

Minutes August 2, 2016

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham held August 2, 2016 at the Town Hall commencing at 7:27 p.m.

Present: William Carr, Supervisor
Shawn Marriott, Deputy Supervisor
Joan Breslin, Councilmember
Jerry Cunningham, Councilmember
Nick Nahas, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Chris Kohrs, Town Clerk/Collector

Others Present: Joe van Holsteyn, Highway Superintendent
Lenny Asaro, Code Enforcement Officer
Lois Rockefeller-Building & Code Clerk
Patricia Fetty, Deputy Town Clerk
Tal Rappleyea-Attorney
John Van Tassel-Animal Control Officer (7:59 p.m.)
Gordon Bennett-Assessor (8:08 p.m.)
Aiden O'Connor-Legislator (8:10 p.m.)
20 community members

The meeting called to order at 7:27 with the pledge to the flag.

Supervisor Carr notified the audience that he had received communication from Governor Cuomo's office that the 2017 budget cap for Town of Durham will be .6%.

Attorney Rappleyea introduced Mr. Jackson from Lamont Engineering, the engineering firm hired to represent the Town of Durham regarding the Site Plan Application from Dollar General.

Mr. Jackson commented that the first review of the proposed project raised the following concerns, traffic (will request a traffic analysis), storm water drainage, and parking. Councilmember Cunningham raised concerns regarding traffic as well. The application only mentioned delivery traffic coming off of State Route 145 and entering the property via Brown Road. Councilmember Cunningham would like to see more info regarding traffic pattern information for all traffic entering and departing the project. It was mentioned that Dollar General will need to apply to the NY State DOT for a driveway permit. Typically prior to NY State DOT issuing a permit a traffic study would be conducted to evaluate, site distance, the amount of traffic, as well as, the speed.

Several residents from the west side of Allan Teator Road spoke to the board regarding the condition of the road. The board was given a list of concerns (narrowness of road in spots, dust, washing out of driveways) as well as suggestions on how the road could be improved (grading, paving). (See attached)

Highway Superintendent van Holsteyn explained how the highway department budget worked regarding the maintenance of the 79 miles of roads (16 miles unpaved). Each road is given a

priority rating based on its current condition and traffic volume. He also explained that Allan Teator Road is a public use highway and prior to any modification of the current road bed the town would need to negotiate an agreement with all property owners. Due to the grade of the road it may not be safer to have the road paved in certain areas. Hwy Superintendent van Holsteyn estimates that to pave the west side of Allan Teator Road would cost between 3-4 million dollars.

Discussion followed. The residents also complimented the highway department on the efficiency of snow removal, as well as, the cleanup following the recent storm.

Past Hwy Superintendent Moore commented fifteen years ago the highway department did a reclamation project on the east side of Allan Teator Road and just for that ½ mile stretch the project cost the town approximately \$124,000.

Councilmember Cunningham mentioned that those traveling Cunningham Road are not obeying the speed limit and perhaps enforcement of the speed limit would help.

Assessor Bennett informed the board letters were mailed to property owners informing them that his office would be coming around soon to perform a scratch inventory. He has one application for a data collector and he will place an ad in the help wanted section of the paper soon. He anticipates having personnel in place mid to late August and hopes to have the data collection completed within three months. The data collectors will arrive at each parcel with a blank card. They will measure all structures and plot on the card. Additionally, with the approval of the property owner, the data collector will conduct either a verbal inspection or a physical inspection of the residence to identify number of bathrooms, bedrooms, type of heat etc. Once the newly collected information has been compared to the information on file in the assessor's office a data mailer will be sent to property owners to review the information and confirm if it is correct or not. Property owners have the right to decline participation in the project. If they do then the assessor's office will use other resources to try to determine a fair assessment (google, real estate sites, past data collected etc.). However, they would prefer to have each property owner participate so that the assessments remain fair and equitable to all. Property owners are welcome to make an appointment with the assessor to review the assessment information on file for their properties.

The current assessment rate is 77.4%. The scratch data collection is the first step the board will review to analyze if they would like to conduct a re-valuation project. The Town of Durham has approximately 2,400 parcels of which approximately 1,500 are residential.

Legislator O'Connor informed the board that the County Wide EMS Task Force will be meeting August 9th and still has the Town of Durham as an unknown regarding if they are committing to participate in the program. Supervisor Carr explained that the councilmembers have discussed the project and currently feel that Durham Rescue and Greene County Paramedics are adequately responding to the needs of the community. Adding, until the proposed program can show how they would improve on the current program (service and cost), we would decline to participate. Legislator O'Connor asked for a formal letter stating the position of the Town of Durham in this project.

Legislator O'Connor will have updates at the next meeting regarding the negotiations with the Greene County Paramedic budget and the County Jail building project.

A resident asked where the town is with renewing the contract with Mid-Hudson Cable. Supervisor Carr commented that we have held off signing the contract renewal in hopes of learning that additional money will be awarded to the county to improve cable and internet service through a grant project. Legislator O'Connor added that he had just received an email stating that an announcement would be made at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday regarding this very topic.

Supervisor Carr opened the demolition bids for Wayside parcel id 22.00-1-37 located at 7444 Rt. 81, East Durham.

Classic Environmental Inc.	\$74,860.00
David Frueh	\$44,750.00
Dan's Hauling	\$36,500.00

The bids were handed to Code Enforcement Officer Asaro to review for compliance with the job specifications.

Councilmember Nahas motioned to enter into executive session at 8:53 p.m. to discuss pending litigation, seconded by Councilmember Breslin. All in favor motion carried. (5-years, Carr, Breslin, Cunningham, Nahas, Marriott)

Councilmember Nahas motioned to return from executive session at 10:34 p.m. with no action taken, seconded by Councilmember Breslin. All in favor motion carried. (5-years, Carr, Breslin, Cunningham, Nahas, Marriott)

Councilmember Nahas motioned to adjourn at 10:43 p.m. seconded by Councilmember Breslin.

Respectfully Submitted;

Chris Kohrs, Clerk/Collector