

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham held April 5, 2016 at the Town Hall commencing at 7:30 p.m.

Present: William Carr, Supervisor
Shawn Marriott, Deputy Supervisor
Joan Breslin, Council Member
Jerry Cunningham, Council Member
Nick Nahas, Council Member

Recording Secretary: Chris Kohrs, Town Clerk

Others Present: Joe van Holsteyn-Highway Superintendent
David Cunningham-Building Inspector
Patti Fetty-Deputy Clerk/Collector
Thomas Sutton-Police Sgt.
Lois Rockefeller-Bldg. & Code Clerk
Aidan O'Connor – Legislator
18 community members

Supervisor Carr called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

Ed Carey with Good Energy gave an over view of what Good Energy is and how their service can provide a cost savings to the residents of the municipality on their personal utility bills. Good Energy contracts with municipalities to purchase utility service in bulk. By purchasing in bulk they are able to purchase at a discount and the discount is shared with the residents on their personal utility bills. If the municipality contracts with Good Energy individual residents do have the ability to opt out of the program at no expense. Depending on the billing cycle it could take one to sixty days for the resident to be removed from the Good Energy conglomerate. Good Energy has 50% of the state of Illinois enrolled and they are operating in seven states (most recently NYS). Westchester County is the only one presently enrolled with Good Energy. In addition to benefits of purchasing in bulk Good Energy also can petition the public service commission to lower utility rates.

The consumer's bill will still come from your currently utility company and service and power outages will continue to be reported to and addressed by your current utility company. It is estimated that consumers would receive a 15-20% savings on the supply portion of the utility bill should their municipality enroll with Good Energy.

If board is interested in pursuing this service they will need to sign and submit a letter of intent to Good Energy. Good Energy will do whatever is necessary to educate the residents on how the program works and the benefits to the municipality and its residents.

Legislator O'Connor shared has attended numerous meetings over the past several weeks regarding the drug abuse throughout Greene County. Unfortunately Durham has been identified as have higher incidents of drug abuse. Understanding that we have a problem and how do we go about fixing the problem has been the topic of discussion. What can we do right now? Greene County currently has two programs available. Greene County Rural Health Care drop box program is usually placed in a police officer station or an office which a police officer frequents often. Currently there are drop boxes installed in village of Coxsackie, Greene County Police office and the Town of Windham. Windham doesn't have a police officer there every day so residents are instructed to call and let them know when they would like to drop items into the drop box so an officer can be present. Greene County Rural Health Care has box free of charge for our town and will be installed and available to the residents for proper disposal controlled substances. The only cost to the Town is when the drop boxes are full the police department will transport to a proper disposal facility located in Dutchess County.

The second program offered by Greene County Public Health and is for the safe and proper disposal of used needles. The drop boxes are provided free of charge the cost to the town is for the proper installation of the drop box. The county would take of the disposal of the needles.

Catholic Charities has programs that could be offered to the Town of Durham residents, perhaps in the month of May or June. They offer a prevention and education component to their seminars. There is an explosion of drug abuse with youth as young as 13 to 23. Prevention program and a NARCAN program which educates the public on the proper administration of the NARCAN if someone has an overdose.

Greene County Rural health offers programs to the schools called PASS IT ON program. The program educates students who interact with their peers to urge them to not get involved with drugs and to seek help if they are.

Supervisor Carr added that the situation is worse than portrayed by Legislator O'Connor as the Cairo-Durham School District is either the fourth or fifth of the fifty-two districts that participated in the survey.

Legislator O'Connor explained he would complete necessary paper work and leg work if the board were to give him the go ahead to obtain the drop boxes and set up a seminar with Catholic Charities. Legislator O'Connor's personal goal is to develop a plan to combat the problem in an organized manner and turn the problem around in the next three years. The data that has been gathered will be used to look for ideas that will result in a long term solution to this problem. Establishing a Doctor's office within the town has been mentioned as an opportunity to address some of the issues our community faces.

Councilmember Nahas motioned to authorize Legislator O'Connor to obtain the drop boxes for the disposal of controlled substances and needles, as well as contact Catholic Charities to present a seminar to the residents of Durham regarding drug abuse and prevention. Motion seconded by councilmember Cunningham all in favor motion carried. (5-years Carr, Breslin, Cunningham, Nahas, Marriott)

Legislator O'Connor also shared that Durham Rescue has submitted a grant to the Greene County Legislative program for two AED's. If approved the Milk Run and Doreen's Hair Saloon have been identified as two high public access points in our town that would be idea areas for public access of these units.

The board reviewed the Site Plan Application for Emerald Square (former Becker Electronics) 50.01-1-25. They are proposing to use approximately 3500 +/- square feet of the building for a gift shop. There remodeling would require construction three separation walls, installation of electric and windows. **Upon review of the SEQR Councilmember Nahas motioned that there be a Negative Declaration seconded by Councilmember Marriott. All in favor motion carried.** (5-years Carr, Breslin, Cunningham, Nahas, Marriott)

Attorney Rappleyea clarified that the project will use the existing septic system which will be available to employees only.

