

November 21, 2011

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park was held in the Town Office Building at 7:00 p.m., Supervisor Barrett presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Present: Councilman Paolucci
Councilman Hughes
Councilman Romano
Councilwoman Walowit
Supervisor Barrett
Town Clerk O'Donnell

Also Present: Town Attorney McCarthy
Mark Heggen, Comptroller
Barbara McHugh, Director of Community Development
Walter Smead, Assessor

MOTION BY Councilman Paolucci, seconded by Councilman Romano, to approve the minutes of the November 7 and 10, 2011 meetings as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Romano
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Paolucci said he will be leaving the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Supervisor Barrett congratulated Shenendehowa Varsity Football team, Coach Brent Steuerwald and the Varsity Soccer team and Coach Mike Campisi on an outstanding season.

The Supervisor congratulated the 25 CERT volunteers on the completion of their training.

Supervisor Barrett announced the Town Board will go into Executive Session this evening.

PUBLIC PRIVILEGE ON RESOLUTIONS

No one wished to be heard.

Resolution No. 280 of 2011, a resolution opposing the imposition of a sales tax increase by the County of Saratoga.

Introduced by Councilman Hughes, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit.

WHEREAS, Saratoga County has a well-deserved reputation for maintaining the lowest county property tax rate in New York State, and

WHEREAS, this low tax policy, combined with a 7 percent sales tax rate, provides the county with a competitive edge in attracting jobs and private sector investment, providing a strong foundation and stable economic climate, and

WHEREAS, low tax rates in Saratoga County are vital to an outstanding quality of life

and maintaining a high standard of living for our families and seniors, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has always supported low tax rates, including a steadfast opposition to a general town tax, and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Town Board and its members that any discussion of a sales tax increase is premature and that all viable alternatives must be adequately explored by the Board of Supervisors before any consideration is given to raising the County Sales Tax, and

WHEREAS, these options may include the disposition of the Maplewood Manor Nursing home which has been accumulating deficits of some \$10 million annually, renegotiating contracts or consolidating benefits packages with employee unions, and selling the county landfill that sits idle, as well as other cost savings measures discussed at more recent legislative sessions, and

WHEREAS, the imposition of a sales tax would have immediate negative consequences for Saratoga County, through the loss of a significant competitive advantage to all businesses who provide goods or services throughout the County, resulting in a chilling effect on job creation, private sector investment, and punishing hard-working families and small business owners, as well as their employees and consumers, and

WHEREAS, the Board urges the Board of Supervisors and the town's representatives to the board to continue the policies and commitment to that proper balance between necessary government services and respect for the taxpayers which has brought Saratoga County so much financial stability and economic success; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Clifton Park Town Board strongly opposes any action by the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors to raise the sales tax rate.

Councilman Hughes, in reviewing the town's fiscal status, stated that the Town Board has always put taxpayers first. He noted in 2007 the town provided over \$2 million in rebates to residents which was the first time in New York State history that a local government sent a rebate check directly to residents. He said the Town Board feels, as the largest town in Saratoga County, to go on record stating opposition to the sales tax increase. Councilman Hughes said viable alternatives to reduce costs do exist at the county level and need to be fully explored before any potential increase in sales tax would be levied. He encouraged all taxpayers to attend the county public hearing scheduled for December 1st to make voices heard. Councilman Hughes reported at this time it appears the sales tax increase is being reconsidered, however, a lot can change between now and the time of the budget vote.

Supervisor Barrett spoke against the sales tax increase. He said a long overdue review of the county's finances is needed and feels there are a lot of areas in which money can be saved and revenue derived without a sales tax increase. Supervisor Barrett stated at this point the County Board does not have a sales tax increase on the table but is looking at a small property tax increase of 3.5 percent which stays within the tax cap. Supervisor Barrett said a lot of what the town has done needs to be applied to the county and decisive action at the county needs to be taken soon.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Romano,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 281 of 2011, a resolution authorizing the Assessor to re-levy delinquent sewer charges on the 2012 property tax bills.

