

A Work Session of the Clarence Town Board was held on March 5, 2008 at Clarence Town Hall, One Town Place, Clarence, NY.

Supervisor Scott Bylewski called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Members of the Town Board present were Council members Joseph Weiss, Bernard Kolber, Patrick Casilio and Peter DiCostanzo. Other Town Officials present were Town Attorney Steven Bengart and Town Engineer Joseph Latona.

Bicentennial Committee/Heritage Days – Linda Nastasi

There are thirteen events planned for the year. The year started out with the bicentennial kickoff on New Years Eve. Saturday, March 8th is the 200th Birthday party at Eastern Hills Mall. Birthday cake will be served; there will be children's activity area, bicentennial quilt presentation and 20 display booths. Limited Edition Commemorative Plates will go on sale, Bicentennial Ball tickets can be purchased and the first distribution of the commemorative program will be handed out. There were 5000 programs printed, 1000 will be distributed at the birthday party. Several town, county and state officials have been invited for the cake cutting ceremony however; County Executive Chris Collins has declined the invitation.

Ohlson's Bakery is once again donating the birthday cake.

Eastern Hills Mall is donating over 200 prizes for the children's activity area which will be located in front of Bon Ton.

The Bicentennial Ball is scheduled for May 3rd at Samuel's Grande Manor. To date, 180 tickets have been sold. The committee is hoping to sell 500 tickets in all. The entertainment has been booked however, the menu has not yet been determined. A committee meeting has been scheduled to finalize the table centerpieces.

The Clarence Bee is publishing a special bicentennial section in their weekly edition this week.

From May 12th – June 2 the Bicentennial Art Exhibit will be held at Clarence Middle School. Bicentennial student work, Clarence Art Department faculty and selected Clarence artists work will be displayed.

Memorial Day will be a bicentennial themed event. Bicentennial displays and activities have been planned by the Clarence Hollow Association.

The Clarence Center Community Association is hosting a bicentennial themed garden walk on Sunday, July 13, 2008.

Heritage Days begins on Monday July 21, 2008 with Waterford Village Bank sponsoring a Clarence Bicentennial Golf Tournament at Brookfield Country Club.

As part of their concert series, the Concert Association is hosting The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra on Wednesday July 23, 2008 at the Clarence Town Park band shell.

The Gathering at Main Town Park is scheduled for Friday, July 25th – beer tent, entertainment, baseball games, food vendors.

History Celebrated at Main Town Park is scheduled for Saturday, July 26th – antique car show, historical displays, lectures, time capsules, demonstrations old fashioned games & contests, stories of Clarence and fireworks.

Old Town Parade and Sunday Dinner in the Park is scheduled for July 27th – barbecue, gift presentation, old fashioned games, stories of Clarence and at 7PM the Clarence Symphony will perform in the band shell.

Supervisor Bylewski stated that he has concerns with the beer tent and asked that insurance be in place. Linda Nastasi stated that the bicentennial committee will pay for the insurance for any group willing to sponsor the beer tent.

After the birthday party celebration, the bicentennial committee will contact groups and organizations willing to do the food for Heritage Days. The beverage income will be kept for the bicentennial committee to cover their expenses. Organizations in town can sponsor a food booth and take the revenues for their organization. The Gathering on Friday night July 25, the Democratic Committee is sponsoring clams and beef on wick booth.

At each event, memento buttons will be handed out. There are different buttons for each event.

Autumn Farm Tours will be held October 18 – 19th. The tours will begin at the Farmer's Market in the Hollow. Transportation will not be provided however, everyone will be given a map to each location. Currently seven farms have signed up to be included in the tour. Drew Cerza is working with several vendors to have demonstrations set up at each site. The farm tours will be in conjunction with the Pumpkin Festival.

The Ecumenical Services will be held on Wednesday, November 26th at St. Mary's Church in Swormville.

Closing ceremonies will be December 31, 2008 – details will be forthcoming.

Councilman Weiss had concerns regarding having enough volunteers for Heritage Days. Linda Nastasi stated that fire and rescue have been contacted and secured. The town is paying for the portable latrines; there are a number of people that have expressed interest in volunteering. Parking will be done inside the park. The Board expressed their concern with parking cars and requested that adults handle this or have adults and "young adults" (16 and older) work together.

A limited number of history books will be available for purchase on Saturday.

The Bicentennial Ball is scheduled for May 3rd at Samuel's Grand Manor. Lance Diamond will provide the entertainment.

