

Minutes of the Village Board Meeting held at Town Hall on November 14, 2013 at 7PM

Present: Michael Queenan, Mayor
Neil Crouse, Timothy Egan and Thomas Flood, Trustees
Absent: David Sutz, Trustee
Also Present: Pasquale Prozzillo, Fire Chief; Scott McClennan, First Assistant Fire Chief; John Jones, Second Assistant Fire Chief; Maria Hunter, Planning Board; Kevin Abrams, Zoning Board

I. Public Hearing:

a. Dedication of Montesi Drive (for submission of documents only):

A public hearing, which began in January, was continued from the September 26 meeting for the sole purpose of the submission of any further documents and/or proof of compliance on part of WPF Construction Corporation regarding the offer of dedication of Montesi Drive. Mayor Queenan stated at this time there is only one easement outstanding. He is suggesting that the public hearing be closed. Motion was then offered by Trustee Egan, seconded by Trustee Flood, to close the public hearing.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Queenan, Crouse, Egan, Flood
NOES 0

Mayor Queenan noted that once the easement is received the Board will then entertain action on the acceptance on the offer of dedication.

II. Administrative Business:

a. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion was offered by Trustee Egan, seconded by Trustee Flood, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held October 24, 2013.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Queenan, Crouse, Egan, Flood
NOES 0

b. Approval of Abstract:

Motion was offered by Trustee Crouse, seconded by Trustee Flood, to approve Abstract 11 containing vouchers 130638 – 130749 and totaling \$344,184.49

ADOPTED AYES 4 Queenan, Crouse, Egan, Flood
NOES 0

c. Budget Modification:

The budget modification was withdrawn.

d. Fire Department Equipment Requisitions:

Motion was offered by Trustee Egan, seconded by Trustee Crouse, to approve Fire Department Equipment Requisition 2013-23 totaling approximately \$6953.15 for the purchase of EXO systems, steel auto lock carabineer and rescue belay and 2013-24 totaling approximately \$8776.80 for the purchase of SCBA bottles.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Queenan, Crouse, Egan, Flood
NOES 0

e. Advertise for Bids – Fire Chief Vehicle:

Motion was offered by Trustee Egan, seconded by Trustee Flood, to authorize the Village Clerk to advertise for bids for the purchase of a new Fire Chief vehicle to replace the 2007 Dodge Durango.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Queenan, Crouse, Egan, Flood

NOES 0

III. Old Business: *There was no old business to discuss.*

IV. New Business

a. Request for a Sewer Waiver – 96 Woodward Terrace:

Motion was offered by Trustee Egan, seconded by Trustee Flood, to approve the request for a temporary sewer waiver received from ECO Contracting & Property Management Corp., pursuant to Section 253-16 of the Village Code, on property described as Section 227, Block 1, Lot 6 (located at 96 Woodward Terrace). The waiver is approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Septic system shall be a gravity design, if possible, and is subject to the satisfaction of the Village Engineer.
2. The present owner must inform the future owner that the maintenance of the system, including a pump, if installed, is their responsibility and not the Village's.
3. Permanent connection must be made within one year of when connectivity to the sewer area becomes available.
4. The abandoned septic system shall be filled and inspected by the Building Inspector.
5. A dry sewer lateral from the street collection sewer line of the proposed building shall be installed and capped, subject to the Water/Sewer Department's satisfaction, prior to a certificate of occupancy being issued and in accordance with the "Dry House Sewer Lateral Detail" supplied by that Department.
6. These conditions shall be included in a declaration or deed restriction filed with the County Clerk in such a form as is acceptable to the Village Attorney. Proof of filing is to be filed with the Building Department prior to any certificate of occupancy being issued.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Queenan, Crouse, Egan, Flood
 NOES 0

b. Approve Formation of Town Lighting District – West Point Farms:

Motion was offered by Trustee Egan, seconded by Trustee Flood, to approve the Town of Woodbury Town Board forming a street lighting improvement district for the West Point Farms development and to show that the Board of Trustees is in favor of its formation as well.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Queenan, Crouse, Egan, Flood
 NOES 0

V. Board Member/Department Head Comments:

Trustee Flood asked if there was an update regarding his concerns about the safety of the off-site parking for employees at Woodbury Common. Mayor Queenan stated he did not have an update. Planning Board Chairperson Maria Hunter stated she is also a full-time employee in a store at Woodbury Common and understands the procedures in place for the off-site parking. Monday – Friday employees are permitted to park in the remote purple lot, on weekends they are required to park at the Harriman Train Station. Shuttle buses are available around the clock on weekend days (with a one hour break that occurs around 2AM). All stores have been given a telephone number for security that they can call to be escorted to their car or shuttle bus stops if they feel unsafe. Also the bus drivers are instructed to wait until an employee gets in to their car if they are asked to do so. Security personnel are also at the train station 24 hours a day on weekends. Trustee Egan asked if the Woodbury Common is responsible for the security personnel used to direct traffic and he was told they are. He has concerns about their inability to perform their job correctly, causing safety issues when directing vehicles. Mayor Queenan asked if an update can be provided on the improvements/upgrades that are supposed to be done to the

traffic lights on Route 32 outside Woodbury Common. Chairperson Hunter stated the Planning Board's traffic consultant is following-up on that issue and she will as well.

Chief Prozzillo stated as of November 4 all first responding apparatus and firefighters will be responding to and from the Highland Mills Firehouse. Since this change in protocol, turnout has been strong, at some times doubling or tripling.

