

Minutes of the Regular Westport Town Board Meeting on April 8, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Connell at 7:00 p.m.

The Assembly was led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present on a roll call were:

Councilperson Page
Councilperson Paquette
Councilperson Viens
Supervisor Connell

Councilperson McCormick – Excused

RESOLUTION #83 MINUTES March 25, 2014

On a motion by Councilperson Viens seconded by Councilperson Page and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting on March 25, 2014 as received.

SOLAR PRESENTATION – CURT SNYDER

Mr. Snyder addressed the Board to clarify some points during the last presentation. He discussed the “power purchase agreement” concept again, the number of solar panels needed, their projected life span and the next potential steps that would have to be taken. He will be providing names of some customers for references.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDING RENOVATION COMMITTEES – Councilperson Page presented the Board with a resolution requesting authorization for submission to submit two Consolidated Funding Applications for grants that the Clerk was asked to read. These grants would be for help in paying for the DPW-Fire House and the Town Hall.

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RESOLUTION #84
AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT LETTER FOR GRANTS

On a motion by Councilperson Page seconded by Councilperson Viens and approved on a roll call vote after discussion.

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to approve the following resolution authorizing the submission of Consolidated Funding Applications as follows:

Whereas, the DPW facilities and the Westport Fire House are in exceedingly poor condition and need to be replaced; and

Whereas, the Town Hall is in poor condition and needs to be renovated;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Town Board of the Town of Westport authorizes the preparation and submission of two Consolidated Funding Applications for funds (i) to help pay for the cost of building a new, combined DPW-Fire House, and (ii) to help pay for the cost of renovating the Town Hall; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed to sign and submit said Consolidated Funding Applications and to sign any other documents required in the submission of said applications; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Town of Westport requests the assistance of the Essex County Planning Office in preparing and submitting said applications.

YOUTH COMMISSION SUMMER EMPLOYEES

Director Lee has submitted a list of the following names to be hired as Counselors for the summer program:

Rachel Abramsen, Tammy Clarke, Ethan Markwica, Brooke Stevens, Kerigan Viens
and Counselors-in-training- Schylar Kurth, Samson Staats

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RESOLUTION #85
SUMMER COUNSELORS & CIT'S

On a motion by Councilperson Page seconded by Councilperson Paquette and approved on a roll call vote.

3 Ayes Page, Paquette, Connell
0 Nays
1 Abstain Viens

RESOLVED to hire the following as Counselors and CIT's for the Summer Program for 2014.
Counselors- Rachel Abramsen, Tammy Clarke, Ethan Markwica, Brooke Stevens,
Kerigan Viens
Counselors-in-training-Schylar Kurth, Samson Staats

Councilperson Viens reported that they had a Youth Commission meeting last night. The baseball program is being finalized. The dance recital was held on Sunday and was well attended. We are now looking forward to the summer program.

OLD BUSINESS

REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE – Supervisor Connell has been working with Charles Russell who is looking at widening the committee to more than just the Town of Westport. He is also working on events that could be held here.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE – Is progressing, however slowly in some areas. We are having lots of photos and post cards brought in and lots of topic areas mentioned.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE – Chris Maron spoke on the meeting they had just had this morning. On flower baskets they want to put up and the Chamber would cover the cost of those.

MAIN STREET GRANT – Be advised Ticonderoga Pride has dropped out.

May 23rd would be a Community-wide clean up day. The school, town, chamber and everyone are invited to participate in someway.

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RESOLUTION #86
TOWN CLEAN UP DAY

On a motion by Councilperson Page seconded by Councilperson Viens and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED that the Town, especially the Town DPW crew participates in the Town Clean Up Day on Friday May 23rd.

DONALD TAYLOR – 103RD BIRTHDAY

Mr. Taylor's birthday will be celebrated here with an "Open House" at the Town Hall on Sunday April 27th from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

VEHICLE PARKING LAW – Presented to the Board to see if there was any interest for Westport. No action taken.

LETTER FROM CARL RESEK – Complaint regarding habitual loud barking by dogs on Ledge Hill Road.

RESOLUTION #87
WESTPORT RESOLUTION ON NATURAL GAS PROJECT

TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF WESTPORT
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW YORK

Resolution No. #87 of 2014
Adopted April 8, 2014

Introduced by Councilperson Page
Who moved its adoption

Seconded by Councilperson Paquette

RESOLUTION REGARDING VERMONT GAS SYSTEM
ADDISON-RUTLAND NATURAL GAS PROJECT

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Whereas, Vermont Gas has proposed a 41 mile extension to their natural gas lines from Chittenden and Franklin Counties in the State of Vermont, to Addison and Rutland Counties, known as the Addison-Rutland Natural Gas Project; and

Whereas, the International Paper mill located in Ticonderoga, New York is an integral part of the Champlain Valley Region; and

Whereas, the Ticonderoga Mill is a significant economic driver in the region, employing more than six-hundred people at the mill and generating jobs for more than six-hundred-and-fifty landowners, loggers and truckers in New York and Vermont; and