The Bicentennial Bell is finished however; it will not be presented to the town until July.

The NYS DOT is requesting a permit be filed for both the Memorial Day and Heritage Day parades that are being planned for this year. Karen Jurek is working on the paperwork.

Supervisor Scott Bylewski

Ethics rules and procedures were discussed, no one had any questions. Town Attorney Bengart will prepare a resolution for Town Board approval of the rules and procedures.

At a prior meeting, Supervisor Bylewski announced that the Town received the LOSAP point summary for three different fire companies. We received Clarence Center and are awaiting one more fire company.

The Council Room/Youth Room is being vacated by the Youth Director. They are now taking occupancy of the building on Main Street (former post office). Several people have suggested using the room as a conference/meeting room. Two desks will be left along with several file cabinets for any council member wanting to use the office space. Town Attorney Bengart suggested that the EDO could possibly use some working space.

Supervisor Bylewski has three items to discuss in Executive Session.

Councilman Weiss and Councilman Casilio met with Tony Pacenzia and Jim Morabito. Councilman Weiss suggested changing the makeup of the committee to include several business men, Planning Board member and possibly someone that is in the sign business. Jim Morabito was going to put together a list of concerns the businesses along Main Street have. Planning Board Chairman Gerald Drinkard did not feel this was doable and suggested meeting with the businessmen every six months to get their input and keep them in the loop. Mr. Drinkard will work with Town Attorney Bengart to rework the last draft of the Sign Law. The Chamber of Commerce was approached and asked for their input but did not respond back.

Supervisor Bylewski along with several other Supervisors's met with County Executive Collins and brought up infrastructure including Tonawanda Creek Road and Beeman Creek Park, public safety and economic development.

Beeman Creek Park is a park that Erie County currently maintains and takes all the liability for. Councilman Weiss stated that if the Town did take over the park, we should consider having a forester come in take out some timber. As long as the town did not have to mow the park and could market it for lumber he was in favor of it. Supervisor Bylewski stated that he is waiting to hear back from the County as to their position.

Town Engineer Latona presented an updated color rendition of the arboretum. The easements for the sewer and the inlet/outlet were included. The next step would be for Town Attorney Bengart to get a legal description and then a Conservation Easement. There is room for additions to both the library and town hall should that become necessary in the future.

There were ten gardens originally planned for the arboretum. The Arboretum Committee is proposing landscape companies donate the gardens. Supervisor Bylewski questioned who would then maintain the gardens. Town Attorney Bengart stated that the Parks Department is already locked into that job. Can people donate additional plantings and put them in themselves or would the Parks Department be required to do the planting. Town Attorney Bengart stated that the work would be done by the Parks Department. As the Arboretum Committee approaches these companies for their donations, they want to guarantee someone will maintain them. Town Engineer Latona stated that the Town has to maintain control as to where these gardens are placed; they can not be placed over sewer lines. Town Attorney Bengart stated that the Arboretum Committee must work in conjunction with the Parks Department.

There was discussion as to the placement of the well – after consulting with Town Engineer Latona; the Town Board will decide where the well should go.

The Arboretum Committee has also been trying to raise funds for the rock wall and entrance way to Town Hall. They are still looking to the town to provide \$5,000 of the overall \$38,000 cost. Again, Supervisor Bylewski questioned who will maintain the wall once it is put up. Councilman Weiss felt that the wall is great imagery for the town and the lights will brighten up the entranceway, he felt it was a wise use of the \$5000. The limits of responsibility and limits of liability must be defined. Councilman Kolber asked if the \$5000 could be donated through labor and have the Parks Department build the wall; they did a great job on the wall at the Main Street Park and saved the town money in the process. Supervisor Bylewski suggested the Arboretum Committee raise the \$33,000 and the Board will see where they can come up with the additional \$5,000 in our budget. The Arboretum Committee must realize that they are a recommending body only and this is town land.

Councilman Joseph Weiss

William Cordova has approached Councilman Weiss about a hole near the retaining wall that has to be filled. Town Engineer Latona stated that this would be taken care of weather permitting. There is water coming off of the residences along Alexander onto Mr. Cordova's property. Councilman Weiss explained to Mr. Cordova that he lives at the bottom of a hill and that is where the water flows. He suggested Mr. Cordova hire an attorney and/or meet with his neighbors to find a solution to his problem.

