

**Stillwater Town Board  
Agenda Meeting  
October 2, 2008      7:00 PM  
Stillwater Town Hall**

**Present:**                      **Councilman Artie Baker  
Councilman Ken Petronis  
Councilwoman Lisa Bruno  
Councilwoman Virginia Whitman  
Supervisor Shawn Connelly**

**Also present:**              **Sue Cunningham, Town Clerk  
Mark Minick, Supt of Highways  
James Trainor, Attorney for the Town  
Joe Lanaro, Engineer for the Town**

Supervisor Connelly called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.

Sue Cunningham, Town Clerk took the roll call.

**Adoption of Minutes:** **Motion** by Councilman Petronis and seconded by Councilman Baker to adopt the minutes of the September 4, 2008 Agenda Meeting of the Stillwater Town Board.

**Motion carried.**

**Communications:** Sue Cunningham reported that a PDD application was submitted in regard to the proposed Saratoga Cluster PDD off of 9P and the Budget was submitted to her. Copies of both have been submitted to Board members.

**Reports**                      (Town Board & Department Heads)

**Supervisor Connelly**

**Budget Message:** By law on Tuesday September 30<sup>th</sup> I submitted my very first tentative budget. This was my very first budget and I took this responsibility very seriously. Working very closely with Councilwomen Ginger Whitman and the Office of Fiscal Management, we soon realized that following the previous administration's financial practices and figures that I would have to sharpen my pencil and tighten the belt on spending. Understanding the condition of the economy and what the taxpayers of the Town of Stillwater wanted and needed from their local government, I found it very necessary to take a "Budget Journey" that would limit spending and still be able to carry on the task of operating the Town Government with no loss of services. This 2009 budget does just that, and I submit this budget with confidence, and the hope that we can continue to work on this budget and future budgets with tax stabilization as our major goal.

I ran on a 5 year Tax Stabilization Program in effort to keep taxes level for that time period. The 2008 Budget is a document that was submitted by my predecessor and the Town Board and, in this 2009 Tentative Budget we have to provide funding for some of the programs listed in that 2008 Budget. Because of that, it becomes very difficult to stabilize taxes in the 2009 Budget. However, the current Stillwater Town Board will now take the Tentative Budget presented by the supervisor and conduct workshops and come up with a Preliminary Budget to present to the taxpayers of the Town of Stillwater. Each member of the town board is aware that our goal is to protect our taxpayers in a time of financial uncertainty!

The tax rates in my Tentative Budget are as follows: The general fund will be \$1.23 per thousand; some 6% lower then the increase in last years budget. The General Fund includes \$.89 in the General Fund, \$.20 in the Library Fund, and \$.15 in the Ambulance Fund; The "B" Fund which is General Outside Village is \$.26 per thousand and with the higher prices of gas and paving to name a few major increases that effect the Highway Department that rate is \$1.30 per thousand up only

15.9% compared to the 46.6% from 2008 presented from the previous administration. Lastly the Stillwater Fire District is at \$1.0335 a 9.89% increase.

In closing I respectfully submit this 2009 Town of Stillwater Tentative Budget to the Stillwater Town Board with anticipation of Budget Workshops so that we can present a 2009 Preliminary Budget to the Taxpayers of the Town of Stillwater. Following a Budget Hearing in early

November, the Town Board will then have the responsibility of adopting the 2009 Town of Stillwater Budget

### **Councilman Baker**

Water Tower Lease: Councilman Baker stated that he would like to see the rate increased on the Water Cell Tower Lease Agreement. He requested executive session to discuss the contract.

### **Councilman Petronis**

Water: Councilman Petronis stated that he attended a water meeting with the Village and that it went very well.

Councilman Baker requested a follow up on the gutters.  
Councilman Petronis will check on the status.

### **Councilwoman Bruno**

Community Center: The most recent audit should be completed soon. There was one issue regarding a vehicle that the Center is making payments on. Once that is clarified, the audit should be completed.

Celebration of Friends is scheduled for November 8, 2008 at Panza's.