Councilmember Cunningham motioned to waive the public hearing and approve the site plan application. Motion seconded by Councilmember Nahas all in favor motion carried. (5-years Carr, Breslin, Cunningham, Nahas, Marriott)

Supervisor Carr instructed Mr. Dudley/Emerald Square to meet with the Building department to review the engineered plans for the remodeling project and obtain a building permit.

The board reviewed the Variance application presented by Mr. Fran Cox for 19.00-1-10 located on Brand Hollow Road. Mr. Cox is requesting a set back variance from the center of the road; due to the location of existing structures and terrain of the property. Building Inspector Cunningham visited the site and confirms that the identified location is the best location for the proposed construction of a barn. Highway Superintendent van Holsteyn also commented that he too had reviewed the application and visited the property and determined that the proposed location will not interfere with road work.

Upon review of the five criteria to approve a variance application and having determined that there would not be an alternative solution to the placement of the proposed barn councilmember **Nahas motioned to approve variance application VP 2016-02 for 19.00-1-10 to place a structure approximately 43' from the center of Brand Hollow Road. Motion seconded by Councilmember Cunningham. All in favor motion carried.** (5-yeas Carr, Breslin, Cunningham, Nahas, Marriott)

Supervisor Carr and Highway Superintendent van Holsteyn have determined the placement of the no smoking signs for Brandow Park.

Councilmember Nahas motioned to approve the invoice from Greene County Council of the Arts for \$300 to support open enrollment of the Sprouts program for children in the Town of Durham between the ages of 3 and 7. Motion seconded by Councilmember Breslin. All in favor motion carried. (5-yeas Carr, Breslin, Cunningham, Nahas, Marriott)

Sole Assessor Bennett submitted a time line for the Scratch Re-valuation. (See attached)

Supervisor Carr explained the Cornwallville Conservation Committee is ready to close the grant application that was opened approximately ten years ago. They are looking to purchase property from the Gelhorn Estate located on the Susquehanna Turnpike. The original grant was started while Mr. Gelhorn was still alive. Unfortunately he passed before the transaction could be completed and the process was stalled while the estate was being settled. At the time the grant was approved it there was an agreement between the Cornwallville Conservation Association and the Town of Durham that the town would be the agency that the funds would be processed through and the grant would be administered by the Cornwallville Conservation Association. The Cornwallville Conservation Association has submitted required documentation and bills to New York State for approval and

payment. The grant will provide the Cornwallville Conservation Association with 80% and Cornwallville Conservation Association provides 20%-can be currency or in kind services. The bookkeeper has received a voucher for \$320,000 which will need to be banded. Councilmember Nahas requested documentation that this grant would not require a single audit under federal or state accounting practices. Discussion followed. Attorney Rappleyea was asked to contact Dan Clifton with Cornwallville Conservation Association to explain that the Town wouldn't apply for the BAND until NYS has approved the submitted expenditures and documentation.

Bookkeeper Moore presented the board with health insurance plans and costs. Our current provider CDPHP has increased substantially (20%) which prompted her to search for other providers with a similar plan. Mrs. Moore found comparable plans through Blue Shield with similar copays and prescription. The retiree program will also need to move to a new provider as CDPHP will not keep the retiree program without the active employee program. The recommendation is to move the retirees into a Forever Blue Policy and the active employees into the Platinum Plan both offered through Blue Shield. These plans will only cover retirees and active employees who reside in New York State. Blue Shield does offer a National Plan with higher costs for individuals whose legal residence is outside of New York State.

Councilmember Nahas motioned to switch the health insurance plan from CDPHP to Blue Shield Northeast Platinum Plan STDPOS for active employees and to Forever Blue for retirees who reside in New York State as follows:

Active Employees-In State	BlueShield NENY/Platinum STD POS/ \$572.01 sg/\$1,139.76 Emp-Spouse/ \$1,622.77 Family.
Retiree's- In State	BlueShield Forever Blue/PPO 799 – In Area/ \$252.00
Retiree – Out of State	BlueShield Forever Blue/PPO 799 – Out of Area/ \$383
Spouse to Retiree-Out of State	BlueShield Gold EPO-Deductible- Out of Area/ \$573.21 Sg

Motion seconded by Councilmember Cunningham. All in favor motion carried. (5-yreas, Carr, Breslin, Cunningham, Nahas, Marriott)

The board reviewed the Mass Gathering Application for the Memorial Day Festival at MJQIC&SC. **Councilmember Nahas motioned to approve the application and to issue the Permit upon receipt of proof of event insurance. Motion seconded by Councilmember Marriott all in favor motion carried.** (5-years, Carr, Breslin, Cunningham, Nahas, Marriott)

Councilmember Cunningham motioned to adjourn at 9:31 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Nahas.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Chris Kohrs,
Clerk/Collector**