

NORTHUMBERLAND TOWN BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2009

The Regular Monthly Meeting was called to order @ 6:30 PM by Supervisor Willard Peck. Following the salute to the flag, roll call was taken. Those attending included Supervisor Willard Peck, Councilman Paul Bolesh, Councilman Daniel Gale, Councilman George Hodgson and Councilwoman Patricia Bryant. Also attending was Clerk Denise Murphy, Highway Sup't Neil Petteys, Town Attorney Douglas Ward and Building and Zoning Administrator Richard Colozza.

Marlene Bissell, President of Hudson Crossing Park, Inc came before the Town Board providing an update of the activities at Hudson Crossing Park to date and where they are heading for the future. Mrs. Bissell provided Town Board Members with a Calendar of Events for 2009 at Hudson Crossing Park:

April 19, 2009: Canal Clean Sweep

June 6, 2009: National Trails Day/Canal Way Trails Day

June 30, 2009: Tentative date to welcome the Steamboat Excursion

August 8, 2009: 5th Annual Cardboard Boat Race – A Canal Splash Event

August 29, 2009: 5th Annual Hudson Crossing Festival

September 12, 2009: Tugboat Roundup in Waterford

Mrs. Bissell wanted to know how the Town Board wanted to collaborate as we move forward. Mrs. Bissell gave a quick history of how Hudson Crossing Park came about and what they have accomplished in the last 10+ years. Hudson Crossing Park is a bi-county educational park involving Washington County and Saratoga County. Hudson Crossing Park, Inc is not only involved with the Lock 5 Island, but Stark's Knob and Knox Trail Pocket Park. Hudson Crossing, Inc is hoping to obtain federal funds to preserve Dix Bridge, which connects Washington County and Saratoga County, for foot traffic. There are beautiful trails that go out to Eagle Point (Northern Point). One of the biggest projects to date is the Children's Garden. There is also a Canal overlook pavilion; a floating dock was installed in 2008. Mrs. Bissell stated the Lock 5 Island is in the Town of Northumberland and the Town of Saratoga. Mrs. Bissell stated that Lakes to Locks Passage has invited Hudson Crossing Park, Inc. to be a local heritage center, which will be the first outdoor one. This past summer Hudson Crossing, Inc. received a Lakes to Locks Passage Partnership Award. Hudson Crossing Park Educational Center has always been intended for a state of the art "Green" Environmental Education Center. This would be the Center of this beautiful park. Mrs. Bissell stated that originally the goal was to kick off a capital campaign in 2009, but with the economy the way it is right now it is unrealistic to start a campaign in 2009. Mrs. Bissell stated instead, Hudson Crossing Park, Inc will use 2009 to complete all the Planning to make it "Shovel" ready so when the funds come, the project can be immediately started. Mrs. Bissell stated that River Street Planning did a feasibility study. Hudson Crossing Park Inc will not start construction on the Environmental Education Center until there are funds on Board. The cost of the Center is estimated to cost Twenty Million Dollars. Mrs. Bissell stated that Hudson Crossing Park, Inc is fiscally conservative. Supervisor Willard

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Peck stated back 5+ years ago the Town of Northumberland become involved in the Hudson Crossing Park project. At that time the Town obtained a Use & Occupancy Permit from Canal Corp to funnel State and Federal money for this project. Mr. Peck asked if once the grant money is used up, will Canal Corp still require the Town of Northumberland to hold the Use & Occupancy Permit? Mrs. Bissell stated a Use & Occupancy Permit can only be with a Municipality and not with a "Not for Profit". Councilman George Hodgson explained a Use & Occupancy Permit, which is for small improvements such as trail work. Once you do a big project they require a Lease. NYS Attorney General has given his opinion regarding surplus canal land. Surplus canal land can only be transferred to municipalities for park purposes. Councilman George Hodgson would like the Town Board to consider requesting the Attorney General's opinion regarding surplus canal land being transferred to a "Not for Profit". An opinion would also need to be addressed regarding "Sub-Leasing" if a Lease cannot be issued to a "Not for Profit" organization.

