deductible insurance plan. This plan will be in effect on April 1 and will save the Town approximately \$30,000. All employees will have “debit cards” to cover the high deductible. Supervisor Katz is requesting authorization to establish a fund to draw from. On motion of Councilwoman Lemmon, seconded by Councilman Koenig and carried, authorization was given.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Tanya Marquette – Presented a resolution regarding Gardiner Green Energy Task Force for the Board’s review.

Pam O’Dell – asked if the Town could find out if residents are allowed to remove dead fall trees on the trail at Awosting Lake.

Leitha Ortiz-Lesh – If park does close, what can the Town do?

Roberta Rinaldo – heard Minnewaska State Park was removed from the closing list.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Wiegand, seconded by Councilman Mele and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher, Town Clerk