

Minutes of the Village Board Meeting held at Town Hall on February 28, 2013 at 7PM

Present: Michael Queenan, Mayor  
Neil Crouse, Timothy Egan and David Sutz, Trustees  
Absent: Thomas Flood, Trustee  
Also Present: Maria Hunter, Planning Board; Robert Weyant, Highway Superintendent

**I. Public Hearing:**

a. Montesi Drive Dedication Continued – Documents to be Submitted Only:

A public hearing was continued from the January 24 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 noted that there are two issues that remain outstanding: easements and bonding. The easement issue seems to be resolved and the bonding issue will be settled upon dedication of the road. Due to these issues, a motion was offered by Trustee Egan, seconded by Trustee Sutz, to continue the public hearing to March 28, 2013 at 7PM for the sole purpose of the submission of any further documents and/or proof of compliance on part of WPF Construction Corporation.

**ADOPTED**      AYES    4            Queenan, Crouse, Egan, Sutz  
                     NOES    0

**II. Administrative Business:**

a. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion was offered by Trustee Sutz, seconded by Trustee Egan, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held February 14, 2013.

**ADOPTED**      AYES            3            Queenan, Egan, Sutz  
                     ABSTAIN        1            Crouse

b. Approval of Abstract:

Motion was offered by Trustee Crouse, seconded by Trustee Sutz, to approve Abstract 17 containing Vouchers 121083 – 121158 and totaling \$143,317.34.

**ADOPTED**      AYES    4            Queenan, Crouse, Egan, Sutz  
                     NOES    0

c. Appointment of Part-Time Deputy Village Clerk (10 hrs/wk):

Mayor Queenan noted the purpose of this appointment is to increase hours of Village Hall to be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from Noon – 5PM. The additional hours would be for mail and message retrieval, cover sick and vacation time and assist Clerk Potvin with office work. This individual will also be an additional signee for auditing purposes. Trustee Egan stated it is his belief that this position is absolutely necessary for the continuity of business. In addition, it will enable Clerk Potvin to take time off and not have to be concerned about the work left behind. Trustee Crouse stated he is in agreement with this appointment based on the reasons stated. Motion was then offered by Trustee Sutz, seconded by Trustee Egan, to appoint Jessica McClennan as a part-time Deputy Village Clerk effective March 6, 2013 at a Step VA, Grade 1A (\$14.96 per hour) on the non-union schedule. This position will be ten hours per week.

**ADOPTED**      AYES    4            Queenan, Crouse, Egan, Sutz  
                     NOES    0

**III. Old Business:**

a. Request to Change Election Date:

Mayor Queenan stated a letter was received from the “Citizens for the Preservation of Woodbury” asking the Village Board to pass a resolution to place a proposition on the June ballot to move the Village election from June to November. The organization sites the reason for their request is the low voter turnout

experienced in June 2012 and they believe that the move to November will enfranchise our 6000 plus register voters in Woodbury. They also believe it will save money and they reference other villages that hold elections in November. Mayor Queenan noted that in 2012 the Village Board held its first June election and it had a very poor turnout, but it was expected due to the fact that the election was uncontested. The November 2011 General Election (which was for the positions of Supervisor, two contested Council seats and a contested Highway Superintendent) had a total of 1577 individuals vote, meaning 4423+ did not. The cost of the Villages 2012 election was \$1483.40 (which would cost a resident with property assessed for \$100,000 \$0.26). Although there would be no cost to the Village for elections held in November, there still remains the cost that the County would charge the Town which is ultimately paid for by the taxpayers. He believes the real issue that would exist by changing the election to November is the potential for additional primaries. He feels that Village government is the closest and purest form of government for the people. Individuals can come together to form a bipartisan party and run a candidate or slate of candidates. In addition, only 10% of Villages in New York have their elections in November. Mayor Queenan also pointed out that Village candidates on the ballot would be located on the far bottom right, which can be easily overlooked and confusing to a voter. He does not believe that cost is a valid concern and that voter turnout is an educational issue. He believes residents are still adjusting to the Village, adding that there are residents that still do not realize that they live in a Village. When the election was proposed to be moved from March the Board did consider November, but decided on June as the best choice. He feels it would be a hasty reaction to change the election again after just one experience with June. Trustee Egan asked if there would be party ballots with a November election instead of independent parties and Mayor Queenan stated there could be. Trustee Crouse stated the Village Board works together as a bipartisan effort, noting the Board is concerned solely with Village issues and not national one. He added that only 43 out of 500+ Villages hold their elections in November and he sees no reason to change the date. Mayor Queenan stressed that he feels it is important that everyone over the age of 18 registers to vote and that all that are able to vote should do so. Trustee Egan added that moving the election to November appears that Village offices will be lost on the ballot even though turnout would be increased. He likes that party lines have nothing to do with Village elections and agrees the Board focuses solely on Village issues. He is here because it is the closest you can come to affecting the lives of friends and family. Motion was then offered by Trustee Egan, seconded by Trustee Sutz, to keep the Village's General Election as the third Tuesday in June at this time based on the discussion held.