Mrs. Bissell stated that the Environmental Education Center could go in three sites: Washington County/Saratoga County; Canal or non-Canal land; or private or "Not for Profit" land. Mrs. Bissell stated the #1 site for Hudson Crossing Park Inc is to place the Environmental Education Center on Canal Corp land in the Town of Northumberland. It is the best location, so perfect in relationship to the trails, play garden and boat launch. Hudson Crossing Park, Inc is not looking for financial support from the Town of Northumberland for the Twenty Million Dollar project.

Mrs. Bissell stated Hudson Crossing Park Inc has received approval for a \$181,000 Grant to complete the river walk trails; \$25,000 to design the kayak launch; \$25,000 to build the kayak launch and \$11,000 for the replication of a 19th Century Canal Lock Tenders Shanty. Hudson Crossing Park Inc has also received funds from the Hudson River Foundation for 6 interpretive signs for children. Mrs. Bissell stated they are pursuing obtaining money for a floating classroom.

Mrs. Bissell thanked the Town Board for the opportunity to come tonight.

Supervisor Willard Peck informed the Town Board that he was contacted by Steven VanGuilder, President of Moreau Emergency Squad regarding the 2009 contractual amount for emergency services. The Town of Northumberland approved \$65,000 for the squad for 2009. The tax bills have already been sent out. Mr. VanGuilder asked Supervisor Peck if the Moreau Emergency Squad Board Members could come tonight and talk with them. Andrea Delvaux stated back in 2006 he came before this Town Board regarding 3rd party billing, and putting on some paid paramedics.

Mr. Delvaux stated in 2008 Moreau Emergency Squad responded to 1839 calls. They were broke up as follows: 631 calls – Village of South Glens Falls (34%); 620 calls – Town of Moreau (34%); 403 calls – Mutual Aid calls; and 185 calls – Town of Northumberland (10%). Of the 1839 calls only 17

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were not answered by Moreau Emergency Squad (less than 1 %). Mr. Delvaux stated in 2008 they only increased their volunteers by 8 new members, 14 members resigned.

Mr. Delvaux explained 3rd party billing. The Moreau Emergency Squad now does the 3rd party billing in house and that is a paid position. Mr. Delvaux gave a breakdown of costs. Mr. Delvaux stated they are anticipating a \$40,000 deficit for 2008 that is why they requested an additional \$40,000 between the towns of Moreau and Northumberland and the Village of South Glens Falls. The reimbursement for 3rd party insurance in 2008 was \$51,749.00; you add that to the Northumberland's contract of \$65,000.00 that totals \$116,749.00 which doesn't even cover one paramedic 24 hours a day.

In 2010 Moreau Emergency Squad is looking at a Building Expansion. Mr. Delvaux stated they'll be looking for contractual support for this project: 60% from the Town of Moreau and Village of South Glens Falls (\$36,000); and 40% from the Town of Northumberland (\$24,000). Moreau Emergency Squad covers all of the Village of South Glens Falls, Town of Moreau and the northern part of the Town of Northumberland.

Mr. Delvaux stated General Schuyler Emergency Squad answered 750 calls in 2008. Only between 40 and 50 were in the Town of Northumberland. Moreau Emergency Squad answered more calls than General Schuyler Emergency Squad. Moreau Emergency Squad is also looking at a building project yet General Schuyler Emergency Squad's 2009 contract is for \$106,505; and Moreau Emergency Squad's 2009 contract is for \$65,000.

Supervisor Willard Peck explained that General Schuyler came before the Town Board regarding the need for a new building and the need to put money aside for a down payment for such a project.

Supervisor Willard Peck stated when he became Supervisor; he would talk with the previous Moreau Supervisor to come up with a fair breakdown for ambulance service for the northern end of the town. The Moreau Emergency Squad was given a 5% increase in their 2009 contract with the Town of Northumberland. Supervisor Peck stated he discussed this with Steve VanGuilder, and he thought this would be fine originally. Mr. VanGuilder, though, called him in January and said there was a problem with the 2009 Contract of \$65,000. Unfortunately, again, the tax bills were already mailed out. Supervisor Peck stated the Town Board does not prepare the Emergency Squad budget. The southern end of Northumberland has a much cheaper fire tax, but a higher emergency squad tax than the northern end of Northumberland. Mr. Delvaux stated that the Village of South Glens Falls and the Town of Moreau together pay \$225,000 for ambulance services; while the Town of Northumberland pays \$65,000. Supervisor Willard Peck asked what were they looking to get out the Town Board tonight.