The Center has extended its deadline for Biddy ball sign ups until the end of October.

The center will hold a Halloween party on Friday, October 31, 2008 – starting at 6 P.M.

The status on the grant that was issued to the Community Center from Senator Bruno's office is: there was a revision on the application and they are waiting for the final paperwork from the Department of State to move forward toward the "request for proposals" to do the work on the Kitchen.

The Bylaws Committee has been meeting and has addressed the need to clarify or change some language in the Bylaws. When the process is complete the Board will meet to accept the new Bylaws.

Lastly, The Center has hired a Head Counselor for the School-Age-Child Care Program. Her name is Laura Stewart and is a resident of the Town of Stillwater.

Library: The Library has received their first installment on their grant from Senator Bruno's office (43<sup>rd</sup> district) to restore the structure of the building.

Police Commission: The police have received their new police cruiser and it is very nice. The Chief and the Town Board have agreed to a three year contract with Dennis Latham to stay on as our Police Chief.

Negotiations are underway with the rest of the department and will be taken up at the next meeting.

### **Councilwoman Whitman**

Fiscal Management: Councilwoman Whitman requested on behalf of the Director of Fiscal Management that the Board consider extended the auditors contract one year seeing this was her first year involved. Doing this would help the process go a little smoother and faster next year. A discussion was held and they decided to have a Resolution for the next meeting to extend the contract one year.

Surplus Equipment: Councilwoman Whitman stated that she has been discussing with the Town Clerk on options of disposing surplus equipment. She requested that Councilman Baker and Petronis work with the Town Clerk on this.

Budget: Councilwoman Whitman stated that she did work along the Supervisor and Bookkeeper on the budget. She stated that the Town did inherit some debt at no fault to them. She stated that some changes were made with the Historians budget, instead of it being in the A & B fund it's now all in the A fund and the 911 budget is in the B fund instead of the A fund.

Grants & Member Items: Councilwoman Whitman stated that \$60,000 for sewer district #2 had been received and they know exactly where the money was posted to. She stated that she still believes the \$60,000 showing in the Highway revenue account for this year was a mistake. Supt Minick stated that it was possible. He stated that he has a list of the funds that were suppose to be coming to them. He believes that the \$60,000 was dedicated for sewer.

Councilwoman Whitman commented on the \$300,000 coming for water, sewer, and road infrastructure but no paperwork has been received yet, when they have already spent \$74,000. A discussion was held on this.

Councilwoman Whitman inquired about funding for road improvements in 2006 for \$90,000 which has not been received. She stated that \$90,000 came in for 2007 and wanted to know if paperwork was ever done on the \$90,000 for 2006.

Supt Minick stated that he just did paperwork for \$110,000 for the Riverside Drainage.

A discussion was held on the \$90,000 for 2006.

Supt Minick will look into this.

### **Supt of Highways (Mark Minick)**

Catch basins: Supt Minick stated that they are working on revising highway standards for catch basins, retention basins and pavement structures which should be completed shortly. Once they are completed they will need to be adopted and added to the highway specs.

CSRP: Supt Minick reported that he has been working Chazen and Creighton-Manning in regard to Cold Springs Road and things are moving along.

Water: Supt Minick reported that they are regulating, testing and installing new water meters.

Sand: Supt Minick reported that the first sander has been installed and they are prepping the trucks and plow frames.

Pick up Trucks: Supt Minick stated that the surplus trucks went through the auction today and they had bids of \$600 and \$800 which he declined. He stated that he believes they could get more than that for the trucks.

Bid (small dump truck): Supt Minick stated that he received an estimate of \$3,600 in interest if they do a three year lease program.

Resolution: Supt Minick requested a resolution to out to bid for gas, diesel and heating oil.

Councilwoman Whitman inquired about putting a price on the surplus trucks and offering them to a resident.

Discussion was held on how to proceed.

It was decided to try one more time at the auction seeing that they already are over there.

Councilman Baker inquired if the Town would be receiving a reimbursement for the soil hauled away for the Boilerhouse.

