

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham, County of Greene and the State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 7309 State Route 81, East Durham, NY on the 15th day of October.

**PRESENT:**

William Carr	--	Supervisor
Linda Sutton	--	Councilperson
Jerry Cunningham	--	Councilperson
Nick Nahas	--	Councilperson
George Deckers	--	Councilperson
Chris Kohrs	--	Town Clerk

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Joe van Holsteyn-Highway Superintendent, David Cunningham-Building Inspector, Cindy Moore-Bookkeeper and 2 community members.

Supervisor Carr called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Supervisor Carr began by explaining his thoughts on the proposed community center. He believes we need to have a meeting with the residents to see if they are in favor of a community center and to determine what the residents envision the community center offering as far as conveniences and services. Mr. Deckers asked who would oversee the center and who the focus of the center would be. Mr. Carr stated he sees the current reading room relocating to the center to increase its space, availability, and internet. Perhaps have televisions so senior groups could gather and socialize etc. Middle and high school students would use for internet service for school related projects and job searches. The young children could gather for story time and crafts etc.

Supervisor Carr addressed the concern received from the fire departments regarding comments from the October 7 meeting. He stated he was under the impression that the departments have a financial reserve which is maintained to assist in offsetting expenses. He wondered if the departments would share the amount of their reserves so the board could fully understand their budget needs. Mr. Weaver with Oak Hill Durham Fire Co. explained that there is a reserve that is raised through fund raising to offset the difference between what the department needs and what the town approves.

Escalating equipment and training costs as well as state mandates regarding training and equipment standards, decreasing fundraising revenue and membership has greatly depleted the reserve funds. Emphasizing that when the town approves less than what is requested the fire departments are left in a vulnerable financial situation. For instance, the cost of turnout gear is between \$1,800 to \$2,500 one set. Mr. Carr asked if the department has an account with \$20,000 of unencumbered funds and Mr. Weaver responded with no. It was also clarified that the town does not retain any of the tax money levied for the fire departments.

The board reviewed the proposed budget received from the Supervisor. Bookkeeper Moore explained that the projection received from NYS Retirement for 2014 was under estimated again which caused the town to apply funds from the surplus to offset the increase. Mrs. Moore stated there is an upcoming workers' compensation audit and it is her intention to address the classifications for highway workers hoping to adjust the cost increase premiums downward.

Mr. Cunningham raised a concern with the plan to motor pave Cunningham road. He acknowledges the increase in traffic however, is concerned that if the road is improved speed will increase leading to more accidents. Would oil and stone be satisfactory and lower cost? Hwy Superintendent van Holsteyn will provide the cost difference at the next meeting. Hwy Superintendent van Holsteyn explained he is trying to keep the plan in place that was established by past Highway Superintendent Moore to motor pave 1 mile of highly traveled road per year. Currently the cost to motor pave one mile is approximately \$75,000. The proposed highway budget shows the current park maintenance employee going from part time to full time. He will be utilized to assist with the snow removal and equipment/building maintenance.

Hwy Superintendent van Holsteyn informed the board that he is researching a boom mower that could be utilized for ditch mowing and would allow us to cut back brush along the backside of guard rails and far side of ditches that our current mower cannot reach. The mower is fourteen years old, located in Pennsylvania and is listed as being in fair condition with fifteen hundred hours. It could be purchased through an auction website. The current bid is at \$3,700. A brand new boom mower would sell for approximately \$88,000.

Hwy Superintendent van Holsteyn would like permission to follow the auction progress and possibly bid if the item was a favorable price. **Mr. Cunningham motioned to approve the request to bid on the boom mower provided the money is in the current budget seconded by Mr. Carr. All in favor motion carried.** (5-years Carr, Sutton, Cunningham, Nahas, Deckers)

The board will meet on October 29 at 6 p.m. to finalize the proposed budget.

Mr. Cunningham motioned to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. seconded by Mr. Carr.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chris Kohrs, Clerk/Collector