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Mr. Delvaux stated the Moreau Emergency Squad sits down with Town of Moreau Town Board during budget time to answer questions regarding their budget request.

Kaylee Baker stated the members of the Moreau Emergency Squad weren't here tonight requesting money for a new piece of equipment; they need money to run the day to day operation and maintain a high quality service. Moreau Emergency Squad stated they were seeking \$100,000 from the Town of Northumberland for 2009. Councilman Daniel Gale stated the reason General Schuyler Emergency Squad received a jump in their contract was to allow them to establish a down payment for their new building. General Schuyler's budget increase is not fixed. The Northumberland Town Board will look at this when preparing the town's 2010 Town Budget.

Councilman Daniel Gale stated he is not against the Town of Northumberland paying our fair share for ambulance service, but when you look at what the Town of Northumberland is paying under and the contract and what you are receiving in 3rd party billing for the Town of Northumberland, Town of Moreau and the Village of South Glens Falls, Northumberland residents are paying almost double per call.

Councilman Daniel Gale stated the emergency squad and the Northumberland Town Board need to sit down and communicate. The Town of Northumberland does not have slush funds. We need to hold a budget workshop in September when it is budget time. We need to compare apples to apples.

Councilman Daniel Gale stated he is recommending to the Town Board that quarterly financial statements and activity reports are provided to the Town for emergency services.

Mr. Delvaux was provided a copy of the proposed 2009 contract for their review with their Attorney. Town Attorney Douglas Ward told Mr. Delvaux to have the Moreau Emergency Squad's attorney call him with any questions.

Mr. Delvaux thanked the Northumberland Town Board for meeting with them tonight.

APPROVE MINUTES

1. Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to approve minutes of the January 8, 2009 Organizational Meeting. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
2. Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion to approve minutes of the January 8, 2009 Regular Monthly Meeting. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried

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CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Town Board received a letter from Canal Corp regarding the Clean Sweep Program. Hudson Crossing Inc will be participating and they will hold their Canal Clean Sweep on April 19th.
2. The Town Board received a letter from Christine Kilburn, Clerk for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, regarding recommendations for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2009. The Planning Board is recommending that Wayne Durr be appointed Chairperson and Brit Basinger be appointed Vice Chairman. Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion to appoint Wayne Durr, Chairperson and Brit Basinger, Vice Chairperson for the Planning Board for 2009. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The Zoning Board of Appeals is recommending Mark Boyce be appointed Chairperson and Clinton Barber be appointed Vice Chairperson for 2009. Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to appoint Mark Boyce, Chairperson, and Clinton Barber, Vice Chairperson for the Zoning Board of Appeals for 2009. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The Zoning Board of Appeals has asked that Patricia Brennan be removed as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals since she has not attended a meeting since being appointed two years ago. Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion to remove Patricia Brennan as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals and to appoint Julie Trollip as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Councilman George Hodgson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
3. The Town of Northumberland received notification from Paul Lent, Emergency Services ,that there may be FEMA money available for the ice storm in December. Highway Sup't Neil Petteys will contact Paul Lent to see what the Town needs to do.

RESIGNATIONS

1. Diane Ives resigned as Dog Control Officer for medical reasons effective February 1, 2009. Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion requesting the Town Clerk to advertise the opening. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Edward Cross, Town of Saratoga Dog Control Office, is covering until someone is appointed. Mr. Cross will receive \$50 per call out.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Schuyler Park: Councilman Daniel Gale reported the site is closed for winter. The rough grade is complete. Schuyler Park Inc received two (2) donations: \$25,000 from the Hedbring Foundation and \$25,000 from the Stewart's Shop.

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2. Update on Hudson Crossing: Councilman George Hodgson stated the Town Board heard from Mrs. Bissell, President of Hudson Crossing, Inc earlier tonight. There is nothing new to report.
3. Moreau Emergency Squad 2009 Contract: Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to authorize Supervisor Willard Peck to sign the Moreau Emergency Squad 2009 Contract in the amount of \$65,000 contingent upon the approval of wording by the Moreau Emergency Squad's Attorney. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion.

