

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham held December 6, 2005 at the Town Building in Oak Hill, N.Y.

Present: Robert Elpel - Councilman
 Jodi Wood- Councilwoman
 Linda Sutton – Councilwoman
 William Carr – Councilman
 Gary Hulbert – Supervisor

Recording Secretary: Charles Soderblom – Town Clerk
 Others Present: Wesley Moore – Highway Superintendent

The Supervisor called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag at 7:32 PM. Thirteen people were present.

Supervisor Hulbert thanked Alana McKiernan of the Durham Community Planners Incorporated for the information and cover letter they provided for our QC Grant. Mr. Hulbert also received a fax from New Baltimore regarding interest in the Property Tax Reform. He needs a resolution to submit a resolution to the Association of Towns to proceed.

The meeting was closed and the Public Hearing on the Armstrong subdivision was opened by the Supervisor. Mr. Armstrong is subdividing 6.389 acres from his property on the corner of Hervey Street and County Rt. 20. **Mr. Elpel made a motion which Mrs. Sutton seconded, to approve the subdivision. All were in favor and the motion carried. The subdivision Public Hearing was closed and the meeting reopened.**

Peter Byrne and Tara Flanagan brought before the board a boundary line change. They will receive 0.046 acres from J. MaCalinden in exchange for 1.208 acres in the rear of their property. Attorney Rappleyea will review the plan and make his decision known on January 3.

Stanley McCafferty brought a major subdivision before the board. They are planning to subdivide their property into 6 lots. Attorney Rappleyea will review and they will return on January 3.

Otto Suwara brought a subdivision before the board. He is changing the boundary line. The board reviewed and scheduled a public hearing for January 3, pending approval from the town attorney.

Mrs. Sutton offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**COUNTY OF GREENE
 TOWN OF DURHAM
 RESOLUTION
 DECEMBER 6, 2005**

**RESOLUTION ON SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM TO BE SUBMITTED FOR
CONSIDERATION TO THE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS OF THE STATE OF
NEW YORK AT ITS 2006 ANNUAL MEETING**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Durham hereby finds that the property tax burden facing the residents of the State of New York, the majority share of which is levied by local school districts, is excessive and unfair insofar as property values are not properly representative of a taxpayer's ability to pay, and is particularly burdensome on older taxpayers who are retired and living on a fixed income, and notwithstanding the property tax relief offered by the STAR Program, the increases in school property taxes over the life of the STAR Program have exceeded the property tax relief offered under said program and these property tax increases threaten the ability of these taxpayers to remain in their homes that they have lived in for many years, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that insofar as this is a problem of statewide significance requiring immediate action at the State level, and necessitates a united effort by all towns to call upon the Governor and the Legislature to enact necessary reforms to New York State's current system of education finance, the Town Board of the Town of Durham does hereby submit, for consideration by the Association of Towns of the State of New York at its 2006 Annual Meeting to be held February 19-22, 2006, the following Resolution to be incorporated into the Association of Towns 2006 Legislative Program, in the following suggested form:

WHEREAS many residents of the towns throughout the State of New York have expressed their collective concern regarding high property taxes, and

WHEREAS the majority share of property taxes paid by residents of the towns throughout the State of New York are levied by local school districts, and

WHEREAS local funding for public education for school districts located within the towns of the State of New York is provided almost exclusively through property taxes, and

WHEREAS the use of property taxes to pay for the local funding of education is not representative of a taxpayer's ability to pay for the cost of public education, and

WHEREAS the welfare of many homeowners is jeopardized by the rapid increase in property taxes levied for public education, particularly those on fixed incomes who cannot afford to pay these increasing costs, and

WHEREAS the increasing burden of public education on taxpayers also impacts on the ability to provide adequate revenues to fund services and to fund Town-specific and local initiatives important to the well-being of the community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Towns of the State of New York does hereby appeal to New York State public officials to implement new measures for financing public education that will include a change in the local source of funding for public education to a tax based on income instead of a tax based on property values, in order to best reflect a taxpayer's ability to pay.

Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Durham on the 6th day of December, 2005.

Ms. Wood seconded the motion . All were in favor and the motion carried.

Ms. Wood made a motion which Mr. Carr seconded to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session for a personnel matter at 8:17 pm.

Mr. Hulbert called the meeting back to order at 8:44 pm.

The town clerk, Charlie Soderblom asked if anyone would be attending the teleconference on December 12.

Ms. Wood made a motion which Mrs. Sutton seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm.

Minutes approved:

Charles G. Soderblom, Town Clerk