

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham held October 18, 2005 at the Town Building in Oak Hill, N.Y.

Present: Robert Elpel - Councilman
 Jodi Wood- Councilwoman
 Linda Sutton – Councilwoman
 William Carr – Councilman
 Gary Hulbert – Supervisor

Recording Secretary: Charles G. Soderblom - Town Clerk
 Others Present: Wesley Moore – Highway Superintendent
 Guenther Ohm- Greene County Legislator
 Absent: Tal Rappleyea – Town Attorney

The Supervisor called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag at 7:30 PM. Twenty people were present.

Mr. Elpel made a motion seconded by Mrs. Sutton to approve the minutes of September 6 and September 20. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Hulbert reported that there was a budget workshop last week. The general budget went down 26 cents a thousand; highway went up 28 cents a thousand; the total increase was then 2 cents a thousand. The main reason for the 2-cent increase was the price of fuel oil and gas.

The public hearing for the 2006 budget will be November 1 and the budget will be adopted at the town board meeting on November 15.

Mr. Ohm, Greene County Legislator, spoke on the growth in Ulster County and the property tax increase is 48%. Greene County will hold the line on taxes this year and is in very good shape.

Wesley Moore gave the Highway Superintendents Report for September. The men have been hauling material for the winter. They switched from Callanans to Carvers for sand because they could haul more per day because of trains near Callanans. The men also built a turnaround at the end of the dead end of Park Lane.

Jim Cullie reported that the Task Force met September 26. They discussed applying for a 501C (3) tax exempt non-profit organization. If qualified, the Task Force will be able to pursue Federal, State & Private Grants for beautification programs and other projects. Route 145 in East Durham has been decorated for the Fall.

Jim Cullie reported that the Historical Preservation Commission wished to thank the board, attorney, and code enforcement officer for their patience with the Fabbri property in Oak Hill. They believe the owners will restore the building. The Commission is researching the nine stone-arched bridges in Durham. The bridges can be designated immediately as Historic Landmarks under our Local Jurisdiction, after more research we can apply for State & Federal listing.

Nan Stolzenberg reported that the Comprehensive Plan meetings are scheduled for

Saturday, October 22 at 9am in the Town Hall and East Durham Fire House. The problems, strengths, and issues will be discussed. She further discussed the survey and the final draft of the answers, which will be completed shortly. They are on the web site: www.planningbetterplaces.com, go to client pages and click on Durham. Ms. Wood asked that the board consider a sub-committee to work with the board on the comprehensive plan. Ms. McKiernan and Ms. Gavin have expressed an interest in the committee. Dr. Goldstein offered his help compiling all the statistics. Nan will be at the November 15 town board meeting.

Gordon Bennett, assessor, spoke on equalization. The equalization rate 85.5 % and Cairo is at 87%. If we went to 100%, we would add 14.5% to our roll. In recent years, the change through equalization rate has been less than 14.5%. He predicts that Durham is somewhere around 10% decrease and end up in the middle 70%. When the change in two towns in their equalizations rate is different, you start to see a shift in the amount of money that each town pays in the school district. If it is the same, there is no shifting. If Durham did a reevaluation project and added 14% to the roll and Cairo dropped (their Town would get 10% more valuable and our town would get 15% more valuable) we would pick up a shift to us. If Durham did a revalue in 2007, they would use 03, 04, and 05 for a sales file. The downside right now, is that sales are crazy.

Mrs. Nolan representing the Durham Task Force presented the board with petitions from the residents of the Town of Durham supporting the Beautification of Main Street. Main Street New York Downtown Development Grant is available through 2006 and it is the feeling of the Task Force that this opportunity be pursued. The Task Force would like to see the board pursue the sidewalk project for East Durham simultaneously with the Comprehensive Plan rather than upon completion of the Comprehensive Plan. Discussion followed. Jim Karkheck explained that the town had applied and was turned down for the Small Cities Grant. This year the requests were higher than ever before and many were from areas that had more serious issues than our town. It is Mr. Karkheck's suggestion that we apply again in 2006 with additional letters of support including those from the NYS Police, as well as, the Greene County Sheriff documenting the safety issues that sidewalks would address. Mr. Karkheck urged the board to continue this project and invest in an engineer to design the project. This would show a commitment, direction, and willingness to contribute on the part of the town when we apply for grants increasing our chances of obtaining funding.

Mr. Hulbert asked the board if they wanted to reapply for the Quality Communities Grant through Frazier Associates. The cost is approximately \$600.00. The deadline is December 6, 2005. **Ms. Wood made the motion seconded by Mr. Carr to apply for the Quality Communities Grant. All were in favor the motion passed.**

A resident of the west end of Allan Teator Road asked if any repairs are scheduled. Mr. Moore explained that potholes have been or will be filled. There is no plan to oil and stone the road due to the cost associated, as well as, the grade of the road. The expenses of products to maintain the roads have increased a great deal. Due to storm damage and the increase cost the highway budget this year will be over by approximately \$100,000. Wes pointed out that Allan Teator Road was a seasonal road until seven or eight years ago because it was difficult to keep open during the winter months. It was explained that the town did not build the west end of Allan Teator Road; it was a public use right of way. The town improved and maintained the road.

Mr. Carr made the motion seconded by Mrs. Sutton to approve the following transfers:

From:	A1990.400 Contingent	\$894.00
To:	A1410.200 Clerk, Contractual	
From:	A1990.400 Contingent	\$500.00
To:	A3120.400 Police, Contractual	
From:	A1990.400 Contingent	\$200.00
To:	A3310.400 Traffic Control	
From:	A5132.411 Garage, Signage	\$1,000.00
To:	A5132.400 Garage, Contractual	
From:	General Surplus	\$3,200.00
To:	A7110.200 Parks, Equipment	
From:	General Surplus	\$2,597.54
To:	A8020.400 Planning, Contractual	
From:	Street Lighting Surplus	\$15.00
To:	SL5182.26 ED L#2	
From:	DA Surplus	\$5,500.00
To:	DA5110.400 Road, Imp	
From:	DA Surplus	\$16,836.00
To:	DA5130.200 Machinery Equip	
From:	DA Surplus	\$16,000.00
To:	DA5142.400 Snow Contractual	

Abstract #519, consisting of 2005 Vouchers #830 through #843 for \$14,033.12 was reviewed and approved for payment. The total was broken down as follows:

Trust & Agency	\$13,856.96
General Funds	176.16

Abstract #520, consisting of 2005 Vouchers #844 through #919 for \$84,820.54 was reviewed and approved for payment. The total was broken down as follows:

General Funds	\$23,291.20
Highway Funds	\$60,913.11
Street Lighting	\$ 616.23

Ms. Wood made the motion seconded by Mr. Carr to adjourn at 9:37 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Charles G. Soderblom, Town Clerk