VI. Public Participation:

Asa Blum, President of the Woodbury Fire Department and member of the Central Valley Fire Company (CVFC), spoke about his concerns regarding the response protocol instituted by the Fire Chiefs. He stated that the Central Valley Firehouse (CVFH) has been closed as of November 4 and all equipment/manpower has been moved to the Highland Mills Firehouse (HMFH). He is opposed to this change and feels that many members of the CVFC agree with him, although some are in favor. When the proposal was made by the Chiefs it was not introduced as a trial but as a mandate based on six months of response data. He feels that a decision of this magnitude should be made with much more data than what was used, adding that some of the causes for low response at the CVFH was due to lack of drivers. Drivers were lacking because no training has been available from Orange County until recently. He feels that as more drivers are qualified response will increase. He stated the pros to the change are that there will be better staffing for calls and more cross training of the two companies. The cons he feels are (1) response time to some areas of Town (citing specifically Woodbury Common, Interstate-87 and Route 6 – which are approximately 80% of calls received) will be affected; (2) by only having one station operational areas of Town may not be accessible if trees or wires fall across Route 32 blocking the roadway; (3) membership will decrease since some members of CVFH respond by walking or bicycling to the station; (4) CVFH will lose funds due to decreased membership and could then result in the closing of the station (which the building and property is owned by the members of the CVFC); (5) the change in protocol may violate some NFPA policies. He feels the Town will suffer with the CVFH being closed, effecting charitable organizations and community events, which he listed some of. He also feels this closing will also bring an end to the CVFC. He feels this procedure should be tested for 90 days to see if it is successful before it is considered fully implemented. Trustee Egan pointed out that Mr. Blum stated that the CVFH has been closed and this is the first he is hearing of this. Mayor Queenan stressed that **the CVFH has not been closed** and the Village continues to pay them rent for the storage for equipment and trucks there. Trustee Egan then noted that Mr. Blum that he feels six months of data is not enough to make this change but he is okay with a 90 day trial period to decide whether it will work. Mr. Blum stated that Orange County is currently offering driver training which he feels will greatly impact turnout that was lacking at CVFH. In addition, he feels during the pilot period the quality of responding members (junior vs. senior members) can be evaluated. Trustee Egan noted that a tree or wire being down can effect response time at both ends of Town so he does not feel that to be a valid argument. He then stated the Village Board does not direct the Chiefs how to operate their department and feels these issues should be brought to the Chief's attention.

Greg Hatzis, Vice President of CVFC, stated he is uncomfortable speaking before the Village Board because it bypasses the chain of command and could widen the rift that exists between the two companies. Members of the CVFC requested a meeting with all three Chief prior to the November 4 closing but one was not granted. He requested that select members of the CVFC, the three Chiefs and the Board members (acting in their capacity of Fire Commissioners) meet and discuss this change. He noted that members have been threatened with suspension if they respond to CVFC and not HMFH. The CVFC currently only houses the brush truck (which is a seasonal apparatus) and a back-up engine. He feels it is being utilized as a garage instead of a second station. Trustee Egan note that it would be

against Open Meetings Law to conduct a meeting in the manner that Mr. Hatzis is requesting. He asked if the engine that is at the CVFH always been there and always been considered a secondary apparatus and Mr. Hatzis stated yes. The only truck that moved to HMFH is the rescue truck, which is what CVFH was specialized with. Mayor Queenan stated he was told that meetings were held with members of both companies to discuss the changes. Mr. Hatzis stated one meeting was held on October 21 and the membership was told these changes were being implemented, no input was received. Many members considered resigning after the meeting was held since CVFH was being closed. He requests that the Fire Chiefs reopen the CVFH and allows members to respond to calls from that location.

Jonathan Swiller that he understands the difficult position the Board is in not wanting to undercut the Fire Chief but also being responsible to the members of the CVFC. He suggests that the meeting requested be held but with two Board members attending so no law is violated.

Chief Prozzillo stressed that the CVFH is not closed. Drills will continue to take place at this station and only one apparatus was transferred from there to HMFH. When the proposal was presented to the members they were told it would be for a trial period and no time limit set. It would be evaluated as time goes by. Meetings of the officers of the Woodbury Fire Department are held monthly, consisting of four officers from each house and the three Chiefs, at which this proposal has been discussed without opposition. Regarding using six months of data to make this decision, he pointed out that he has been a member of the Fire Department for many years and lack of response from the CVFH is a pattern that has gotten progressively worse. Regarding the statement that the County has only recently begun offering driving classes, they have been doing so for years but only recently have had issues with getting instructors. He sends emails to the members regularly of classes offered by the County. He then noted that the turnout to attend the meeting tonight is better than for calls. If this was the turnout normally, then a change in response protocol would not be needed. He feels the concerns stressed by the members of the CVHF are from a social standpoint and social clubs should not be a factor in this decision making. His responsibility as Fire Chief is to the residents of the community to ensure that coverage is available when needed.

Donald Guerrieri stated he is a member of the CVFC and that it would not be fair to judge the new procedure that has been put in place on its success because he knows it will succeed because the membership will adapt and overcome its differences.

Mayor Queenan thanked the members of the CVFC for their comments and noted the Board will take them under advisement but does not want to commit to anything at this point. He feels that it the decision made by the Chiefs was a sound one. Trustee Flood stated he likes that the Board is open to the comments of the members and stressed they were listened to. Trustee Egan stated he has personally spoken with members of both Fire Companies individually so he can be as informed as possible on this issue. He believes there has been a lot of communication and it will continue.

VII. Adjournment:

With no further business to conduct or comments received, a motion as offered by Trustee Egan, seconded by Trustee Crouse, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55PM.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Queenan, Crouse, Egan, Flood
 NOES 0

Desiree Potvin, Village Clerk