Supervisor Willard Peck – “Aye”

Councilman Paul Bolesh – “Aye”

Councilman Daniel Gale – “Aye”

Councilman George Hodgson – “Aye”

Councilwoman Patricia Bryant – “Abstain” Motion adopted

4. General Schuyler Emergency Squad and Schuyler Hose: Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to authorize Supervisor Willard Peck to sign the 2009 contract with General Schuyler Emergency Squad in the amount of \$106,505 and the 2009 Contract with Village of Schuylerville/Schuyler Hose in the amount of \$109,000 contingent upon the review of the wording on the contracts by Town Attorney Douglas Ward. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Septic Bids: The Town Board solicited bids for the pumping of septic tanks in Sewer District #1, and the septic tank at the Town Hall for the year 2009. The following sealed bids were opened and read: Empire Septic Service - \$459.04 per thousand; IBS Septic - \$175.00; Stone Industries - \$149.50 per thousand; and Morning Star - \$150.00 per thousand. Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to award the bid to Morning Star @ \$150.00 per thousand. The increase is minimal and the Town Board prefers to do business located within the town and they have done an outstanding job in the past. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
2. Bids for Unlead and Diesel Fuel at the Highway Garage: No bids were received and Saratoga County has not awarded their 2009 bid for unleaded and diesel fuel. Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to table until March's Town Board Meeting. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor.
3. Town Attorney Douglas Ward presented a proposed Local Law #1 of the year 2009 – Eligibility of Appointment of the Town Attorney. Town Attorney Douglas Ward provided a brief history and the need for this Local Law. Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion to hold a Public Hearing on

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March 5, 2009 @ 7:15 PM. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

DESIGNATIONS

1. Supervisor Willard Peck presented the following transfers for the Town Board's consideration:

To: A1220.1 - \$900.00 (to cover the wage for the Deputy Supervisor)
A1950.4 - \$3.00 (to cover the expense of property tax Brampton Lane)
A3510.1 - \$360.00 (to cover the wages for Dog Control Officer/January)
A5010.2 - \$2,400.00 (to cover the expense of the Highway Sup't software)
A5010.4 - \$600.00 (to cover the expense of the Highway Sup't software support)
From: A1990.4 - \$4,263.00 (Contingency)

Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to approve transfers as presented by Supervisor Willard Peck. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

2. Councilman George Hodgson made a motion to approve vouchers for payment as presented. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
3. Town Clerk Denise Murphy provided an "Annual Software Support Contract" for the Town Clerk and Highway Superintendent for the Town Board's consideration. The Town Clerk's contract is for \$575.00 and the Highway Sup't contract is for \$375.00. Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion authorizing the Supervisor to sign the Annual Software Support Contract for the Highway Superintendent in the amount of \$375.00 and the Town Clerk in the amount of \$575.00. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Supervisor Willard Peck stated it has been brought to his attention that the Municipal Accounting Software does not come with the Payroll Software that is an additional \$2,850.00 for the software and an additional \$770.00 for the software support. Supervisor Willard Peck called Kathy Sayadoff with Williamson Law Book Company and expressed his dissatisfaction with the additional cost for the payroll program. Supervisor Willard Peck stated he would have assumed the Municipal Accounting Software would come with the Payroll Software. Kathy Sayadoff called Supervisor Willard Peck and provided him with a new price. The payroll Software package will now be \$1,425.00 and the software support will be \$625.00. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant made a motion authorizing the Town Supervisor to sign the Payroll Software and support proposal with the fee for the payroll software being \$1,425.00; the software support in the amount of \$625.00. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

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4. The Town Board received deeds for filing for the two parcels the Town Board purchased from Saratoga County for unpaid taxes: 142. – 1 – 53 and 142. – 1 – 78. These parcels were purportedly owned by Donangelo Inc and constitute the road and drainage area in the Virginia Place Subdivision. Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion authorizing the Town Supervisor to sign the Quit Claim Deeds conveying the deeds for S/B/L parcels 142. – 1 – 53 and 142. – 1 – 78. Councilman George Hodgson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Daniel Gale made a motion @ 10:05 PM to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. Councilman Paul Bolesh seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion to reconvene the regular monthly meeting @ 10:15 PM. Councilwoman Patricia Bryant seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

No action was taken during Executive Session. Councilman Paul Bolesh made a motion to adjourn the Regular Monthly Meeting @ 10:20 PM. Councilman Daniel Gale seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Denise Murphy
Town Clerk

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