**ADOPTED**      AYES    4            Queenan, Crouse, Egan, Sutz  
                      NOES    0

**IV. New Business:**

a. Closing of Escrow Accounts:

Motion was offered by Trustee Egan, seconded by Trustee Crouse, to close the following escrow accounts as recommended by the Building Department: D479 WPC Associates, D484 Corestates, Inc., D464 SMA/Monroe, D482 Merkley Building Corp., D483 O & R Facilities. These accounts had applications before the Planning Board and they are now complete and all consultant fees have been paid.

**ADOPTED**      AYES    4            Queenan, Crouse, Egan, Sutz  
                      NOES    0

b. Resolution - Orange County Mutual Aide:

Motion was offered by Trustee Egan, seconded by Trustee Sutz, to adopt the following resolution authorizing participation in the Orange County Mutual Aid Plan, as recommended by Fire Chief Scott McClennan:

**RESOLVED** that the Village of Woodbury Board of Trustees ("Village Board") approve the participation by the Village of Woodbury Fire Department ("Department") in the Orange County Fire Mutual Aid Plan as now in effect and as amended from time to time ("Plan"), and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Village Board acknowledges and accepts its financial responsibility for such participation pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 209(2)-(4); and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Village Board and Department agrees to comply with all the provision of this Plan and will respond to all calls for assistance from another fire company or fire department through the County Division of Emergency Communications; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Village Board, to the best of its knowledge, know of no resolution or agreement against “outside service” by the Department that would affect the power of such Department to participate in the Plan; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Mayor of the Village of Woodbury is hereby authorized to sign the Plan; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that Village Clerk Desiree Potvin will deliver to the County of Orange Fire Coordinator a certified copy of this resolution upon adoption.

**ADOPTED**      AYES    4            Queenan, Crouse, Egan, Sutz  
                     NOES    0

**V. Public Comment:**

Ben Meyers stated he appreciates the thoughtful comments made regarding the request to change the election date. He feels that poor voter turnout is an issue country-wide and he writes in his newspaper to encourage people to vote. He suggested that the Board consider some type of voter education action. Mayor Queenan stated he would be more than willing to make himself available to any type of event that helps education the public on voting. He feels that by voting with a strong turnout it proves to Albany and Washington DC that Woodbury is a force to be taken notice. Trustee Egan stated the turnout we received shows that only 2-3% of the population is making decisions on behalf of the entire community. He feels we need more people to understand what is going on and exercise their right to vote.

Jonathan Swiller stated he does not have strong feelings regarding moving the date of the election. A letter was sent to the Photo News recently that contained errors which he would like to correct. The letter claims that the voters are disenfranchised by the vote being held in June. He believes that since the only June election held to date was uncontested it is expected that voter turnout would be low. He noted that when there is a contested election OCEAN will offer to sponsor a debate, as it has in the past, and he feels there would be more coverage in the local papers.

**VI. Board Member/Department Comment:**

Trustee Crouse stated the Southeast Orange County Traffic Task Force and Land Use Committee had a meeting this past Tuesday to continue with the plan and will be putting together a presentation for local officials. He noted that County Legislator Roxanne Donnery has a face-to-face meeting with our new Congressman to invite him to attend and an invite will be sent to the Governor’s Office.

**VII. Adjournment:**

With no further business to discuss or comments received, a motion was offered by Trustee Egan, seconded by Trustee Crouse, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35PM.

**ADOPTED**      AYES    4            Queenan, Crouse, Egan, Sutz  
                     NOES    0

Desiree Potvin, Village Clerk