Whereas, the Ticonderoga Mill's energy costs are significantly higher than their competition in other states due to dependence on fuel oil and rising costs; and

Whereas, natural gas is deemed to be a cost-effective alternative to fuel oil; and

Whereas, clean, affordable natural gas is a sustainable alternative to other more costly and more environmentally unsound fuel sources; and

Whereas, international Paper approached Vermont Gas for a connection beneath Lake Champlain to connect to the International Paper mill; and

Whereas, conversion by the Ticonderoga Mill to cleaner natural gas will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which is a benefit to eastern States including Vermont; and Ticonderoga, NY 12883

Whereas, the Vermont Gas System's Addison-Rutland Natural Gas Project also presents an opportunity for the Ticonderoga Mill to access natural gas via a pipeline lateral to the mill which will continue to benefit more than a thousand families who have family members employed directly or indirectly by or through the International Paper Mill; and

Whereas, the Town Board of the Town of Westport does wish to go on record in support of the Addison Rutland Natural Gas Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Westport hereby expresses its support for the Addison-Rutland Natural Gas Pipeline Project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Westport urges the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) to include our voice, as a party with a vested interest in the Addison-Rutland Natural Gas Project; and be it further

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RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Westport urges the ACRPC to act in good faith and compliance with the Commission's obligation to neighboring communities to be inclusive in ACRPC discussions as defined in <http://files.crpc.org/bylaws/flipbook/#/i/> and further articulated in 24 V.S.A Section 4335a(4); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Westport urges the Addison County Regional Planning Commission to delay voting on their recommendation until neighboring communities have had the opportunity to be part of the discussion; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Westport believes that the ACRPC must take into account the environmental impacts of their decision including a negative recommendation on the Addison-Rutland Natural Gas Project, which would foreclose the opportunity for the Ticonderoga International Paper Mill to convert to cleaner natural gas; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the event the ACRPC does not delay vote on the project, the Town Board of the Town of Westport urges the Addison County Regional Planning Commission to recommend approval of the Addison-Rutland Natural Gas Project.

Roll Call Vote:

4 Ayes: Councilpersons Page, Paquette, Viens, and Supervisor Connell

0 Nays:

Under My Signature:

RESOLUTION #88
AGREEMENT POST-CLOSURE MONITORING SERVICES

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette seconded by Councilperson Viens and approved on a roll call vote:

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell

0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Contract with Adirondack Landfill Services in the amount of \$2,071.00 for 2014.

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RESOLUTION #89
APPROVAL OF BILLS

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette seconded by Councilperson Viens and approved on a roll call vote:

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the payment of bills on Abstract 4A for Vouchers 2014-238 through 2014-266 in the amount of \$24,656.76.

RESOLUTION #90
TRAINING JUDGE TYLER

On a motion by Councilperson Viens seconded by Councilperson Paquette and approved on a roll call vote:

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the payment for the cost of the room at the Training Judge Tyler will be at in Albany.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIERS – George is looking into various suppliers for the best arrangement. He will come to the next meeting with all the information and recommendation.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – DENNIS WESTOVER

Mr. Westover has been working with Gary Rancour on the Munson Pit. He also spoke with Kevin Hall about the cost of having a survey done at approximately \$10,000. We’re not ready to make any decisions yet.

The men are refurbishing the Water & Sewer truck. The brooms are on the tractor and the water tank is ready to go on. The MSHA training is half done. Tomorrow the crew is going to Saranac Lake for free training on chain saw operation.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT – The latest financials are in your board packets. We received a letter that we will get an increase in 2014 on the Snow & Ice Agreement due to the weather. We have also been notified that 2015 the Chips fund will be the same as 2014.

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COUNCILPERSON'S COMMENTS – none at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Gordon Decker felt after the last joint meeting of the Town Board, Fire District and Building Committees that they had never established what the next steps would be in the process. After discussion it was decided to have another meeting and each board should come prepared with questions on how we are to move forward. It was also suggested to call the State Comptrollers office and see if someone from there would come and talk with us.

RESOLUTION #91
EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Councilperson Page seconded by Councilperson Viens and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to agree to enter into Executive Session to discuss contract issues and property acquisition at 9:08 p.m.

RESOLUTION #92
CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette seconded by Councilperson Page and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to close Executive Session at 9:25 p.m. and go back to Open Session.

DRUG TESTING – Superintendent Westover requests that all DPW employees be included in the random drug testing Policy of the Town of Westport.

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RESOLUTION #93
DRUG TESTING POLICY – DPW

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette seconded by Councilperson Viens and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the drug testing policy include all DPW employees.

RESOLUTION #94
OFFER OF PURCHASE ON HERITAGE HOUSE

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette seconded by Councilperson Viens and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to offer the Federated Church \$1.00 for the building now occupied by the Heritage House.

It was the consensus of the Board to offer Mr. Kroeplin \$1,900 per acre for approximately 3.5 acres adjoining the Town of Westport's DPW property.

RESOLUTION #95
ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette with a unanimous second the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted

Sheila A. Borden, Town Clerk

