

STONY POINT TOWN BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

A Regular Meeting of the Stony Point Town Board, Rockland County, NY, was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. at the Stony Point Community Center (Rho Building), 5 Clubhouse Lane, Stony Point, NY. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Councilman Geoffrey Finn
Councilman Louis Vicari
Councilman James White
Councilwoman Luanne Konopko
Supervisor William E. Sherwood

ABSENT: None

Public Input

George Potanovic, 597 Old Gate Hill Road, President of S.P.A.C.E. and member of the Rockland Coalition for Sustainable Water spoke regarding the environmental and economic issues with the proposed desalination plant in the Town of Haverstraw.

Councilman Vicari indicated that four out of the five towns within Rockland County were opposed to the plant and Stony Point was one of them.

Daniel Siruso, 4 Govan Drive, spoke regarding the Historical Society of the Palisades Interstate Park and their proposal to repair and maintain Pyngyp Schoolhouse.

Susan Filqueras, 87 Mott Farm Rd., spoke regarding:

- The need for a Stony Point Historical Society
- The desalination plant and the need for a sophisticated sewage plant to handle the waste from it.

Purchase Orders

It was moved by Councilman White, seconded by Councilman Finn and carried by a voice vote to approve the following Purchase Orders:

Highway	PO#2261	Campbell Foundry Company	\$7,181.00
Police	PO#2234	Hoselton Auto Mall	\$19,548.60
	PO#2235	Hoselton Auto Mall	\$28,523.99

Audit of Bills – None

Reports – None

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Sherwood reported that a tragedy occurred today with a fatal train/pedestrian accident. He went on the report as follows:

While I couldn't make the dinner myself I understand the Senior Club had a very successful fish dinner with an overflow crowd last week. All reports are it was a howling success and a great Stony Point event.

We also had a Supervisor's meeting last week with the representatives of 4 of the 5 towns to discuss matters including negotiations that we all think should be done on a countywide basis to benefit all of our towns. As the smallest town this is especially important to Stony Point. Last week we met with the emergency medical service provider in an effort to cut the cost of that expensive and vital program. Haverstraw and Stony Point have contracted jointly in the past and we will affect some savings by joining together this year but all towns contract for this service and negotiations are proceeding for at least the 4 towns that were present to limit the expenses for all of us.

We will be scheduling regular meetings on at least a monthly basis with a meeting shortly to discuss police issues. The entire county used to be run by a board of Supervisors consisting of the supervisors of the 5 towns and we will not return to that system but there are many items outside the County Legislature's authority that are of special concern to the towns that could be addressed on a countywide basis and that is our goal.

The Highway Department helped out this past weekend when a large tree fell blocking a portion of the golf course in a very sensitive area and they were able to respond and alleviate the problem.

I want to thank Larry and his men for the prompt response and for cleaning up the problem so our course could operate successfully.

Larry Brissing and his crew will also be working with a volunteer to harvest some stone from abandoned buildings in Haverstraw for use on an appropriate sign at the entrance to the Patriot Hills complex. I also have consulted with assemblyperson Nancy Calhoun about the possibility of having the Parkway signs changed at exit 14 to reflect Patriot Hills instead of the long defunct Letchworth Village.

With the boards authorization we have had an expert appraiser in to look at the surplus property and we located a map that we hope will be adequate to complete the appraisal and start promoting the development of this land.

Ms. Sciscente has been working on some substantial utility savings that we discussed at the last meeting and will have a report for us in executive session about a new contract that will result in a substantial savings.

The Shoprite opening is on track for the end of October and they are preparing to erect a sign on our right of way at the Holt Drive entrance pursuant to an easement that has been in place since 1983. The Building Inspector and Ms. Verrier have reviewed the plan and are satisfied it meets the code and is permissible under the easement agreement.

The new traffic signals have been installed at Holt Drive and they will be put in operation next month on blinker to get traffic used to their presence.

Councilperson Konopko has been working to develop the required citizen's advisory panel to qualify us for Community Development funds that may be available in the coming year. I know Larry Brissing provided some names and if there are any others the board would like to nominate please get them to her.

Both Councilperson Konopko and the REDC have alerted the town to DEC's Brownfield program which could possibly provide some funding for cleanup of environmental problems in the Town and especially in the unused buildings here at Patriot Hills.

There may be other areas where we could benefit from this "cleanup" money as well.

I want to extend our congratulations to Officer Pedro Garcia for his participation in the Indian Point Drill this month. We received a very complimentary letter from Chris Jensen the program coordinator that will be entered in Officer Garcia's personnel file.

We have a report from the planning board that they do not feel they have authority under current zoning to grant a special permit for the construction of the new building in a BU zone and we are going to recommend that the code be amended to allow that use and if the board has no objection I will ask the planning consultant and the building department to draft appropriate language so we can move that process and the very important project along on a prompt schedule.

A preliminary budget is almost ready for presentation. As most of the board is aware we had a budget this year where that avoided a huge tax increase by borrowing from reserves and depleting our reserves by about 40%. This year we must make up that one time fix and handle contractual increases in many areas. The budget picture is not a pleasant one and I have notified all departments to consider the possibility of necessary layoffs in the coming year and further cutbacks in services without substantial revenue increases the town cannot sustain the services we now provide.

Discussion

Councilman Finn questioned former grant monies for a handball court.

Supervisor Sherwood stated that Assemblywoman Calhoun advised she has located the \$10,000 grant from 2004 and it is still available. She also has a matching funds grant for resurfacing the tennis courts. The issue now is can the \$10,000 recreation grant be used as matching funds for the tennis court work. This is being explored.

Councilman Vicari questioned status of our grant writer's training.

