

A Work Session of the Clarence Town Board was held on April 1, 2009 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 Director of Community Development James Callahan, Town Attorney Steven Bengart, Town Engineer Joseph Latona, Youth Director Dawn Kinney and Highway Superintendent Ted Donner.

Supervisor Scott Bylewski

Youth Director Dawn Kinney is requesting a Town credit card so that Program Coordinator Kelly Jeffery can purchase supplies for youth activities without having to use her own money and wait for reimbursement. Councilman Kolber suggested setting the Youth Bureau up with a Petty Cash fund however, Supervisor Bylewski said he could look into it but did not think it could be done. Councilman DiCostanzo was not in favor of a credit card for various reasons, he suggested the Supervisor's office setup a Petty Cash fund and Kelly can come to Karen Jurek for funds.

Councilman Weiss suggested the issuance of a credit card with a dollar limit and Dawn Kinney would be responsible for the oversight. Supervisor Bylewski stated that he would be in favor of a credit card with a dollar limit.

Dawn Kinney felt that a \$500 limit would be cutting it close, \$1,000 would be adequate. A tax exempt certificate will be issued with any credit card purchase. This credit card will only be used for those stores and business, that Dawn does not have an existing account.

Motion by Supervisor Bylewski, seconded by Councilman Casilio to authorize Director of Administration and Finance to apply for a credit card for the Town Youth Department with a credit limit not to exceed \$1,000. Upon roll call - Ayes: All; Noes: None. Motion carried.

Supervisor Bylewski will meet with Dawn Kinney regarding a Customer Satisfaction Survey for the town.

Supervisor Bylewski will have three items to discuss in Executive Session.

The Arboretum Design Review Committee and Friends of Clarence, Inc. – Arboretum discussed moving the proposed stone wall. To date, they have not been successful in raising the entire amount for a stone wall entrance. Their most recent thought was to move the start of the wall away from the Goodrich Road entrance way. They are still debating whether to have it on the east or west side of the sidewalk. If the wall is moved, it may involve a change to the arboretum. Supervisor Bylewski voiced his concern in the way some members of

the Arboretum Design Review committee have conducted matters and he will bring this up at their next meeting.

Councilman Weiss stated that he has been approached by several Arboretum Committee members voicing their concern over the town board changing the boundaries of the arboretum. Town Attorney Bengart stated that there will be trees located outside the arboretum. Supervisor Bylewski stated that the trees will still be located within the arboretum however; the town board designated a conservation easement to be established – we need room for snow storage and access to the sewer etc. It makes sense to have areas where we can have some flexibility. If we disturb one of the trees outside the conservation area, we would be willing to move it or have a new planting.

Last year the Board agreed to put \$5,000 toward the stone fence. The Arboretum Committee is estimating the newly proposed stone fence will cost approximately \$20,000. They have the money to cover it but are asking the town to be upfront with the \$20,000 and then they would reimburse the town \$15,000.

The NTSB has scheduled a public hearing in Washington DC sometime in May regarding their findings on Flight 3407. The town will receive the information from the hearing but is considering sending a representative to get the information first hand.

The Justice Court grant for additional outside lighting is approximately \$3,000 short for two additional lights. Because this is a safety issue, Supervisor Bylewski will find money in the budget to cover the added expense.

Councilman Joseph Weiss

Councilman Weiss gave an update on the Fishing Derby planned for April 25th. Parks Crew Chief John Burns notified Councilman Weiss that the private fisheries that supply the trout are now being impacted by the state that they have to have every batch of fish tested. The minimum cost of a batch of fish whether it is five fish or 500 fish is \$2,500. There is no testing done in NYS, they have to be shipped to Maine. Because of the expense of this testing, the town ponds will not be stocked. Councilman Weiss has made several phone calls and is hoping to get the Main Street pond stocked in time for the fishing derby.

Chip Trapper has provided the schools with flyers advertising the fishing derby.

Councilman Bernard Kolber

Councilman Kolber received a letter of resignation from Barbara Ucci from the Senior Center Board. Her term expires December 31, 2009.

Councilman Kolber voiced his concerns relative to the BMW and Mini Cooper dealership parking vehicles in the Main-Transit Plaza. Director of Community

Development James Callahan stated that the cars are being parked there during construction of the show room. Councilman Casilio has spoken to the owner of the plaza and he wouldn't mind if the Town Board set some parameters. James Callahan will contact the BMW dealership.

Councilman Patrick Casilio

Councilman Casilio has received many telephone calls regarding a sign at Gunnville Road advertising a water park coming in 2011. James Callahan stated that his office has received calls as well however no one has contacted his office with development plans. Mr. Callahan felt it was premature for someone to erect a sign when his office has not received a formal request. The sign does not provide a contact person or contact number.