Councilman Weiss commented on the report Supervisor Bylewski distributed. He has concerns with the amount of fire apparatus that is being purchased for less than 10 structural fires per year per company. Councilman Kolber stated that from an insurance standpoint, if the fire companies do not meet the standards then the resident's property insurance goes it. Supervisor Bylewski stated that he has asked for the NFPA and the ISO information that affect the insurance rates however; he has yet to receive an actual document indicating what the rates would be if these fire companies did not have a particular vehicle. Councilman Weiss said that at some point the Board has to look out for the tax payers we can not keep funding these huge fire company budgets.

Councilman Weiss voiced his concerns regarding the Reverse 911 System. He questioned whether the data base was being updated. In addition to that, the system costs the tax payers \$5,000 a year and many households do not use landlines and rely strictly on their cell phones. Cell phone numbers are not in the data base. There is a concern as to the effectiveness of the system when there is a power outage. Councilman Casilio stated that the County system does not have all the "bugs" worked out yet – eventually that would be the way to go. Town Attorney Bengart will review the Reverse 911 contract to see when it expires.

Councilman Weiss reviewed the bid submitted by Amherst Alarm for the security camera system for the bike path. He did not feel it was cost effective and the cost did not include material the town would have to supply. Further, he felt the cameras would give people a false sense of security.

There was a discussion about town organizations doing projects and not including the Town Board on designs and cost.

As liaison to several committees, Councilman Weiss is of the opinion that some town committees do not have to meet on a monthly basis and suggested possibly consolidating several committees. He attends several unproductive meetings every month and feels the committees need direction.

Town Engineer Latona stated that there is a procedure in working with committees in a municipal environment. Municipal finance and municipal law dictates direction and procedures in which some of these committees do not have any knowledge of.

Councilman Weiss is of the opinion that the Board should delegate to somebody that can cause the action to be done. There are meetings upon meetings and nothing gets accomplished. Supervisor Bylewski stated that he can begin a program in which he will meet with some of the chairmen of the committees and tell them some of the concerns the Town Board have and possibly point them in the right direction.

Councilman Bernard Kolber

Councilman Kolber went to the Chamber of Commerce meeting and discussed Main Street revitalization and the sign law. Councilman Kolber asked the Chamber to consider trying to facilitate cross promotion of local businesses either through advertisements or marketing through each others businesses.

Councilman Patrick Casilio

Councilman Casilio inquired as to the status of Tonawanda Creek Road. Supervisor Bylewski stated that construction of the roadway should begin this spring and be completed in the fall – he was not given specific dates.

Councilman Casilio has received several requests regarding the speed limit on Strickler Road and another request regarding a stop sign. All were forwarded to Highway Superintendent Ted Donner.

Councilman Casilio will personally go to HSBC Bank branch on Transit Road and asked that the dump trucks in front of the bank be removed.

Councilman Casilio suggested that the public safety vehicle be parked at Town Hall.

Councilman Casilio has one item to discuss in Executive Session.

Councilman Peter DiCostanzo

Councilman DiCostanzo has one item to discuss in Executive Session regarding the appointment of an individual.

The Historical Preservation Commission is requesting a budget line. These funds would be used for educational materials for the Commission, the public and for expenses to attend Preservation Conferences.

Two properties were referred to the Historic Preservation Commission by the Building Department for review regarding Demolition Permits. The Commission would like to put together a sub-committee to find ways to keep these historic buildings from deteriorating. Town Engineer Latona stated that prevention costs money, he offered his help in coming up with a solution.

The Historical Society has several large items in storage and they are running out of storage space. They are looking for a location to store some of their items.

Motion by Supervisor Bylewski, seconded by Councilman Weiss to enter into Executive Session pursuant to § 105(1) F of the Open Meetings Law to discuss matters leading to the employment of an individuals, matters leading to the appointment of an individual, § 105(1)H the proposed acquisition of real property. Upon roll call - Ayes: All; Noes: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the Work Session adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

Darcy A. Snyder
Deputy Town Clerk

Councilman Weiss left the meeting at 11:30AM
Councilman DiCostanzo left the meeting at 11:45 AM.

Motion by Supervisor Bylewski, seconded by Councilman Bernard Kolber to adjourn the Executive Session at 11:48 A.M. Upon roll call – Ayes: Councilman Kolber, Councilman Casilio, Supervisor Bylewski, Noes: None. Absent: Councilman Weiss and Councilman DiCostanzo. No action taken.