

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham held February 4, 2003, at the Town Building in Oak Hill, N.Y.

Present: Robert Young - Supervisor  
William A. Carr, Jr. – Councilman  
Robert Elpel – Councilman  
Gary Hulbert - Councilman  
Linda Sutton – Councilwoman

Recording Secretary: Chris Kohrs – Deputy Town Clerk

Others Present: Wesley Moore - Highway Superintendent  
Tal Rappleyea – Town Attorney  
Charles Soderblom – Town Clerk

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. with the Pledge to the Flag. Nine people were present.

Mr. Young reviewed a letter received from PERMA explaining that they will not be allowed to attend the Association of Towns Annual meeting in February because one of their association-sponsored programs competes with PERMA. They will hold their own reception at the Sheraton Hotel next door on February 16<sup>th</sup>, invitations will be sent. They also ask that members of PERMA let the association know that they are disappointed that PERMA is not permitted to attend the trade show.

Mr. Rappleyea explained a letter received from the state law department regarding disability benefits as it pertains to the employer. Senator Volker has introduced a legislation that would amend the section of law that governs how settlements and future benefits for disabilities are applied to plaintiffs. Currently public employee and employers do not get the same reduction in settlement proceeds that private entities do when the employees sue them. This change would give the public employer the same benefit in a reduction for the future of disabilities to be paid under a lawsuit situation. Senator Volker is asking that the town pass a resolution supporting the proposed legislation. The board asked Mr. Rappleyea to review the legislation and share his findings with the board.

Mr. Young reported that he received a letter indicating that in the next three years the federal government is going to buy voting machines.

Milestone sent a letter indicating that they are adding two channels to their service for an additional \$2.55 per month.

John Farrell of the Greene County Department of Emergency Services will hold a meeting February 25, in Catskill and has requested two representatives from each town to attend. Mr. Young and Dr. Goldstein will attend.

The board received additional information on the Hudson River Greenway. Mr. Carr stated that he was under the impression that the Executive Director of the program has

offered to attend a meeting to make a presentation of the program. Mr. Cullie had an opportunity to speak with the executive director and at his request; she will attend the next board meeting.

Mr. Cullie as president of the Durham Task Force presented the board with a draft of a letter to Kelstar Industries, LLC thanking them for their generous offer and explaining that as the "Library Committee" is not a legal entity they could not accept the donation. The attorney for the town is exploring other ways that the town may be able to accept the donation and apply it to the library. The board gave their approval for the letter to be sent and look forward to hearing from the attorney within the next week or two regarding this matter.

Mr. Young explained that he had received a letter from Chuck Schumer's office regarding a bill introduced to provide one time funding aid to local governments. Once he receives additional information, he will forward the information to Wes.

The board approved a minor subdivision on Saybrook Valley Road for Mr. and Mrs. Moore.

Mrs. Sutton inquired if the town has applied for the chips program. Wes explained that he has spoken with John Ryan and everything is set. The letter the board received informs us that we are now able to apply over the internet.

The grant committee received a wish list from the police department and Mr. Cullie asked if they could forward it to Senator Seward's office for grant consideration. After a brief discussion, Mr. Carr made the motion seconded by Mr. Elpel with all in favor.

Mr. Young brought to the attention of the board; there are some fully certified individuals in the town who have approached him about joining the police department. Mr. Carr suggested that these individuals contact Sergeant Sutton.

Mr. Cullie asked if any of the board members have reviewed what the county is proposing with the redistricting and how it will affect the town. Mr. Carr explained he believes that the town of Durham will be held relatively harmless because we have not had a significant population change. Mr. Young shared his opinion that the county should return to a board of supervisors because the supervisors knows the needs of the town best.

Mr. Young made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Chris Kohrs, Deputy Town Clerk