Supt Minick stated that a bill for reimbursement has been submitted to Chazen in regard to the contaminated soil.

### **Town Attorney (James Trainor)**

CSRP: Attorney Trainor stated that he has been working on the CSR closings and have completed approximately 21 to date. He stated that there maybe 4 or 5 that they will have to litigate.

Codification: Attorney Trainor stated that he is making progress on the codification.

AMD: Attorney Trainor reported that AMD has submitted a PDD amendment application and on October 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a Planning Board & Town Board joint meeting for a presentation from AMD.

Supervisor Connelly recommended that they start the meeting at 6:30 PM.

### **Town Engineer (Joe Lanaro)**

Engineer Lanaro submitted a report to the Board and briefly went over the report. (Copy on file in the Town Clerks Office)

Supervisor Connelly inquired if the Boilerhouse work has been completed.

Engineer Lanaro reported that the soil has been removed and now DEC will do a final review.

Councilwoman Whitman inquired about the methane gas situation up in Turning Point.

Engineer Lanaro stated that there was nothing to report.

### **Public Input**

Resident I commented on the Mechanicville Animal Law, Stillwater Animal Law and the Canine Control Officer. He also commented on RV's, boats, and trailers being stored in the back of the park.

Supervisor Connelly stated that they have no control over Mechanicville's Animal Law and the park is making an area in the back for residents to park their campers, boats, etc.

Resident II inquired why it was difficult to trace grant monies, community center grants and the Riverfront Park.

Supervisor Connelly stated that the Community Center files for its own grants and administers them.

Councilman Petronis stated that the monies used to buy the Riverfront Park came from a member item out of Senator Bruno's Office and that Town money was not used to purchase the property.

Resident III inquired about the Town's audit, if the Community Center has a personnel manual and budgeted money given to the Community Center.

Supervisor Connelly stated that he is hoping to schedule an exit meeting next week on the audit and he believes the Community Center has a policy in place. He said that the Town budgets money every year for the Community Center and that it is not increased throughout the year.

Resident IV commented on AMD in regard to water & sewer. He asked if GE is responsible for the PCBs in the river why nobody is going after GE and make them provide good drinking water to the Town.

Supervisor Connelly stated that there is a group of 5 or 6 municipalities that have been meeting who are looking at the possibility of a lawsuit. He said that the County is contributing \$100,000 but most Attorneys want approximately \$250,000.

Further discussion was held on the PCB issue in regard to water and water source options.

Resident IV commented on the possibility of the Village hooking into the County sewer.

Councilman Baker stated that the Village is looking into this option.

Resident IV commented on how the Community Center was not being run right.

Resident V commented on the town hall and the replacing of the bricks.

Supervisor Connelly stated that just had the southeast corner done.

Resident VI commented on the school tax bill in regard to the assessed value and the full market value.

Councilwoman Whitman stated that the full market value is determined by the State and that the tax is based on the assessed value.

#### **Agenda Items** (Resolution #144)

*Resolution #144: Referring the AMD PDD Amendment to the Town and County Planning Boards and scheduling a special Town Board meeting.*

Discussion: Supervisor Connelly requested that the time for this begin at 6:30 PM on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion** by Councilwoman Whitman and seconded by Councilman Petronis to adopt Resolution #144. **Motion carried.**

#### **Audited Claims**

**Motion** by Councilman Baker and seconded by Councilwoman Bruno to pay the audited claims.

General	#474--#491	\$17,649.38
Highway	#434--#446	\$2,218.16
Town Outside	#96--#100	\$2,218.16
Water & Sewer	#47	\$851.76
Capital Projects	#64-#65	\$27,033.72
(Boilerhouse & Walking Trail)		

**Motion carried.**

**Motion** by Councilman Baker and seconded Councilman Petronis to adjourn the Town Board meeting and enter into executive session for personnel & contracts at 8:10PM. **Motion carried.** (Noted: The Town Board stated that they would not resume the regular Town Board meeting).

Respectfully submitted by

Sue Cunningham  
Town Clerk