Councilwoman Konopko indicated that it she has completed her training and is researching grant possibilities. There is another two day class that she would also be interested in attending.

Town Clerk Joan Skinner announced that she had preliminary notification that the Town was awarded approximately \$15,000 from the New York State Archives for the records retention area from a grant she had submitted in January 2010.

Master Plan Update

Councilwoman Konopko read the following:

TO: SUPERVISOR WILLIAM SHERWOOD AND THE
STONY POINT TOWN BOARD
FROM: ROBERT GENESLAW, AICP
CC: WILLIAM SHEEHAN, BUILDING INSPECTOR
JOAN SKINNER, TOWN CLERK
MAX STACK, AICP
SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN UPDATE
DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2010

A Draft Comprehensive Master Plan was reviewed at a meeting with Bill Sheehan, Max Stach and I on Wednesday, September 15, 2010. Each of us is following up on specific issues with target for completion of Thursday, September 24, 2010. Once this information is compiled into the document we will be sending the draft to the Comprehensive Plan Commission and scheduling a meeting with them within the next few weeks to review the draft, modify or accept as submitted. The next step after acceptance of the CMP by the Committee is its referral to the Town Board. We anticipate the referral to the Town Board in time for the October 26th meeting date, assuming that the CMP does not request significant additional research or document modification. If we can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Assessor- Adjusted Base Proportions

A motion was made by Councilman Vicari and seconded by Supervisor Sherwood to accept the Certificate of Base Percentages and the Certificate of Adjusted Base Proportions pursuant to Article 19, RPTL for 2010 as presented by Assessor Jack O'Shaughnessy.

DULY ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Mr. Vicari, Ms. Konopko, Supervisor Sherwood
NAYS: Mr. Finn, Mr. White

Use of Commuter Lot

A motion was made by Councilman White, seconded by Councilwoman Konopko and **carried** by voice vote to approve the Lions Club request for use of the commuter parking lot on Saturday, October 9, 2010 for a charitable sidewalk sale with a rain date of Saturday, October 16, 2010.

Seminar – Finance Director

A motion was made by Councilwoman Konopko, seconded by Councilman Finn and **carried** by voice vote to approve the Finance Director's attendance at the NYS GFOA Downstate Fall Seminar in Eastchester, NY at a total cost of \$190.

Police Management Study

Councilman White spoke regarding the Police Management Study that has been commissioned by the Town of Orangetown and other measures that might be available to address the issues regarding the growing police budget.

Councilman Vicari indicated that the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Service provides this service at no cost to the municipality.

Chief Brophy suggested that a study of all departments within the Town should be undertaken.

SHSP Homeland Security Grant

A motion was made by Councilwoman Konopko and seconded by Councilman Vicari to authorize Supervisor Sherwood to execute the agreement with the County of Rockland for reimbursement of overtime costs in the amount of \$1,184.04 (Mobile Field Force MCATI Course per SHSP Homeland Security Grant).

DULY ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Mr. White, Mr. Vicari, Ms. Konopko, Mr. White, Supervisor Sherwood
NAYS: None

Sewer Incident – Ann Avenue

The request for reimbursement of expenses for a sewer backup at 2 Ann Ave. was discussed. A motion was made by Councilwoman Konopko and seconded by Councilman Vicari to submit this entire claim to our insurance company. If the claim is rejected, the town will reimburse the homeowner for the \$1,650 plumber's bill and revisit the cost of replacing the shed at a later date.

DULY ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Mr. White, Mr. Vicari, Ms. Konopko, Mr. White, Supervisor Sherwood
NAYS: None

SEWER – Evaluation Report

A motion was made by Councilwoman Konopko and seconded by Councilman White to accept the proposal from H2M Architects & Engineers for professional services at the Sewer Plant at a maximum cost of \$7,500.

DULY ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Mr. Finn, Mr. Vicari, Mr. White, Ms. Konopko, Supervisor Sherwood
NAYS: None

Appropriation of Properties by the NYS DOT

Discussion developed regarding the Appropriation of Properties by the State of New York Department of Transportation under eminent domain regarding the Route 9W & Main Street intersection.

The Town Board directed counsel to review.

Main Street/ Rt. 9W Intersection

A motion was made by Councilwoman Konopko, seconded by Councilman White and unanimously **carried** by voice vote to accept Parking Lot Alternative #1 offered by the New York State Department of Transportation, and on file with the Town Clerk, for the Main Street/Route 9W Intersection.

Discussion:

- Regarding the old Stop & Shop shopping center.
- Supervisor Sherwood asked for clarification on an e-mail from Special Counsel dated 9/24/10 regarding the equalization rates.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilman Vicari, seconded by Councilwoman Konopko and carried by a voice vote to adjourn into executive session at 8:50 pm.

Reconvene

A motion was made by Councilwoman Konopko, seconded by Supervisor Sherwood and carried by a voice vote to reconvene the September 28, 2010 Town Board meeting at 9:55 pm.

Electric & Gas Services For Town Facilities

A motion was made by Councilwoman Konopko, seconded by Councilman Vicari and **carried** by a voice vote to authorize the Supervisor to enter into contract agreements pursuant to the recommendations of the Director of Finance for a two year period for electric service with ConEdison Solutions Inc. at 0.07022 per kWh and Hess Small Business Services for gas service at 0.7105 per Therm.

Grant Writer

Councilwoman Konopko announced that after the meeting had adjourned for executive session an anonymous donor from the audience offered to pay for the grant writer's attendance at the two day class.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Supervisor Sherwood, seconded by Councilman Finn and carried by a voice vote to adjourn the September 28, 2010 Stony Point Town Board meeting at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Skinner
Town Clerk