Introduced by Councilman Romano, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit.

WHEREAS, the Saratoga County Sewer District No. 1 has reported unpaid sewer bills, per the attached schedule, for the Saratoga County Sewer District No. 1, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Assessor to re-levy the unpaid bill on the property owner's 2012 tax bill to ensure payment of the same; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board accepts the reported delinquent sewer charges for the Saratoga County Sewer District No. 1, per the attached schedule, and authorizes the Assessor to re-levy that amount on the property owners' 2012 Town and County Tax bills; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all proceeds be returned in February to the Saratoga County Sewer District No. 1.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Romano, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 282 of 2011, a resolution authorizing the Assessor to re-levy delinquent water charges on the 2012 property tax bills.

Introduced by Councilman Romano, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit.

WHEREAS, the Town of Ballston Water Department has reported unpaid Town of Ballston water bills for Town of Clifton Park users per the attached, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Assessor to re-levy the unpaid bill on the property owner's 2012 tax bill to ensure payment of the same; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board accepts the reported delinquent water charges for the Town of Ballston Water Department per the attached and authorizes the Assessor to re-levy that amount on the property owners' 2012 Town and County Tax bills; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all proceeds be returned in February, 2012 to the Town of Ballston.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Romano, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 283 2011, a resolution accepting an application for the Conservation Easement (Historic Preservation) program.

Introduced by Councilman Hughes, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Paolucci.

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on November 7, 2011 in order to receive public comment regarding a Conservation Easement application for a parcel of land located at 10 Ferry Drive, Rexford, (SBL 287.16-1-25) and owned by J. Stanley and Barbara L. Yake, in accordance with Chapter 125 of the Town Code as amended, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has considered the application and the comments received; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the application for a parcel located on 10 Ferry Drive, Rexford, owned by J. Stanley and Barbara L. Yake (SBL 287.16-1-25), is hereby accepted and is granted a Conservation Easement in accordance with the provisions of Article XIII of Chapter 208-78 of the Town Code; and be it further

RESOLVED, that said applicant whose parcel has been granted a Conservation Easement shall execute an agreement provided by the Town of Clifton Park.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Romano,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 284 of 2011, a resolution authorizing CERT Instructor/Volunteer Ronald Volungus to be reimbursed for travel expenses to attend a Terrorism Awareness Seminar.

Introduced by Councilman Paolucci, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit.

WHEREAS, CERT Instructor/Volunteer Ronald Volungus attended a two day Terrorism Awareness Seminar November 5-6, 2011 in Oriskany, New York, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Volungus's attendance at the seminar will confer a benefit upon town residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller is authorized to reimburse Mr. Volungus \$117, the cost incurred for mileage and tolls to attend the seminar, to be paid from A-8762-001 (CERT Grant Travel).

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Hughes, Councilman Romano,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Councilman Paolucci left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC PRIVILEGE

Jim Baisley, Barkwood Drive, stated no one wants a tax increase, including property taxes. He noted Clifton Park is the best place to live and work but county wide there are a lot of small towns that need more revenue and hopes there are other ways to raise money.

James Whalen, Aster Drive, Councilman-elect, thanked the Town Board for their leadership in opposing the tax increase and applauds direction taken.

Michael Dudick, Addison Way, Rexford, thanked the Board for passing the resolution opposing the sales tax increase, noting people from surrounding areas come to Saratoga County due to lower sales tax.

MOTION BY Councilwoman Walowit, seconded by Councilman Hughes, to move into Executive Session to discuss pending legislation. Motion unanimously carried at 7:40 p.m.

Members returned to the Town Board meeting at 7:50 p.m.

MOTION by Councilwoman Walowit, seconded by Councilman Hughes, to adjourn the meeting to the next regular meeting or any other meeting necessary for the conduct of Town business.

Motion carried at 7:51 p.m.

Patricia O'Donnell
Town Clerk