

PUBLIC PRESENTATION
CENTRAL HUDSON
MAY 8, 2014 6:00PM

SPECIAL MEETING
TOWN BOARD TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH
MAY 8, 2014
MINUTES OF MEETING

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR OSBORN
COUNCILMAN CORCORAN
COUNCILMAN BAKER
COUNCILMAN KOENIG

COLLEEN CORCORAN, TOWN CLERK

ABSENT: COUNCILMAN MOLINELLI

ITEM #1 Call to order pledge of allegiance

Councilman Baker said the funeral for the fallen soldier that was killed in Afghanistan was yesterday and at the Ulster County Planning Board the Supervisor of Rochester thanked all the Towns' for their general support.

ITEM #2 Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed for John Messina.

ITEM #3 New Business

A). Motion to approve B&L to do a site plan for the Milton Landing Signalized crossing issue
Supervisor Osborn said that he and Councilman Koenig met with CSX and DOT. CSX is ok with implementing a signalized pedestrian crossing at the Milton Landing and DOT will fund it with federal money (\$250,000.00). The Town would need to get a plan together. Donald Fletcher, railroad specialist, of Barton & Loguidice designed a plan that cost \$6,500.00. Half of the cost is covered by money that Scenic Hudson granted to the park.

Councilman Koenig added that the prior Board gave the Milton Landing \$7,500.00 in a line item to improve the safety in the parking area. The committee is willing to use \$3250.00 to cover the balance for the design plans.

Councilman Koenig made a motion to use \$3,250.00 from the Milton Landing Committee funds that were appropriated from the park fund, to match the Scenic Hudson grant for a total of \$6,500.00 to pay Barton & Loguidice for the design plan for signalized pedestrian crossing at Milton Landing. Motion seconded by Councilman Baker.

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0 Carried

Ralph Walters said the \$7,500.00 appropriation to that line item was for last year's budget and now it's gone because a prior Board approved it and it wasn't used by December 31st.

Councilman Koenig explained that the money didn't come out of the budget, money was appropriated from the park fund.

Councilman Corcoran made a motion to amend the prior motion to change "line item" to "funds that were appropriated from the park fund". Motion seconded by Councilman Baker.

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0 Carried

Supervisor Osborn said a few years ago in the last PBA negotiations the Town came to an agreement with the PBA on how to handle the change in health care. This went to arbitration and the outcome was that the Town agreed to pay half of the co-pays. The Town has since changed insurance and the co-pays are now different. The Town needs to update the Memorandum of Agreement with the union so that it reflects the half of the current list of co-pays.

Councilman Corcoran added that there wasn't a lapse in paying half the co-pays, the union is just requesting that the agreement be updated.

Supervisor Osborn asked for a motion to sign the Memorandum of Agreement.

Councilman Corcoran made a motion to allow Supervisor Osborn to sign the Memorandum of Agreement with the PBA union for the Town to pay half of the current health insurance co-pays. Motion seconded by Councilman Baker.

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0 Carried

Supervisor Osborn reiterated from the last few meetings that the Board is looking to do an overlay of 500 feet to create a business corridor on 9W. He let the Board know that he would like to pass a resolution at the next Town Board meeting regarding the overlay district that they discussed at the last workshop meeting so they can hold public hearing. The first idea is to allow existing businesses to be grandfathered out of the current zoning which is RAG-1 (Residential Agricultural) or R-1 (Residential) so they can sell their businesses. The Board can also add other ideas as time goes on so the 9W corridor does not end up like a strip mall as Dennis Doyle indicated at the last meeting.

John DeMarco, a member of the Economic Development Committee, said they have been working on ideas to help lower the cost of living and doing business in the Hamlet. One of the ideas is to bring natural gas into the Town to lower costs.

A Central Hudson representative showed the Board and the public a slide show presentation and explained that the general concept is the potential of the opportunity to get natural gas running down Western Avenue and forking off onto King Street and ending there. On the opposite side of 9W there is a transmission line that is not suited for distribution to the residential and commercial market without constructing a regulator station. That transmission line was used to run gas to the Middle School and then up to the High School. The current plan would be to run the gas line from the High School down. Some of the benefits to natural gas are that it is more economical, more efficient, there is ample supply, and there are reduced maintenance costs. Natural gas is domestic and most of it comes from the Texas region. Central Hudson doesn't do the gas drilling, they purchase gas and electric on the open market and transport it to their customers. If a customer already has existing infrastructure for propane the cost to convert would be about \$1,200.00 to \$1,500.00. If a customer has on oil boiler and needs to convert, it

would cost about \$2,500.00 to \$3,000.00. There are rebates through Central Hudson and NYSERDA for new equipment.

Mr. DeMarco said he switched to natural gas and he bought a new efficient propane/ natural gas furnace and he received a rebate in the amount of \$1,500.00. His overall cost was about \$1,700.00. It was cheaper for him to purchase a new furnace than convert the existing one.

The Central Hudson representative said they can do proposals for potential customers to see how much money they can save by converting and also see what the difference in emissions would be. They would need to know if they are using propane or oil and how much they used last year. By switching to natural gas generally one can save about 50%. More information can be obtained at centralhudson.com/simplybetter and there is a conversion calculator on that site that can tell you how much you can save by converting to natural gas.

Also, if they were to run the gas main down Western Avenue every customer is entitled to 100 feet of main and 100 feet of service. In this scenario, they would need 20 plus customers to make it work and may have to go beyond the 100 feet but Central Hudson needs to justify revenue. They could also branch off the main if there were a high end user that maybe uses 3 times the average. Customers would need to sign an agreement and hook up within 180 days otherwise there could be a penalty of up to \$4,500.00 until they connect to the meter, then the penalty will be returned. Central Hudson sent out a letter to potential customers of this project and to let them know what is happening and they will send out a follow up letter based on demand giving information on how to sign up. Once they have the commitments they need, the project would take about 3-4 weeks.

Councilman Koenig made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:13PM. Motion seconded by Councilman Corcoran.

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0 Carried

*Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Cherubini
Deputy Town Clerk*