The Parks Department would like to order the concrete all at once for the lights at town hall and the security camera poles. Jim Schlabach is checking on manufacturing dates.

The gas lights have been taken down on Willow Brook however to date, National Fuel has not installed the new lights. Councilman Casilio questioned whether the maintenance contract with National Fuel is worth it when our town employees could take care of this much faster and more efficiently. The gas lights on Tuscany Lane are in worse shape than the lights on Willow Brook. Councilman Casilio will put out a RFP for lights. He would like to see the gas lights go to electric with concrete bases.

Some fire companies have expressed concern over the cost the Town is paying for hydrant maintenance. Councilman Casilio is working on getting a break down from Tom Wik at Erie County Water Authority.

There have been several e-mails regarding the pot holes on Thompson Road. Some temporary repairs were done yesterday. Highway Superintendent Ted Donner has talked to Erie County about resurfacing Thompson Road from Main Street to Greiner Road. Councilman Casilio has requested the county erect warning signs; he has concerns about someone having an accident trying to negotiate around the pot holes. Highway Superintendent Donner will submit a letter to the County expressing the Town's concern over the dangerous conditions on Thompson Road. The Town Board feels it is a serious issue and does not want to be held liable if someone damages their vehicle or gets injured.

The Clarence Hollow Association is sponsoring a brainstorming session regarding the revitalization of Clarence Hollow on April 4th at the Clubhouse from 9am – 12noon.

Councilman Casilio has two Attorney-Client items to discuss.

Councilman Peter DiCostanzo

Councilman DiCostanzo will appoint Richard Forrestel Jr. to the Audit Committee. Mr. Forrestel is the CFO of Cold Springs Construction and has testified before Congress about small businesses.

Assessor Christine Fusco will be adding a second training session on the assessment process and how to challenge your assessment. Councilman DiCostanzo suggested she contact security to make them aware of the two training sessions.

Councilman DiCostanzo attended the Jaycees Antique Show this past weekend. Several people commented on the Clubhouse and all the beautiful improvements that were made. Someone offered \$200,000 for the Rohlf's Clock.

The two Master Plan amendments will be discussed at the Planning Board meeting tonight.

Highway Superintendent Donner will be purchasing new vehicles to replace two building inspectors' vehicles. A Ford Focus can be purchased for \$11,000 (new), Chevrolet Impala \$16,000, Dodge Charger \$16,000. A Ford Escape with front wheel drive can be purchased for \$14,000 or \$17,000 for all wheel drive. Superintendent Donner stated he did not have the money in the budget for the all wheel drive but could come up with it after selling the 2 Ford Taurus and 2 Ford Focus that the building inspectors are using now. Councilman Casilio stated that Ford Escapes have strong resale value. Superintendent Donner will check local bids against state bids and determine which would be better.

There was a discussion regarding reconstruction of Long Street. If curbs were to be installed, there are several other issues involved including engineering, drainage, grading etc. When the Town acquired Railroad Street, gutters were installed. Highway Superintendent Donner stated that if there was money available, installing curbs is the way to go however, engineering and cost wise it is complicated. Town Engineer Latona stated that Railroad Street has gutters which are the same price as a curb. He suggested installing gutters on Long Street to be consistent with all of Clarence Center.

The Clarence Public Library obtained a grant for the installation of handicap accessible doors. Town Engineer Latona will be working with them as to who will do the installation etc.

The Miles Road Bridge over Ransom Creek is falling apart. The estimated cost to replace it is \$600,000 however the Engineering and Highway Department can reconstruct the bridge at a cost of \$200,000. Ransom Creek will have to be diverted so the Highway Department can work in a dry area. Town Engineer Latona has already started archeological surveys, soil borings, preliminary design and costs. He has already obtained an Army Corps of Engineers permit.

The road will have to be closed temporarily so he is hoping to start as soon as school ends in June.

Motion by Supervisor Bylewski, seconded by Councilman DiCostanzo to enter into Executive Session pursuant to § 105(1) A of the Open Meetings Law to discuss matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed and § 105(1) F the employment history of a particular person or corporation. On the question, Town Attorney Bengart, Highway Superintendent Donner and Director of Community Development James Callahan were asked to remain in the meeting. Upon roll call – Ayes: All; Noes: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

Darcy A. Snyder
Deputy Town Clerk

Motion by Supervisor Bylewski, seconded by Councilman Kolber to adjourn the Executive Session at 11:45 A.M. Upon roll call – Ayes: All; Noes: None. Motion carried. No action taken.